

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 January 1505 and proved 9 February 1509, of Thomas Appleton (d. 4 October 1507), uncle of the wealthy clothier, Thomas Spring III (1457?-1523) of Lavenham, who together with John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, was a major benefactor of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Lavenham. See:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/church_gallery_03.shtml

The testator appears to have had an association of some sort with the 13th Earl of Oxford. He and others are recorded as having discussed the matter of the arrest of a ship with the Earl in 1493, and it appears likely his son is the Richard Appleton listed among the annuitants in the Earl's will. See Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513), 'The Foremost Man of the Kingdom'*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), pp. 166, 194 and 238.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see 'Appleton Family History' at:

<http://hausegenealogy.com/appleton.html>

The testator was the son of John Appleton of Little Waldingfield (d. 9 April 1481) and Margaret Welling, daughter of Richard Welling (d.1468). See the pedigree of Appleton of Waldingfield in Muskett, Joseph James, *Suffolk Manorial Families*, Vol. I, (Exeter: William Pollard & Co. Ltd., 1900), p. 329 at:

https://archive.org/stream/bub_gb_ZxANnBnHKBQC#page/n335/mode/2up

According to the Appleton pedigree in BL Harleian MS 1196, the testator had an elder brother, John Appleton (d.1492), who married two wives, Elizabeth and Alice, and had a son John Appleton, and three daughters. See Muskett, *supra*, p. 335 at:

https://archive.org/stream/bub_gb_ZxANnBnHKBQC#page/n341/mode/2up

In the will below, the testator also mentions his sister, Margaret Appleton Spring, presumably the widow of Thomas Spring II, and his nephew, Thomas Spring (d.1523).

Thomas Appleton is named as an executor in the will, dated 4 November 1494 and proved 16 November 1497, TNA PROB 11/11/266, of John Clopton (c.1422-1497), esquire, of Melford, Suffolk.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Margaret (or Margery) Crane, who is said to have died 4 November 1504.

There has been considerable dispute as to whether the testator's wife, Margaret (or Margery) Crane was the daughter, or the sister, of Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500), esquire, by his wife, Anne Ogard Arundell Crane (d.1521).

Although most pedigrees show the testator's wife as the daughter of Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500), the evidence, which appears convincing, that she was his sister is presented in 'Appleton Family History', *supra*:

The Crane family of Little Stonham and Chilton, co. Suffolk, entered a pedigree in the visitation of Suffolk of 1561, but the Appleton-Crane marriage does not appear in it.

In another pedigree, Margery Crane is placed as only daughter and eventual heiress of Robert Crane by his wife ANNE (OGARD), Lady Arundel.

By the will of her husband, Thomas Appleton, however, we know that Margery had a sister, the Abbess of Bruisyard, and in this pedigree "Elizabeth, 3 dau., a nun at Brusyard" is placed as daughter of a senior Robert Crane, the father of the man who married Lady Arundel.

That Margery (Crane) Appleton was in fact the daughter of the senior Robert Crane and sister of the younger Robert is fully proved by the latter's will of August 4, 1500, in which he leaves "to my suster Appulton my Releqwikis aboute my nek,: which must have been holy objects in a little case, and appoints "my brother Thomas Appulton gentleman" executor.

The inquest on the estate of the younger Robert Crane, taken in 1501, states that "he died without heir of his body begotten," and in her will of 1508 his widow, Anne, Lady Arundell, names Arundell children but no Crane children [sic].

Finally, the inquest shows that Robert Crane and Lady Arundell were not married until 1477, when Margery Crane must long have been Thomas Appleton's wife. "Thomas Appulton of Little Waldyngfeld in the diocese of Norwich" made his will on January 20, 1504/5.

Unfortunately the will of Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500) quoted from above cannot now be found.

The Appleton pedigree in Muskett, *supra*, p. 329, is one of the few pedigrees which agrees with the foregoing analysis. It states that the testator's wife was the sister of Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500), who married Anne Ogard.

Among the pedigrees which state (it would appear erroneously) that the testatrix' wife was the daughter and eventual sole heiress of Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500) by Anne Ogard is BL Harleian MS 1196, reproduced in Muskett, *supra*, at p. 335:

https://archive.org/stream/bub_gb_ZxANnBnHKBQC#page/n341/mode/2up

Similarly, although the original Crane pedigree in the 1561 Visitation of Suffolk did not show the marriage of the testator and Margaret (or Margery) Crane, the additions made to that pedigree by the editor of the Visitation show the testatrix' wife as the daughter of Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500) and Anne Ogard. See Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), pp. 162-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA163>

The narrative pedigree in *Memorials of the Cranes of Chilton* also states that the testatrix' wife was the daughter of Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500) and Anne Ogard. See Appleton, William S., *Memorials of the Cranes of Chilton*, (Cambridge: John Wilson and Son, 1868), pp. 59-60 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=p_8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA59

Similarly, although the Crane pedigree in *Genealogy of the Crane Family* does show a marriage between a sister of Robert Crane (d.1500) and a husband surnamed Appleton whose Christian name is not given, it also goes on to show the testator's wife as the daughter of Robert Crane and Anne Ogard. See Crane, Ellery Bicknell, *Genealogy of the Crane Family*, Vol. I, (Worcester, Massachusetts: Charles Hamilton, 1895), pp. 22, 30-1 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/genealogyofcrane01cran#page/22/mode/2up>

The will of Anne Ogard Arundell Crane (d.1521) provides further evidence that the testatrix' wife was the sister of Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500), rather than his daughter and eventual sole heiress.

Anne Ogard Arundell Crane (d.1521), was the daughter of Sir Andrew Ogard (d. before 17 October 1454) and Alice Lovel (d.1460). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 260. See also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 407, and the will, dated 1497 and proved 26 March 1498, of Sir Thomas Cokesey alias Greville (d. 6 March 1498), TNA PROB 11/11/353. Anne Ogard married firstly Sir Renfrey Arundell, by whom she had several children, and secondly Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500), by whom had a son, George Crane (d.1491), who died without issue during the lifetime of his father.

See her will, proved 15 May 1521, TNA PROB 11/20/165, which contains these clauses:

Item, I will that one Mass be sung at Scala Celi in Rome for the souls of me, Dame Anne Arundell; Andrew and Alice, my father and mother; Dame Alice, my grandam; Sir Ralph Arundell, knight, Robert Crane, esquire, sometime my husbands; Ralph Arundel, Anne Crocker, Sir Edmund Arundell, knight, Raynfrey Arundell, George Crane, my children; Sir William. Lord Lovell; Dame Alice, his wife; Sir Ralph, Lord Sudley; Alice Ogard, my niece, and I will that the priest have their surnames written. . . .

Item, I will and require mine executors that after my decease that they deliver unto Robert Crane, nephew and heir unto my husband, Robert Crane, all such plate and stuff of household and chattels as is specified in my husband's will, Robert Crane, so he do according as it is written in my husband Robert Crane's last will.

The PCC copy of the will is dated 6 September 1508 in the 20th year of the reign of Henry 7th. However this is clearly wrong, since 6 September 1508 fell in the 24th year of the reign of Henry 7th, not the 20th year. It thus appears likely that the correct date is 6 September 1504 in the 20th year of Henry the 7th, and that the PCC scribe erroneously copied 'vijj' for the year, rather than 'iiij'. An additional reason for assigning the will to 6 September 1504 is that John Crane, brother and heir of Anne Ogard Arundell Crane's second husband, Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500), died 12 August 1504, at which time his son, Robert Crane (c.1487-1551), became the heir of his uncle, as stated in the clause quoted above. For John Crane (d. 12 August 1504), and his son, Robert, see Appleton, *supra*, pp. 59-60; the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of John Crane, TNA C 142/18/60; and the summary in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, Vol. II, (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1915), pp. 566-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/calendarofinquis02great#page/566/mode/2up>

It is thus clear from the will of Anne Ogard Arundell Crane that her second husband's heir was his nephew, not the testator's wife, Margaret (or Margery) Crane. See also the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500), TNA C 142/15/40; and the summary in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, Vol. II, (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1915), which states that his manor of Waldingfield Hall was held of John, Earl of Oxford, pp. 266-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/calendarofinquis02great#page/266/mode/2up>

This additional evidence seems to place the testator's wife, Margaret (or Margery) Crane, and her sister, Elizabeth Crane, Abbess of Bruisyard, as the sisters of Robert Crane (d. 20 October 1500).

For a transcript of the will of Anne Ogard Arundel Crane (d.1521), see Appleton, *supra*, pp. 42-6 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=p_8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA59

In the will below, the testator mentions five sons and a daughter:

* **Robert Appleton** (d. 27 August 1526), said to have been the testator's eldest son and heir, who married Mary Mountney, daughter of Thomas Mountney of Ing Mountney, Essex. After the death of Robert Appleton, Mary Mountney married Robert Martyn (d.1535), esquire, of Long Melford.

* **William Appleton**, draper and citizen of London, who married a wife named Elizabeth. See his will, dated 20 July 1512 and proved 30 April 1513, TNA PROB 11/17/365; and Muskett, Joseph James, *Suffolk Manorial Families*, Vol. I, (Exeter: William Pollard & Co. Ltd., 1900), pp. 323-4 at:

https://archive.org/stream/bub_gb_ZxANnBnHKBQC#page/n329/mode/2up

* **Gilbert Appleton**, about whom nothing further is known.

* **Thomas Appleton**, parson of Lavenham.

* **Richard Appleton**, who with his brother, William Appleton, sold lands in Suffolk to Thomas Spring. He may be the Richard Appleton who was an annuitant in the will of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. See Ross, *supra*, p. 238, and the will of the 13th Earl, TNA PROB 11/17/379.

* **Dame Anne Appleton**, a nun (perhaps at Malling).

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator appoints as supervisor of his will his nephew, Thomas Spring (d.1523), the wealthy clothier of Lavenham, son of the testator's sister, Margaret Appleton Spring:

I make and ordain mine executors my sister, Margaret Spring, my son, Thomas Appleton, parson of Lavenham, and my son, William Appleton.

And supervisor my nephew, Thomas Spring, to whom I give for a remembrance a signet of gold graven with Saint John's head.

For the will of Thomas Spring, see TNA PROB 11/21/179.

RM: Test{ament}o [sic?] thome Appullton

In the name of God, Amen. I, Thomas Appleton of Little Waldingfield in the diocese of Norwich make my testament the 20th day of January the year of Our Lord 1504 [=1505] and of the reign of King Henry the 7th the 20th year:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the church of Saint Lawrence in Waldingfield aforesaid nigh to my wife;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the said church for tithes forgotten 20d;

Item, to the friars of Babwell and Sudbury, each of them 10s;

Item, the day of my burial the 7th day, the 30th day, I will have no common dole but to the poor people of the towns adjoining, that is to say, Much Waldingfield, Acton, Brent Eleigh and Edwardstone, each of them 10s, the priests of the said churches to say placebo and dirge and Mass of Requiem, the poor people of the said towns being at the whole service there to have after the rate of the said money, the priests of the said churches to be rewarded for their service, that is to say, every priest being there at the whole service 4d, and every clerk being there at the whole service that can read a lesson 2d at every of the said days, and sexton for ringing to the said service at every of the said days 8d, and the town that I dwell in, every poor household to be rewarded 2s for all 3 days, being at the whole service of each day, for I will not have the people travel for any dole;

Item, I will have a priest singing in Waldingfield foresaid the space of 4 years for me, my father and mother, my wife, and other my kinsfolks and my benefactors;

Item, I give to the church of Waldingfield aforesaid a vestment with deacon and subdeacon of such colour and price as shall be thought by mine executors meetly and convenient for the said church of Little Waldingfield;

Item, I will that the nuns of Malling have £4 in four years to the convent to say placebo and dirge with Mass of Requiem for me the day of mine obit during the said 4 years beginning as shortly after my decease as they have knowledge for one year, and the abness of the said place being at dirge and at Mass of Requiem to have 20d, and the prioress of the said place 12d;

Item, I will that Dame Anne, my daughter, have 13s 4d yearly, payable at 2 terms out of my lands and tenements that I have [+in?] Kersey, Groton and other towns, the which I have given to my son, William Appleton, in fee simple;

Item, I will that mine executors content and pay all my debts, which I trust be not great;

Item, I will that mine executors deliver to my son, Gilbert Appleton, 7 horses with the plough and a cart, with all the harness thereto belonging, 8 kine, a Mass book with a chalice, altar cloths and vestment;

Item, I bequeath to my son, the parson of Lavenham, my gilt cup with the covering;

Item, I give him my best salt;

Item, I will Robert Appleton have mine other salt of silver;

And I will that my son, William Appleton, have my flat piece of silver & the covering of the same;

Item, I will that Robert Appleton have 3 goblets of silver with the covering and a standing mazer;

[f. 80v] Item, I will that mine executors receive all my debts and all my corns that be in my barns at the time of my decease to sell them, except that I will within my manor of Holbrook 20 seme of barley, 10 seme of wheat, 5 seme peasen [=peas];

Item, I will that my napery and sheets, bedding and all other stuff of household be divided by th' advice and discretion of mine executors and supervisor between [+my?] son, Robert, and his brother, Richard, the said Richard to have the choice;

Item, I will that he that hath my manor of Holbrook have my farm of Branston Hall during mine years;

Item, I will that all such plate and jewels as here followeth that William Appleton gave his mother, that he have them again according to his mother's will and mine, that is to say:

A ducat of gold to the value of 46s 8s [sic?];

Item, a ring of ducat gold after the fashion of a hoop;

Item, a flat piece of silver whereof the brims be gilt;

Item, a mazer that I drink of daily;

Item, a new long carpet that he sent his mother;

And these been the jewels that I and his mother gave him:

In primis, a ring with a blue stone that the Abbess of Bruisyard, her sister, gave her the time of her decease, and half a dozen of silver spoons with great gilt knops on the end of every spoon that he did do make for his mother;

The other half dozen to my son, the parson of Lavenham;

Another dozen of spoons to be divided between my son, Robert Appleton, and my son, Richard;

And where there remain 5 spoons mo [=more], I will that the said Robert have them;

The residue of all my goods not bequeathed nor remembered, I remit to the discretion of mine executors and supervisor toward the amending of the highway leading fro [=from] my manor of Holbrook to the well;

I make and ordain mine executors my sister, Margaret Spring, my son, Thomas Appleton, parson of Lavenham, and my son, William Appleton;

And supervisor my nephew, Thomas Spring, to whom I give for a remembrance a signet of gold graven with Saint John's head;

In witness whereof to this my testament I have put my seal and subscribed it with mine own hand.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lamethith nono die mensis februarij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo octavo Iuramento Willielmi Appulton executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et comissa fuit administratio omnium bonorum et debitorum dicti defuncti prefato executori De bene & fideliter administratio Ac de pleno & fidei Inuentario citra festum sancti dd proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero comperto reddendo ad sancta dei evangelia in debita iuris forma iurati Reseruata potestate similem commissionem faciendi Margarete Spring executrici in huiusmodi testamento nominati etiam cum venierit [sic] &c

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the ninth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighth by the oath of William Appleton, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods and debts of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, 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 dd(?) next to come, and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Margaret Spring, executrix also named in the same testament, when she shall have come etc.]