

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, proved 1 May 1535, of Sir Robert Norwich.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Nothing is known of the testator's family background. According to the *ODNB*:

[He] may have been connected with the Norwich family of Brampton, Northamptonshire. His arms, as displayed in the windows of Serjeants' Inn Hall, Fleet Street, in 1599, were exactly the same as those borne by that family, though it is not known for certain that they were painted contemporaneously.

Testator's siblings

The testator mentions one sibling in the will below:

-Isabel Norwich, a nun at Campsey.

MARRIAGES

Testator's first marriage

According to an entry in the National Archives online catalogue, the testator married firstly a wife named Elizabeth. See TNA C 1/1074/62, a lawsuit brought during the period 1538-1544 by Avery Trussell, gentleman, against Elizabeth, 'late the wife of Sir Robert Norwich, knight'. However since the testator's widow was named Julyan, not Elizabeth, there may be an error in the catalogue description.

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly (?), as her second husband, Julyan Tyrrell (d.1556), the daughter of Humphrey Tyrrell (d. 2 June 1507), esquire, by his second wife, Elizabeth Walwyn (d.1524). She was the sister of Sir John Tyrrell (d.1541) of Warley, Essex, whom the testator appoints as one of the supervisors of his will. For the will of Sir John Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/28/444.

For the will of Julyan Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/38/70. For the will of her father, Humphrey Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/15/580. For mention of Julyan Tyrrell and the testator in the will of her mother, Elizabeth (nee Walwyn) Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/21/377:

Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Julyan Norwich, and my son-in-law, Robert Norwich, my pot of silver, 2 salts with the cover parcel gilt, a table-cloth of diaper and a dozen of diaper napkins.

The testator's second wife, Julyan Tyrrell, was the widow of Edmund Norreys (1482? - 6 September 1508), by whom she had a son:

-John Norreys (b.1507), aged 47 weeks and more at his father's death. John Norreys and his wife, Katherine, are left the testator's lands in remainder in the will below.

See the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Edmund Norreys, TNA C 142/22/33, and *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII*, Vol. III, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1955), p. 303 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/calendarofinquis03great#page/302/mode/1up>

For the burial of Julyan (nee Tyrrell) Norreys Norwich, see Machyn's *Diary*:

'Diary: 1556 (July - Dec)', in *The Diary of Henry Machyn, Citizen and Merchant-Taylor of London, 1550-1563*, ed. J G Nichols (London, 1848), pp. 109-123. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/camden-record-soc/vol42/pp109-123> [accessed 16 July 2020].

The xvj day of July was the obseque of my lade Norwyche, the wyff of the lord Norwyche juge, cheyf baron, at (blank) in Essex, with baners and armes and dyver mo[urners.]

The testator was an executor of the will, TNA PROB 11/17/263, of Julyan Tyrrell's first cousin, Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d.1510) of East Horndon.

RM. Test{amentu}m Roberti Norwiche Milit{is}

This is the last will and testament of me, Sir Robert Norwich, knight, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas;

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried in the Whitefriars of London in the chapel of Saint Nicholas under the grate there where I am wont to sit and hear Mass if it please God to call me to his mercy within the said city;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Dame Julyan Norwich, my wife, all my manors, lands and tenements whatsoever they be and wheresoever they be within the realm of England, both free and copy, to have to her for term of her life without any impeachment of waste;

And after her decease I will that John Norreys, her son, and Katherine, his wife, shall have all the same manors, lands & tenements to them during their natural lives and the longer liver of them if my said wife be thereunto agreeable;

And after the decease of my said wife and the said John Norreys and Katherine, all the same manors, lands and tenements to be unto my said wife, her heirs and assigns forever and at her will and disposition to give, sell and bequeath where she shall think good and convenient;

Item, I will that Dame Isabel, my sister, being a nun in the priory of the monastery of Campsey in the county of Sussex [sic?] shall have 40s yearly during her life out of my manors, lands and tenements, to be paid at the feasts of All Saints and Pentecost by even portions;

Item, I will that Cobdo [=Capdow?] shall have during his life forty shillings yearly out of those lands that I bought of him in South Okendon in the county of Essex, and that also that he be paid clearly and contented of such sums of money as I yet owe unto him for the purchase of the same lands, which I suppose is £30 or under;

Also I give and bequeath [f. 172v] unto my said wife all manner lands and tenements whatsoever they be which I have for term of years in use or possession and all my goods and chattels whatsoever they be within the realm of England, to keep, give, sell and use as her own proper goods and at her own free will and pleasure;

And of this my present last will and testament I make and ordain my said wife my only and sole executrice;

And supervisor of the same my brother [=brother-in-law], Sir John Tyrrell, knight, and my cousin, Francis Mountforde, esquire, and the said John Norreys, and my wife to reward them for such pains as they shall take about the same as she shall think good by her discretion:

These witness: Humphrey Tyrrell, Thomas Dudley, John Baff(?), Thomas Legate and John Bastard.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram Domino apud Lamethith Primo Die mensis Maij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo xxxvjo Iuramentum domine Juliane Relicte & executricis in huiusmodi testamento non minuat In persona Iohannis Norrys procuratoris sui in hac parte Approbatum & insinuatum Et comissa fuit admistratio omnium & singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti prefate executrici In persona dicti procuratoris De bene & fideliter admistratio Ac de pleno & fidei Inuentario secundo die post festum sancte

ffidis virgini prox{imum} futur{um} exhi{ben}d{o} Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita iuris forma Iurat{i}

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the first day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 35th by the oath of Dame Julyan, relict & executrix named in the same testament, in the person of John Norreys, her proctor in that behalf, and probated & entered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix in the person of the said proctor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of Saint Faith, virgin, next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]