

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 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. Anthony Crane was the son of Robert Crane (d.1551) of Chilton Court, Suffolk, and his wife Jane Southwell, the daughter of Richard Southwell of Woodrising, Norfolk. In his will the testator leaves everything to his wife, Elizabeth (nee Hussey), 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 her manor of East Molesey resulted in Star Chamber proceedings being instigated against Elizabeth Crane in 1590 under the name Elizabeth Carleton, she having at some time in the late 1580s married George Carleton (d.1590) of Overstone in Northamptonshire. According to *The Dictionary of National Biography*, 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 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 Hussey's brother, Charles Hussey (d.1587), in which Elizabeth and her daughter Mary are both left bequests, see TNA PROB 11/70, f. 41 For the will of Elizabeth (nee Hussey) Crane's second husband, George Carleton (d.1590), see TNA PROB 11/75, f. 11.

LM: Testamentum 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: Renunciat sunt [] huiusmode(?) 27 Iunij []

Nono die mensis Septembris Anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo Octogesimo tertio emanavit commissio Carolo Hussey de Linwode in Comitatu Lincolnie armigero Ad administrandum bona iura et credita dicti defuncti iuxta tenorem et effectum testamenti suprascripti pro eo quod nullum in in [sic] eodem constituit executorem De bene etc. in persona Iohannis Burroughe notarij publici procuratoris sui etc. Iurati De et cum consensu Elizabeth Crane Relicte dicti defuncti ex certis causis etc administracionem bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti In persona dicti Johannis Burrough expresse renunciantis

[=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.]