

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the nuncupative will, dated 16 August 1583 and proved 9 September 1583, of Anthony Crane, Master of the Queen's Household, the Queen's Cofferer from September 1578 to September 1580, and first husband of the '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 testator was a younger son of Robert Crane (d.1551) of Chilton Court, Suffolk, by his first wife, Elizabeth Southwell, the daughter of Richard Southwell of Woodrising, Norfolk. See 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

The testator had an elder brother, Robert Crane (c.1508 - d. 12 September 1591), for whom see the will of Francis Clopton (d.1559), TNA PROB 11/42B/359, who married Robert Crane's daughter, Bridget Crane. See also the will of Robert Crane in Howard, Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), pp. 146-55 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA146>

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Elizabeth Hussey, the eldest daughter of Sir Robert Hussey (d.1546) of Linwood, Lincolnshire, by his second wife, Jane Stydolf, the daughter of Thomas Stydolf of Surrey. Her father was a younger brother of John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1st Baron Hussey of Sleaford. Her paternal grandparents were William Hussey (d.1495), Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and Elizabeth Berkeley, the daughter of Thomas Berkeley of Wymondham, Leicestershire. For the will of Sir Robert Hussey (d.1546) of Linwood, see TNA PROB 11/31/244. For the will of Elizabeth Hussey's brother, Charles Hussey (d.1587), in which Elizabeth and her daughter Mary are both left bequests, see TNA PROB 11/70/89. For the will of Elizabeth Hussey's brother, Nicholas Hussey (d.1551) of Gray's Inn, see TNA PROB 11/34/459. See also the Hussey pedigree in Maddison, A.R., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* (London: Harleian Society, 1908), pp. 526-30 at:

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

See also 'The Hussey Manuscript' at:

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gowenrf/husseymms_003.html

By Elizabeth Hussey the testator had a daughter, Mary Crane. In the will below the testator leaves everything to his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Mary, 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 to Sir Thomas Heneage (d.1553) in 1518. While it was in his possession, Heneage had built a mansion-house on the property.

Anthony Crane's Puritan sympathies are suggested by the fact that two of the witnesses to his nuncupative will, Lawrence Tomson and Walter Travers, were well known Puritan leaders.

The printing of Martin Marprelate's *Epistle* at Elizabeth Hussey Crane's manor of East Molesey resulted in Star Chamber proceedings being instigated against her in 1590 under the name Elizabeth Carleton, she having at some time in the late 1580s married secondly George Carleton (d.1590) of Overstone in Northamptonshire. According to the *ODNB*, she was fined 1000 marks for refusing the ex officio oath 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, was called before the Privy Council in April 1589 and ordered to attend daily until otherwise advised. His death in January 1590 forestalled further proceedings against him if any were intended. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Hussey) Crane's second husband, George Carleton (d.1590), see TNA PROB 11/75/14.

For the identification of Elizabeth Hussey as 'Mistress Crane', see McCorkle, Julia Norton, 'A Note concerning 'Mistress Crane' and the Martin Marpelate Controversy', *The Library* 1931 s4-XII(3):276-283.

For the testator, see also the pedigrees of Crane in Appleton, *supra*, pp. 21, 23, 60 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=p_8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA21

LM: T{estamentum} Anthonij Crane

In dei nomine Amen. The sixteenth day of August in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred eighty-three, Anthony Crane, late of the parish of St Martin's in the Fields and near Charing Cross, London, and Master of the Queen's Majesty's Household, being of perfect mind and memory made and declared his last will and testament nuncupative in manner and form following, viz., my debts being discharged, the rest of my goods to my wife, and daughter Mary;

Provided that the remnant of years that shall remain in Molesey after my wife's death shall remain to my said daughter;

In the presence of Lawrence Tomson, William Marten and Walter Travers.

LM: Renu{nciat} { } sunt [] h{uius}mo{d}e(?) 27 Iunij []

Nono die mensis Septembris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quinge{n}tesimo Octogesimo tertio emanauit com{m}issio Carolo Hussey de Linwode in Com{itatu} Lincoln{ie} armig{ero} Ad administrand{um} bona iura et credita dict{i} defunct{i} iuxta tenorem et effectum testamenti suprascripti pro eo q{uo}d nullum in in [sic] eodem constituit executorem De bene etc. in p{er}sona Ioh{ann}is Burroughe notarij publici procuratoris sui etc. Iurat{i} De et cum consens{u} Elizabethe Crane Relicte dict{i} defunct{i} ex certis causis etc administrac{i}o{ne}m bonorum iurium et creditor{um} dict{i} defunct{i} In persona dict{i} Joh{ann}is Burrough expresse renuncian{tis}

[=On the ninth day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-third a commission was issued to Charles Hussey of Linwood in the county of Lincoln, esquire, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased according to the tenor and effect of the above-written testament because no-one was appointed executor in [-in] the same, sworn to well etc., in the person of John Burrough, notary public, his proctor, etc., by and with the consent of Elizabeth Crane, relict of the said deceased, in the person of the said John Burrough for certain causes etc. expressly renouncing administration of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased.]