

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 1 March 1545 and proved 11 February 1546, of Anne Grey Hussey, aunt of 'Mistress Crane' in whose manor of East Molesey across the Thames from Hampton Court Palace the first of the Marprelate tracts was printed on a secret press by Robert Waldegrave in October 1588.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

The testatrix was born Anne Grey, the daughter of George Grey (d. 21 December 1503), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Kent, and his second wife, Katherine Herbert, third daughter of William Herbert (c.1423-1469), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Pembroke, by Anne Devereux, the daughter of Sir Walter Devereux (1411-1459). For the will of the testatrix' mother, Katherine (nee Herbert) Grey, see TNA PROB 11/14/134.

The testatrix' father, George Grey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Kent, purchased the wardship of Elizabeth Trussell (b. 1496, d. in or before 1527), whom he intended as a bride for the testatrix' brother, Sir Henry Grey (d. 24 September 1562). However after the death of George Grey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Kent, his eldest son and heir by his first marriage, Richard Grey (b. in or before 1478, d. 1524), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Kent, dissipated the Grey estates, and was also fined by King Henry VII for abducting Elizabeth Trussell. See the *ODNB* entry for Richard Grey, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Kent:

*Aged at least twenty-five when he succeeded his father in 1503, he wasted his family's fortunes—possibly, as Dugdale says, he was a gambler. In a striking series of alienations he gave away or sold most of the lands, principally in Bedfordshire, that he had inherited: the beneficiaries were Henry VII's administrator-courtiers, Charles Somerset, Baron Herbert (later earl of Worcester), Sir John Hussey (Kent's brother-in-law), Sir Richard Empson, Sir Henry Wyatt, and Giles, Baron Daubeney. The earl also fell quickly into debt to the king: he failed to pay livery for his father's lands, and he was fined 2500 marks for abducting Elizabeth Trussell, whose wardship the second earl had left to Richard's half-brother Henry; he then failed to keep up the instalments laid down for the payment of the fine.*

When the wardship of Elizabeth Trussell (b. 1496, d. in or before 1527) again came into Henry VII's hands, he sold it for 1000 marks and an annual payment of £387 18s to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and his cousin, John de Vere, later 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. Between 1507 and 1509 Elizabeth Trussell became the wife of John de Vere (1482-1540), 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and Oxford's paternal grandmother. See Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513), 'The Foremost Man of the Kingdom'*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell Press, 2011), pp. 95, 101.

The testatrix' great-nephew, Reynold Grey (d. 17 March 1572/3), 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kent, married Susan Bertie, the sister of Oxford's brother-in-law, Peregrine Bertie (1555-1601), 13<sup>th</sup> Baron Willoughby de Eresby.

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**MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN**

The testatrix and her stepbrother, Richard Grey, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Kent, married siblings. The testatrix married, as his second wife, John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hussey of Sleaford, while her stepbrother, Richard Grey, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Kent, married Lord Hussey's sister, Elizabeth Hussey (d. 19 November 1516).

Although only two daughters are mentioned in the will below, according to the Hussey pedigree in Maddison, *infra*, p. 527, the testatrix had four sons and four daughters by Lord Hussey:

\* **Sir Giles Hussey**, who married Jane Pigot, daughter and coheir of Thomas Pigot of Clotheram, Yorkshire.

\* **Gilbert Hussey**, who married a wife surnamed Jerningham.

\* **Thomas Hussey**.

\* **Reginald Hussey**, who died without issue.

\* **Elizabeth Hussey**, who married firstly, as his third wife, Walter Hungerford (1503–1540), Baron Hungerford of Heytesbury, and secondly, Sir Robert Throckmorton (b. circa 1510, d. 12 February 1581) of Coughton, Warwickshire, uncle of Job Throckmorton (1545–1601) who was involved in the publication of the Marprelate tracts. According to the Hussey pedigree in Maddison, *infra*, p. 527, she died 23 January 1572, and was buried at Weston Underwood, Buckinghamshire. For the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton, see TNA PROB 11/63/176.

\* **Bridget Hussey** (b. 1525/6, d. 12 January 1601), who married firstly, Sir Richard Morison (c.1510–1556) of Cassiobury, Hertfordshire, secondly, Henry Manners (1526–1563), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Rutland, and thirdly, in 1566, Francis Russell (1526/7–1585), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Bedford. For the will of the testatrix' daughter, Bridget Hussey, see TNA PROB 11/97/10. For the will of Bridget Hussey's first husband, Sir Richard Morison, see TNA PROB 11/39/330. Bridget Hussey's second husband, Henry Manners (1526–1563), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Rutland, had earlier been married to Margaret Neville (c.1525–1559), daughter of Ralph Neville (1498–1549), 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Westmorland, whom he married at a triple wedding ceremony on 3 July 1536 at which the other two bridegrooms were Henry Neville (1524/5–1564), 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Westmorland, the son and heir of Ralph Neville (1498–1549), 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Westmorland, and Oxford's father, John de Vere (1516–1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, who married Margaret Neville's sister, Dorothy Neville (d.1548). See BL Add. MS 6113, ff. 199–200, and Anderson, Verily, *The De Veres of Castle Hedingham* (Lavenham, Suffolk: Terence Dalton, 1993), p. 140.

\* **Dorothy Hussey**, who married Edward Docwra.

\* **Mary Hussey**, who married Humphrey Dymock of Warwickshire.

Sir Humphrey Browne (d. 5 December 1562), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas (for whom see the *ODNB* entry and his will, TNA PROB 11/46/19), married, as his third wife, Agnes Hussey, another of the daughters of John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hussey of Sleaford. In his will he refers to Sir Robert Throckmorton as his brother-in-law, and it thus appears that Sir Humphrey Browne's wife, Agnes Hussey, was either the testatrix' daughter or stepdaughter.

For the foregoing, see the *ODNB* entries for Sir William Hussey [Huse] (b. 1481, d. 8 September 1495); John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hussey of Sleaford; George Grey (d. 21 December 1503), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Kent; Richard Grey (b. in or before 1478, d. 1524), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Kent; John de Vere (1516-1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford; Walter Hungerford (1503-1540), Baron Hungerford of Heytesbury; and Job Throckmorton (1545-1601). See also GEC, *The Complete Peerage*, (London: St. Catherine Press, 1929), Vol. VI, pp. 152, 160, and Vol. VII, pp. 15-18, 166-172; Maddison, A.R., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* (London: Harleian Society, 1908), pp. 526-30 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/lincolnshirepedi51madd#page/526/mode/2up>

See also:

[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gowenrf/husseyms\\_003.html](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gowenrf/husseyms_003.html)

See also the biography of the testatrix by Kathy Lynn Emerson at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenG.htm>

*ANNE GREY (1493-March 1545)*

*Anne Grey was the daughter of George Grey, 2nd earl of Kent (before 1454-December 25,1503) and Katherine Herbert (c.1464-c.1504). By 1509, she was the second wife of John, Baron Hussey of Sleaford, Lincolnshire (1466-xJune 29,1537). Their children were (possibly) Sir Giles, Thomas (d. bet. 1572 and 1576), and Elizabeth (c.1510-January 23, 1554), and (definitely) Bridget (c.1514-January 12,1601), Agnes or Anne (d.1572+), Dorothy, and Mary. In 1512, Anne inherited Stoke Hammond manor. Lady Hussey supported Catherine of Aragon in the matter of King Henry's divorce and was implicated in the matter of Elizabeth Barton, the Nun of Kent, in 1533, when she was listed as one of the princess's ladies in waiting. That household was dissolved at the end of October that same year. Anne refused to take the oath to support royal supremacy. When she visited Catherine's daughter, then known as the Lady Mary, on June 5, 1536, she persisted in referring to her by the title of princess, which had been forbidden by the Act of Succession in 1534. Shortly thereafter, she was arrested and sent to the Tower of London, where she was reported to be "very sick" at the beginning of July. On August 3, she was examined by Sir Edmund Walsingham and claimed that she had erred "by inadvertence" when she called for "drink for the Princess" and later told someone that "the Princess"*

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*had gone walking. She was released and was back at Sleaford by October. When the rebellion known as the Pilgrimage of Grace began, Lord Hussey fled, leaving Lady Hussey behind. When some 500 rebels descended upon Sleaford on October 7<sup>th</sup> and threatened to burn it down, she promised she would bring her husband back to join them. Hussey, when questioned about this later, said she'd been a fool to make such a promise. In spite of his best efforts the authorities did not believe him innocent of involvement in the uprising. It didn't help that Lady Hussey, in his absence, had also provided the rebels with meat, drink, and money. He was sent to the Tower after the uprising failed. While he awaited trial, she set up housekeeping at Limehouse and was allowed to visit him. On one such visit, he repeated details of an examination of Lord Darcy that he had been permitted to sit in on. Lady Hussey passed this information on to her servant, Catherine Cresswell, who told her husband, Percival Cresswell, who repeated some of Darcy's responses to others, prompting a new investigation by the authorities into who had leaked sensitive information. There is no record, however, of Lady Hussey being questioned, let alone arrested. After Hussey was attainted and executed, his lands and goods were seized and his title forfeit, leaving the family in poverty. The aristocratic widows of traitors were usually provided with a pension, but she was turned out of Sleaford and went to Ufford, Northamptonshire, where she was living on May 27, 1539. According to one source, she made her will on March 1, 1543 and died by April 14, although the will was not probated until February 11, 1545/6, but the biography of her son-in-law, Sir Richard Morison by Tracey A. Sowerby says she died in March 1545 and the will was proved December 11, 1545. She left half her estate to Morison's future wife, Bridget.*

### **TESTATRIX' EXECUTOR**

The testatrix appoints as one of her executors her stepson, Sir William Hussey (d. 19 January 1556/7), the eldest son of John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hussey of Sleaford, by his first wife, Margaret, the daughter of Simon Blount.

### **MISTRESS CRANE**

The testatrix' niece, Elizabeth (nee Hussey) Crane Carleton, the 'Mistress Crane' of the Marprelate tracts, was the daughter of the testatrix' brother-in-law, Sir Robert Hussey (d.1546), and his second wife, Jane Stydolf. Her first husband was Anthony Crane (d.1583), Master of the Queen's Household. In his nuncupative will (TNA PROB 11/65/507), Anthony Crane left all his goods to his wife, Elizabeth (nee Hussey) Crane, and his daughter, Mary Crane, including his 31-year lease of the manor of East Molesey which he had acquired from the Queen by a grant dated 19 April 1571 and which was to commence from the expiration of a 66-year lease which had been granted in 1518 to Sir Thomas Heneage (b. before 1482, d. 21 August 1553). The printing of Martin Marprelate's *Epistle* at her manor of East Molesey resulted in Star Chamber proceedings being instigated against Elizabeth Crane in 1590 under the name Elizabeth Carleton, she having in the late 1580s married George Carleton (1529-1590) of Overstone, Northamptonshire. According to the *ODNB*, she was fined 1000 marks for refusing the

oath *ex officio* and a further £500 for sheltering the secret press, and was confined during the Queen's pleasure, although the records do not reveal how long she remained in prison. Her then husband, George Carleton, had been called before the Privy Council in April 1589 and ordered to attend daily until otherwise advised. However his death in January 1590 forestalled further proceedings against him if any were intended. For the identification of Elizabeth Hussey as 'Mistress Crane', see McCorkle, Julia Norton, 'A Note concerning "Mistress Crane" and the Martin Marprelate Controversy', *The Library* 1931 s4-XII(3):276-283. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Hussey) Crane's second husband, George Carleton (1529-1590), see TNA PROB 11/75/14.

LM: T{estamentum}(?) d{omi}ne Anne Huse

In dei nomine amen. I, Anne, Lady Hussey, in the town of Ufford in the county of Northampton the year of Our Lord a thousand five hundred forty and four the first day of March, in perfect mind, do bequeath my soul to Almighty God and my body to be buried in the monastery of Peterborough;

All my debts paid to my trusty servant, Nicholas Fetherstone, I will the residue of all my goods movable and unmovable to be distributed betwixt my two daughters if so be they will be ordered and ruled by mine executors, and specially by the foresaid Nicholas Fetherstone;

Also I give unto John Fetherstone a grey gelding and his wages;

Also I give my grey gelding that I bought of Anthonis, brother to Nicholas Fetherstone;

Also I give to Sir Giles four marks for his pains;

Also I give to Anthony, my servant, his wages and his livery;

I give to John Fetherstone the younger twenty shillings;

Also I give to the church of Ufford a canopy in the honour of God of black satin and crimson satin, and also a vestment of yellow sasnet [=sarsenet?] and a cross of green;

Also I give to Bainton Church a vestment of white baudekin;

Of this my last will I make mine executors Sir William Hussey and Nicholas Fetherstone, and my Lord of Peterborough to be my supervisor to see that all things may be performed which I have willed other [=either] in writing or else out of writings, as by mouth, whereof be witnesses Giles, husbandman, and Edmu{n}de Entifylde, husbandman, of the same town of Ufford;

Also I will that all such poor men of Casterton as I by Nicholas Fetherstone have received any sums shall have them again;

Also I will that Thomas Soper shall have five shillings claimed for his wages;

Also I bequeath to William Lame(?) a doublet of fustian, a shirt and a coat of a noble, and a pair of hose;

Also I bequeath to Harry Bruce two sheep, two pair of hose and a coat, the price six shillings eight pence, and to Sir Richard twenty-five shillings due at Candlemas, and to all the other of my servants their due wages and livery which they can require of me truly;

Also I will that Jane Thorpe shall have again three silver spoons and a pair of beads of black jet with two rings, freely without any money paying;

Also I give Nicholas Fetherstone all my plate and my money;

Also I give to Annes, my maid of the kitchen, twenty shillings.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum vndecimo die mensis ffebruarij anno d{omi}ni millesimo quingentesimo quadagesimo quinto Iuramento nicho{la}i ffetherston executoris in huius{mo}d{i} testamento nominat{i} ac approbatum et insinuatum et commissa fuit administrac{i}o om{n}i{um} et sing{u}lorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti et eius testamenti qualitercunque concernen{tium} dicto executori de bene et fideliter administra{n}d{o} eadem ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario e{t}c exhibend{o} etc necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo ad sancta dei eu{a}nge{e}lia Iurat{i} Res{erua}ta p{otes}tate alteri executori cum venerit

[=The above-written testament was proved on the eleventh day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-fifth by the oath of Nicholas Fetherstone, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits whatsoever concerning the said deceased and his [sic] said testament to the said executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit etc. a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved to the other executor when he shall have come.]