

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 6 June 1540 and proved 18 November 1540, of John Tyrrell (d.1540), esquire, of Heron. The will establishes that the Charles Tyrrell who married Oxford's mother, Margery Golding, was not the testator's brother, Charles Tyrrell, as erroneously stated in *The Complete Peerage*.

## ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

### ***Testator's parents***

The testator was the eldest son and heir of Sir Thomas Tyrrell of Heron and his wife Constance Blount, the daughter of John Blount (d. 12 October 1485), 3rd Baron Mountjoy. As indicated in two clauses in the will, the testator's mother, Constance Blount, was still alive in 1540. In the Tyrrell pedigrees, the eldest son and heir of Sir Thomas Tyrrell and Constance Blount is often incorrectly identified as 'Thomas'. However the will below, as well as the will of Sir John Baker (d.1558), make it clear that the eldest son and heir of Sir Thomas Tyrrell of Heron and his wife Constance Blount was 'John', not 'Thomas'. John Tyrrell's brothers were Sir Henry (who succeeded him), Sir William, Thomas, Charles and George.

There were significant family connections between the Earls of Oxford and the Tyrrells through the three daughters of Sir Richard Sergeaux (d.1393) and his wife Philippa Arundel (d.1399). Of the three daughters, Alice Sergeaux (d.1452) married Richard Vere (d.1417), 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford; Philippa Sergeaux married Robert Pashley, and Elizabeth Sergeaux married William Marney (d.1414). Anne Marney, the daughter of Elizabeth Sergeaux and William Marney (d.1414) married Sir Thomas Tyrrell of Heron (d.1476), great-grandfather of the testator. Oxford was thus a direct descendant of Alice Sergeaux while the testator, John Tyrrell of Heron (d.1540), was a direct descendant of Elizabeth Sergeaux. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 11-14, and Vol. IV, pp. 271-3, and the Sergeaux pedigree after p. 32 in MacMichael, N.H., 'The Descent of the Manor of Evegate in Smeeth with Some Account of its Lords', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. 74, 1960, pp. 1-47:

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

However despite these family connections between the testator and the Earls of Oxford through the Sergeaux family, the will below makes it clear that another alleged connection between the two families is inaccurate. It is stated in *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. X, pp. 249-50, that after the death of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, Oxford's mother, Margery Golding (d.1568), married as her second husband, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), the son of Sir Thomas Tyrrell of Heron and Constance Blount, daughter of John Blount, Lord Mountjoy. If true, this would make Margery Golding's second husband, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), a younger brother of the testator. However, although

the testator states in the will below that he has a brother named Charles, this was not Margery Golding's second husband, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), since the will of the latter names only one brother, Philip, while the testator had several brothers living at his death in 1540, including his brother Sir Henry Tyrrell (d.1588), who succeeded as his next male heir. For the will of Margery Golding's second husband, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), see TNA PROB 11/52/187.

### *Testator's siblings*

The testator mentions four brothers in the will below:

**-Sir William Tyrrell** (d.1557), a Knight of Rhodes. His burial in the Church of St. Martin, Ludgate, is recorded in Machyn's *Diary*. See King, H.W., 'Ancient Wills', in *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. III, Part IV, (Colchester: Essex and West Suffolk Gazett, 1865), pp. 167-97 at p. 178:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=Bhc5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA178>

**-Sir Henry Tyrrell** (d. 20 May 1588), who succeeded the testator. He married Thomasine Gonson, the daughter of William Gonson (d.1544) of London. For William Gonson, see the *ODNB* entry:

*Gonson, William* (d. 1544), naval administrator . . . married Benet Waters (d. 1545/6). They had six sons (David, Richard, Christopher, Arthur, Benjamin, and Anthony) and four daughters (Margaret, Elizabeth, Avis, and Thomasine) . . . in 1544 (before 5 August) . . . he 'feloniously killed himself' (LP Henry VIII 20/1, no. 125/7). . . . The will of his widow, Benet, was made on 18 August 1545, the executors being her son Benjamin, to whom she left a few items of plate, and Thomasine's husband, Henry Tyrrell; probate was granted on 23 February 1546.

By Thomasine Gonson, Sir Henry Tyrrell had a son, Thomas Tyrrell (c. 1548 - 25 September 1592) of Heron, esquire, who married Mary Sulyard the daughter of Sir John Sulyard of Wetherden, Suffolk. Sir Henry Tyrrell is buried under a plain slab in the parish church of Downham, Essex, with this inscription:

*Here lyeth buried good Sir Henry Terrell, Knight, & Dame Thomasin, his wife, who deceased the 20 of May in the yeare 1588.*

See King, *supra*, p. 177 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=Bhc5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA177>

For Sir Henry Tyrrell and his descendants, see also Metcalfe, Charles W., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part II*, Vol. XIV, (London: Harleian Society, 1879), p. 717 at:

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

**-Charles Tyrrell**, ‘servant to the Lord Rich’, who is included, together with Oxford’s stepfather, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), in an entail in the will of Richard Tyrrell (d.1566), TNA PROB 11/48/637:

*And for default of such issue the remainder thereof unto Charles Tyrrell that married the Countess of Oxford and his heirs males lawfully begotten.*

*And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to Charles Tyrrell, servant to the Lord Rich, and to his heirs males lawfully begotten.*

**-George Tyrrell**, a courtier during the reign of Queen Mary. For his son, Anthony Tyrrell (1552–1615), see the *ODNB* entry, and Brownlow, F.W., *Shakespeare, Harsnett, and the Devils of Denham*, (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1993), p. 170-1 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=dXsxIxWPpKc&pg=PA170>

### ***MARRIAGE AND ISSUE***

The testator married Anne Browne (1509?-1582), the daughter of Sir William Browne (d. 3 June 1514), Lord Mayor of London, by his second wife, Alice Keble (d.1521), the daughter of Sir Henry Keble, and granddaughter of Sir John Browne (d.1547) and his wife, Anne (nee Belwood). The first wife of Sir William Browne (d. 3 June 1514) was Katherine Shaa, the daughter of Sir Edmund Shaa (d.1488), Lord Mayor of London in 1482, and his wife Julyan. John Browne, one of the executors named in the will below, was the brother of the testator’s wife, Anne Browne (1509?-1582). Another of the executors, Vincent Munday, was the son of Sir John Munday (d.1537), Lord Mayor of London, and his wife Julian Browne (d.1537), the daughter of Sir William Browne (d. 3 June 1514) and his first wife, Katherine Shaa, and thus a nephew of the testator’s wife, Anne Browne. See Brown, James Roberts, ‘Jno and Wm. Browne, Sheriffs and Lord Mayors of London’, in *Notes and Queries*, 7th series, Vol. V, (London: John C. Francis, 1888), pp. 151-3, at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=wWkEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA151>

By Anne Browne, the testator had one surviving child:

\* **Katherine Tyrrell**, who married Sir Richard Baker (1530?-1594), the eldest son of Sir John Baker (c.1489–1558) of Sissinghurst, who is named by the testator as the supervisor of his will. For the will of Sir Richard Baker, see TNA PROB 11/84/37. For the will of Sir John Baker, in which he recites the feoffment made with respect to the marriage, see:

<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Libr/Wills/Bk49+50/page%20112.htm>

*Whereas Richard Baker, my son and heir apparent, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June last past at Ingatestone in Essex married Katherine Tyrrell, only daughter and heir of John Tyrrell of Heron in Essex, esquire, deceased, son and heir of Thomas Tyrrell, knight, late of Heron, deceased . . . .*

After the testator's death, his widow, Anne Browne Tyrrell (1509?-1582), married, by March 1542, as his second wife, Sir William Petre (1505/6-1572) of Ingatestone. See the *ODNB* entry where, however, she is erroneously described as the daughter of John Tyrrell of Heron, rather than his widow:

*If Petre spent further time overseas, he must have returned by the start of 1533; on 8 March he was admitted to Doctors' Commons, and in the course of the year began work as a chancery clerk. About this time he married Gertrude, daughter of John Tyrrell of Little Warley, Essex. . . . Petre's wife died on 28 May 1541. By the following March he had married Anne, daughter of John Tyrrell of Heron (of another branch of the Essex gentry family from which Petre's first wife had come). She was the widow of William Browne of Flambard's Hall, and brought a healthy portion of £280 per annum.*

In the *History of Parliament* entry she is correctly described as the daughter of William Browne, and the widow of John Tyrrell (d.1540). See:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/petre-william-15056-72>

For the testator's widow, Anne Browne Tyrrell Petre, see also Emerson:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=646](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=646)

*Anne Browne (1509-March 10, 1582) was the daughter of Sir William Browne of Flambard's Hall (1467-1514), Lord Mayor of London in 1513/14, and Alice Keble (1482-June 8, 1521). Through her remarriage, Anne's mother became Lady Mountjoy and was at court. F. G. Emmison (*Tudor Food and Pastimes: Life at Ingatestone Hall*) is in error when he identifies the occupant of "Mistress Keble's chamber" (1550) as Anne's mother. Not only is the name wrong, but so is the date, since Anne's mother died some twenty years before Anne married William Petre and moved into Ingatestone Hall. Anne's first husband was John Tyrrell of Heron, Essex (d.1540), to whom she was betrothed in 1513. The marriage was to take place by 1521. As her father's sole heir, Anne had a marriage portion of 400 marks. With Tyrrell, she had one daughter, Catherine (d. before 1569). After his death, she commissioned the chapel at East Horndon, Essex, where he was buried. Her second husband, to whom she was married between May 28, 1541, when his first wife died, and March 1542, was Sir William Petre of Ingatestone Hall, Essex (1505- January 13, 1572). Curiously, the *Oxford DNB* entry for William Petre calls Anne the daughter of John Tyrrell and the widow of William Browne of Flambard's Hall, but the life dates of both men make this impossible. The confusion may be explained by the fact that William Petre's first wife was Gertrude Tyrrell (d. May 28, 1541), daughter of Sir John Tyrrell of East Horndon and Warley,*

*Essex (d. 1540). My thanks to Adrian Channing for pointing this out to me. All accounts agree that Anne brought a dowry of £280 a year to her second marriage. By Petre, Anne had Thomasine (April 7, 1543-1611+), Katherine (b.1545), John (December 20, 1549-October 11, 1613), and Anne (1557-1610). Some genealogies add Edward (d. yng) and William (d. yng). One account gives her a daughter named Griselda, but this was Griselda Barnes, one of her husband's wards. Petre was in royal service to Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth. On November 22, 1548, Princess Mary arrived at Ingatestone Hall with a retinue of nearly fifty persons and stayed for two days. A few days later, on her return journey from London to New Hall, Boreham, she stayed with Lady Petre again. In February 1549/50, she paid another visit. In March, Lady Petre was invited to visit Mary at New Hall, a two hour ride from Ingatestone. In 1561, the Petres entertained Queen Elizabeth at Ingatestone and later they were responsible for keeping Lady Catherine Grey under house arrest there. Petre also had a house on the west side of Aldersgate Street in London. Lady Petre employed three gentlewomen in 1554—Mary Persay, who taught the Petre daughters to play the virginals in 1559, Mistress Joyce, and Mistress Joan. As a widow, Anne remained at Ingatestone Hall and there sheltered a number of seminary priests. The queen visited Lady Petre in September 1579. She was on the list of recusants for 1582 but she died on March 10, before any official action was taken against her. She was buried on April 10 at Ingatestone. Portraits: 1567, attributed to Steven van der Meulen; effigy at Ingatestone.*

After the death of Sir William Browne in 1514, his widow, Alice Keble Browne (d.1521), mother of the testator's wife, Anne Browne (1509?-1582), married William Blount (c.1478–1534), 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Mountjoy, by whom she was the mother of Charles Blount (1516–1544), 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Mountjoy, courtier and patron of learning, the Lord Mountjoy mentioned in the will below. For William Blount, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Mountjoy, see the *ODNB* entry. In the Blount pedigree in Grazebrook, Alice Keble's name is erroneously given as 'Dorothy'. See Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, p. 57 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ESoEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA50&lpg=PA57>

RM: T{estamentum} Iohannis Tyrell Armigeri

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, Amen. The 6<sup>th</sup> day of the month of June in the year of th' Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ a thousand 540 [=1540] and in the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry th' Eighth, I, John Tyrrell of Heron, esquire, being sick in body, nevertheless, thanks be to God, of whole mind and perfect remembrance, make and ordain this my present testament in form as followeth:

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First and afore all things, I humbly bequeath and commend my soul to Almighty God, my Maker, Saviour and Redeemer, my body to be buried within the parish church of East Horndon at the discretion of mine executors and supervisor;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the same church for such things and tithes as I have negligently forgotten, thirty shillings;

Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the churchyard [-yard] pale of Thorndon aforesaid, ten shillings;

Also, I bequeath to my brother Harry a complete harness such as he will choose, and his choice [-choice] had, I will and other complete harness to my Lord Mountjoy such as he will choose;

Item, I will and bequeath to William Leche, William Forster and Thomas Leche, my servants, every of them 26s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Munds [=Munday?], my servant, 33s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to every one of my other servants a quarter wages;

Item, I bequeath to every of my brethren hereafter named, that is to say, Sir William Tyrrell, knight, Thomas Tyrrell, Charles Tyrrell and George Tyrrell, every one of them 40s, and further I will and bequeath to my said brethren Thomas, George and Charles all my wearing apparel, to be equally divided and delivered by mine executors;

Item, I bequeath to my lady mother 4 mark, and to my sister Keble and to my sister Knight, each of them 40s;

Item, I bequeath to Roger Bexwell, my farmer, my best cart-horse and such duty as he oweth me (except for my rent to me already due);

Item, I will and bequeath to Anne, my wife, and to Katherine, my daughter, all my whole term of years yet to come of and in the manor of Dunton with th' appurtenances in such ample and large wise as I have and the same hold of the provost and fellowship of the King's College in Cambridge;

Item, I will and bequeath to the said Katherine, my daughter, all my interest and term of years of and in the old manor of Old Sampford which I have in lease of my said mother for 30 years if she so long do live, the reversion whereof is mine inheritance;

Item, as touching all other my goods, chattels, plate, stuff of household, utensils and stocks whatsoever they be not afore bequeathed and given, I freely give and bequeath unto the said Anne, my wife, and to the said Katherine, my daughter, to be tween them equally and indifferently divided and parted, mine own only debts and funerals paid and done, and my bequests hereafter to be given to one of my executors and to my supervisor

only excepted, which funerals to be at discretion of mine executors, whom I ordain and make my said wife and Vincent Munday, citizen and goldsmith of London, to the which Vincent I give and bequeath £6 13s 4d for his pains to be had and sustained in and about th' execution of this my present testament, and supervisor of this my said present testament I ordain and make John Baker, esquire, General-Attorney to our said Sovereign Lord, and for his counsel and pains by him to be sustained in and about the same my said testament, I bequeath and give to him a cup of the value of £4;

Provided always that if it shall fortune my said daughter to decease afore she shall be married and take to husband, that then I will that her said part to her afore appointed shall be to my said wife (except that of the same part I will that six pound thirteen shillings and four pence be bestowed in the highway by my park pale at Heron);

And whereas I have been at great charges and costs for th' obtaining and saving of certain main and great woods which Sir Thomas Tyrrell, knight, my late father, whose soul God pardon, was purposed to have felled and sold away, and which now by my means been yet standing, as well at Heron as at divers other my manors, and where also I have been at liberty ever sith the decease of my said father to dispose mine inheritance at my pleasure by such ways and means as I might have had and found by th' order of the King's laws, yet notwithstanding I have always so favoured my brother Harry or him whom God should please to make mine heir male that I never purposed to minish lands nor woods but to leave them wholly to my said heir male, in consideration whereof my whole confidence and trust is that my said brother, Henry, for that my time hath been but short, and thereby not of such substance in goods to advance and set forth my said daughter according to my mind and as I might have done if I would have hindered my said inheritance or sold away my said great woods, which I always tendered as I first said, will friendly [sic for 'friendly'?] and favourably so look upon my said daughter that for my sake, considering the premises, he will give her some honest sum of money for her best advancement;

In witness whereof to these three papers containing therein my said testament I have severally set my hand in the presence of Charles Tyrrell, my brother; John Blake, gentleman; William Hawe, parson of East Thorndon; Roger Bexwell; Thomas Munday, and of divers other the day and year abovesaid.

Memorandum: That the said John Tyrrell, about 20 days after the making of his testament foresaid, called to his remembrance that in his said testament he had named Anne, his wife, and Vincent Munday his executors, and then for certain causes him moving named and constituted John Browne of London, gentleman, co-executor with the said Anne and Vincent, unto the which John Browne he gave like legacy as he had given to the forenamed Vincent, and furthermore then and there the said John Tyrrell gave and granted to his brother, George Tyrrell, the lease of a certain farm called Crease for the term of 21 years, which terms of years to begin at Michaelmas last past, yielding and paying therefore the rent accustomed to be paid, and moreover he gave unto his daughter, Katherine Tyrrell, all those his lands, tenements and annuities and to her heirs, as well by him purchased of his father as of any other person or persons, upon condition that when

the said Katherine [+be?] of full age of 21 years, if any of th' heirs males of the said John Tyrrell should offer to buy the said lands and tenements so to her given, that then she to suffer his said heir male to have the preferment of the buying and purchasing of them afore any other person, he agreeing with her for the same, in the presence of the said Anne Tyrrell, his wife, the said George Tyrrell, his brother, Thomas Munes(?), Roger Bexwell and other.

Probatum fuit sup{ra}scriptum testam{en}tum coram D{omi}no apud London decimo octavo die mens{is} novembris anno D{omi}ni Mill{esi}mo quingen{tesim}o xlo iuramento executor{um} in h{uius}mo{di} testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} ac approbatu{m} et insinuatu{m} Et com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o om{n}i{um} et sing{u}loru{m} &c prefatis exec{utoribus} &c de bene et fideli{te}r administrand{o} ead{e}m ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario conficiend{o} et exhibend{o} Planoq{ue} et vero comp{ut}o inde reddend{o} ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia. Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at London on the eighteenth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fortieth by the oath of the executors named in the same testament, and probated and registered, and administration was granted of all and singular etc. to the forenamed executors etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare and exhibit a full and true inventory, and to render a plain and true account thereof.]