

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 27 February 1550 and proved 5 August 1551, of Robert Crane (c.1487-1551), esquire, of Chilton, Suffolk, whose son, Anthony Crane (d.1583), was the husband of 'Mistress Crane' at whose manor of East Molesey the first of the Marprelate tracts was printed on a secret press in October 1588. See the will of Anthony Crane, TNA PROB 11/65/507, and the Crane pedigrees in Appleton, William S., *Memorials of the Cranes of Chilton*, (Cambridge: John Wilson and Son, 1868), pp. 22, 26, 28, 59 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=p_8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA22

The testator's sister, Elizabeth Crane, married Richard Martyn, a first cousin of Sir Roger Martyn, father of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. See the Langham page on this website.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Crane family, see Crane, Ellery Bicknell, *Genealogy of the Crane Family*, (Worcester, Massachusetts: Charles Hamilton, 1895), Vol. I, p. 22 at:

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

See also Appleton, William S., *Memorials of the Cranes of Chilton*, (Cambridge: John Wilson and Son, 1868), pp. 60-1 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=p_8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA60

See also the Crane pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), pp. 163-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofsuff01harv#page/162>

The same pedigree can be found in Howard, Joseph Jackson and William Henry Hart, eds., *The Cranes of Suffolk*, (Lowestoft: S. Tymms, 1865), pp. 29-30 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cranessuffolkex00hervgoog#page/n44>

Testator's grandparents

The testator was the grandson of Robert Crane (d. after 1452), who married firstly Agnes Singleton, the daughter of Thomas Singleton of Stonham Jernegen, and secondly Agnes Grene, the daughter of Thomas Grene, gentleman, of Cretinge, Suffolk. It is unclear

whether the testator's grandmother was Agnes Singleton or Agnes Grene. See Appleton, *supra*, p. 59.

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of John Crane (d. 12 August 1504) and Agnes Calthorpe, widow of William Curson, sister of Sir Philip Calthorpe, and daughter of John Calthorpe and Elizabeth Wentworth, the daughter of Roger Wentworth (d. 24 October 1452), esquire, and Margaret le Despenser (d. 20 April 1478). For the will, dated 27 March 1532 and proved 7 April 1535, of Sir Philip Calthorpe, see NRO Platfoote 197. Sir Philip Calthorpe was the father-in-law of Amata Boleyn, aunt of Queen Elizabeth I, and the nephew of Anne Calthorpe, the wife of Sir Robert Drury (before 1456 - 2 March 1535), lawyer and speaker of the House of Commons, and chief steward and executor to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. See the will, dated 1 May 1531 and proved 8 February 1536, of Sir Robert Drury, TNA PROB 11/25/467.

Testator's siblings

The testator had two brothers and a sister:

-Edward Crane of Stratford, Suffolk, for whose will, proved 14 May 1558, see TNA PROB 11/40/252.

-John Crane, who died without issue.

-Elizabeth Crane, who, as noted above, married, as his second wife, Richard Martyn (d. 1 September 1572), the son of Roger Martyn (d.1542?) the elder of Long Melford, Bencher of Lincoln's Inn. Elizabeth Crane's husband, Richard Martyn (d. 1 September 1572), was a first cousin of Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), father of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), the addressee of the *Langham Letter*. See the Martyn pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolk*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), p. 226 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationofsuff01harv/page/226>

The testator was heir to his uncle, Robert Crane (d. 24 October 1500?), esquire, who died without surviving male issue. See the inquisitions post mortem taken after the deaths of Robert Crane, TNA C 142/15/40, and John Crane, TNA C 142/18/60, and the will, proved 16 May 1521, of Robert Crane's widow, Anne Ogard Arundell Crane, TNA PROB 11/20/165.

See also Appleton, *supra*, pp. 59-60 at:

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

Robert Crane, heir of William, was of Stonham, and Chilton, which he inherited from his mother. He had two wives, Agnes, daughter of Thomas Singleton of Stonham, and Agnes, daughter of Thomas Greene of Creating. It is a little uncertain which was the mother of his children, but the evidence seems to incline in favor of the former. He died after 1452, and left two sons, Robert and John, both under age.

Robert Crane, elder son and heir, of Chilton, married first in 1465 Katherine, daughter of Robert Darcy of Malden, Essex. She died childless, and he married secondly Anne, daughter of Sir Andrew Ogard, of Old Buckenham, Norfolk, Knight, widow of Sir Renfrey Arundell, Knight. She bore three children, George, who died in 1491 without issue, Elizabeth, who was Abbess of Brusyerd, and Margery, heiress to her father, who became wife of Thomas Appleton of Little Waldingfield, Suffolk, and died 4 November 1504; from whom are descended the Appletons of Ipswich, Massachusetts. Robert Crane died 24 October, 1500, and Lady Arundell, his widow, in 1521.

John Crane, brother of Robert, was of Stonham, and afterwards of Chilton also. His wife was Agnes, daughter of John Calthrop of Norfolk, by whom he had four children, Robert, Edward and John, both of whom died childless, and Elizabeth, who married Richard Martin of Melford. He died 12 August 1504.

Robert Crane, heir of John, born about 1487, inherited Chilton and all the estates of the family.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly Elizabeth Southwell, the daughter of Richard Southwell of Woodrising, Norfolk, and his second wife, Katherine Williams, daughter of John Williams, esquire, and widow of a husband surnamed Sturges. See the Southwell pedigree in Dashwood, G.H., ed., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, (Norwich: Miller & Leavins, 1878), p. 124 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qkpFAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA4-PP14>

See also 'The Southwells of Woodrising' at:

<http://apling.freesevers.com/Woodrising/Chapter1.htm>

Richard and his wife Amy had two sons, Robert and Francis, and four daughters, Elizabeth, Katherine, Alice and Amy. After his wife's death Richard married, in 1488, the widow Katherine Sturges and had four more daughters Katherine, Ursula, Amy and Elizabeth. . . .

For the children of Richard Southwell and his two wives, Amy Wichingham and Katherine Williams, see also the will, TNA PROB 11/43/577, of Sir Robert Southwell (c.1506 – 26 October 1559), whose son, Francis Southwell, was involved in allegations against Oxford in 1581, and whose daughter, Anne Southwell, was the sister-in-law of Thomas Bedingfield, who dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford.

See also the Southwell pedigree in Gunn, Steven, *Henry VII's New Men and the Making of Tudor England*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), p. xx at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=q4LADAAAQBAJ&pg=PR20>

By Elizabeth Southwell, the testator had two sons and a daughter:

* **Robert Crane** (c.1508 – 12 September 1591), eldest son and heir, who married three wives.

First marriage of the testator's eldest son, Robert Crane (c.1508 – 12 September 1591)

The testator's eldest son and heir, Robert Crane, married firstly, a wife named Ursula, by whom he had a son and heir, Henry Crane (d. 1 August 1586), who died in the lifetime of his father. For the will of Henry Crane, see *The Visitation of Suffolke*, *supra*, p. 145 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofsuff01harv#page/145>

Henry Crane married firstly Anne Goodwin, the daughter of Thomas Goodwin, and secondly Catherine Jerningham, widow of Sir Wymond Carew of Snettisham, and third daughter of John Jerningham of Somerleyton by Catherine Brooke (1544-1617?), the daughter of George Brooke (c.1497-1558), 9th Baron Cobham, and sister of William Brooke (1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham. See the will of George Brooke, 9th Baron Cobham, TNA PROB 11/43/628, and the will of William Brooke, 10th Baron Cobham, BL Lansdowne 830, f. 249; CP 225/1.

By Catherine Jerningham, Henry Crane had a son and heir, Sir Robert Crane (d.1642).

Second marriage of the testator's eldest son, Robert Crane (c.1508 – 12 September 1591)

The testator eldest son and heir, Robert Crane (c.1508 – 12 September 1591), married secondly a wife named Elizabeth, by whom, according to the Crane pedigree in *The Visitation of Suffolke*, *supra*, pp. 163-4, he had three daughters:

* **Anne Crane** (d.1608), who married Ralph Choppin (d.1588) of Goddenham.

* **Agnes Crane**, who married firstly John Smith of Halesworth, secondly Sir Christopher Heydon of Baconsthorpe, and thirdly Sir Edward Clere (d.1606) of Blickling.

* **Mary Crane**, who married Dudley Fortescue, esquire.

Third marriage of the testator's eldest son, Robert Crane (c.1508 – 12 September 1591)

The testator's eldest son and heir, Robert Crane, married thirdly Bridget Jermyn, the daughter of Sir Thomas Jermyn (d.1552) of Rushbrook, Suffolk. See the will, dated 26 September 1552 and proved 16 December 1552, TNA PROB 11/35/417, of Sir Thomas Jermyn, in which he mentions his son-in-law, Robert Crane. See also the Crane pedigree in *The Visitation of Suffolke, supra*, pp. 163-4.

For the will of the testator's eldest son and heir, Robert Crane (c.1508 – 12 September 1591), see *The Visitation of Suffolke, supra*, pp. 146-55.

* **Anthony Crane** (d. 16 August 1583), second son, cofferer from September 1578 to September 1580, and master of the household, to Queen Elizabeth I. See his will, TNA PROB 11/65/507, and Woodworth, Allegra, 'Purveyance for the Royal Household in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth', *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, New Series, Vol. XXXV, No. 1, (December 1945), pp. 1-89 at p. 10:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1005579>

Anthony Crane married firstly Elizabeth Alymer, by whom according to one pedigree he had a daughter, Elizabeth Crane (d. 20 December 1589), who married Anthony Death (d. 8 May 1612) of Gimingham, Norfolk, and secondly, Elizabeth Hussey, the 'Mistress Crane of the Marprelate tracts, for whom see the *ODNB* entry and the will of her second husband, George Carleton, TNA PROB 11/75/14. By Elizabeth Hussey, Anthony Crane had a daughter, Mary Crane, who married a husband surnamed Gower of Aldermanbury. See Appleton, *supra*, p. 26.

* **Dorothy Crane**, who married first Thomas Moulton, gentleman, of Dereham, Norfolk, and secondly Thomas Baxter of Stanhoe, Norfolk.

See also pedigree of Baxter of Stanhoe, Norfolk, in Baxter, Frances, *The Baxter Family*, (New York: Tobias A. Wright, 1913), p. 139 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/baxterfamilydes00baxtgoog#page/n167/mode/2up>

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly Jane White, the daughter of Edward White of Essex, widow of Thomas Christmas, by whom, according to the Crane pedigree in *The Visitation of Suffolke, supra*, pp. 163-4, he had a son and three daughters:

* **John Crane** of Norfolk, who married Margery Pinder, the daughter of William Pinder, gentleman, of Norfolk.

* **Elizabeth Crane**, who married Edmund Markaunt, gentleman, of 'Semer'.

* **Anne Crane**, who died unmarried.

* **Grissel Crane**, who married Robert Bogas of Braham Hall in Brantham.

LM: Roberti Crane Ar{miger}

In the name of God, Amen. Be it known unto all the faithful congregation of Christ's church that upon the 27 day of the month of February and in the fourth year of the most gracious reign of Edward the Sixth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and immediately next under God of the Church of England and Ireland the Supreme Head, that I, Robert Crane of Chilton within the county of Suffolk, esquire, being whole of mind and of good and perfect memory, thanks be unto Almighty God, doth institute and ordain this to be my firm and last will, that is to say:

First I commend my soul unto th' hands of my Lord God, my Redeemer and Maker, the which is my only comfort and refuge, for in him is all my whole faith and trust, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Chilton, or else where it shall please my Lord God to call me unto his mercy;

Item, I will that mine executor shall honestly bring me unto my sepulture or grave at the day of my burial according to my degree, and to distribute and give the same day amongst poor people as it shall seem meet and convenient by his discretion;

Item, I give unto the parish of Newton to be bestowed amongst the poor people 6s 8d;

Item, I do give to the parish of Much Waldingfield 6s 8d;

Item, I do give unto the three parishes in Sudbury to be bestowed amongst the poor people ten shillings to every parish;

Item, I do give to the said parish of Acton amongst the poor people four shillings;

Item, I do give to the parish of Much Cornard to be given amongst the poor four shillings;

Item, I do give to every household [f. 155r] in Chilton 8d apiece;

Item, I will that Anthony Crane, my son, shall have of my gift to him during his life natural one annuity of ten marks yearly going out of all that manor, lands, tenements, meadows and pastures which I late bought and purchased of John Southwell, esquire,

being and lying within the town of Codnaham [=Coddendam?] within the county of Suffolk with a clause of distress for non-payment to be made unto him by the consent of Robert Crane, my son, as by the learned counsel of the same Anthony shall be reasonably devised;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Anthony Crane, my son, two hundred marks, and unto John Crane, my son, one hundred marks of the debt that one Thomas Patmer(?) oweth me, to be received unto each of them as it may be levied, that is to say, Anthony Crane to [-to] receive two parts and John Crane one part at every payment;

Item, I do give unto Dorothy Baxter, my daughter, ten pounds of lawful money;

Item, I do give unto Elizabeth Markaunte, my daughter, twenty pounds of lawful money;

Item, I bequeath unto Anne, my daughter, wife unto Ambrose Coole [=Cole?], twenty pounds of lawful money;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Grissel and Agnes, my daughters, unto each of them one hundred pounds to be paid at the days of their marriage so that they be ruled and ordered by the discretion(?) and consent of mine executor, and if they will not be ruled by their friends by choosing of their husbands, but to take whom they list, then this my gift to stand void and of none effect;

Item, I do give unto John Crane, my son, my two gowns of cloth guarded with velvet and my doublet of tawny satin;

Item, I do give Pernell Armiger, my servant, ten pounds of lawful money to be paid unto her at the day of her marriage;

Item, I do give very manservant of my house taking wages 3s 4d, and to every woman servant [check] having my wages 3s 4d;

The residue of all my goods movable and unmovable I give and bequeath them into th' hands of mine executor, Robert Crane, my son, whom I do now institute and ordain him to be my sole executor to see that this my last will and testament shall of his part be well and truly performed and kept as he will answer before God at the last day;

And these be the witnesses of this my last will and testament as hereafter doth follow, and to this will I put my seal the day & year above-written. Sir Robert Goodale, clerk, John More, John Crosse, Robert Sapbye, Robert Smythe, William Warmer(?), Robert Man.

Probatum fuit test{amentu}m coram d{omi}no Cant{uariensis} Archiep{iscop}o apud London quinto die Mens{is} Augusti Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo

qui{n}quagesimo primo Iuramento Iohannis Stevynson p{ro}cur{atoris} Executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{i} Ac approbatu{m} et insinuatu{m} Et com{m}issa fuit admi{ni}strac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m bonoru{m} &c d{i}c{t}i defuncti p{re}fat{o} ex{ecutori} De bene et fidel{ite}r admi{ni}strand{o} eadem Ac de pleno In{uenta}rio &c exhibend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita iuris forma Iurat{o}

[=The testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the fifth day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-first by the oath of John Stevenson, proctor of the executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]