

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 10 November 1634 and proved 6 May 1635, of Oxford's first cousin, Horace [Horatio] Vere (1565-1635), Baron of Tilbury. The testator was the youngest son of Oxford's uncle, Geoffrey de Vere (d.1572), fourth son of John de Vere (1482-1540), 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford and Elizabeth Trussell (b. 1496, d. in or before 1527). For the nuncupative will of the testator's father, Geoffrey de Vere (d.1572), see ERO C/ABW 38/187. The testator's mother was Elizabeth Hardekyn (d.1615), the daughter of Richard Hardekyn of Odewell and Wotton, in Gestingthorpe in Essex. The testator's maternal grandfather, Richard Hardekyn, may be the Richard Hardekyn, 'yeoman usher of my chamber', who is left a bequest in the will of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/27, ff. 84-6).

The testator had a distinguished military career in the Low Countries. In November 1607 he married Mary Tracy (1581-1671), widow of William Hoby of Hailes, Gloucestershire, the youngest daughter of Sir John Tracy (d.1591) of Toddington, by whom he had five daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, Catherine, Anne and Dorothy. On 24 July 1625 the testator was created Baron Vere of Tilbury, but did not take up residence there. According to *The Complete Peerage*, he lived during his latter years at Clapton in Middlesex. The testator's eldest brother, John Vere (d.1624), had left him a reversionary interest in the manors of Tilbury juxta Clare and Kirby Hall, subject to the life interest of John Vere's widow, Thomasine (d.1639). However Thomasine outlived the testator by five years, and after her death Tilbury and Kirby Hall passed to the testator's widow, Mary (nee Tracy) Vere. For the will of John Vere (d.1624), see TNA PROB 11/143, ff. 510-15. For the will of Thomasine Vere (d.1639), see TNA PROB 11/181, ff. 229-30. The testator's three elder brothers, John Vere (d.1624), Sir Francis Vere (1560/61-1609), and Robert Vere all predeceased him. The testator died on 2 May 1635 and was buried in Westminster Abbey near the tomb of his brother, Sir Francis Vere (1560/61-1609).

LM: Testamentum honorandi viri Horatij Domini Vere Baronis de Tilbury

In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of November in the tenth year of the reign of our most gracious Sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith etc., Anno [ ] Domini one thousand six hundred thirty-four, I, Horace, Lord Vere, Baron of Tilbury, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I do commend my soul into the hands of God, my most mighty Creator, hoping assuredly through the only merits of Jesus Christ, my most merciful Saviour, to be made partaker of everlasting life, and I render my body to the earth, to be buried where it shall please God to appoint;

And touching that temporal estate which it hath pleased God of his mercy to make me the disposer of, first, whereas all that the house, site, circuit and precinct of the monastery of

Hailes in the county of Gloucester, and several manors, lordships, granges, farms, rents, revenues, lands, tenements and hereditaments situate, lying and being in the said county, have by my appointment and directions by one pair of indentures tripartite bearing date the seventeenth day of May which was in the eighth year [=17 May 1632] of the reign of our said most gracious Sovereign Lord the King's Majesty that now is, made or mentioned to be made between myself and Dame Mary, my most loving wife, on the first part, Lawrence Wright, esquire, Doctor of Physic, of the parish of Charterhouse in the county of Middlesex on the second part, and my kind and loving friends Richard Winwood of Dutton Park in the county of Berkshire, esquire, John Parker of the city of Westminster, esquire, Walter James of the said city of Westminster, esquire, and William Perkins of the city of London, merchant-tailor, on the third part, or by some other good and sufficient means in the law, conveyed and assigned unto them, the said Richard Winwood, John Parker, Walter James and William Perkins, for a term of years not yet expired, to the uses, trusts, intents and purposes declared in and by one pair of indentures bearing date the one and twentieth day of October now last past before the date of these presents [=21 October 1634], made or mentioned to be made between myself and Dame Mary, my wife, on the one part, and the said Richard Winwood, John Parker, Walter James and William Perkins on the other part;

And whereas the said site, circuit and precincts of the said monastery of Hailes and other the premises have also by my appointment and directions, by one other pair of indentures bearing date the five and twentieth day of September in the eighth year of the reign of our most gracious Sovereign Lord the King's Majesty that now is [=25 September 1632], made or mentioned to be made between William Williams, Robert Michell, Walter Markes and Robert March, citizens of London, on the one part, and my much respected friend Sir Robert Harley of Brampton Castle alias Brampton Bryan in the county of Hereford, Knight of the honourable Order of the Bath, Sir Robert Tracy of Fairford in the county of Gloucester, knight, and Richard Moore of Okinham in the county of Berkshire, gentleman, on the other part, or by some other good and sufficient means and conveyances in the law conveyed and assigned unto the said Sir Robert Harley, Sir Robert Tracy and Richard Moore on the one part, and myself and the said Dame Mary, my wife, on the other part, according to the true intent and meaning declared and expressed in the said last-recited indenture or deed indented bearing date the said one and twentieth of October now last past,

I, the said Horace, Lord Vere, do by this my last will and testament ratify and confirm the said several conveyances and assurances and every of them, and my desire and request unto all and every my said friends whom I have trusted as aforesaid is that they would respectively perform, fulfil and execute the trust by me in them respectively reposed according unto the true intent and meaning of the said several indentures dated the said one and twentieth day of October now last past, for it is my will and meaning that the said site, circuit & precinct of the said monastery and all and singular other the premises shall be and remain in the power of my said [ ] loving wife, for her freely to dispose of as she shall think fit;

And whereas myself and the said Dame Mary, my wife, are seised and estated in fee simple to us and our heirs of and in the freehold, reversion and inheritance of the said site, manors and premises, I do hereby devise and declare my will and meaning to be that if she, the said Dame Mary, my wife, shall survive and overlive me, the said Horace, Lord Vere, that then the said freehold, reversion and inheritance of the said site, manor and premises shall be and remain at her, my said wife's, free will and pleasure to dispose as she shall think meet, either by sale or otherwise, for her own use, behoof and benefit at her pleasure;

Item, I give all my goods, chattels, stock and household stuff, and all the debts, sum and sums of money which are owing unto me from or by any person or persons whatsoever, either in England or elsewhere, unto my said most dear and loving wife;

And I do hereby make, ordain and appoint her, my said wife, full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby revoke and annul all former wills;

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and set my seal unto this present last will and testament the day and year first above-written. Horace Vere.

Signed, sealed and published the day and year above-written in the presence of Timothy Felton, Edmund Cardell, William Sparrow, Thomas Lovell.

*Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro Domino Henrico Marten Milite legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis magistro Custode siue Commissario legitime constituto sexto die mensis Maij Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo tricesimo quinto Iuramento honorande femine Marie Domine Vere, relicte et executricis dicti Defuncti in huiusmodi testamento nominate Cui commissa fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ad sancta dei Evangelia Coram magistro Obediah Sedgwicke Clerico vigore Commissionis in ea parte alias emanate Iurate examinatus*

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Sir Henry Marten, knight, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the sixth day of the month of May in the year of the Lord a thousand six hundred thirty-five by the oath of the honourable Lady Mary Vere, relict and executrix of the said deceased named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same before Master Obediah Sedgwicke, clerk, by force of a commission in that respect otherwise issued. Examined]