

### Descent of William More I's wife Elizabeth Vaudrey

The 1662 Nottinghamshire visitation pedigree<sup>i</sup> states that Elizabeth was the daughter of Alexander Vaudrey gent. of 'the Banke' in Cheshire. In 1683, Randal Holme of Chester, a deputy herald, produced a 'Pedigree of the ancient family of Vaudreys of Riddings and Bank in the county palatine of Chester...', claiming descent of that line from Sir Claude Vaudrey who came over from France with Earl Hugh Lupus of Chester at the time of the Norman Conquest.<sup>ii</sup> The family was armigerous. Ormerod confirms that Bank Hill and Riddings, in the township of Timperley some ten miles east of Thelwall, were both seats of branches of the Vaudrey family – however he gives a somewhat differing pedigree and coat of arms, again running to 1683. Neither of these contains the Alexander with daughter Elizabeth depicted in the 1662 Nottinghamshire pedigree; nor does the slimmed-down Vawdrey of Reddings (variant spelling) tree included in the 1613 Visitation Report.<sup>iii</sup> The key to this anomaly is that Elizabeth's mother, Ellen Mores, married into the Vaudrey family twice: Elizabeth was actually her daughter by Thomas Vaudrey.

There were families named Mores in north Cheshire and Lancashire, and the More family papers briefly referred to in Part 1 include a pedigree chart showing that Alexander Vaudrey's wife was Ellen the daughter of Roger Mores, gentleman of Dunham Woodhouse (very near Timperley) and Roger's wife Margaret, daughter of John and Elizabeth Duncalfe of Foxhirst or Foxwist, near Macclesfield. However that was Ellen's second marriage - the family pedigree shows that her first was to Thomas Vaudrey, also of Dunham Woodhouse, whose will describes him as a husbandman (although in the family manuscript referred to as 'armiger'), and shows that he, not Alexander, was the father of Elizabeth the wife of William More.<sup>iv</sup> In this will, Thomas leaves a bequest to Elizabeth as one of his four daughters, and appoints his mother-in-law Margaret Mo(o)res an overseer. In his will proved in 1634, Alexander Vaudrey, who was a yeoman of Bowdon, another location between Timperley and Thelwall, leaves small sums to Elizabeth the former wife of the late William 'Mores' of Thelwall and to their children; this is indeed Alexander's stepdaughter, William More's widow Elizabeth.<sup>v</sup> The misspelling of her surname offers a clue to the confusion over John and William More's parentage, already referred to.<sup>vi</sup> Thomas and Alexander appear to have been junior kin of the main line of armigerous Vaudreys of Riddings and Bank.<sup>vii</sup>

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i *The Visitation of Nottinghamshire begun in 1662 and finished in 1664*: (ed.) G.D. Squibb, Harleian Society New Series vol. 5, 1986

ii HD HEN 9/1/4 : *Pedigree of the ancient family of Vaudreys...* As will be seen, the name was sometimes spelled Vaudry (or indeed Vawdry or in other ways) but is here standardised as Vaudrey, except where quotations from contemporary sources have it otherwise

iii HD HEN 9/1/4. George Ormerod, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester: Compiled from Original Evidences.....*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1882, attributes his version to Booth's Pedigrees, with additions from Chetham Society publications and Harl. MSS. 2119; *The Visitation of Cheshire 1613* (cit. Part 1, endnote<sup>81</sup>) quoting Harl. MS 10170 f. 94b

iv HD HEN 9/1/1; Will and inventory of Thomas Vaudrey of Dunham Woodhouse, husbandman made 18 May 1593 - Cheshire RO, WS 1593; legibility impaired in places

v Will and inventory of Alexander Vaudrey of Bowdon, yeoman, proved 15 August 1634 - in G.J. Piccope (ed.), *Lancashire and Cheshire wills and inventories from the ecclesiastical court, Chester*, Chetham Soc. vol. 51, 1860. The inventory totals the not inconsiderable sum of £160/19/2. William More's will of 1631, considered in the main

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text, includes a somewhat obscure entry under debts owing to him as testator, to the effect that according to the customs and uses of the country, Alexander Vaudrey is liable to provide William's youngest daughter Alice with a marriage portion

- vi HD HEN 9/1/1. A further difficulty in identifying relevant surnames is that Mores can be a variant spelling of Morris; *Alumni Oxonienses* (sup.) records as at Oxford a John Mor(r)es of Cheshire from 1591 to 1595, and a John Morris of Grappenhall from 1636-1640. The arms shown for Duncalfe - *argent a chevron gules between three calves passant sable* - are attested as in use in the *1580 Visitation of Cheshire* (cit. Part 1, Appendix 5), quoting Harl. 1424 f. 55b, and around 1630 in Daniel King, *The Vale Royal of England 1656* - online at [http://cheshire-heraldry.org.uk/vale\\_royal/](http://cheshire-heraldry.org.uk/vale_royal/) [accessed 14 July 2013]. The arms shown in HD HEN 9/1/1 for Mores are not included by King or shown in the 1580 or 1613 Visitations of Cheshire, but it is noteworthy that they bear no resemblance to the sable, a cross argent shown for More, or to any other grant made to Dr John More. It should be added that the document gives pedigree extracts for other Mo(o)re families in Cheshire, e.g. that of Moore of Hall o' Heath at Haslington near Crewe, apparently taken from the 1613 Visitation of Cheshire, but it is not made clear what, if any, relationships are involved. It seems very possible that these represent attempts by the compiler to research and establish his own lines of descent
- vii HD HEN 9/1/1 shows the Vaudreys as having arms with similar elements to those of the Vaudreys of Riddings but with significant differences in detail. A problematic aspect is that the arms shown for Alexander are identical with those shown for Thomas, with a crescent difference, which would appear to suggest that Alexander was Thomas' younger brother and hence forbidden as a marriage partner to Elizabeth - assuming I am correct in deducing that the wives were one and the same person - unless a dispensation was obtained. It also states clearly that the Elizabeth who married Edward More was Thomas' daughter, in fact his eldest daughter and coheiress. A 'Robert Vawdraye' signed as a witness to the receipt of 1626 mentioned in Part 1, Appendix 3, endnote <sup>7</sup> - there were two or three Robert Vaudreys in the Riddings line at that time, kin by marriage of Alice I