

# The Trentham Family

## Incorporating the de Veres and the Sneyds

**Earls of Oxford**  
Direct line from 1066  
and the invasion of  
William the Conqueror



Castle Hedingham



**William Trentham**  
armiger, of Shrewsbury  
d. c. 1420

**Elizabeth Horton**  
daughter of John Horton of Woodcote

**Elizabeth Devereux**  
dau of Sir Walter Devereux,  
1st Lord Ferrers of Chartley

**Sir Richard Corbet**  
of Moreton Corbet (militis)  
b 1451, d 1493

**Richard Sneyd**  
of Bradwell, Staffordshire  
d. 1537  
Recorder of Chester  
1512-1537  
Councillor to Princess Mary  
daughter of **Henry VIII** and  
Catherine of Aragon

**Anne Fouleshurst**



Keele Hall

**John Trentham**  
armiger, of Shrewsbury  
d. 1484

**Anne Hoard**  
daughter and heiress of  
William Hoard of Shrewsbury

**Thomas Trentham I**  
armiger, of Shrewsbury  
*superstes* 1529

**Catherine Marschall**  
daughter and heiress of John  
Marschall of Hurst, Shropshire

**Thomas Trentham II** = **Elizabeth Corbett**  
armiger, of Shrewsbury  
b. c. 1468, d. c. 1519

**Sir Robert Corbet**  
of Moreton Corbet  
d 1514  
Sheriff of Salop  
m. Elizabeth Vernon (d 1563, dau  
of Sir Henry Vernon of Haddon)

**Richard de Vere**  
**11th Earl of Oxford**  
b c1386, d 15.02.1416/7

**John de Vere**  
**12th Earl of Oxford**  
b 23.04.1408, d 26.02.1461/2

**John de Vere**  
**13th Earl of Oxford**  
Great Chamberlain  
b 08.09.1442, d 10.03.1512/3

**John de Vere of Campes**  
**14th Earl of Oxford**  
b 14.08.1499, dsp 14.07.1526

**John de Vere**  
**15th Earl of Oxford**  
Great Chamberlain  
Knight of the Garter  
d. 1539

m1. (c1493) Christian Foderingey  
dau of Thomas Foderingey  
m2. (c1508) **Elizabeth Trussel**  
dau of Sir Edward Trussel of  
Cubledon / Kibblestone)

**John de Vere**  
**16th Earl of Oxford**  
Great Chamberlain  
b. circa 1516, d. 3 Aug 1562

m1. 3 July 1536 **Dorothy Nevill**  
daughter of Ralph Nevill,  
4th Earl of Westmorland  
Issue: **Katherine de Vere**  
d 17 Jan 1599  
married Sir Edward Windsor

Sir William Sneyd's tomb



**Sir William Sneyd Kt**  
of Keele, Staffordshire  
d. 6 June 1571, buried at Wolstanton  
- notable alabaster tomb (left)  
Mayor of Chester 1543-1544, 1566-1567  
High Sheriff of Staffordshire  
1549-1550, 1558-1559  
Justice of Peace 1547-1571  
Purchases manor of Keele  
for £334 on 11 June 1544  
Granted the **Rectory of Wolstanton**  
Parish for £600 to the Bishop of  
Coventry and Lichfield in 1567

**Anne Barrow**  
m. 25 Nov 1526



The site of Rocester Abbey

**Maria Ireland**  
daughter of David  
Ireland of Shropshire

**(Sir) Richard Trentham**  
armiger, of Shrewsbury, Rocester  
b. circa 1500, d. 1 Jan 1547  
Pocillator reg Ed VI, dum Wallace  
principatum tenuit, primus qui partim  
emponere et partim ex largitione magni  
regis H VIII, habuit coenob' m de Rocester.  
1536: MP for Shropshire  
1540: Granted lease of **Manor**  
of **Rocester Abbey** following  
dissolution of monasteries.  
Cup Bearer to **Edward VI**  
Described as a 'favourite'  
of **Henry VIII**.

**Robert Trentham**  
(unus hostiarium  
Reg H VIII and Ed VI)

**Katherine Trentham**  
Married (1) **Haklut** of  
Hereford; (2) **Fox** of Ludlow

**Anne Trentham**  
Married (circa 1523)  
**Ralph Leighton** of  
Cotys, Salop.

**Mary Trentham**  
Married **Hugo Rogers**  
of Hamhouse, Staffs

**Jane Trentham**  
Married **Middleton**

**Elizabeth Trentham**  
Married **Richard Husee**  
of Adbright, Salop

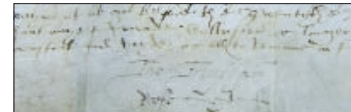
**Mary Chetwynd**



Ralph Sneyd I - mentioned as  
"Uncle Sneyde" in  
Elizabeth Trentham's will

**Ralph Sneyd I**  
armiger, of Keele,  
Staffordshire  
b. circa 1527  
d 15 Aug 1620, buried at  
Wolstanton  
Freeman of Chester  
High Sheriff of  
Staffordshire 1576, 1595  
Built Keele Hall in 1581  
Owned manors of Keele,  
Bradwell, Tunstall and  
Norton, Rectory of  
Wolstanton Parish and was  
the dominant feudal Lord  
of the ancient borough of  
Newcastle-u-Lyme

**George Sneyd**  
Freeman of Chester  
**3 sons**  
who died young  
**8 daughters**  
including Mary,  
Elizabeth, Anne  
and Margaret



Thomas Trentham III  
& Ralph Sneyd I signatures  
on a dowry bond for Elizabeth  
Trentham, Countess of Oxford

**Jane Sneyd**  
Marriage c. 1561/2  
Buried July 17 1616  
at Rocester,  
"Gentilwoman, wid."

**Thomas Trentham III**  
armiger, of Rocester Abbey  
b. 21 April 1538  
buried May 25 1587 at Rocester  
MP for County of Stafford.  
1571-1572: Sheriff of Staffs  
1577-1585: JP  
1579-1580: Sheriff of Staffs  
1580: Described as  
"Custos Rotulorum"  
Sept 1586: Appointed by Privy  
Council to accompany the  
**Scottish Queen** to her trial at  
Fotheringay

**Margaret Trentham**  
Married Sampson Meverell of  
Throwley, Staffs

**Catherine Trentham**  
Married Thomas Lane of Hide  
and Bentley, Staffs

**Joyce Trentham**  
Married Edward Minours of  
Uttoxeter, Staffs

**Elizabeth Trentham**  
Married Thomas Hacluyt of  
Eaton Court, Shropshire

**Joanna Trentham**  
Married Godfrey Fouljambe  
of Norton-lees, Derby

**Margery Golding** m2 =  
d 02.12.1568  
daughter of John Golding of  
Halstead / Belchamp St. Paul  
Sister of **Arthur Golding**  
translator of Ovid  
m2. 1 Aug 1548

**Edward de Vere** m1 =  
**17th Earl of Oxford**  
Lorde Grete Chamberlyne of  
Englande, Viscount Bulbecke,  
and Lorde of Badlesmere and  
Scales.  
Classical scholar, adventurer,  
unbeaten in the tiltyard, poet,  
dramatist, patron of arts and  
sciences, impresario, noted  
'Italianate Englishman' at Queen  
Elizabeth's court.  
b. April 12 1550  
at Castle Hedingham  
d 24 June 1604  
at Hackney, intestate  
Also had illegitimate son,  
**Sir Edward Vere** (militis)  
(b. 23 March 1581, d 1629) with  
**Anne Vavasour**, (right) Lady of  
Bedchamber to Queen



Anne Vavasour



Edward de Vere  
and signature

**Felicia**, daughter of  
**Nicholas Archbold**  
of Uttoxeter



Captain Ralph Sneyd II  
painted along with the  
Sneyd heraldic shield  
- the word 'sneyd'  
being the Medieval  
English word for  
'scythe'.

**Ralph Sneyd II (Captain)**  
armiger, of Keele, Staffordshire  
b. 1570, buried 7 April 1643  
at Wolstanton  
Became heir app. on death of  
his eldest brother William  
on Aug 29 1613  
Is granted the  
"custodie wardshippe  
and marriage" of the  
8 year old heir of the  
Trentham estate,  
**Francis Trentham II** in 1628  
which, by licence, he grants to  
**Sir William Bowyer** of Knypersley  
on 9 June 1632.  
Pictured left

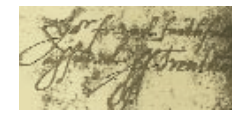
**Thomas Trentham IV**  
bap March 20 1575  
buried April 25 1605 at Rocester  
1601: Member of Parliament for  
Newcastle-u-Lyme, Staffs  
Unmarried.

**Dorothy Trentham**  
b. c 1565  
married **Sir William Cooper**  
June 6 1585 at Rocester

**Katherine Trentham**  
b Aug 16 1569  
married **Sir John Stanhope** of  
Elvaston, Derbyshire in 1586

**Lettice Trentham**  
b+d. 1573

**Francis Trentham I**  
armiger, of Rocester Abbey  
b. c. 1563/4, buried Oct 13 1626  
"et venerabilis vir" at Rocester  
JP. Sheriff of Staffs 1592 & 1611  
1610: MP for County of Stafford  
From the date (1591) of his sister  
**Elizabeth's marriage to**  
**Edward de Vere**, Francis' name  
appears on most of the legal  
papers concerning the **de Vere**  
estate. Inherits the **manor &**  
**Castle of Hedingham** - then to  
son and heir **Sir Thomas**  
**Trentham**.



**Katherine Sheldon**  
daughter of **Sir Ralph Sheldon**  
of Beoly and **Anne Throgmorton**  
Married c. 1591  
Will dated July 4 1633 (see copy)

### Were I a king

Were I a king I could command content:  
Were I obscure, unknown should be my cares;  
And were I dead, no thoughts should me torment,  
Nor words, nor wrongs, nor loves, nor hopes, nor fears.  
A doubtful choice, of three things one to crave,  
A kingdom, or a cottage, or a grave.

**Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford**  
Author of the works formerly attributed to  
**William Shakespeare**

*Elizabethan and Seventeenth-Century Lyrics. Matthew W. Black, Ed. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Company, 1938.*

**Elizabeth Trentham** m2 =  
**(Countess of Oxenford)**  
**Maid of Honour to**  
**Queen Elizabeth**  
(also found a record that she was  
god-daughter of the Queen)  
b. c. 1562/3 at Rocester  
buried 3 Jan 1613 (Hackney?)  
Will dated 25 Nov 1612



Edward de Vere

**Edward de Vere** m1 =  
**17th Earl of Oxford**  
Lorde Grete Chamberlyne of  
Englande, Viscount Bulbecke,  
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Also had illegitimate son,  
**Sir Edward Vere** (militis)  
(b. 23 March 1581, d 1629) with  
**Anne Vavasour**, (right) Lady of  
Bedchamber to Queen

**Anne Cecil**  
daughter of **Sir William Cecil**,  
**Lord Burghley, Maid of**  
**Honour to Queen Elizabeth**  
b. 5 Dec 1556  
m. 19 Dec 1571  
d. 5 June 1588  
at the palace at Greenwich.

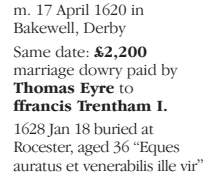
**William Sneyd II**  
of Keele, Staffordshire  
b. 1612  
buried 17 Jan 1695  
at Wolstanton  
married **Elizabeth Audley**  
Although a royalist, managed to  
maintain family estates through  
and beyond civil war.  
MP for Staffordshire in first  
restoration Parliament of 1660  
Sheriff of Staffordshire 1663



Captain Richard Sneyd - the  
brother of William Sneyd II.  
Richard fought with  
distinction for Charles I.

**Prudence Eyre**  
daughter of  
**Thomas Eyre**  
of Hassop Hall, Derby  
b. 1599  
Buried 10 Feb 1642  
at Rocester  
On her marriage,  
she becomes  
**Lady Prudence**  
**Trentham**

**Sir Thomas Trentham V Kt**  
of Rocester Abbey  
b. c. 1592  
Knighted aged 25  
m. 17 April 1620 in  
Bakewell, Derby  
Same date: £2,200  
marriage dowry paid by  
**Thomas Eyre** to  
**Francis Trentham I**.  
1628 Jan 18 buried at  
Rocester, aged 36 "Eques  
auratus et venerabilis ille vir"



**Sir Christopher Trentham Kt**  
b. 1592 d 1649  
Married Winifred,  
daughter of John Biddulph  
**Succeeded to Rocester**  
**estate** c 1644 after  
challenging the will of his  
deceased nephew **Sir**  
**Francis Trentham II** who  
left his estate to his only  
daughter **Elizabeth**  
Lived at the Dairy House,  
Horton Hay.

**William Trentham**  
bap Oct 19 1609, d. 1651  
**Succeeded to Rocester**  
**estate** c 1649 on death of  
his elder brother **Sir**  
**Christopher Trentham**

**Anne and Jane**  
twins bap July 5 1593  
d 1593, 1596

**Grace**  
bap May 18 1597  
m. 1639 Walter Astley  
of Patshull

**Francis Vere**  
bap July 6 1598  
bap Sept 16 1599  
god-daughter of  
**Elizabeth Trentham**  
Countess of Oxford

**Anthony**  
bap Sept 16 1600

**Katherine**  
bap Nov 26 1601

**Richard Robert**  
bap Aug 25 1603,  
d. Aug 27 1603  
bap Sept 27 1604  
bap Sept 2 1604

**Ralph**  
Baptised at Leek 1605  
buried at Rocester  
Nov 7 1605

**Marie**  
bap Aug 23 1607  
mentioned in  
**Elizabeth Trentham**  
Countess of Oxford will

**Anne**  
bap April 11 1611

**Henry de Vere**  
**18th Earl of Oxford**  
Lord Great Chamberlain  
b. 24 Feb 1593  
1 Jan 1623/4: married  
**Diana Cecil**, daughter of **William Cecil**,  
**2nd Earl of Exeter**  
June 1625 died without issue  
Cousin **Robert de Vere**, son of **Hugh de Vere**,  
inherits the Oxford titles as **19th Earl**.  
On Henry's death, the manorship and castle of  
**Hedingham**, having been purchased by  
**Elizabeth Trentham, Countess of Oxford**,  
pass by entail, to **Francis Trentham I**.  
Countess **Diana's** sisters petition the **House of**  
**Lords** for the restitution of **Hedingham** on  
24 Feb 1668. 30 March 1668 **Lord and Lady Cullen**  
reply and the the Lords find in their favour.



Edward de Vere  
and signature

**Catherine**  
buried  
Oct 23 1622  
at Rocester

**Sir Francis Trentham II Kt**  
of Rocester Abbey, Staffordshire  
baptised 22 Sept 1620 at Rocester  
married 21 Oct 1634 (aged 14) at Biddulph  
buried 15 April 1644 at Rocester  
Is 8 years old on the death of his father, he becomes a  
**Royal Ward of Court** and **Ralph Sneyd II** of Keele (his  
great Uncle) purchases his "custodie wardshippe and  
marriage" which includes taking care of his education  
and **managing the Trentham estate during Francis'**  
**minority**. The boy now moves to Keele while his mother  
**Lady Prudence Trentham** moves to the 750 acre  
Trentham estate of **Westwood Grange** near Leek, Staffs  
1632 June 9: **Ralph Sneyd II**, by a special licence grants  
and assigns the **custody and wardship of Francis**  
**Trentham II** (aged 12) to **Sir William Bowyer** of  
Knypersley Hall where the boy now moves.  
(*Sneyd Papers* SI385)  
1644 April 11: **Date of the Will** names 4 year old  
daughter **Elizabeth (Lady Cullen)** his sole heiress

**Elizabeth Bowyer**

**John Bowyer**  
of Biddulph Hall, Staffs  
Granted wardship of  
**Elizabeth Trentham**  
**(Lady Cullen)** and  
negotiates £20,000  
marriage settlement  
with the Cullens in 1653

**son**  
b+d May 1583

**Francis de Vere**  
buried infant  
12 Sept 1587

**Lady Bridget de Vere**  
b. 6 April 1584  
married, May/June 1599,  
**Francis Norris**, 2nd Lord of  
Rycote, **Earl of Berkshire**.  
Prior to marriage was affianced  
to **William Herbert**, (pic below)  
**3rd Earl of Pembroke**  
Lord Chamberlain  
Knight of the Garter  
brother of **Philip Herbert**  
see Susan de Vere

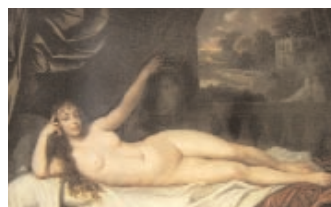
**Lady Elizabeth de Vere**  
b. 2 July 1575, d. 10 March 1627  
Date of birth is according to  
Burghley, Edward de Vere  
initially considers the child  
illegitimate thus beginning a five  
estrangement with Anne  
married, 26 Jan 1594,  
**William Stanley**,  
**6th Earl of Derby**  
(d. 29 Sept 1642)  
Knight of the Garter 1601

**Lady Susan de Vere**  
b. 26 May 1587,  
bur 1 Feb 1628-9  
married, 27 Dec 1604,  
**Philip Herbert**, 1st Earl of  
**Montgomery**, 4th Earl of  
**Pembroke**, Knight of the Garter  
1608, brother of **William**  
**Herbert** (see Bridget) who were  
the 'incomparable brethren'  
who financed the **First Folio of**  
**Shakespeare**

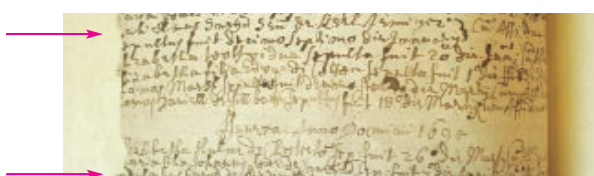
**Ralph Sneyd III (capt)**  
of Keele, Staffordshire  
son and heir of above  
b. 1641, d. 1703  
Justice of the Peace  
1681 MP for Newcastle-u-Lyme  
1703 Deputy Lieutenant of Staffs

**Ralph Sneyd IV**  
of Keele, Staffordshire  
3rd son and heir app. of above  
b. 1667, d. 8 April 1695  
Marries (at Lichfield Cathedral):  
**Frances (Lady Chester)**  
b.1673, d. 1750  
daughter of **Sir William Noel**,  
Frances managed entire Sneyd  
estate during the minority of  
their son and heir:

**Ralph Sneyd V**  
of Keele, Staffordshire  
b. 1692, d. 1733  
Marries **Anna Maria** against  
family wishes - he is aged 26, she  
is aged 16  
1713-1715 MP for Staffordshire  
1721 High Sheriff of Staffordshire



Sir John Lely's portrait of  
Elizabeth Trentham, Lady Cullen



William Sneyd and his grandson Ralph Sneyd IV were buried within  
months of each other in the church at Wolstanton.

**Elizabeth Trentham (Lady Cullen)**  
bap 24 Oct 1640 at Biddulph, d. 30 Nov 1713  
Brought up by **John Bowyer** of Biddulph. Becomes Lady  
of Bedchamber to **Queen Katherine**. Was a noted beauty  
at the court of **Charles II**. Painted by Sir John Lely (left).  
24 Nov 1673 **Manor and estate of Rocester**, and "the  
honour manor Castle and Burrough of **Hedingham**"  
conveyed by way of settlement to **William Sneyd** and  
**Thomas Cokayne** by **Bryan Lord Viscount Cullen** and  
**Elizabeth his wife**, daughter and heiress of **Francis**  
**Trentham** [II].  
On her **monument** at All Saints church **Rushton** she is  
described as heiress of the "rich Lordship of Rocester."



Bryan Cokayne,  
2nd Viscount Cullen of Rushton Hall

**Sir William Cokayne**  
of Rushton Hall  
Lord Mayor of London  
(d 20.10.1626, 2nd son)  
m. (22.06.1596) Mary Morris  
dau of Richard Morris

**Charles Cokayne**  
of Rushton Hall  
(b 04.07.1602, d 1661)  
**1st Viscount Cullen**  
Irish honour created by  
Charles I in 1642  
m. (24.06.1627) Mary O'Brien  
dau of Henry O'Brien,  
5th Earl of Thomond



William Herbert  
3rd Earl of Pembroke



Philip Herbert, Earl of Montgomery with his second wife  
Anne Clifford and the four children of his first wife  
Lady Susan de Vere - James, Henry, Charles & Phillip.

**Bryan Cokayne 2nd Viscount Cullen**  
second son of Charles Cokayne 1st Viscount Cullen  
b. 1631, d. July 1687  
24 Sept 1653 - **Prenuptial agreement** with  
**John Bowyer** for £20,000 as follows:  
"If **Elizabeth Trentham**, fiancée of **Brien** shall  
within 12 months of her reaching 21 yrs, settle on  
her sons by Brien, her estates in **Rocester**, Alton,  
Denson, Quicksill & Combridge, Staffs, &  
**Heningham, Essex**, then Chas Ld C [Cullen].  
will settle £250 p.a. on East & West Rushton on  
Brien & Elizabeth as additional jointure."

**Postscript**  
"The issue of this union [Charles Cokayne and Mary O'Brien] was **Bryan**  
**Cokayne**, second Viscount, whose life gives us a little drama. At the age of  
sixteen he was betrothed to the "beautiful Elizabeth Trentham", whose  
**father was Lord of Rocester**, and whose likeness was painted by Lely, while  
her loveliness was a theme for the gallants at Court - after which he went on  
the Continent. While in Italy he jilted an Italian lady (said to have been a  
Countess), who loved him with all the passionate fire of her country. **On the**  
**very day of his marriage** with his affianced, and they with their guests were  
sitting down to the banquet in **Rushton Hall**, the victim of his sports abroad  
turned up, and, in the midst of the assembly, uttered a terrible curse,  
prophesying misery and want, denouncing her curse by drinking to their  
perdition. His lady was **heiress of the Manors of Rocester and Castle**  
**Hedingham**, besides other lands in Staffordshire, Essex, and Oxon; but  
circumstances verified the curse. From his dissipation the estates were  
mortgaged to their full value; she sold her own to the last acre."

*Old Halls, Manors and Families of Derbyshire*  
*Volume I, The High Peak Hundred by Joseph Tilley*