

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 31 July 1555 and proved 11 December 1556, of Thomas Tyrrell, esquire, of Birdbrook, Essex.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of Robert Tyrrell, whom he appointed as supervisor of his will. However Robert Tyrrell appears to have died a few months later, on 16 October 1555. See TNA WARD 7/7/44.

For the testator's siblings, see the will of his brother, Richard Tyrrell (d.1566), TNA PROB 11/48/637.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator's wife appears to have married Elizabeth/Isabel Wolley, the daughter of Ambrose Wolley. For Ambrose Wolley, see his will, dated 18 July 1557 and proved 31 March 1559, TNA PROB 11/42A/52B.

By his wife, Elizabeth, the testator had a son and a daughter:

* **Thomas Tyrrell**, about whom nothing further is known.

* **Anne Tyrrell**, who married Sir John Dalston, by whom she had a daughter, Dorothy Dalston, who in 1589 married Henry Gent, the son of Oxford's steward, Thomas Gent (c.1530 – 12 August 1593), esquire. See the *ODNB* entry for Thomas Gent, and Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part II*, Vol. XIV, (London: Harleian Society, 1879), p. 661 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8vsUAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA661>

In the will below the testator appoints his wife, Elizabeth, and his brother, Richard Tyrrell (d.1566), as executors, and his father, Robert Tyrrell, as supervisor. By 11 December 1556, the date on which the will was proved, the testator's widow, Elizabeth, had married William Worthington. A marginal note to the will states that on 6 May 1569 administration of the will was granted to the testator's sister, Audrey Tyrrell Annesley, both executors having died.

OTHER PERSONS NAMED IN THE WILL

For the will of Dame Julyan Norwich, see TNA PROB 11/38/70.

For Sir William Petre (1505/6–1572), see the *ODNB* entry.

For the explorer and cartographer, Sebastian Cabot (c.1481/2–1557) and the pension referred to in the will below, see the *ODNB* entry and the entry in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* at:

http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/cabot_sebastian_1E.html

In February 1557 his successor as governor of the company was in office. In March Cabot drew his quarterly pension in person; in May the pension was re-granted to him and to William Worthington jointly, and to the survivor of them; in June and September the pension was drawn on behalf of Cabot; and by December, when payment was made to Worthington alone, “de annuitate sua,” Sebastian Cabot must have been dead.

TESTATOR’S LANDS

Daniel Lysons, 'County of Kent: Beckenham', in *The Environs of London: Volume 4, Counties of Herts, Essex and Kent* (London, 1796), pp. 291-306. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-environs/vol4/pp291-306> [accessed 27 September 2017].

The manor of Beckenham . . . Sir William Bruyn; from whom this manor descended (fn. 4) to Sir Henry Bruyn, who died in 1461, leaving two daughters, coheirs (fn. 5). Alice the eldest had, by her first husband John Berners, Esq. a son, who died without issue; upon which, a moiety of this manor was inherited by John Harleston, son of her second husband (fn. 6). Clement Harleston sold it, in 1530, to Robert Legh, Esq. (fn. 7), whose descendant of the same name, in 1610, aliened it to Henry Snelgar, or Snelgrave, Esq. (fn. 8) (afterwards knighted). About the year 1650, it was sold, by his grandson Henry Snelgrave, Esq. to Walter St. John, Esq. (fn. 9), in whose family the manor became again united.—Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir Henry Bruyn, married, to her first husband (fn. 10), Thomas Tyrrell, Esq. whose descendants inherited the other moiety of this manor; one of them, whose name also was Thomas, left a daughter and sole heir, married to Sir John Dalston, by whom she had two daughters. Catherine, one of these coheirs, married Sir Henry Curwen (fn. 11).

The fact that this manor came to the testator through Elizabeth Bruyn establishes that the testator was a descendant of Thomas Tyrrell (died c. 13 October 1473), esquire, who married Elizabeth Bruyn (d. March 1494), by whom he had a son, William Tyrrell of South Ockendon, Essex, who married Elizabeth Bodley, the daughter of Thomas Bodley (d.1492?) of London by his wife, Joan Leche (d.1530). After the death of Thomas Tyrrell, Elizabeth Bruyn married Sir William Brandon, by whom she was the mother of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. See Sutton, Anne F., ‘Lady Joan Bradbury (d. 1530)’ in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 300-1500*, (London: Hambledon Press, 1994), pp. 201, 219-20. For Elizabeth Bruyn see also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 298. For Thomas

Tyrrell (died c. 13 October 1473), see the will of his father, Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d. 28 March 1477), TNA PROB 11/6/417.

RM: Test{amentu}m Tho{me} Tirrell Armig{er}

In the name of God, Amen. The last day of July in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and five, and in the second and third years of the reign of our Sovereign Lord and Lady, Philip and Mary, by the grace of God King and Queen of England, France, Naples, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Princes of Spain and Sicily, Archduk[es] of Austria, Dukes of Milan, Burgundy and Brabant, Counties of Habsburg, Flanders ad Tyrol, I, Thomas Tyrrell of Birdbrook in the county of Essex, esquire, and in the diocese of London, being sick in body [+but?] of good and perfect remembrance (laud and praise be given to Almighty God), calling to my remembrance that there is nothing so certain as death nor nothing so uncertain [+as?] the time of the same, trusting only to the mercy of Almighty God, beseeching him of his infinite mercy [-&] that I may be one of his elect and to be partaker amongst th' holy company of heaven, make this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, my body to be buried in the parish church of Birdbrook;

Item, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my wife, all that my part of and in the manor of Beckenham lying and being within the town of Beckenham in the county of Kent (except I will that Thomas Tyrrell, my son, shall have yearly out of the said manor to him and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten six pounds ten shillings), to have, hold and enjoy all that my part of the said manor of Beckenham, except before excepted, to the said Elizabeth, my wife, during all the term of her life;

And after the decease of the said Elizabeth, my wife, then I will that all my part of the said manor of Beckenham shall wholly remain to the foresaid Thomas Tyrrell, my son, to have, hold and enjoy to him and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And if it fortune the said Thomas, my son, to decease without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that all my said part of and in the said manor of Beckenham shall remain to Anne, my daughter, to have, hold and enjoy all that my part of the said manor of Beckenham to the said Anne & to th' heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And if it fortune the said Anne, my daughter, to decease without issue of her body lawfully begotten, then I will that all that my part of and in the said manor shall remain to my next heirs forever;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Elizabeth, my wife, all those my lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, rents and services set, lying and being in the town and fields of Depden [=Debden] in the said county of Essex, to have, hold &

enjoy all the said lands, tenements, meadows, pastures and feedings and all other the said premises to the said Elizabeth during all the term of her life natural;

And after the decease of the said Elizabeth, my wife, then I will that all the said premises shall remain to the said Thomas, my son, to have, hold and enjoy all the said lands and tenements, meadows, pastures and feedings and all other the said premises to the said Thomas, my son, and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And if it fortune the said Thomas, my son, to decease without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will all the said premises shall remain to the said Anne, my daughter, and to th' heirs of her body lawfully begotten;

And if it fortune the said Anne, my daughter, to decease without issue of her body lawfully begotten, then I will all the said premises shall wholly remain to my right heirs forever;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Elizabeth, my wife, all the revenues, issues and profits of my farm in Mildenhall in the county of Suffolk and of my farms in Sutton and Torrington lying and being within the Forest of Galtrestun [=Forest of Galtres] in the county of York until the foresaid Thomas, my son, shall attain and come to th' age of sixteen years (if the said Elizabeth shall fortune to live so long), and when the said Thomas, my son, shall attain and come to the said age of 16 years, then I will the said Thomas, my son, shall have all the said farms, to hold to him, his executors and assigns, during all the term of years then come;

And if it fortune the said Elizabeth, my wife, and Thomas, my son, or any of them to decease before the said Thomas, my son, shall attain and come to the said age of 16 years, then I will that mine executors shall take the revenues, issues and profits of all the said farms to th' use of the foresaid Anne, my daughter, and the said profits so perceived and taken to be paid to the said Anne when she shall attain and come to th' age of eighteen years;

And if it fortune the said Elizabeth, my wife, and Thomas, my son, to decease before the said Thomas, my son, shall attain and come to the said age of 16 years, then I will that my said executors shall take the revenues, issues and profits of all the said premises to th' use of the said Anne until the said Anne shall attain and come to the said age of 18 years, and when the said Anne shall attain and come to the said age of 18 years, then I will the said Anne shall have, hold and enjoy to her, her executors & assigns, [f. 173v] all the said farms during all the term of years then to come over and above th' issues and profits of the same farms to be paid to her in manner and form aforesaid;

Item, whereas one John Hornsye, clerk, parson of the church of Birdbrook, hath demised and letten to farm to me the rectory and parsonage of Birdbrook with all those lands, tithes, oblations, commodities and profits to the said rectory and parsonage appertaining and belonging, to have and to hold and enjoy the said rectory and parsonage with all commodities and profits to the same appertaining or belonging from five years to five

years during the term of 21 years, I will that the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall have, hold and enjoy the said rectory and parsonage with all lands, tithes, oblations, commodities and profits to the same appertaining or belonging in as ample and large manner [+as?] I do hold them at the day of my death during the term of 21 years, if the said Elizabeth shall fortune so long to live;

And at th' end and term of the said 16 years, then I will the foresaid Thomas, my son, shall have the said rectory and all and singular the said premises to the said rectory belonging during all the term of years then to come;

And if it fortune the said Elizabeth to decease before th' end and term of 16 years, living the said Thomas, my son, then I will that my said executors shall take the revenues, issues and profits of the said rectory to th' use of the said Anne, my daughter, until the said Thomas, my son, shall attain and come to the said age of 16 years;

And if it shall fortune the said Elizabeth and Thomas, my son, to decease before the said Thomas, my son, shall attain and come to the said age of 16 years, then I will that my said executors shall take the revenues, issues and profits of the said rectory and of all the commodities and profits to the same belonging to th' use of the said Anne until the said Anne, my daughter, shall attain and come to the said age of 18 years, and then I will the said Anne shall have the said rectory during all the term of years then to come;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Longworth, my servant, one annuity of 26s 8d to be paid to him during his life natural, so that the said Thomas Longworth do serve the said Elizabeth, my wife, during the term of four year next and immediately after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of my other servants one whole quarter wages to be paid to every of them immediately after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to Robert Tyrell, esquire, my father, my young dun gelding;

Item, I give and bequeath to Dame Julyan Norwiche, widow, my little stone jug covered with silver;

Item, I give to Sir William Petre, knight, one of the King and Queen's Majesties' secretaries, my bay jennet, trusting that he will be good master to Master Captain Cabot whensoever he shall have occasion to sue for his pension;

The residue of all my goods and chattels not bequeathed, I give and bequeath to the said Elizabeth, my wife, to th' intent that the said Elizabeth shall pay my debts and legacies and to perform this my last will and testament;

And I ordain and make my executors the said Elizabeth, my wife, and Richard Tyrrell, my brother, and I give and bequeath to the said Richard, my brother, 40s;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mr Sebastian Captain Cabot one crucifix of gold to the value of 40s, and the same crucifix to be made by mine executors immediately after my decease;

And I do ordain and make the foresaid Robert Tyrrell, my father, to be my supervisor of this my present testament and last will, these witnesses: Mr Captain Cabot and George Danyell, gentleman.

In witness of this my present testament and last will I, the said Thomas Tyrell, to this my present testament and last will I have subscribed my name and set to my seal the day and year above-written in the presence of these witnesses aforesaid. By me, Thomas Tyrrell. By me, Robert Tyrrell, Sebastian Cabot. By me, George Danyell.

LM: vjto maij 1569 emanuit com{m}issio Audree Ansley soror nat{ura}li et l{egi}time d{i}c{t}i def{uncti} ad administrand{um} bona iura et credita eiusdem iuxta tenorem test{ament}i p{er} Eliz{abetham} Tirrell al{ia}s Worthington iam def{unctam} non administrat{a} De bene etc In p{er}sona (blank) Ansley mariti sui Iurat{i} Ric{hard}i(?) [cut off] Tirrell alt{er} ex{ecutor} armig{er} onus etc obijt mortem

[=On the 6th of May a grant issued to Audrey Annesley, natural and legitimate sister of the said deceased, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the same according to the tenor of the testament by Elizabeth Tyrrell alias Worthington, now deceased, not administered, [+sworn?] to well etc. in the person of (blank) Annesley, her husband, Richard Tyrrell, esquire, the other executor, having died.]

Probatum fuit testamentu{m} Coram Mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Cooke legum doctor{e} Curie p{re}rogatiue Reuerendissimi in xpo patris et d{omi}ni n{ost}ri d{omi}ni Reginaldi Cantuar{iensis} Archie{pisco}pi Custode siue Co{m}issario xjo die Mens{is} Decembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo qui{n}quagesimo sexto Iuramento Will{el}mi Worthington marit{i} ac(?) procurator{is} Elizabeth{e} Tirrell al{ia}s Worthington Executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonor{um} &c d{i}c{t}i def{uncti} De bene et fidel{ite}r admi{n}istrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno In{uenta}rio &c exhibend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i} Res{erua}ta p{otes}tate &c Ric{ard}o Tirrell Armiger{i} ex{ecutori} &c cum venerit

[=The testament was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of the Most Reverend Father in Christ and our Lord, the Lord Reginald, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the 11th day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-sixth by the oath of William Worthington, husband and(?) proctor of Elizabeth Tyrrell alias Worthington, executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully

administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory, with power reserved etc. for Richard Tyrrell, executor, etc. when he shall have come.]