SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 1 October 1442, 9 December 1442 and 14 December 1442, of Edward Tyrrell of Downham in Essex. The testator states in the will that his parents were Walter and Eleanor, and G. Andrews Moriarty, in "The Early Tyrrels of Heron in East Herndon" (New England Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. CIX, 1955, pp. 17-31), has made use of this will to correct an error in the Tyrrell pedigrees and to demonstrate that both the testator and his elder brother, Sir John Tyrrell (d.1437), Speaker of the House of Commons, were the sons of Walter Tyrrell and his wife Eleanor, the daughter and heir of Edmund Flambard. Walter Tyrrell died sometime after 1406, and his widow, Eleanor, married Sir Nicholas Haute. The testator's wife was Anne Pashley, who was the daughter of Sir Robert Pashley of Ticehurst, Sussex, and his wife, Philippa Sergeaux. Anne Pashley's first husband was John Bassingbourne, by whom she had a son, John, mentioned in the testator's will. Her second husband was the testator, Edward Tyrrell of Downham. They had a son, Edward, and two daughters, Philippe and Margaret. Their son, Edward, died voung and without issue, and some of the manors mentioned in the will descended in reversion to the testator's nephew, Sir Thomas Tyrrell of Heron (1411-1476), the eldest son and heir of the testator's brother, Sir John Tyrrell (d.1437), Speaker of the House of Commons, and his wife Alice (d.1422), daughter and heir of Sir William Coggeshall. The testator's daughter, Philippe, married, before 1454, Thomas Cornwallis of Brome (d.1484). The testator's daughter, Margaret, married Robert Mounteney, nephew and heir of Sir William Mounteney. Through her mother, Philippa Sergeaux, the testator's wife, Anne Pashley, was a descendant of Robert de Vere (d. before 1221), 3rd Earl of Oxford, and his wife, Isabel de Bolebec (d.1245) (see Richardson, Douglas, Magna Carta Ancestry, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, c.2005, pp. 254, 604, 845). Moreover Anne Pashley's mother, Philippa Sergeaux, was the sister of Elizabeth Sergeaux, who married Sir William Marney, and had a daughter by him, Anne Marney, who married the testator's nephew and reversionary legatee, Sir Thomas Tyrrell of Heron (d. 1417). In addition, a third sister, Alice Sergeaux (d.1462), married Richard Vere (d.1417), 11th Earl of Oxford. The testator's wife, Anne Pashley, was thus a first cousin of John de Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford (d.1462), to whom the testator enfeoffed his lands and whom he made a supervisor of his will. The inquisition post mortem of Oxford's father, John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford (d.1562) and other documents show that several members of the Tyrrell family were granted annuities by the 16th Earl and/or were in his service (see TNA C 142/136/12, TNA Ward 8/13 and ERO D/DPr 144). As well, Oxford's stepfather, Charles Tyrrell, the second husband of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding, was a member of the family, although his place in the Tyrrell pedigree has yet to be determined. Moreover Oxford sold Fisher's Folly, his London mansion in Bishopsgate, to Sir William Cornwallis (d.1611), a descendant of the marriage of the testator's daughter, Philippe Tyrrell, to Thomas Cornwallis of Brome (d.1484). The family connections between the Earls of Oxford and the Tyrrells through the Sergeaux family were thus substantial, and continued over several generations, and the testator's will is significant in establishing the source of those connections. The text of the will is taken from pp. 628-636 of Jacob, E.F., ed., The Register of Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury 1414-1443, vol. II (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1938).

(fo. 488 v.)

Edward Tyrrell. In the name of God. I Edward Tyrrell, squire, the elder, dwelling at Downham in the county of Essex, the first day of October the year of Our Lord 1442 and the year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the conquest 21, being in whole mind and in good memory, make my testament in the form that sueth:

First, I bequeath my soul to God Almighty, my former and my maker, and to his mother, the Blessed Virgin Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the saints in heaven, and my body to be buried in the church of the friars of Chelmsford within my chapel that I have made there new;

Also I bequeath to the church of Downham for my tithes that been forgotten and for other negligences done by me in my life without any due satisfaction made to God and to holy church, 40s;

Also I bequeath for to be disposed and distributed by mine executors in alms-deed to poor men being there at the day of mine obit and in other deeds of charity after their discretions, 10 marks;

Also I bequeath to Eleanor Preston, my servant, 10 marks for her marriage if she be dwelling with me unto the day of my death, or else that she by mine assent or my wife's be married;

Also I bequeath to every yeoman of mine and every woman-servant that is in my service at the day of my death and which also have been continually in my service by three year afore the day of my death for their good service done to me, 26s 8d;

And also I bequeath to every of the same yeoman and woman-servants that is in my service at the day of my death and served me 7 year continually before, 40s;

Also I bequeath to every groom that is in my service at the said day of my death and 3 year before the same day have continually served me, 13s 4d, and also to every of the said grooms that is in my service at the said day of my death and 7 year before have continually served me, 20s, provided always that such servants of mine which have been promoted by me or by my labour to any office, term of life or else that have of my gift any livelihood, lands and tenements, term of life or in fee be except out of these legates;

Also I bequeath to William Haute, squire, one of the executors of my testament, a pair of sheets of Raines [=Rennes] and another pair of Holland-cloth;

Also I bequeath to Peryn, Frenchman, my servant, for his good service that he hath done to me, so that he depart not out of my service without my will before the day of my death, 40s;

Also I bequeath to every yeoman and woman-servant that hath served me 2 year or a twelvemonth before my death, 6s 8d, and to every groom that in like wise hath served me, 3s 4d;

Also I bequeath to Edward, my son, a pair of sheets of Raines, 2 pair sheets of Champagne cloth, 2 pair of gentlemen sheets, 4 pair of yeoman sheets, 1 pair of fustians, 2 pair of blankets and 2 pillows, and an hanged bed of white linen cloth with the curtains and costs [=costers?] that longeth thereto, and that all this be delivered him when he is at the age of 21 winter and non [=sic for 'not'?] erst;

Also I bequeath to Thomas Berwick 40s;

Also I bequeath to Thomas Hillingston 40s;

Also I bequeath to Edward Corney, my godson, 40s, so that he take none advantage of my legates above-written made unto my servants;

Also I bequeath to William Lambe 40s, so that he take none advantage of the said legates;

Also, in worship of the 5 joys of Our Lady I bequeath to the marriage of 5 maidens 100s, and I will that Christian and Allison, my servants, be 2 of the said maidens, so that either of them have 20s and that they take none advantage of the said legates;

Also I bequeath to John [=Joan?], old Crouchman's wife, 20s;

Also, I bequeath to Lowys [=Lewis?], my servant in the kitchen, 20s, so that he take none advantage of the said legates;

The residue of all my goods I give and bequeath to mine executors underwritten to ordain and to dispose for my soul after their good discretions, and of this my testament and last will I make and ordain mine executors William Haute, squire, above-named; Thomas Tyrrell, squire; Richard Allrede, squire; William Melreth, citizen and alderman of London; James Kelom and Robert Beauchamp, and I bequeath to every of them that taketh administration of him 10 marks and his costs;

Also I make and ordain Humphrey, the Earl of Stafford; John, the Earl of Oxenford; Henry Bourchier, the Earl of Ewe; Sir Nicoll Dixon, clerk; Robert Darcy, squire; and Thomas Gloucester, squire, surveyors of my said testament. Given under my seal the year and the day abovesaid.

(fo. 489) Testamentum Edwardi Tyrrell. This is the last will of me, Edward Tyrrell, squire, the elder, indented and made at Downham in the shire of Essex the 9th day of

December the year of Our Lord a thousand four hundred forty-two, and the year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest 21;

First, I will and charge all mine executors that all my due debts of my lady my mother, Dame Eleanor Haute, and of my brother, William Lisle, knight, of whose soul God have mercy, the parcel of which debts been plainly contained in a schedule indented and annexed to this said will, be truly satisfied and paid, as the said schedule specifieth, of all my moveable goods and chattels, the which moveable goods and chattels, except certain sums of money and other divers goods the which I have bequeathen to divers persons by my testament, I have given by a plain deed to certain lords and other divers persons upon trust and to th' intent that mine executors may the more boldly through their good Lordship[s]' favour and supportation execute duly and truly my last will and testament, and in case that mine executors be negligent in execution of my will and testament, then my will is that the said lords and persons comprehended in the same deed do due execution thereof as they will answer before God etc.:

Also my will is, and moreover I pray and require my Lords of Stafford and of Oxenford, the which stonden enfeoffed with other to mine use in the manors of Shepreth, Malketon[=Malton?] and Melreth [=Meldreth], and in the rents of the said manors and in all other rents and services in the towns of Shepreth, Meldreth, Melbourn, Foxton, Malketon [=Malton?], Royston, Waddon, Barrington, Fowlmere, Wendey and Knesworth or elsewhere being within the shire of Cambridge with all their appurtenances, that they anon after my decease or else within a quarter of a year after by sufferance and agreement of other that stonden enfeoffed with them make as sure estate as may lawfully and reasonably be made by law of all the said manors, rents and services with all their appurtenances to Anne, my wife, term of her life by a deed indented yielding yearly to my said Lords therefore at the feast of the Nativity of Saint John Baptist a red rose for all manner of services, with a clause comprehended in the same deed that the said Anne make no waste, destruction ne exilion [sic?] in the said manors with their appurtenances during her said life;

And I will, pray and require also all my said feoffees that when Edward, my son, come to plain age of 21 winter that they make estate sure and sufficient of the reversion of all the said manors, rents and services with their appurtenances to the said Edward, my son, and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if the said Edward, my son, die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that the said manors, rents and services with their appurtenances remain to Philipp and Margaret, my daughters, I will that the said manors, rents and services with their appurtenances remain to Thomas Tyrrell, my nephew, and to his heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, and if the said Thomas, my nephew, die without issue male of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that all the said manors, rents and services with their appurtenances remain to my right heirs in fee forever, provided alway that the said Thomas, my nephew, within 3 year next following after my decease shall perform or do be performed the last will of Sir John Tyrrell, my brother, as touching the remainders of all his livelihood so that neither of my nephews, William and William, nor mine issue male be defrauded by the said remainders otherwise

than my brother's last will is, and also that he shall not interrupt, break (fo. 489 v.) ne contrary any article of this my said will, nor do be interrupted nor broken by him in any wise, and if the said remainders be not performed in form above-written within the said 3 year, and also if he interrupt, break or contrary any article of this m[y] last will or any point of the said articles, or do be interrupted or broken by him in any wise, then I will the said remainder made to the same Thomas, my nephew, be void and of none effect, etc.;

Also my will is that my feoffees that stonden enfeoffed in all my lands and tenements with their appurtenances being in Harrow on the Hill and in other places within the shire of Middlesex make estate to Edward, my son, in fee when he cometh to plain age of 21 winter, so that my wife have her dower in the same as right will, and that mine executors shall take up the profits of the said lands and tenements except the dower during the nonage of the said Edward, my son, to his finding, and the super[p]lusage thereof for to be done for my soul;

Also I will and require my feoffees that stonden enfeoffed in certain messuages and tenements called Colkirk sometime Lancaster's in Hatfield that they do sell the said messuages and tenements with their appurtenances to the most avail thereof by th' advice and agreement of mine executors, and that the money that shall be received thereof be received by mine executors for to find therewith as long as it will last an honest priest for to sing yearly in the parish church of Downham for to pray for me and Anne, my wife, Walter Tyrrell, my father, and Eleanor, his wife, my mother, Sir John Tyrrell and Sir William Lisle, knights, Richard, Thomas and William, my brethren, and John Bassingbourne, and for all tho[se] that I am bounden to pray for, and for all Christian souls etc.;

Also I will and grant that my feoffees that stonden enfeoffed in certain lands and tenements called Gyffardes, Toraldes and Buskyns, sometime called Flemynges, with all their appurtenances longing thereto in South Hanningfield and Downham make estate of them to Anne, my wife, for term of her life without any waste or destruction doing in the said lands and tenements, and that they grant the reversion thereof after her decease to the said Edward, my son, and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if the said Edward, my son, die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, I will the said lands and tenements with their appurtenances remain to Philippe, my daughter, term of her life without any destruction or waste therein to be done, remainder thereof after the said Philippe's decease to Margaret, my daughter, term of the life without any destruction or waste therein to be done, remainder thereof after the said Margaret's decease to the right heirs of me for evermore etc.;

Also my will is that all tho [se] feoffees that stonden enfeoffed by me at my denomination by the commandment of Sir John Tyrrell, my brother, of whose soul God have mercy, in the manor of Mountnessing with th' appurtenances to perform my said brother's will and also the will of Sir William Mounteney, knight, that dead is, make estate to Robert Mounteney, cousin and heir of the said Sir William Mounteney, and to Margaret, my daughter, his wife, of the said manor with the appurtenance, to have and to hold the said

manor with th' appurtenance to the said Robert and Margaret and to the heirs male that the said Robert shall lawfully beget of the body of the said Margaret, and for default of issue male by the said Robert of the body of the said Margaret lawfully begotten, I will that the said manor with all th' appurtenance remain to the heirs male of the body of the said Robert lawfully begotten, and if the said Robert die without issue male of his body lawful begotten, then I will the said (fo. 489b) manor with th' appurtenance remain to Elizabeth that was wife of John Chamberlain, sister to the said Sir William Mounteney, and to her heirs male of her body lawfully begotten bearing the name and the arms of the said Sir William Mounteney after the form and the effect of his last will, and if the said Elizabeth die without issue male of her body lawfully begotten, then I will the said manor with th' appurtenance remain to Margaret, the wife of Sir John German, knight, sister to the said Elizabeth, and to the heirs male of her body lawfully begotten bearing the name and the arms of Mounteney as it is abovesaid, and if the said Margaret die without issue male of her body lawfully begotten, then I will the said manor with th' appurtenance remain to John Mounteney of Yorkshire and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten bearing the name and the arms of Mounteney as it is above-written, and if the said John Mounteney die without issue male of his body lawfully begotten, then I will the said manor with th' appurtenance turn to me and to them that stonden enfeoffed by my said brother Sir John Tyrrell and to our heirs, the said manor by us or by our heirs for to be sold and the money that shall come thereof for to be disposed for the souls of the said William Mounteney and for his father's soul and his mother's soul and for the souls of all his good-doers and all Christian souls after the form of the last will of the said Sir William Mounteney etc.:

Also my will is that my feoffees that stonden enfeoffed in certain lands, rents and tenements with th' appurtenance called Porters lying in Rochford hundred within the shire of Essex make estate of them to the said Robert Mounteney and to Margaret, my daughter, his wife, when the said Robert cometh to the age of 21 winter, to have and to hold the said lands, rents and tenements with their appurtenance called Porters to the sai[d] Robert and Margaret and to their assigns forever in satisfaction of the r[ev]enues and profits that I have taken of the said manor of Mountnessing and that shall be taken hereafter by mine executors of the same manor, for my will is that mine executors have the governance of the said manor hereafter, and not the feoffees, deduct of the said profits and revenues the finding of the said Robert in time past and the finding of him and the said Margaret, my daughter, hereafter till the said Robert come to plain age, reparations and costs done or to be done in the said manor, the expenses done and employed by me in suit against my Lord the Duke of York for the ward and marriage of the same Robert, and also expenses that hath be done against Sir Lewis John while he lived, and against my lady, [h]is wife, after his death, or that shall be done by me or mine executors against any other for the said ward and marriage hereafter, and I will that all the revenues and profits that shall come of the said lands called Porters till the said Robert come till his age be done for my soul, etc.;

Also my will is that my said Lords of Stafford and of Oxenford, Robert Darcy, squire, and mine executors have the term that I have in the manor called Tyrrell in Downham for to support my wife and mine executors in the said manor during a year after my decease

as I have it of the lease of Sir John Tyrrell, my brother, and by the confirmation of Thomas Tyrrell, my nephew;

In case the same Thomas will pretend him to have my title in the said manor during the same year for to let or grieve my wife or mine executors that they may not have administration of my goods and chattels being in the same manor, my will and testament etc.;

Also my will is that my feoffees that stonden enfeoffed in a certain tenement called Danyells with th' appurtenance lying in Ingegyngeraberlaundr' [=Ginge Laundry?], new called Herefordstoke, and in Buttsbury do sell it to the most avail thereof by th' advice (fo. 489b v.) and agreement of mine executors so that Robert Beauchamp, my servant, have an annuity going out thereof of 40s by year for term of his life, and that the money that shall come thereof be received by mine said executors to the performing and making of my tomb within the church of the friars of Chelmsford and garnishing of my chapel within the said church, that is for to say chalice, vestments and other ornaments and necessaries within the said chapel after the discretions of mine executors, and super[p]lusage if anything, this done, be truly done for my soul etc;

Also I will that Anne, my wife, have my place at Dowgate in London with the rents that longen thereto during her life, and the reversion after her decease be sold by my feoffees and by th' advice and agreement of mine executors, and the money that shall come thereof be disposed by mine executors and by the oversight of my surveyors in alms-deed and works of mercy by their discretions to the most pleasance of God and profit of my soul, so that the said Anne bear the annuity of 20 marks yearly to Elizabeth Fitzhenry during the life of the said Elizabeth;

Also my will is that the mill that I have made in Stoke and the millious [sic?] longing thereto after my decease be sold by mine executors, and the money that shall come thereof for to be disposed in alms-deed for my soul;

Also my will is that Anne, my wife, have for her part of my moveable goods 6 platters of silver, 6 dishes of silver, 6 saucers and a charger of silver, 2 basins and 2 ewers of silver that been every day in use, 2 salt-cellars of silver that I bought of Sir William Lisle, the best 12 of silver spoons, 2 gilt cups standing and a little flat cup with an ewer gilt, a standing cup of silver that I have of the Abbot of Waltham when he christened my daughter, a rose cup that I drink of every day and her own cup, 6 plain cups of silver of the best that I bought of John Winter dwelling with Sir John Fastolf, and a pottle pot and a quart pot of silver, with all her own array that longeth to her body and all her attire without any diminution thereof;

Also I will that she have all my stuff of household and all other necessaries that longeth continually to my place at Dowgate in London as it is contained in an inventory made of the stuff of the same place, so that such stuff as is there and which I brought late from Downham when I went last to London, the which is not contained in the said inventory, be except of this said legate, and that it be leeful to mine executors to have incoming and

outcoming of the same place at all times leeful and in all the houses and chambers therein till such goods that been not comprehended in the said inventory be voided, notwithstanding this legate;

Also I will that the said Anne, my wife, have 2 pair sheets of Raines and 6 pair of gentlemen sheets, 2 pair of fustians and 4 of the best pillows;

Also I will that my wife have the service of Master John, my servant, as long as she liveth, finding him reasonably as he ought be found during the same time, and after my wife's decease I will mine executors find him during his life honestly as it longeth to his degree, so that for cause of due finding and good governance the said Master John have no cause to go a begging etc.;

Also my will is that the avail that shall come of the forfeiture of the marriage of John Bassingbourne, my wife's son, be divided in 3 parties; the first part I will that the said John have to do his profit therewith and his most avail, the second part I will my wife have to quit and satisfy her husband Bassingbourne's debts and for to do in alms-deed for his soul, and the third part thereof I will mine executors have to the performing of my last will and testament etc.;

Also my will is that John Frith, my servant, have estate in the house that he dwelleth in called Dunmowes in Downham with all that longeth thereto which I purchased of Laurence Man with Ketes land and that that longeth thereto, to have and to hold to him and to his heirs forever;

Also I release him 40s that (fo. 490) he borrowed of me for the purchase of the reversion of his father's in Summystr', so that the said John be attendant to my wife and do her good service while she liveth if she will desire him, taking reasonably for his hire as I have paid before, and also that he acquit him well, and do truly to mine executors of such goods as he hath in his governance etc.;

Also I will that William Baker, my servant, have estate in a tenement called Perkyn Feyrehede with all that longeth thereto in South Hanningfield and also in crofts called Smythes crofts with all that longeth thereto that I purchased of John Fayrehed, to have and to hold the said tenement and crofts with th' appurtenance to him and to his assigns forever, so that he do my wife good service for his hire as she and he can accord etc.;

Also I will that Thomas Botiller have estate in certain lands and tenements called Barons in Downham with all that longeth thereto for term of his life, and the reversion thereof after his decease I will John, my bastard son, have to him and to his assigns forever etc.;

Also I will that the said John, my bastard son, immediately after my death have all the lands and tenements with all that longeth thereto called Bartlottes in Retyngdon [=Rettendon?] and South Hanningfield, and also a tenement called Nynges with all that longeth thereto in South Hanningfield, to have and to hold the said lands and tenements called Bartlottes and Nynges to him and to his assigns forever, and if so be that I get to

the said Thomas Botiller the office of parkership of Downham park with wages of 2d by day term of his life, then I will the said John, my bastard son, immediately after my decease have the said lands and tenements called Barons to him and to his assigns forever etc.;

Also I will that a grove called Joyner's grove which I purchased of the executors of John Joyner, potter, of South Hanningfield, belonging and appertaining to a tenement called Gyffardes [some text omitted?] for evermore, so that she have the tone and he have the tother;

Also I will that Anne, my wife, and mine executors have the avail of the marriage of Edward, my son, if he be within age at the day of my death, in performing my will etc.;

Also I will that Osbarn and Thomson, my servants, for their good service done to me in time past and specially in my sickness, either of them have 40s;

Also, where I have oft-times seen and daily it happeth, and also I know myself by experience, that diversies [sic for 'divers'?] controversies, debates and strifes hath been between executors for administration of dead men's goods, insomuch that some of them hath had all the goods of the dead or the most part thereof, and some right little or nought, and have converted the same goods to their proper use whereby the dead's will hath utterly be defrauded, I, Edward Tyrrell, the elder, for to remove all manner doubts and ambiguities and also all manner controversies, debates and strifes that might fall between mine executors for administration of my goods and performing of my last will and testament, that God defend, will that all my goods in substance such as may lie in little room and space, sums of money, jewels, plate of silver and sureties, except the stuff of household in my place at Dowgate in London which, as I have written before, I will my [+wife] have, be put by th' assent of mine executors in a sure and a secure place such as they can accord on or [=ere] ever any of them take any charge of the ordinary or administer any of my goods, to th' intent that when they shall administer by one assent and of one accord, so that none of them do without another, and also that the sums of money that shall be received by mine executors after my death of my due debts be put in the same place to th' intent above-written, and that none of them make acquittance by himself without assent of his fellows, and that every of them do his true diligence and labour to recover my due debts by process of law (fo. 490 v.) or other lawful means that my last will may sooner be performed, and if any of mine executors, of hede [=head?] or of evil will, will contrary or be against any point of this said article, if it be before any charge taken of them by the ordinary, then I will he be none of mine executors, but be plainly discharged of mine executorship forever, and if it be after here [=his?] charge taken, then I will if [+he] have any of my goods in hand, that the ordinary compel him by due process of law to make deliverance thereof to his fellows, and that he be discharged by the said ordinary of administration of all the res[idue] of my goods;

In witness of this my last will I have set to my seal. Given the day and the place abovesaid.

As touching the manors of Shepreth, Malketon [=Malton?] and Meldreth with all their appurtenance lying within the shire of Cambridge, I, Edward Tyrrell, squire, the elder, will that my wife have estate in all the said manors with their appurtenances term of her life as it is comprehended in my will indented, and when my son, Edward, come to the age of 21 winter, I will that he have estate in the reversion of all the said manors with their appurtenances to him and to his heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, and if the said Edward, my son, die without issue male of his body lawfully begotten, then I will the said manors with their appurtenance remain to the general heirs of Edward my son's body lawfully begotten, and if the said Edward, my son, die without heir of his body lawfully begotten, then I will the said manors with their appurtenances remain to my right heirs in fee forever, notwithstanding that as touching these manors it is otherwise comprehended in my will indented;

And I will that the purview etc. as it is comprehended in my will indented in the latter end of the article touching the said manors stand in his full force and strength etc.;

In witness of the which I have set to my seal. Given the 14th day of December, the year of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest 21.