

Richard the third, the castell, lordship, and manor of Hyngham were granted to Thomas Montgomery. On the death of Richard third at the memorable battle of Bosworth Field, August the 2nd, 1485, the act of attainder was repealed, and all the Earl's estates were restored to him. This Earl was made Lord High Admiral of England, Ireland, and the Duchy of Aquitaine for life. In 1491 the Earl together with the Bishop of Winchester stood god-father to Henry's son, afterwards Henry the eighth. It was John de Vere who entertained so sumptuously the sovereign he had served so well, and who requited his attachment and hospitality in so extraordinary a manner (Henry the seventh). The Earl survived his master but a few years, dying in 1512 at Hedingham Castle. The body was brought from the castle to the parish church, where it lay in state, after which it was conveyed with great funeral pomp and interred at Colne Priory, the ancient foundation and burying place of his ancestors. John de Vere, fourteenth Earl, nephew of the last mentioned, was called Little John, also the wise and the good, and the rich. Like his predecessor he died without issue, and his sisters became the heirs to all the estate which was not entailèd upon the heirs male. The De Veres had also the advowsons of several churches, and of the parishes of Blackmore, Colne, Hatfield, Hedingham, Truehalle, and Swaffham. This Earl died in 1526. John de Vere, the fifteenth Earl, was a cousin of the former earl. He died in 1539 and was buried in Castle Hedingham Church. John de Vere, the sixteenth Earl, was the son of the fifteenth. The Duke of Somerset took his estates from him in a very cruel manner; and Hallam says, quoting Nouilles, that this earl was censured by Queen Mary for his protestantism, and told that it would probably cause the loss of his title. He however retained it and died in 1562. Edward de Vere, the seventeenth Earl, son of the sixteenth, almost ruined his noble inheritance.

The unreasonable and extreme violence of Edward, seventeenth Earl, brought this long flourishing family of the De Veres to a low ebb. Through his extravagance many noble estates were alienated from the family; and by his orders most of the buildings on the Castle Hill were rased to the ground. The Keep, which alone remained, probably proved