

De Vere

The De Vere Family

The family name of de Vere is believed to have come from the small town of Ver, near Bayeaux in Normandy. They may also be descended from a Breton family from Vair, near Nantes. Their early history is surrounded in mystery.

The arms of the de Vere family are described as “Quarterly gules and or, in the first quarter a mullet argent” which means a shield with the first and fourth quarters red, the second and third quarters gold and a silver five pointed star in the first quarter.” Aubrey II de Vere went on the First Crusade in 1098, and it was at this point that the star was added to the coat of arms. According to legend, darkness was falling over the battlefield, and it appeared the saracens would be saved. However, a brilliant star appeared on Aubrey de Vere’s banner to illuminate the field. The battle continued, the Crusaders were victorious, and the star became a permanent part of the Arms of de Vere.



Generation One

Aubrey I de Vere

Born before 1040

Died in 1112 at Colne Priory

Aubrey or Albericus de Vere was present at the Battle of Hastings and obtained vast estates from William the Conqueror in 1066. These estates were once the property of Ulwine, a great Saxon thane, and consisted of manors in the counties of Essex, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Middlesex. He founded Earl’s Colne Priory in 1105, and after the death of his wife Beatrice he became a Monk.

Aubrey married to Beatrice and they had the following children:

- Geoffrey de Vere
- **Aubrey II de Vere**, mentioned next.
- Roger de Vere
- Robert de Vere
- William de Vere
- Alice de Vere

Generation Two

Aubrey II de Vere, Justiciar of England

Born in 1062

Died on May 15, 1141 in London. Killed in a riot.

Aubrey II went on the First Crusade in 1098; and began the construction of Hedingham castle which was completed by his sons Aubrey III and Robert.

Aubrey married to **Alice de Clare**, daughter of Gilbert FitzRichard de Clare, Earl of Clare. (See *De Clare*, Generation Four) Alice de Clare is said to have been a Nun. Presumably, this was after she and Aubrey had the following children:

- Aubrey III de Vere, 1st Earl of Oxford (1110 - 1194) married Agnes de Essex; their children:
 - Aubrey IV de Vere, 2nd Earl of Oxford (1163 - 1214, d.s.p.)
 - Robert de Vere, 3rd Earl of Oxford (circa 1165 - 1221), Magna Charta Surety (see Magna Charta); his son:
 - Hugh de Vere, 4th Earl of Oxford who married Hawise de Quincy. (See *De Quincy* Generation Three)
- Geoffrey de Vere, Lord of Clun
- Robert de Vere
- William de Vere, Bishop of Hereford
- Gilbert de Vere
- Alice de Vere
- Rohese de Vere
- **Juliana de Vere** who married **Hugh Bigod**, Earl of Norfolk (See *Bigod*, Generation Three)

For the continuation of this line, see *Bigod*, Generation Three

Sources

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