

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 October 1521 and proved 4 March 1523, of Sir Thomas Wyndham (d.1522), brother-in-law of Elizabeth de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, second wife of the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl.

The testator's father, 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. His first wife was Margaret, fourth daughter of John Howard (d.1485), 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Norfolk. The testator was their eldest son and heir. After the death of Margaret Howard, Sir John Wyndham (d.1502) married, as his second wife, the Countess of Oxford's mother, Eleanor (nee Washbourne) Scrope Wyndham (d.1505/6).

The testator married firstly, the daughter of his father's widow. This was the Countess of Oxford's sister, Eleanor Scrope, the daughter and coheir of Richard Scrope (d.1485) and Eleanor (nee Washbourne) Scrope Wyndham (d.1505/6). The testator and his wife, Eleanor Scrope, are mentioned in the will of her mother, Eleanor (nee Washbourne) Scrope Wyndham (d.1505/6):

*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.*

By Sir John Wyndham (d.1502), Eleanor (nee Washbourne) Scrope Wyndham (d.1505/6) had a daughter, Frances Wyndham, as indicated by these bequests in her will:

*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 Frances a gown of black camlet with a pursle of grey, a kirtle of back worsted, a featherbed, a bolster, a pair blankets, 2 pair sheets, a coverlet and a sparver.*

Although Eleanor (nee Washbourne) Scrope Wyndham (d.1505/6) refers to Thomas Wyndham in the foregoing bequest as her 'son', it would appear that the person referred to was her son-in-law, the testator, Sir Thomas Wyndham (d.1522).

The eldest son of the testator and Eleanor (nee Scrope) was Sir Edmond Wyndham (d. 1569), of Felbrigg, who was in the household first of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey and then of Thomas Howard (1473-1554), 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Norfolk. He was three times sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk between 1537 and 1550, knight for the shire in the 1539 and 1559

parliaments, and the wealthiest of the Norfolk gentry. He married Susan Townshend, the daughter of Roger Townshend (d.1551) and Amy Brewes (see Moreton, C.E., *The Townshends and Their World* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992), p. 39). The testator and Eleanor (nee Scrope) had two other children, a son, Sir John Wyndham, who established the Wyndhams of Orchard, Somerset, and a daughter, Mary Wyndham, who married Erasmus Paston (d. 1540) from whom the earls of Yarmouth were descended.

After the death of Eleanor (nee Scrope), the testator married, as his second wife, Elizabeth Wentworth, the daughter of Sir Henry Wentworth (d. 17 October 1528) of Nettlestead, and sister of Margery Wentworth (d.1550), who married Sir John Seymour (1473/4-1536) of Wolf Hall, and was the mother of Queen Jane Seymour, 3<sup>rd</sup> wife of King Henry VIII, and of Edward Seymour (c.1500-1552), Duke of Somerset. At the time of her marriage to the testator, Elizabeth Wentworth was the widow of Sir Roger Darcy (d.1508) of Danbury, Essex, Gentleman of the Chamber to Henry VII. Two of Elizabeth Wentworth's daughters by her first husband, Sir Roger Darcy (d.1508), are mentioned in the will below. The testator and Elizabeth (nee Wentworth) Darcy had a son, Thomas Wyndham, who died at Benin in February or March 1554 while on a voyage of exploration. After the testator's death, Elizabeth (nee Wentworth) Darcy Wyndham married, as her third husband, John Bouchier (d.1539), Earl of Bath.

It may have been as a result of these family connection between Elizabeth de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, the Wyndhams, Darcys and Seymours that the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl fell prey to the extortion of Edward Seymour (c.1500-1552), Duke of Somerset, in 1548.

The testator mentions two wards in the will below. One was Sir Richard Southwell (1502/3-1564), who married, firstly, Thomasine Darcy, one of the daughters of the testator's second wife, Elizabeth (nee Wentworth), and her first husband, Sir Roger Darcy (d.1508). Thomasine Darcy was a sister of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford's brother-in-law, Thomas Darcy (1506-1558), 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Darcy of Chiche, who was also involved in Somerset's extortion against the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl.

The testator's other ward was Sir Edmund Knyvet (c.1508-1551):

*Knyvet, Sir Edmund (c.1508–1551), landowner and member of parliament, was the eldest son of Sir Thomas Knyvet (c.1485–1512) of Buckenham Castle, Norfolk, and his wife, Muriel (d. 1512), daughter of Thomas Howard, second duke of Norfolk, and widow of John Grey, second Viscount Lisle. His father was a prominent courtier (he was master of the horse) who was killed in a sea battle near Brest in August 1512. The family's extensive estates in Norfolk and Suffolk were still in the hands of Edmund's great-grandfather Sir William Knyvet, who did not die until 1515. Edmund's wardship was then purchased by his father's friend Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, who had also been the guardian of Knyvet's half-sister Elizabeth Grey. It appears that Suffolk subsequently sold Knyvet's wardship to Sir Thomas Wyndham, who at his death instructed his executors to sell it on to Anthony Wingfield for £400 or, failing that, to the highest bidder. It was not only the fact that he was a minor that delayed Edmund Knyvet's entering upon his inheritance. Edmund's long-lived great-grandfather had married as his second wife Joan, daughter of*

*the first duke of Buckingham, and he left Buckenham Castle and other lands in Norfolk to his eldest son from this marriage, Sir Edward Knyvet. It was not until the latter's death in 1528, followed by that of his heir Robert, that the family lands reverted to Edmund, who secured them only in 1533. At his death they were valued at about £215 a year.*

*Knyvet's younger brother Sir Henry was a gentleman of the privy chamber and in 1540 was sent as ambassador to Charles V.*

Sir Henry Knyvet (d.1546), younger brother of the testator's ward, Sir Edmund Knyvet (c.1508-1551), was the father of the Sir Thomas Knyvet (1546-1622) who fought with Oxford over the 'quarrel of Anne Vavasour', an altercation over Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour, in which Oxford was hurt and his man 'Gerret' slain, according to an entry in the diary of Richard Madox for 1-3 March 1582 (see BL MS Cotton, Appendix 47, f. 7v). Sir Henry Knyvet's daughter, Margaret Knyvet, and her husband Henry Vavasour of Copmanthorpe, Yorkshire, were Anne Vavasour's parents, and Sir Henry Knyvet (d.1546), the younger brother of the testator's ward, Sir Edmund Knyvet (c.1508-1551), was thus Anne Vavasour's grandfather, while the Sir Thomas Knyvet (1546-1622) who fought with Oxford was Anne Vavasour's maternal uncle.

For the foregoing see Bindoff, S.T. *The House of Commons 1509-1558*, Vol. I, (London: Secker & Warburg, 1982), pp. 482-3, and the entries in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography* for Thomas Wyndham (d.1554), Thomas Darcy (1506-1558), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Darcy of Chiche, Sir Richard Southwell (1502/3-1564), Sir Thomas Knyvet (c.1485-1512), and Sir Edmund Knyvet (c.1508-1551),

See also the will of Eleanor (nee Washbourne) Scrope Wyndham (d.1505/6), TNA PROB 11/15; the will of Richard Scrope (d.1485) on this website and in *Testamenta Eboracensia*, Vol. III (London: Surtees Society, 1865), pp. 297-9, available online; the will of Elizabeth de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, TNA PROB 11/27, ff. 84-6; and the will of Sir Henry Knyvet (d.1546), TNA PROB 11/32, f. 33.

LM: Testamentum Thome Wyndam Militis

In the name of the Almighty and Merciful Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three Persons and one God, I, Thomas Wyndham, knight, at my manor of Felbrigg the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of the month of October the year of Our Lord God 1500 and 21 and of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> the 13<sup>th</sup> year, being entire of mind and whole of body, laud and praise to Our Lord God, make this my last will and testament in the manner and form hereafter ensuing:

First, for the recommendation of my soul into the most merciful hands of him that redeemed and made it, I make and say this mine accustomed prayer: Domine Jesu Christe qui me ex nichillo creasti fecisti redemisti et predestinasti ad hoc quod sum tu scis quid de me facere vis fac de me secundum voluntatem tuam cum misericordia, therefore do of me

thy will with grace, pity and mercy, humbly and entirely I beseech thee, and thus unto thee I bequeath and into thy most merciful hands my soul I commit, and howbeit a sinful creature in sin conceived and in sin have lived, knowing perfectly that of my merits I cannot attain to the life everlasting but only by the merits of thy blessed passion and of thine infinite mercy and grace, nevertheless, my merciful Redeemer, Maker and Saviour, I trust that by the special grace and mercy of thy Blessed Mother ever Virgin, Our Lady Saint Mary, in whom after thee in this mortal life hath been my most singular trust and confidence, to whom in all my necessities I have made my continual refuge, and by whom I have hitherto ever had my special comfort and relief, will in my most extreme need of her infinite pity take my soul into her hands and it present unto her most dear Son, whereof, sweet Lady of Mercy, very Mother and Virgin, well of pity and surest refuge of all needful, most humbly, most entirely and most heartily I beseech thee, and for my comfort in this behalf I trust also to the singular mediations and prayers of all the holy company of heaven, angels, archangels, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, evangelists, martyrs, confessors and virgins, and specially to mine accustomed advowries I call and cry Saint John Evangelist, Saint George, Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Saint Margaret, Saint Katherine and Saint Barbara, humbly beseech you that not only at the hour of death so to aid, succour and defend me that the ancient and ghostly enemy nor none other ill or damnable spirit have no power to invade me nor with his terribleness to annoy me, but also with your holy prayers to be intercessorice [=intercessors?] and mediatrice [=mediators?] unto my Maker and Redeemer for the remission of my sins and salvation of my soul;

And forasmuch as I intend and purpose to the honour of God and Our Blessed Lady Saint Mary the Virgin to adorn and vault a chapel called Our Lady Chapel set and builded at the east end of the choir within the site of the monastery of the Holy Trinity at the city of Norwich, and also to have in the same monastery for the comfort of my soul and remission of my sins a yearly memorial of my obit in perpetuum, I will and bequeath that whensoever it shall please my Saviour Jesus Christ to call me out of this transitory life, my body to be buried in the midst of the same chapel of Our Blessed Lady after my power, estate and substance that God hath given me without damnable pomp or superfluties, where upon my body I will have a tomb as shall be thought convenient to mine executors sufficient in largeour for me and my 2 wives, if my wife Elizabeth will be there buried;

And as touching the funeral interment of my body and charges of my sepulture, I remit it to the discretion of mine executors, desiring them that it may be convenient after my little substance, and in any wise I will have a sermon made by a Doctor of Divinity at the Mass of Requiem;

Also I will have immediately after my decease as shortly as may be possible a 1000 Masses to be said within the city of Norwich and other places within the shire of Norfolk, whereof I will have in the honour of the Blessed Trinity one hundred, in the honour of the 5 Wounds of Our Saviour Jesus Christ one hundred, in the honor of the Five Joys of Our Blessed Lady one hundred, in the honour of the 9 orders of angels one hundred, in the honour of the patriarchs one hundred, in the honour of the 12 apostles one

hundred, in the honour of All Saints one hundred, of requiem one hundred, in the honour of Saint John the Evangelist 30, in the honour of Saint George 40, in the honour of Saint Thomas of Canterbury 30, in the honour of Saint Margaret 40, in the honour of Saint Katherine 30, and of Saint Barbara 30, which maketh the whole number of a 1000 Masses;

Also I will that all my debts first and before all other charges be paid by the hands of mine executors, wherewith I charge them as they will answer before God and discharge my conscience;

Also I will that if any man or woman can complain of any injuries or wrongs done by me and so duly proved before mine executors or supervisors, that they be restored to the uttermost;

Also I will that mine executors, as far as it may be borne of my goods, do cause the said Chapel of Our Blessed Lady to be vaulted with freestone after the workmanship and vaulting of the church there, as well in stone and colours as in gilding with stars as shall be devised by mine executors, and with mine arms, badges and devices;

Also I will have a priest, secular or religious, to sing for me and my said wives and friends in the said chapel in perpetuum, with an yearly obit to be kept there with a solemn dirge and Mass of Requiem by the Prior and Convent and their successors on such a day as shall happen me to die upon or as near as it may be conveniently, and the said Prior and Convent and their successors shall distribute yearly in perpetuum at the said obit to the Prior for the time being 3s 4d, and to the subprior 2s, and to every monk of the place 12d as soon as it may be conveniently brought about;

Also I will have founded in Benet College in Cambridge a priest, to be a Fellow of the house, to sing and pray for me and my friends in perpetuum, and to have a stipend of the house as other Fellows have and shall have, and to be called Wyndham's priest, and also that the Master and Fellows and their successors shall yearly in perpetuum keep an obit with a solemn dirge and Mass of Requiem upon such day as it shall happen me to die upon, or as near that day as it conveniently may be, distributing yearly at the said obit to the Master for the time being and to every Fellow 12d, and to the parson 12d, and to every Bible-clerk 4d, to the Master or his president 1d, and to every Fellow obole for offering, for which charges I will they shall have paid by mine executors £200 as soon as it may be conveniently brought about;

Also I will that Sir John Giles shall sing for me in Our Lady Chapel at Walsingham if he will have the service during his life, and to have for his stipend yearly 10 marks to be paid by mine executors, provided always that he shall have none other benefice but to sing in Our Lady Chapel;

Also I will and bequeath to the high altar of Felbrigg for my tithes negligently forgotten 5 marks;

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Item, to the reparation of the said church 5 marks;

Item, I bequeath to the said church my greatest antiphoner written in parchment;

Item, I bequeath to the said church a vestment of velvet with deacon and subdeacon and a cope other [=either] of velvet or of cloth of gold;

Also I bequeath to the said church an altar-cloth for the high altar of velvet;

Also I bequeath to every parish church where I have any seigniory within the parish a vestment made perfect, the price of 13s 4d, if I do it not in my life;

Also I bequeath to the house of monks in Thetford towards the tiling of their back-house or other things 5 marks;

Also I will that my wife during her life shall keep or cause to be kept mine obit yearly at Felbrigg, and after her decease and when mine next heir shall happen to have the manor of Felbrigg, then I will and charge him that he shall likewise keep yearly mine obit at Felbrigg, at which obit I will have 5 priests beside the parson or parish priest to sing dirge and five Masses for my soul and my wives' souls, my father's soul, and all my friends' souls, and every priest to have for his labour 4d, and every clerk 2d and 2s 6d to give in alms, the recompense whereof is expressed in my will of my lands;

Also I give and bequeath to my wife, Dame Elizabeth, all my utensils and stuff of household except my plate during her life if she will live sole and unmarried, and after her decease I will the one half of my stuff except plate shall remain to my next heir, and if she happen to be married again, then I will that mine heir shall have the one half of my stuff and utensils except my plate immediately when she shall be so married;

Also I give & bequeath to my said wife a thousand sheep, the which shall be worth at the delivery of them an hundred pounds at the least;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said wife as much of my plate as shall amount to five hundred marks, of such parcels as shall like her best to have, to be valued after this rate: white plate or parcel gilt at 3s 4d the ounce, and gilt plate at 3s 10d the ounce;

Also I bequeath to her in money as it may be levied £100;

Also I give and bequeath to my son, John Wyndham, 1000 marks to be paid by mine executors as it may be conveniently levied of my goods and lands put in feoffment most specially for that purpose, and that 1000 marks to be employed to buy a marriage for him of inheritance of land, and I desire mine executors to do the best they can for the execution of the same if it may be, or else if they cannot conveniently provide any such marriage, then I will they buy as much land as can or may be bought with the said 1000 marks, and that land to be made sure to my said son, John, and his heirs in fee simple, provided

always that if he be married or land bought for him by me in my lifetime, that then this bequest of the said 1000 marks to be void;

Also I give and bequeath to my son, Thomas Wyndham, in like wise a 1000 marks to be paid by mine executors as it may conveniently be levied of my goods and lands put in feoffment most specially for that purpose, and that 1000 marks to be employed to buy a marriage for him of inheritance of land, and I heartily desire and require mine executors to do the best that they can or may for the execution of the same as soon as they conveniently may bring it about, or else if no such marriage can be had, then I will the said 1000 marks be employed to buy as much land as can be bought with that money, and that land to be made sure to my said son, Thomas, and his heirs in fee simple, provided alway that if he be married by me in my lifetime, or else land bought for him by me, then this bequest and legacy to be void;

I give and bequeath to Margaret Darcy and Elizabeth Darcy the younger, my wife's daughters, to each of them £200, the sum of both £400, of lawful money to be paid by mine executors as soon as it may be conveniently levied and borne if they or any of them fortune to be married, or else not, and if it fortune any of them to die, then mine executors make no payment for her that so shall decease and not married;

Also I will that my house with all my servants be kept sufficiently with meat and drink and wages at my cost and charge by the space of half a year after my decease, and my servants to have like wages as they had in my lifetime, and if any of them will depart before his half year, then I will he shall have half a year wages at his departing;

Also I give and bequeath to John Clovyle, my servant, £20 of lawful money to be paid by mine executors;

Also I give and bequeath to Thomas Pein(?) [=Pigeon?], my servant, 20 marks; also to John Bardwell £10; to Agnes Rusheworth 10 marks; to William Curson £10; to John Smyth, my servant, £10; to Edward Walker 5 marks; and to Robert Parysch of such money as is owing to me of the house he dwelleth in £10, and I will that all these bequests made to my servants be paid to them by mine executors within one year after my decease in good and lawful money of England;

Also I will that mine executors shall give against my burying to every servant being a gentleman or yeoman daily dwelling in my house a black gown, except houythis(?), carters and plowmen and boys of the kitchen, bakehouse or of other offices, to whom I will shall be given some small remembrance to pray for my soul as shall be though convenient by mine executors;

Also I give to two of my wife's gentlewomen, being her servants at the day of my death, a black gown to every of them;

Also I bequeath to Beeston Abbey toward the maintaining of the house £20 in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Abbey a vestment of velvet with the cross of the same to be made of broidering work well and rightly wrought with images, and the principal image to be of Saint Margaret and my arms, to pray for me and my mother's soul, whose body lieth there buried;

Also I give and bequeath to the high altar of Danbury in Essex 20s, and to the church there a vestment made perfect, the price 20s, and if it happen the said Sir Giles to die within five years after my decease, then I will mine executors shall provide some other honest priest that shall sing for me in Our Lady Chapel at Walsingham during as many years as the said Sir John shall lack of five years;

Also I give and bequeath to every place of friars in Norwich 20s, also to every place of friars within the shire of Norfolk 20s, and every place of friars to keep a dirge and a solemn Mass;

Also I will have all the four orders of friars in Norwich to meet my wretched body when it cometh to the burying without the gates of Norwich, and so to convey me with anthems and prayers to Christ Church, for which pain and labour I will that mine executors shall recompense them as it shall be thought convenient to them;

Also I give and bequeath to the Friars Augustines in London a vestment of velvet with mine arms upon it, and 5 marks of money to pray for my soul and my father's soul, whose body lieth buried there;

Also I give to the Friars of Doncaster where I am founder a vestment of velvet with mine arms upon it, and also to the maintenance and reparation of the church and place there £5;

Also I give to Walsingham Abbey £10 in money to pray for me and for that I will they shall keep my obit with a solemn dirge and Mass of Requiem for me when they shall be paid their money;

Also I will that my son, Thomas Wyndham, shall be sent to the University of Bonanie [=Bologna?] in Italy as soon as it may be conveniently after the wars, and in the meantime to the University of Louvain, and to continue his learning there in humanity and civil till he be of the age of 21 years, or lenger if he will after that age at his own charge, or else to other universities in the parties of beyond the sea as shall be thought best by mine executors, and I will that mine executors shall find him conveniently there till he come to the age of 21 years of my goods and lands put in feoffment for the performance of my will;

Also I will that Master William Chamberlain, now being schoolmaster within my house, shall go with him to have the rule and oversight of my said son and to continue with him by the space of five years at least if he will so long abide there with my said son, and I will he shall have for his exhibition there every year 20 marks to be paid by mine executors during the said five years, and if he refuge [=refuse] to be with my said son in such places as shall be appointed by mine executors, then I will he shall have 10 marks

toward his exhibition yearly to be paid by mine executors during the said five years or by [sic] otherwise provided for as hereafter followeth: that if the said Master Chamberlain be promoted by me or by my means or by mine executors' means to a benefice or benefices to the yearly value of 20 marks over and above all charges, that then the said 20 marks and the said 10 marks for his exhibition to cease, mine executors to be no further charged with it, and if it fortune his promotion to be under the clear value of 20 marks above all charges, then I will mine executors shall make that up of as much as his promotion shall lack of the said 20 marks during the said 5 years, with reasonable costs of coming and going with my said son from England toward and forward the said university;

Also where I have appointed Peter Nobys, Doctor of Divinity, to have a certain annuity of £1 3s 4d by year to pray for me, the which I think in my conscience is too little for his degree if he have none other help of benefice otherwise, wherefore I will that if he fortune to receive his benefices or either of them, then I will he shall have of my goods £20 to be paid as shortly as it may be borne;

Also I give and bequeath to my most singular good Lord Cardinal's Grace £40 in money or else some goodly remembrance to the value of £40, most humbly beseeching his Grace to be especial good Lord to my wife and my children and to mine executors in their affairs and business for the execution of my last will and testament likewise as I have always found him mine especial good Lord in time of my life;

Also I will that all my legacies and bequests and ordinances be done and executed in manner above-written as soon as it conveniently may be levied and brought about of the revenues of my lands, goods and chattels except only those that shall happen to be done in my life, and for all those bequests or legacies, ordinances and provisions within this my will and testament contained that shall happen to be done by me in my life, I will that mine executors shall be discharged for the execution and charges for the same, this my will notwithstanding;

Also I will that if it be thought by mine executors good and profitable to keep still unsold my sheep going upon my grounds or any other grounds the which I have in farm or otherwise during such year or years as I have in them, so that every other thing in my will contained may be well executed, then I will they do so for as long as it shall be thought to them requisite and profitable without dealing of my will, the which matter I remit to their discretion;

Also I will that if my wife specially or any other of my executors will buy any part of my plate or chattel, giving for it to the uttermost value as it may be sold to other folks, then I will that they shall have it, so that it be in no wise to the delaying of my will;

Also I will that if any ambiguity, doubt or controversy shall happen to rise in any party of my will or testament or cannot be discussed amongst mine executors, then I will that they shall resort to the supervisor of my will, and those doubts to be ordered by him and these or by the most part of them to whom I give full power to determine and order as the

most part of them shall think best and most profitable for th' execution of my will, so that no wise it be in derogation or let of my said will;

The residue of all my goods, chattels and debts not given nor bequeathed nor bestowed by this my last will and testament, whatsoever they be or in whose hands or custody they remain and to me or to any other person or persons to mine use appertaining, due or belonging, I will that mine executors dispose, employ and bestow to and upon such uses, works and deeds of merit, alms, pity and charity as shall be thought pleasant and acceptable to God, expedient in remission of my sins, wholesome and meritorious for my soul, wherewith I charge mine executors in their souls and consciences, desiring them to be good to my younger sons;

And I ordain and make mine executors my wife, Dame Elizabeth Wyndham, my singular good Lord my Lord Thomas, Earl of Surrey, Peter Nobys, Doctor of Divinity, and my well-beloved brother, Sir George Wyndham, desiring them to put them in their uttermost devoirs well [+and?] truly in all things in manner and form afore declared to execute and perform this my last will and testament as my especial trust is in them, and for their pains, labour and diligence to be taken in this behalf, I give and bequeath to every of them £20;

Also I ordain and make my singular good Lord my Lord of Norfolk to be my supervisor, to whom I bequeath for his favour and pain to be taken for the furthering of my last will and testament £10, beseeching him to be good lord unto this my will and testament, to my wife and my children;

Also I will that all my gowns of velvet shall be made in vestments and to be bestowed in and to such places as I have bequeathed any vestment of velvet;

Also I will that all my sheep the which go or hereafter shall go upon my ground at Felbrigg and Aylmerton to the number of two thousand shall be kept still upon the same grounds during the 7 years, and the profits of them to be taken by mine executors during the said years, and after the 7 years then my wife to have the profits of them during her life, so that she shall in any wise see the stock saved with the whole number, and after the 7 years ended and after the death of my wife I will that mine next heir, if he be of full age, shall have the said 2000 sheep, paying to mine executors as much for them as they then shall be worth except £20, the which I will he shall have within the price, and if he be within age at the said time, then mine executors to take the profits of them during the nonage of my said heir;

In testimony of all the premises and every of them and also in witness that these presents be my last will and testament, I have written them with mine own hand and set to my seal the day and year above-written. This was sealed in the presence of Master Everard, parson of Runton, Anne Ynglys, Master William Chamberlain, John Swalowe of Barking, William Andrews and Thomas Pigeon.

In the name of God, Amen. The 28<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred and 22, Sir Thomas Wyndham of the county of Norfolk, knight, called before him Master William Chamberlain, priest, John Clovyld and Thomas Pegeon, and in the presence of the same persons spake these words: 'I have made my will which is a great thing, wherefore I charge you to bear record that this is my last will, that if my goods be not able to perform the will that I have made, then I will that mine executors shall moderate and rate the legacies and bequests by their discretions after the quantity of my goods', then being present Dame Elizabeth Wyndham, Agnes Rusheworth, Margaret Wentworth and the foresaid witness[es].

RM: Vltima Voluntas eiusdem Thome

This is the last will of me, Sir Thomas Wyndham, knight, son and heir of Sir John Wyndham, knight, being in good health and whole of memory, thanked be God, made the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October the 13 year of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> as to the disposition of all my manors, lands, tenements, rents, services and reversions, hereditaments with their appurtenances, and also of all my wards and marriages now being bought by me, the foresaid Sir Thomas, with all advowsons by any means belonging to me or to any other to mine use in the county of Norfolk and Yorkshire or elsewhere within the realm of England in which I or any other person or persons stand and be seised or enfeoffed by me or by my father or any other person or persons, or hereafter shall be seised or enfeoffed to mine use by me or any other man;

First I will that my co-feoffees and feoffees suffer Dame Elizabeth, my wife, to have and to occupy my manor of Bentley and Hamethwayte in Yorkshire with all their appurtenances and all my purchased lands within the same manors by me purchased, and my manor of Melton Constable with their appurtenances in the county of Norfolk to her own use for term of her life according to the purport and meaning of a pair of indentures and other writings thereof made, and after her decease I will the said manors of Bentley and Hamethwayte in Yorkshire with their appurtenances with the purchased lands within the same shall descend and remain to my son, Edmund, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of issue of him to the right heirs of me, the said Sir Thomas Wyndham, and if it fortune my next heir to be not of full age at the death of my said wife, then I will that mine executors shall receive and take the profits of the manors of Bentley and Hamethwayte in Yorkshire during the nonage of my said next heir then being within age toward the performance of my last will and testament;

Also I will that my son, Edmund, my heir apparent, shall have all my manors of Crownthorpe, Wicklewood and Hackford with their appurtenances and all my purchased lands lying or being within the same towns immediately after my decease wholly to him and to Susan, his wife, and to the lenger liver of them, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of issue of him to the right heirs of me, the said Sir Thomas, in fee simple, and if it fortune the said Edmund and Susan, his wife, to die

without issue of the said Edmund within the 7 years next after my decease, and if my next heir be then of full age, I will that he shall have the said manors to him and to his heirs, and if it fortune mine next heir to be within age at the death of the said Edmund and Susan, then I will mine executors shall have the said manors with th' appurtenances and the profits of the same during the nonage of the said heir so being within age;

Also I will that my executors shall perceive and take towards the performance of my will all the profits of the manors of Felbrigg, Aylmerton and Runton with their appurtenances, and with advowsons and presentations of the same to be given by my said executors, and of the manors of Tuttington, Banningham, Ingworth and Colby with their appurtenances with like advowsons and presentations, and of the manors of Briston and Wolterton, and of the manor Whighton in Yorkshire, with all purchased lands within any of the said manors, excepted such purchased lands as I have granted to Peter Nobys, Doctor of Divinity for term of his life, to have and to hold the said manors with the appurtenances to them with all manner of profits and commodities to them belonging for term of 7 years fully complete after my decease to be employed to the use of my will, and that my son, Edmund, nor none other whom it shall fortune to be mine next heir in any wise to interrupt them nor their assigns of the taking, receiving or occupying of them or any part of them, provided always that mine executors shall fell no timber but only for the reparation of the same manors, and also I will that mine executors shall keep all the said manors in good reparation during the said 7 years;

Provided also that my wife shall have the manor-place of Felbrigg and all the rents and lands with all manner of profits and commodities thereto belonging, and also the manors of Aylmerton and Runton with all their appurtenances or in any other towns thereto belonging the which have been used to be comprised within the account of Felbrigg with members for term of her life, being a widow sole and unmarried and if she will dwell in the said place, paying to my executors to the performance of my will yearly £40 out of the said manors, excepted the fold-courses of Felbrigg and Aylmerton, the which I will shall be employed to the use of my will during the foresaid 7 years, and after the said 7 years expired I will she shall have the said manors of Felbrigg, Aylmerton and Runton with their appurtenances for term of her life, being widow sole and unmarried and if she will dwell in it, and also the fold-courses of Felbrigg and Aylmerton, paying for the said manors with the fold-courses and all other commodities £40 to my next heir, and after the 7 years ended, provided that she shall keep the place in good reparation of her own cost and charges;

Also I require my said wife to keep and find an honest priest in her house to sing for me and my first wife's soul and her own friends' souls during her life;

And if it fortune my wife to die within the said 7 years, then I will that my son, Edmund, or any other that shall happen then to be my next heir, if he be of full age, shall have the said manors of Felbrigg, Aylmerton and Runton with fold-courses of the same, paying to mine executors toward the performance of my will yearly £50 for as many years as shall be to come of the said 7 years, and if my said son or heir refuse so to do, then I will mine executors shall have the said manors with all the profits during the said 7 years, and if it

fortune that mine next heir be not of full age at the end of the 7 years, then I will my wife shall pay to the executors yearly £40 out of the said manors till my next heir come to full age of 21 year, and if it fortune my wife to die and my next heir then being within age, I will that my executors shall have all the said manors with their appurtenances during the nonage of my said heir to the performance of my will;

Also I will that Doctor Peter Nobys shall have the profits of all dovehouses, lands and also 2 parts of the manors of Lystens in Metton and of the lands called Tillocks and Sadelers lying in Colby and Suffield and other towns lately by me purchased of divers men, and also of the manors of Ynes in Briston also by me purchased with their appurtenances for term of his life in like form as I have granted unto him by my deeds under my hand and seal, as by the same more largely it doth appear;

Also I will that my son, Edmund, or who shall fortune to be my next heir shall have the manor of Felbrigg, Aylmerton and Runton with their appurtenances after the 7 years expired and after the decease of my wife to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of heirs of my son, Edmund, to remain to the right heirs of me, the said Sir Thomas, and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten according to an entail thereof made by my grandfather, John Wyndham, esquire;

Also I will that my son, Edmund, or other that shall happen to be my next heir shall have out of the said manors of Felbrigg, Aylmerton and Runton yearly, after the 7 years expired the which I have appointed for the performance of my will, £40 to be paid by my wife, Dame Elizabeth Wyndham, if she will dwell in it;

Also I will that my son, Edmund, or any other than shall fortune to be my next heir shall have the manors of Tuttington, Banningham, Ingworth and Colby immediately after the 7 years expired next after my death to whom [sic?] and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of issue of him the said manors to remain to the right heirs of me, the said Sir Thomas, and to the heirs of their body lawfully begotten according to an entail thereof made by my grandfather, John Wyndham, esquire;

Also I will that immediately after the 7 years expired for the performance of my will the said Edmund, my son, or any other that shall be mine next heir shall have the manor of Briston to him and to his heirs in fee simple;

Also I will that my executors shall take and receive the profits of the manor of Sustead called Damms and of all other lands thereto belonging the which I lately purchased of Robert Damme for term of 7 years after my decease toward the performance of my last will, and after the 7 years expired and the death of my wife as hereafter followeth to my next heir upon such condition as be expressed amongst other things in my testament and here ensuing;

Also I will that my son, John Wyndham, shall have my part of the manor of Wulterton after 7 years expired for the performance of my will, and also the manor of Melton Constable after the decease of my wife, to have and to hold the said manors to him and to

his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of issue of him to the right heirs of me, the said Sir Thomas;

Also I will that my son, Thomas Wyndham, shall have my manor of Whighton in Yorkshire with the appurtenances when he cometh to the age of 21 years and also the 7 years expired for the performance of my will, to have and to hold to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue of him to the right heirs of me, the said Sir Thomas;

Also I will that my said son, Thomas, shall have the moiety of the manors of Boweking called Dorwardes, and also the moiety of the manor of Alseforde, of the which manors I lately bought the reversion, whensoever they shall fall, and if he then be of the age of 21 years, to have and to hold to him and to his heirs in fee simple, provided always that if the said manors happen to fall by reason of my bargain before the said Thomas come to the age of 21 years, then I will that mine executors shall take the profit of the said manors till the said Thomas come to the age of 21 years to the execution of my will;

Also I will that mine executors shall have and occupy and take the profits of all such manors, lands and tenements with all manner of profits to them or any part of them belonging as I have or any other man to mine use hath or hereafter shall have by the King's or the Queen's grant or any other man's or woman's grant of such wards as I have at this day, as well of Southwell and his lands as Knyvet's lands and his marriage, and also all such lands as shall happen to fall in reversion by the said grants, to be employed to the performance of my last will;

Also I will that Erasmus Paston, son and heir of William Paston, knight, shall marry and take to wife Mary Wyndham, my daughter;

Also, if the said marriage happen not to take effect for lack of agreement, casualty of death or otherwise, by reason whereof any payment of money shall be made again to me or mine executors or assigns according to the tenor of certain covenants comprised in certain indentures made, then I will that mine executor shall receive all such sums of money as ought of right to be repaid again, and they to use and employ the same to th' execution and performing of my said last will;

Also I will and charge my son, Edmund, or any other of my sons and their heirs that shall happen to be mine heir, that whensoever it shall happen them to have the profits of my manors of Felbrigg, Aylmerton and Metton, Runton and Sustead with their appurtenances [+and?] all my purchased lands within the same, and my manors of Tuttington, Banningham, Ingworth and Colby with their appurtenances and with all my purchased lands within the same, that he or they shall find an honest priest to sing in the church at Felbrigg for my soul, my wives' souls, my father and mother's souls, and all my friends' souls, and that he shall have 10 marks by year without meat and drink, and if he will have meat and drink with them at the place, then he to have 5 marks for his stipend, and this to be continued as long as it shall please God that any of my blood shall continue and to keep mine obit as is expressed in my testament, in recompense whereof I have

purchased certain lands in Aylmerton, Suffield, Colby, Albye, Metton, Briston, Crownthorpe, Wicklewood, Sustead and Bentley in Yorkshire, and in other place to the yearly value of £46 by year and above, as appeareth by my deeds and indentures of the same, trusting that mine heirs will not offend their conscience in breaking of this my last will in this behalf;

Also I will that if hereafter it shall happen mine executors or any of them to be perturbed, vexed, letted or denied by my son, Edmund, or any other of my sons or their heirs that shall happen to be mine heirs, to receive the whole issue and profits of all my manors, lands and tenements before named during as many years and such as is before rehearsed for the performance of my last will and testament, or else let or hinder or any other man for them let or hinder any part of my testament and will so that my said last will and testament by occasion thereof to be not performed but utterly letted and broken contrary to my mind and intent, then I will that mine executors shall sell my manors of Bentley and Hamethwayte in Yorkshire or any other of my manors, lands and tenements in Norfolk, and the money thereof coming to be taken by mine executors for the performance of my last will, provided always that if any of my younger sons be of power or can find friends to purchase the said lands, then I will he shall have them or any part of them that shall be sold for his money before any other man, so that it be for himself without covin or deceit;

Also where I have willed in this my will of my land that all the lands in Sustead with their appurtenances the which I late purchased of Robert Damme should be in the hands of mine executors during 7 years for the performance of my will, and after the 7 years expired to my son, Edmund, or any other that shall fortune to be mine next heir, that notwithstanding, if it shall like my wife to dwell in the place at Felbrigg and to have the manor of Felbrigg as is aforesaid, then I will she shall have the occupation of all the said lands called Damms with the appurtenances during her life, paying therefore to mine executors toward the performance of my will £10 during 7 years, and after the 7 years ended, then she shall pay to my son, Edmund, or to mine next heir £10, and if it fortune my next heir to be within age, then I will that mine executors shall have the said £10 during the nonage of my next heir, and if it happen my wife to die within the 7 years and mine heir be then within age, I will mine executors shall have all the said land in Sustead called Damms with th' appurtenances during the nonage of my said next heir toward the performance of my last will and testament;

Also I will that mine executors shall take the profits of all such lands as I now have in my hands by the reason of the nonage of Edmund Knyvet or of his next heir or by reason of any bargain made with Edward Knyvet for the will of Sir William Knyvet and of such lands as shall happen to fall in reversion by reason of any grant made by the King of the said Edmund or of his next heirs;

Also I will that Anthony Wingfield shall buy the marriage of the said Edmund if he will, paying therefore £400 at the least, for he cost me five hundred pounds, and I will he shall have to keep him withal £20 by year at the most, and if he refuse him, then I will that he shall be sold by mine executors to him that will give most for him without disparagement,

and the money thereof coming, as well of marriage as of the land, to be employed to the use of my testament;

And where I have put certain manors in feoffment with recoveries of the same and declared my last will of them toward the helping of my 2 younger sons and toward the performance of my last will and testament, I think it very reasonable and that my next heir should in no wise grudge at it for I have redeemed all my lands out of [-hands of] King Henry 7<sup>th</sup> hands, who had of me in money for the same £2800 and fifty marks, over and beside my costs of suit for the same, and also I have paid to Mary, Jane and Katherine Scrope, my first wife's sisters, a £1000 in ready money, the which was owing for the purchase of Bentley and Hamethwayte in Yorkshire purchased by my father, Sir John Wyndham, and also I have left in possession and reversion as much lands to my next heir of mine own purchase as I have given to my 2 younger sons, the which lieth more necessary for him than the other did;

In witness that this is my last will of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments and also of all my wards and their lands, the which I will and desire mine executors as they will answer before God to execute, I have written this will with mine own hand and subscribed this with mine own hand and set to my seal the day and year above-written. This was sealed in the presence of Master Everard, parson of Runton, Anne Ynglys, Master William Chamberlain, John Swalowe of Barking, William Andrews and Thomas Pegeon.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti vna cum vltima voluntate eiusdem coram prefatis Commissarijs in ecclesia Cathedrale diui pauli London iijto Die mensis Marcij Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo xxijo Iuramento Domine Elizabethe Relicte personaliter presentis et Domini Thome Comititis de Surria In persona magistri xpoferi Middleton procuratoris Ac approbatum & insinuatum Et commissa fuit administracio auctoritate prefatorum Reuerendissimorum patrium omnium & singulorum bonorum Iurium & creditorum dicti defuncti prefatis executoribus De bene & fideliter administrando Ac de pleno & fideli Inuentario citra festum sancti gregorij pape proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia in debita iuris forma Iuratis Reseruata potestate alijs executoribus cum venerint &c

[=The testament of the above-written deceased together with the last will of the same was proved before the forenamed Commissioners in the Cathedral Church of Saint(?) Paul at London on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the month of March in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 22<sup>nd</sup> by the oath of Lady Elizabeth, relict, personally present, and Lord Thomas, Earl of Surrey, in the person of Master Christopher Middleton, proctor, and probated & entered, and administration was granted by the authority of the forenamed Most Reverend Fathers of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Gregory,

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Pope, next to come, and also to render a plain & true account, with power reserved to the other executors when they shall have come etc.]