

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 6 November 1557 and proved 2 December 1557, of William Tyrrell, esquire.

CONNECTIONS TO THE EARLS OF OXFORD

The Earls of Oxford were connected to the Tyrrells through the three daughters of Sir Richard Sergeaux (d.1393) and his wife, Philippa Arundel (d.1399). Alice Sergeaux (d. 18 May 1452) married Richard de Vere (d. 15 February 1416/17), 11th Earl of Oxford; Philippa Sergeaux (c.1373 – 11 or 13 July 1420) married Sir Robert Pashley (d. 8 June 1453), and Elizabeth Sergeaux married Sir William Marney (d.1414).

For the connection between the Sergeaux and Tyrrell families, see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 11-14 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=PA14>

See also the Pashley pedigree after p. 12 and the Sergeaux pedigree after p. 32 in MacMichael, N.H., 'The Descent of the Manor of Evegat in Smeeth with Some Account of its Lords', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. 74, 1960, pp. 1-47 at:

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/index.php/arch-cant/vol/74/descent-manor-evegate-smeeth-some-account-its-lords>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the Tyrrell pedigrees in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 15-16 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/14/mode/2up>

and p. 113 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/112/mode/2up>

See also the Tyrrell pedigree in Metcalfe, Charles W., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1879), Vol. XIV, p. 717 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess02metc#page/n373/mode/2up>

See also the Tyrrell pedigree in Bright, J.B., *The Brights of Suffolk, England*, (Boston: John Wilson, 1858), p. 228 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/brightsofsuffolk00brig#page/n537/mode/2up>

See also the Tyrrell pedigree in Sewell, W.H., 'Sir James Tyrrell's Chapel at Gipping, Suffolk', *The Archaeological Journal*, (London: Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1871), Vol. XXVIII, pp. 23-33 at p. 33:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YrRSAAAACAAJ&pg=PA33>

There are significant errors in the Tyrrell pedigrees. The most reliable pedigree is in Metcalfe, *Part I, supra*, pp. 15-16.

Testator's paternal great-great-grandparents

The testator was the great-great-grandson of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d. 28 March 1477) of Heron in East Horndon, Essex, and Anne Marney. See the will of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, TNA PROB 11/6/417.

Testator's paternal great-grandparents

The testator was the great-grandson of Sir William Tyrrell (d.1471?) and Eleanor Darcy, the daughter of Sir Robert Darcy (d. 3 September 1448) of Maldon, Essex, a prominent lawyer, and Keeper of the Writs of the Common Pleas, by his second wife, Alice Filongley, daughter of Henry Filongley of Warwickshire, Serjeant of the Royal Scullery, and Knight of the Shire for Warwickshire. For the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, see TNA C 139/136/440. See also *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. III, p. 216 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA2-PA216>

Testator's paternal grandparents

The testator was the grandson of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d.1510) of Heron in East Horndon and his second wife, Beatrice Cokayne (d.1513), the daughter of John Cokayne of Cokayne Hatley, Bedfordshire, and Elizabeth Boyville, eldest daughter of John Boyville, esquire, and Isabel Cheney. See the 'Pedigree of Cokayne of Ickleford, County Hertford' after p. 237 in Cokayne, Andreas Edward, *Cockayne Memoranda: Collections Towards a Historical Record of the Family of Cockayne*, (Congleton, 1873) at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=cykIAAAQAAJ&pg=PA237>

See also:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/6956774722>

Beatrice Cokayne's first husband, by whom she had no issue, was the London mercer, John Sutton (d.1479), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/6/482.

For the will of the testator's grandmother, Beatrice (nee Cokayne) Sutton Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/17/422.

For the will of the testator's grandfather, Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d.1510), see TNA PROB 11/17/263.

For the wills of the testator's grandparents, see also King, H.W., 'Ancient Wills', in *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. III, Part IV, (Colchester: Essex and West Suffolk Gazette, 1865), pp. 90-2 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=Bhc5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA90>

Testator's parents

The testator was a younger son of Sir Thomas Tyrrell of Heron in East Horndon by Constance Blount, the daughter of John Blount (d. 12 October 1485), 3rd Baron Mountjoy.

The testator's father appears to have died in 1531. See a document dated 13 October 1531, 'Articles 'motioned' by Lord Mountjoy between Dame Constance Tyrell late wife of Sir Thomas Tyrell, decd., and John Tyrell 'squyer', son of said Thomas and Constance', Essex Record Office D/DQ 14/2. The articles state that Sir Thomas Tyrrell left a will. Its whereabouts are unknown.

Testator's siblings

The testator had five brothers and two sisters. In the will below he mentions his brothers, George Tyrrell, Charles Tyrrell and Thomas Tyrrell. For further information on the testator's siblings, see the will of his eldest brother, John Tyrrell (d.1540), esquire, of Heron in East Horndon, TNA PROB 11/28/299.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Anne, widow of John Freeman, esquire, of Collier Row, Essex (for whose will, proved 13 October 1553, see TNA PROB 11/36/245), and purchased the wardship of John Freeman's three daughters.

In the will below the testator mentions a son and daughter:

* **William Tyrrell**, under the age of 21 when the testator made his will.

* **Frances Tyrrell**, under the age of 16 when the testator made his will.

The testator also mention his 'base son' Henry.

TESTATOR'S CONNECTION TO THE KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER

The testator was a Knight of Rhodes, and narrowly escaped execution in 1541 after the Order was disbanded. See O'Malley, Gregory, *The Knights Hospitaller of the English Languge 1460-1565*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 324-5:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=R7MSDAAAQBAJ&pg=PA324>

By July 1541 William Tyrrell was also confined in the tower under suspicion of treason. He was ordered to be reprieved on the 7 July, 'in order to know his name and confront him with some accomplices', but was later attainted and pardoned only in March 1543. In December 1541, moreover, Dunstan Newdigate and another, unnamed, 'of the order of Rhodes' were discharged of a bond to appear daily in Star Chamber, but remained bound to appear upon warning.

Both Gonson and Tyrrell were probably attainted for treasonable talk overseas, the offence for which Thomas Dingley had suffered two years earlier. Babington had accused Gonson of having 'at Malta and elsewhere publicly denied and opposed' the royal supremacy, and of having called the king a traitor. Tyrrell was pardoned in March 1543 'for diverse daily treasons' committed between July 1536 and August 1539. To these were added three specific offences, probably treasonable talk of some kind, committed in Malta during the same period. It is possible that Gonson's nemesis, Philip Babington, was a spy in royal service. He had absconded from Malta without leave in early 1540, and while he was granted his pension in December 1540 at the same time as ten other knights, he had already received a payment from Augmentations in February, before the act for the suppression of the priory was passed. Considering that the Hospitallers were riddled with informers in the years before the dissolution, with Nicholas Lambert and Clement West also reporting the loose words of their fellows, it is remarkable that more were not executed on their return home.

Yet the line between favour and the block was always a thin one in Tudor England, and after the suspicion and bullying with which they were faced in 1540 and 1541, the crown found considerable use for the talents of the former knights of St John, including Tyrrell and Newdigate. This is not altogether surprising. Senior knight-brethren had often served as diplomats and couriers for the English government, and the priors of England and Ireland had practically become professional royal servants. While William Weston died in 1540 and John Rawson senior was too old and sick to be of much use thereafter, a number of mostly middle-ranking brethren forged new careers for themselves in the crown's service in the 1540s and 1550s. The most successful were Ambrose Cave and

Edward Bellingham, who rose to be chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster and deputy of Ireland respectively, but William Tyrrell, Richard Broke, Dunstan Newdigate, Henry Poole, John Sutton, and Edmund Hussey also found employment on government commissions and in the navy.

It appears that after the abolition of the Order and his attainder and pardon the testator no longer referred to himself as ‘Sir’ William Tyrrell.

The testator’s fellow Knight of Rhodes, Sir David Gonson, was the son of the naval administrator, William Gonson (d.1544). For William Gonson, see the *ODNB* entry and the will of his widow, Bennett (nee Waters) Gonson, TNA PROB 11/31/70. William Gonson’s daughter, Thomasine Gonson, married the testator’s brother, Sir Henry Tyrrell (d.1588). See also the Gonson pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, 2nd Series, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1888), Vol. I, p. 124 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WVRIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA124>

The testator’s fellow Knight, Sir David Gonson, was executed 12 July 1541. See:

<http://smom-za.org/saints/david.htm>

TESTATOR’S FUNERAL

The testator was given a heraldic funeral on 16 November 1557 in the Church of St Martin, Ludgate, as recorded in Machyn’s *Diary*. See Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Diary of Henry Machyn*, (London: Camden Society, 1848), p. 158 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=XIy3SJVHYFYC&pg=PA158>

The 16 day of the same month was buried at Saint Martin’s at Ludgate Master (blank) Tyrrell, Captain of the Galley and Knight of the Rhodes sometime was, with a coat, pennon and 2 banners of images and 3 Heralds of Arms, and 2 white branches and 12 torches and 4 great tapers.

See also p. 361 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=XIy3SJVHYFYC&pg=PA361&lpg=PA361>

Funeral of Tyrell captain of the galley. “1557, Nov. 15, Mr. William Turrell sometime knight of Rhodes.” Register of St. Martin’s Ludgate; and his marriage at the same church, “1553, Nov. 9, sir William Tyrrell knt. and Mrs. Anne Freeman widow.” Malcolm’s Londinium, vol. iv. pp. 357, 358. He was brother to sir Henry Tyrrell, of East Horndon, Essex: see Morant’s History of that county, vol. I, p. 209.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

It appears the testator's 'friend, Nicholas Bacon', esquire, who witnessed the testator's will, can be identified with Lord Burghley's brother-in-law, Sir Nicholas Bacon (1510-1579), for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

RM: T{estamentum} Will{elm}i Tyrrell

In the name of God, Amen. This is the last will and testament of me, William Tyrrell of Collier Row in the county of Essex, esquire, made the 6th day of November in the year of Our Lord God 1557:

First, my soul I bequeath to Almighty God, who of his omnipotence did make it, of his infinite mercy, redeemed it, and by the same merciful redemption, as I certainly believe, will glorify it and save it;

The manner of my burial I commit to the discretion of mine executor;

Also I will that the custodies, wardships and marriages of the bodies and lands of Anne, Mary and Elizabeth, daughters and heirs of John Freeman, esquire, deceased, shall be sold by mine executor to the most advantage;

And I will to my son, William, and to my daughter, Frances, the whole money and other profit that shall rise or grow of any such sale, to be paid and delivered, thone half thereof to the said William, my son, at th' age of 21 years, and thother half to the said Frances, my daughter, at th' age of 16 years;

And further I will that if the said William die before th' age of 21 years, that then the legacy to him appointed shall remain and be paid to the said Frances;

And if the said Frances shall chance to die before the said age of 16 years, then I will the legacy to her appointed shall remain to my said son, William;

Also I will to my said son, William, and to my said daughter, Frances, the sum of two hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be paid to them by mine executor by egal portions at their several ages;

And I will that if the said William, my son, shall die before the said age of 21 years, that then the hundred pounds to him appointed shall remain and be paid to my said daughter, Frances;

And if my said daughter, Frances, chance to die before the said age of 16 years, then I will the hundred pounds to her before appointed shall remain and be paid to my said son, William, at th' age of 21 years;

Item, I will to Henry Tyrrell, my base son, twenty pounds to be paid to him by mine executor within one year next after my decease, and besides I give to him a gelding, price £5;

Item, I give to my brother, George, my harness called the Anymate;

And to my brother, Charles, my shirt of mail;

And to my brother, Thomas, a coat of velvet and a doublet of satin;

And to my friend, Nicholas Bacon, my best gown of black satin furred with martens;

And to Edward Bright, my friend, a cross-bow;

And to Wingfield, my servant, a gelding, price £5;

The rest of all my goods, debts and chattels not before bequeathed nor appointed, after my debts, funerals and legacies performed & discharged, I give to Anne, my dear and well beloved wife, whom I make sole executrice of this my last will and testament;

And overseer thereof I make my brother, George;

In witness whereof I, the said William Tyrrell, have set to my hand and seal the day and year first above-written;

Item, I will to Henry, my base son, Warlington's debt;

These persons being witnesses: Nicholas Bacon, esquire, George Tyrrell, (blank) Starkey, Edward Bright and Henry Tyrrell.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud London Secundo die mensis Decembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo septimo Iuramento Anne Relictæ et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominante Ac approbatum et insinuatum Commissa que fuit administrationis omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti &c prefate executrici De bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario &c conficiendo &c Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo &c iurante

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at London on the second day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-seventh

by the oath of Anne, relict and executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased etc. to the forenamed executrix, sworn to well etc., and to prepare a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account.]