

= John de Vere , 7th Earl of Oxford =

John de Vere , 7th Earl of Oxford ( c . 12 March 1312 ? 24 January 1360 ) was the nephew and heir of Robert de Vere , 6th Earl of Oxford who succeeded as Earl of Oxford in 1331 , after his uncle died without issue .

John de Vere was a trusted captain of Edward III in the king 's wars in Scotland and France , and took part in both the Battle of Crécy and the Battle of Poitiers . He died campaigning in France in 1360 . Throughout his career he was closely associated with William de Bohun , 1st Earl of Northampton , who was his brother @-@ in @-@ law .

= = Family background and marriage = =

John de Vere was the only son of Alphonse de Vere , and Jane , daughter of Sir Richard Foliot . Alphonse was a younger son of Robert de Vere , 5th Earl of Oxford and apparently died shortly before 20 December 1328 , when a writ was issued for inquisitions post mortem into the land that he held direct from the King . These hearings established that Alphonse 's next heir was his son John , then aged 15 years and more . The manors concerned were Aston Sandford , Buckinghamshire , Westwick by St Albans and Great Hornead , Hertfordshire , as well as property at Beaumont and Althorne in Essex .

Alphonse was a brother of Robert de Vere , 6th Earl of Oxford . When the 6th Earl 's son died without issue in 1329 , he obtained licence from the king to entail his estates on his nephew , John . It was in this way that John de Vere , when his uncle died 17 April 1331 , became Earl of Oxford . He had made homage and received livery by 17 May .

In 1336 John married Maud de Badlesmere , who was the second of the four daughters of Bartholomew de Badlesmere , 1st Baron Badlesmere , of Badlesmere in Kent and Margaret de Clare . Maud was a co @-@ heiress of her brother Giles de Badlesmere , 2nd Baron Badlesmere . When Giles died in 1338 , this brought a significant part of the Badlesmere inheritance into de Vere 's hands . The marriage also forged a strong bond with William Bohun , Earl of Northampton , who had married Badlesmere 's third daughter , Elizabeth de Badlesmere , and thus became Oxford 's brother @-@ in @-@ law . The two campaigned together , sat on the same commissions and died the same year .

= = Career = =

De Vere 's military career began with service on Edward III 's Scottish campaigns , in the 1330s Second War of Scottish Independence . He took part in the Roxburgh campaign of 1334 ? 5 , and in the summer campaign of 1335 . Later in the decade , England 's military efforts turned towards France , with the beginning of the Hundred Years ' War . In March 1340 , de Vere served in Flanders , and was therefore out of the country during Edward 's disputes with Archbishop John de Stratford . Oxford was not forced to take sides in the conflict , and has been described as a " political neutral " .

After a period in England , de Vere returned to the Continent in 1342 , where he served with Northampton , who had been made lieutenant of Brittany . They both took part in the Battle of Morlaix that year . The next year the two earls were sent to Scotland to relieve Lochmaben Castle , and in 1345 they were again campaigning in Brittany . Tradition has it that , returning to England , their ships were forced ashore by bad weather , and the party was robbed of their possessions by the locals . In the summer of 1346 de Vere was campaigning with the king in Normandy , and took part in the Battle of Crécy . According to the chronicler Froissart , de Vere was fighting with the Black Prince , and was among the captains who sent a request to Edward III for reinforcements when the king famously answered ' Let the boy win his spurs ' . Oxford was also at the Siege of Calais , but reportedly fell ill in 1348 , and did not take part in any major campaigning until 1355 .

In 1355 he was again in the company of the Black Prince , and took part in the prince 's great raid in Languedoc . 19 September 1356 , at the Battle of Poitiers , Oxford was in command of the vanguard

together with the earl of Warwick. de Vere 's attack on the flank of the French cavalry , with a group of archers , did much to secure the English victory . His last campaign was Edward III 's Rheims campaign in 1359 ? 60 . Here he died , probably during the raid into Burgundy , on 23 or 24 January 1360 . He was buried in the de Vere family 's burial place Colne Priory in Essex .

= = Descendants and assessment = =

Maud de Vere died in 1366 . The couple had four sons and three daughters . The eldest son , John , married Elizabeth Courtenay , daughter of Hugh Courtenay , 10th Earl of Devon , but died before his father , in 1350 . ( After the death of her husband , Elizabeth married Sir Andrew Luttrell of Chilton ( in Thorverton ) , Devon . ) Another son , Robert , also died in his father 's lifetime . The eldest remaining son was then Thomas , born about 1336 or 1337 , who succeeded his father in 1360 . Thomas 's son Robert de Vere , 9th Earl of Oxford succeeded at his father 's death , but with Robert 's forfeiture in 1392 , the earldom was given to Robert 's uncle Aubrey ? the seventh earl 's fourth son . The eldest daughter , Margaret , married three times , while of the second , Matilda , little is known . The third daughter , Elizabeth , married Sir Hugh Courtenay , eldest son and heir of Hugh de Courtenay , 10th Earl of Devon .

John de Vere , in the family tradition of the " fighting de Veres " , was active in almost all major military engagements in the years from 1340 to 1360 . On the Roxburgh campaign he brought a retinue of twenty @-@ eight men @-@ at @-@ arms and twelve mounted archers . In Brittany in 1342 , the retinue had grown to forty men @-@ at @-@ arms , one banneret , nine knights , twenty @-@ nine esquires , and thirty mounted archers . His retinue was of a diverse composition , and also included foreign mercenaries . At one point , in the Battle of Poitiers , John Hawkwood , who was later to make his fortune as a condottiero in Italy , also served with de Vere . Yet in spite of this , de Vere never distinguished himself particularly as a military commander . Neither did he receive a great amount of royal patronage , and was never made a member of the Order of the Garter . This was largely a consequence of the de Vere family 's relatively modest resources among the English peerage . As an example can be mentioned that in the late 1340 , £ 349 were owed to Oxford in arrears for his services , yet at the same time the king owed Northampton two debts of £ 782 and £ 1237 . This obstacle of resources and status John de Vere was unable to overcome either by marriage or warfare .

= = De Vere family tree = =