

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 December 1505 and proved January 1506, of Eleanor (nee Washbourne) Scrope Wyndham (d.1505/6), whose daughter, Elizabeth (d.1537), was the second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford.

The testatrix was the daughter of Norman Washbourne (1433-1482) and Elizabeth Kniveton or Kynaston. She is said to have been from Worcestershire. The testatrix' first husband, whom she married by licence dated 25 November 1547, was Richard Scrope (d.1485), the second son of Henry Scrope (1418-1458/9), 4th Baron Scrope of Bolton, and his wife, Elizabeth Scrope (d. in or after 1498), the daughter of John Scrope, 4th Baron Scrope of Masham, and his wife, Elizabeth Chaworth. After the death of Richard Scrope (d.1485), the testatrix married Sir John Wyndham (d.1502), whose first wife was Margaret, fourth daughter of John Howard (d.1485), 1st Duke of Norfolk. By Sir John Wyndham (d.1502), the testatrix had an only daughter, Frances, who married Sir John Saintclere. By Richard Scrope (d.1485), the testatrix had a son, Stephen, and a daughter, Dorothy (d.1491), who died young, and seven daughters who lived to adulthood:

-Elizabeth (d.1537), married firstly, William (1436-1507), 2nd Viscount Beaumont and Lord Bardolf, and secondly, in 1508, John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford (for her will, see TNA PROB 11/27, ff. 84-6; for the will of the 13th Earl, see TNA PROB 11/17, ff. 82-90);

-Eleanor, married her stepbrother, Sir Thomas Wyndham (d.1522) of Felbrigg;

-Margaret (d.1515), married Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), 8th Earl of Suffolk, a claimant to the throne who was executed in 1513. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/18, ff. 44-5. Edmund de la Pole's paternal grandparents were William de la Pole (1396-1450), 1st Duke of Suffolk (executed 1450), and Alice Chaucer (d.1475), the grand-daughter of Geoffrey Chaucer, author of *The Canterbury Tales*. At one time the Earls of Oxford owned the Ellesmere manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, which contains a 'balade' on the House of Vere by one Rotheley in a hand dating from 1450-1480. The de Vere ownership of the Ellesmere manuscript may thus have some connection to the 13th Earl's widow, Elizabeth (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, who was the sister-in-law of Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), grandson of Alice Chaucer;

-Mary (d.1548) married firstly, Sir Edward Jerningham (d.1515) of Somerleyton and, secondly, Sir William Kingston (c.1476-1540), Constable of the Tower of London (for her will, see TNA PROB 11/32, ff. 168-9);

-Katherine, married Richard Audley of Swaffham, Norfolk, eldest son and heir of Sir John Audley of Cokefield & Wytellisham, Suffolk (died 18 April 1529) and his first wife, Muriel Brewes;

-Jane, married Thomas Brewes or Brewse (d.1514), of Wenham, Suffolk, son of Robert Brewes of Little Wenham (d.1513) and Katherine Wingfield (d.1525), the daughter of Sir John Wingfield of Letheringham;

-Anne, a nun at Barking.

The testatrix does not mention her daughter, Margaret (d.1515), in her will, perhaps because Margaret's husband, Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), 8th Earl of Suffolk, was an outlawed exile at the time:

From a new base at Aachen, Suffolk began at the close of 1501 to plan for an invasion of England and a rising of his servants and supporters. Henry VII was aware of his plans, however, and by the end of the year the earl of Oxford had placed a number of Edmund's East Anglian tenants under bonds of allegiance to the crown. The king also mobilized a network of spies and informers, probably including Sir Robert Curzon and William Waldegrave, to infiltrate Suffolk's supporters at home and abroad. Edmund's brother William, Lord William Courtenay, and other friends who had remained in England were also imprisoned by 1502, Sir James Tyrell was executed, and Suffolk and his exiled companions were outlawed at Ipswich on 26 December 1502.

From that time onwards Suffolk was a rather pathetic figure and a pawn of international politics. In July 1502 Maximilian agreed by the treaty of Augsburg not to harbour English rebels within his territories. But although he took an oath to expel Suffolk on 12 February 1503, the emperor maintained the financially desperate earl at Aachen for several months further. Suffolk was attainted in parliament in January 1504, along with his brother Richard and his closest supporters, Thomas Killingworth, Sir John Wyndham, Thomas Wyndham, and Sir George Neville.

Suffolk's band of followers left Aachen at Easter 1504, with Richard de la Pole remaining behind as hostage for his brother's debts. There survive numerous letters written by Suffolk after 1504 which attest his increasing desperation and also a surprising lack of literacy. Edmund was heading for Friesland and the protection of Duke George of Saxony, when he was imprisoned by servants of the duke of Gueldres in Hattem Castle. Henry VII may have paid Gueldres to restrain Suffolk until negotiations could be completed with Archduke Philip for his return to England. It has been argued that the massive payments to Maximilian and Philip made in Henry VII's later years (Philip was 'lent' £138,000 in 1505) were intended to buy their co-operation against Yorkist conspiracy. Suffolk was transferred to the custody of Philip von Lichtenstein at Namur in October 1505, but he was evidently exhausted and disillusioned by his lack of support on the continent, and on 24 January 1506 he instructed two of his servants to negotiate with Henry VII for his return to England. This process was speeded by the chance arrival in England of Archduke Philip, now king of Castile, that same month. Having received an undertaking that his life would be spared, Suffolk was delivered to Henry VII at Calais and imprisoned in the Tower on 24 April 1506. He was omitted from the general pardon at Henry VIII's accession and lingered in prison until the prospect of foreign-backed Yorkist conspiracy again emerged when Richard de la Pole was recognized as king of England by Louis XII

of France, and fought in his service against England in 1512. Edmund was finally executed on 4 May 1513, once it became clear that his brother had claimed the English crown in his own right. The Franciscan provincial was paid £7 15s. 2d. for his burial at Greyfriars without Aldgate in London later that month. He and Margaret, who lived until February 1515, had only one child, Elizabeth, who became a nun at the Minories without Aldgate in London.

The testatrix' second husband, Sir John Wyndham, had been executed in 1502 as a result of his support for Suffolk:

Sir John Wyndham (d. 1502) was knighted at the battle of Stoke on 16 June 1487. Implicated in the conspiracy of Edmund de la Pole, earl of Suffolk, he was convicted of treason on 2 May 1502 and executed on 6 May.

At the time the testatrix made her will, her daughter, Elizabeth (d.1537), was still married to her first husband, William (1436-1507), 2nd Viscount Beaumont and Lord Bardolf. In 1508, two years after the testatrix' death, Elizabeth (d.1537) married the 13th Earl.

The Earl of Oxford and his wife to whom the testatrix leaves bequests in the will below were the 13th Earl and his first wife, Margaret Neville, the sixth daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, and Alice Montagu, daughter and heir of the last Montagu Earl of Salisbury. The reason for the testatrix' bequest of 'a cross of gold with diamonds' to the 13th Earl two years before his marriage to her daughter Elizabeth (d.1537), a marriage which the testatrix could not have foreseen since both her daughter's husband and the Earl's first wife were still alive at the time, is unexplained. However it may have been because of other family connections. As mentioned earlier, the first wife of Sir John Wyndham (d.1502) was Margaret, fourth daughter of John Howard (d.1485), 1st Duke of Norfolk. The 1st Duke of Norfolk was a first cousin of Elizabeth Howard (c.1410-1473/4), Countess of Oxford, wife of John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford. The 13th Earl was their son, and it may have been because of this family connection that the testatrix left bequests to the 13th Earl and his first wife, Margaret Neville.

For the foregoing, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 236, 645; the entries for the testatrix' brother-in-law, John Scrope (1437/8-1498), 5th Baron Scrope of Bolton, Edmund de la Pole (1472?-1513), 8th Earl of Suffolk, Thomas Wyndham (d.1554), John Howard (d.1485), 1st Duke of Norfolk, and John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford, in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*; the will of Richard Scrope (d.1485) in *Testamenta Eboracensia*, Vol. III (London: Surtees Society, 1865), pp. 297-9, available online; and the Scrope pedigree in Norcliffe, Charles Best, ed., *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1563* by William Flower, Vol. 16, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), p. 280, available online.

LM: Testamentum Alianore Wyndam

In the name of God, Amen. The 12th(?) day of the month of December in the 21st year of the reign of King Harry the 7th and in the year of Our Lord God 1500 and five, I, Eleanor Wyndham, widow, late the wife of Sir John Wyndham, knight, whole of mind and in good remembrance being (God be lauded) at Carrow by Norwich, make my testament and last will in this wise:

First, I commend my soul to God Almighty, Our Blessed Lady Saint Mary the Virgin, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the choir of the Austin [=Augustine] Friars in Norwich besides the high altar there, to whose high altar of the same friars I bequeath a pair chalice silver and gilt, to the intent that the friars there shall pray for the souls of me, the said Eleanor, and Sir John Wyndham, late my husband;

Item, to the same house of friars I bequeath 20s;

Item, to the Prior of the same house the day of my burying 20d, and to each friar there being a priest 8d, and to each novice of the same place 4d;

Item, I will have a friar priest to sing and pray for my soul within the said place by the space of an whole year;

Item, I will that friar be assigned by the said Prior there, and he to have for his salary or stipend 53s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to the White Friars of Norwich 20s, to be divided among the poor friars there;

Item, to the Black Friars in Norwich 13s 4d, to be divided amongst them;

Item, to the Grey Friars in Norwich 13s 4d, to be divided amongst them;

Item, to the Abbess of Barking 20s, and to Dame Margaret Shuldham 6s 8d, and to every lady there 20d, to the intent to pray for me;

Item, to every priest there 4d, and to every clerk there 2d;

Item, I bequeath to the Prioress of Carrow 20d, and to each nun there 12d;

Item, to the priest there 8d, and to the clerk there 4d, to th' intent to pray for me as is aforesaid;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the parish church of Carrow 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the poor sisters and half-sisters of Normanurs(?) Hospital in Norwich 3s 4d, equally to be divided amongst them;

Item, I will there be disposed for me the day of my burying in alms £5, and besides that I will that at my burying-day, my 7th day, month day, and year-day there be disposed for me £40 after the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I will that my household be sustained and kept at Carrow aforesaid well and honestly by the space of a month next after my decease;

Item, I will have an honest priest to sing for me in the University of Cambridge by the space of 2 years, and I will that priest have either of the same 2 years for his stipend 8 mark;

Item, I will have 30 trigintal to be sung for me as shortly as they may conveniently be done after my decease, and to be paid for each trigintal 10s, the sum(?) £15;

Item, I bequeath to the church of Felbrigg 6s 8d;

Item, to the parson of the same church of Felbrigg 6s 8d, and to the parishens there amongst them 6s 8d, to pray for my soul;

Item, to the poor prisoners within the Castle of Norwich 3s 4d, by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I bequeath to my Lord of Oxenford a cross of gold with diamonds, and to my Lady, his wife, a ring with a ruby;

Item, I bequeath to my Lady Beaumont, my daughter, a pursle of sables, my best featherbed with the bolster to the same belonging, a piece of fustians, 2 pair of my finest sheets, and 2 pillows of down, and a canopy of green sarsenet, my best tablecloth of diaper;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Wyndham, my son-in-law, a vestment, a Mass book, a pair of chalices, 3 hangings, 6 cushions of verdour, and all the stuff of my kitchen;

Item, to my daughter, Eleanor Wyndham, wife of the said Thomas, a gown of black velvet furred with marters, a gown of black cloth pursled with tawny velvet, a counterpoint wrought with the 3 Kings of Cologne, and a sparver of green sarsenet;

Item, I bequeath to Dame Anne Scrope, my daughter, £10;

And to my daughter, Mary Scrope, I bequeath a black gown pursled with shanks, a kirtle cloth of black worsted;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Jane Scrope, a gown of black velvet lined with crimson velvet, a gown of black cloth furred with shanks, and a kirtle of tawny velvet;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Katherine Scrope, a gown of black satin furred with white, and a black gown furred with minks, and a kirtle of damask;

Item, to my daughter, Frances Wyndham, £50, to be paid by Thomas Wyndham, my son, as appeareth by bill made and written with his own hand at such days as appeareth in the same bill;

Item, I bequeath to the same Francis a gown of black camlet with a purlse of grey, a kirtle of back worsted, a featherbed, a bolster, a pair blankets, 2 pair sheets, a coverlet and a sparver;

Item, I bequeath to George Wyndham 20s;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth Wyndham a broad girdle harnesssed with silver and gilt;

Item, to Margaret Wyndham another broad girdle, the harness silver and gilt;

Item, to Eleanor Wyndham another broad girdle harnesssed with silver and gilt;

Item, I bequeath to Edmund Wyndham a featherbed, a bolster, a pair blankets, 2 pairs sheets, a coverlet and a sparver;

Item, I bequeath to John Wyndham a cross of gold;

Item, I bequeath to my daughters unmarried which I had by my first husband, Richard Scrope, all the residue of mine array and my household stuff before not bequeathed;

Item, I bequeath to Sir James, my priest, 20s;

Item, to Edward Jervice, my servant, 6s 8d;

Item, to Thomas Nicholson, my servant, 5s;

Item, to Thomas Wyndore, my servant, 3s 4d;

Item, to Juliane, my servant, 5s, a gown and a kirtle;

Item, I bequeath to Anne Blundell, my servant, 3s 4d;

The residue of all my goods before not bequeathed I commit to the good disposition of mine executors to dispose them for my soul and for all good Christian souls as shall seem them best to please God and to profit my soul;

And of this my present testament and last will I make, constitute and ordain mine executors Sir Thomas Tyrrell, knight, John Tey, esquire, and Richard Wode, gentleman, and I give to the said Sir Thomas Tyrrell, taking charge of this my said testament, £5, and

to either of the said John Tey and Richard Wode, so they take charge to approve this my said testament, 5 mark;

And finally I constitute Elizabeth, the Lady Beaumont, to be supervisor of the same my testament and last will;

To the confirmation and witness whereof I have set my seal to these presents given day and year abovesaid.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram Domino apud Lamethith (blank) Ianuarij Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinto Iuramento Iohannis Teye executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Ac approbatum &c Et Comissa fuit Administracio &c De bene & fideliter Administrando eadem Ac de pleno Inuentario omnium & singulorum bonorum citra festum purificationis beate marie proximum futurum exhibendo Ac de pleno & vero compoto &c reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia Iurati Reseruata potestate similem comissionem faciendi alijs executoribus in huiusmodi testamento nominatis cum venerint

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at Lambeth on the (blank) day of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifth by the oath of John Tey, executor named in the same testament, and probated etc., and administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory of all & singular the goods before the feast of the Purification of Blessed Mary next to come, and to render a full & true account etc., with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to the other executors named in the same testament when they shall have come.]