

SUMMARY: The documents below are the will of Richard Vere, 11th Earl of Oxford, dated 6 August 1415, and the acquittance issued to his executrix on 22 September 1417. It seems likely that the testator made his will prior to departing for the French campaign of 1415. The Latin text of the will and the acquittance are taken from pp. 116 and 126 of Jacob, E.F., ed., *The Register of Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury 1414-1443*, vol. II (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1938). The following summary of the testator's career is taken from p. 681 of the same volume:

Vere, Richard, 11th Earl of Oxford (1400-17). Born circa 1386, son of Aubrey de Vere, 10th earl (1392-1400), and his wife Alice, daughter of John, 7th Lord Fitzwalter; hereditary steward of royal forests in Essex; succeeded as 11th earl on 23 April 1400; summoned to parliament August 1407; in France with Clarence, 1412; Lollard commissioner for Essex, 11 January 1414; joint justiciar to inquire into treasons and felonies in Hants, 21 July 1415; commissioner for trial of Cambridge and Scrope, 5 August 1415; on French campaign of 1415, with 40 men-at-arms and 100 archers; commanded 29 lances and 79 archers at Agincourt; K.G., November 1415; J.P. for Essex; died 15 February 1417; married circa 1405 (probably 2nd wife), Alice, daughter of Sir Richard Sergeaux, knight, and widow of Guy St. Aubyn; succeeded by son John, 12th earl (1417-62). Will 6 August 1415, probated 26 February 1417.

Testamentum comitis Oxon' In Dei nomine Amen. Sexto die mensis Augusti anno Domini millesimo cccmo xvmo ego Richardus Veer comes Oxon' condo testamentum meum in hunc modum. In primis commendo animam meam Deo omnipotenti Beate Marie Virgini et omnibus Sanctis ac corpus meum ad sepeliendum in ecclesia conventuali prioratus de Colne ubi antecessores mei et maiores sepeliri solebant. Item lego Alicie uxori mee omnia bona mea ad debita mea persolvenda, funeralia mea peragenda, commissa mea reformanda ac in pios usus fideliter disponenda, prout discrecioni sue melius videbitur expedire, ipsamque executricem huius testamenti mei constituo et assumo.

[=Testament of the Earl of Oxford. In the name of God, Amen. On the sixth day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand four hundred fifteenth, I, Richard Vere, Earl of Oxford, do make my testament in this manner. First, I commend my soul to Almighty God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, and my body to be buried in the conventual church of the priory of Colne where my ancestors and forefathers were accustomed to be buried. Item, I bequeath to Alice, my wife, all my goods, my debts paid, my funerals accomplished, my grants reformed and in pious uses faithfully disposed as by her discretion it will seem best to do, and I also constitute and appoint the same [+Alice] executrix of this my testament.]

Acquietancia pro executoribus comitis Oxon' Item xxijdo die mensis Septembris apud Southmallyng emanavit acquietancia pro domina Alicia relictā et executrice et bonorum administratrice domini Ricardi Vere comitis Oxon'

[=Acquittance for the executors of the Earl of Oxford. Item, on the 22nd day of the month of September at South Malling issued an acquittance for the Lady Alice, relict and executrix and administratrix of the goods of Sir Richard Vere, Earl of Oxford.]