

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 6 September 1586 and proved 8 February 1587, of Charles Hussey 'the younger', esquire, the brother of 'Mistress Crane' at 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

For the testator's family background, see the Hussey pedigree in Maddison, A.R., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* (London: Harleian Society, 1908), pp. 526-30 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/lincolnshirepedi51madd#page/528/mode/2up>

According to various sources, Sir Robert Hussey (d.1546) of Linwood, Lincolnshire, the father of both 'Mistress Crane' and the testator, Charles Hussey 'the younger', was married firstly to Anne Say, the daughter of William Say of Lyston, and secondly, to Jane Stydolf, the daughter of Thomas Stydolf of Surrey. Both 'Mistress Crane' and the testator, Charles Hussey 'the younger', were the children of Sir Robert Hussey's second marriage to Jane Stydolf.

The testator was the son of Sir Robert Hussey (d.1546) of Linwood, Lincolnshire, who according to various sources was married firstly to Anne Say, the daughter of William Say of Liston, Essex. The testator was the son of Sir Robert Hussey by his second wife, Jane Stydolf, the daughter of Thomas Stydolf of Surrey. She is said to have died in 1561, and to have left a will.

The testator's father, Sir Robert Hussey, was a younger brother of John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1st Baron Hussey of Sleaford. The testator's 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.

The testator's sister, Elizabeth Hussey, is said to have been born circa 1539. She married firstly Anthony Crane (d.1583), Master of the Queen's Household. She and her daughter, Mary Crane, are named in the will of Anthony Crane (see TNA PROB 11/65/507) and in the testator's will below. In his nuncupative will, Anthony Crane bequeaths everything 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 to Sir Thomas Heneage (b. before 1482, d. 21 August 1553) in 1518.

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 George

Carleton (1529-1590) of Overstone, Northamptonshire, whose maternal grandmother was Margaret Culpepper, an aunt of Queen Katherine Howard. 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 Marpelate Controversy', *The Library* 1931 s4-XII(3):276-283. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Hussey) Crane's second husband, George Carleton (d.1590), see TNA PROB 11/75/14.

MARRIAGE

The testator married Elizabeth Bushey, but died without issue. In his will he leaves most of his assets to his wife, and to his brother, Charles Hussey.

RM: T{estamentum} Charoli Husey

In the name of God, Amen. The sixth day of September in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc. the 28th (1586), I, Charles Hussey of Belton in the county of Lincoln, esquire, whole in mind and of good and perfect remembrance (thanks be to God) do hereby revoke and make void all other my former wills and testaments, and do make and ordain this my present last will and testament concerning the ordering, disposing and distributing of all my goods and chattels, lands, tenements and hereditaments whereof and wherewith it hath pleased Almighty God of his merciful goodness to lend me to order and dispose:

First, I do give and bequeath my sinful soul to Almighty God, my Creator, and his blessed Son and Saviour Jesus Christ, my only Redeemer, steadfastly believing by and through his precious death to be saved and thereby to have remission and forgiveness of all my sins, and for my body, I will that it be buried within the church of Belton or elsewhere it shall please God to call me unto his mercy;

Item, I do give towards the repair of the churches of Belton and Welbourn 5s apiece;

Also I give to the poorest inhabitants within the parishes of Belton and Welbourn, to either of them fifteen shillings, to be distributed amongst them by the discretion and oversight of the parsons and churchwardens of the same;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Charles Hussey of Linwood in the county of Lincoln, esquire, my brother, all that my patronage of and in the parish church of Welbourn in the said county of Lincoln, and all my right and title in and to the said patronage, to him and to his heirs forever;

And also all my lease for term of the years that I have of and in the said rectory or parsonage, and all my title, term and interest which I have of and in the said rectory and parsonage of Welbourn, and of and in all houses, edifices or buildings belonging to the same, and of and in all manner of tithes, oblations, obventions, glebe lands, meadows, closures, pastures, feedings, commons, profits and commodities to the said parsonage belonging or appertaining, upon condition that the said Charles Hussey, my brother, do permit and suffer my well-beloved wife, Elizabeth Hussey, quietly and peaceably to have, hold, possess and enjoy all that the manor of Great Hale and Little Hale and all other the lands, tenements and hereditaments in Great Hale, Little Hale and Heckington in my tenure or occupancy, or in any other's tenure as holding by me and by my said brother, for her jointure during her natural life without any suit, trouble, vexation or molestation of him, the said Charles Hussey, his heirs or assigns, or of any other person or persons by his means, willing assent or procurement, and if my said wife may not lawfully and peaceably have, hold and enjoy the said manors of Great Hale, Little Hale and Heckington and all other the premises in Great Hale, Little Hale and Heckington during her natural life in manner and form as is aforesaid, then I will and bequeath that my said lease of the said rectory and all other the premises to my said wife;

And also I will that the said Charles Hussey, my brother, in consideration of the said legacy or bequest of the rectory of Welbourn aforesaid, shall pay or cause to be paid to my nephew, Augustine Massingberd, within two years after my decease the sum of forty pounds, and if he depart within the said two years, I will the same forty pounds to remain to my godson, John Hussey;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the said Elizabeth, my loving wife, one piece of meadow ground lying in Belton Ings containing by estimation three acres more or less, which I purchased of Arthur Hall, esquire, to have and to hold the same to her and her heirs forever;

Also, I do give and bequeath to her, the said Elizabeth, my wife, all those my lands in Great Hale, Little Hale and Heckington called the chantry lands, which I have in lease from the Queen's Majesty, to have and to hold to her, the said Elizabeth, for the term of fifteen years if she so long live, and if she depart within the said term of 15 years, I will the residue of the years therein shall remain to my brother, Charles Hussey;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my brother [=brother-in-law], John Bushey, esquire, fifty pounds to make him a chain withal;

And to my sister, Dorothy Massingberd, ten pounds, to be paid unto her in five years, viz., forty shillings yearly, and if she depart this life within the said five years, I will the money remaining shall be to Augustine Massingberd, her son;

Item, I do give to my cousin, Thomas Hussey of Yorkshire, ten pounds, to be paid to him in five years, and if he depart this life within that term, I will the money remaining to be to the said Augustine Massingberd;

Item, I do give to every of my servants taking wages one quarter wages over and beside their wages due unto them, except them to whom I have given a greater legacy by this will;

Also, I give to my sister Crane one gelding, or five pounds in money;

Item, I give to my nephew, John Hussey, my sealing ring with the hind engraven upon it;

Item, I give to my niece, Mary Crane, one piece of plate of the value of five pounds;

Item, I do give my cousin, Thomas Horsman, the ten pounds he oweth me;

Item, I do give to my cousin, Francis Trigge, ten pounds, and to my cousin, Thomas Denman, other ten pounds, to be paid at Our Lady Day in Lent next, commonly called the Annunciation of Our Lady;

Item, I give to my servant Lynam five pounds, to be paid within the said time;

Item, I do give to my sister Hussey, my sister Bushey, my cousin Katherine Thimbleby, my cousin Mary Markham, my cousin Elizabeth Hussey of Honington, and to my brother [=brother-in-law], Francis Bushey, to every of them one ring to the value of forty shillings, and to my nephew Stephen Thimbleby, my great roaned gelding;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my cousin, John Hussey, the forty pounds which he oweth me;

And I do give and bequeath to William Thompson forty shillings;

Item, I will that all the hangings, houses, hovels, pales, rails and fences, and all racks, mangers and planchers which are at Welbourn shall be and remain there to my said brother Hussey and for his use with the said house;

Item, I give to my said brother my young roaned mare of four years old that was summered at Kirkby Park;

Item, I give to my said brother one little cottage with a stack-yard adjoining which I late took in lease of the late Duke's [=of Norfolk's] officers adjoining to the parsonage of Welbourn;

Item, my will is further that the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall have free liberty, ingress and egress in, to and from all the houses, barns, chambers and yards of the said parsonage

of Welbourn for the threshing, laying and carrying away of the corn, straw or any other her goods there unto the feast of St John Baptist next;

Item, I give unto my nephew, Edmond Bushey, the three pounds he oweth me, to make him a ring;

Item, I give to my niece, Mercy Bawdes, three pounds six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give to Bridget Bawdes three pounds six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give to my cousin, Anne Townsend, twenty shillings, to make her a ring;

The residue of all my goods and chattel[s], as well moveable as unmovable, jewels, plate and debts due to me, my legacies and bequeaths abovesaid being paid and my funerals discharged, I wholly give and bequeath to my entirely and well-beloved wife, Elizabeth Hussey, whom I do ordain and make my full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament, upon condition that she, the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall within ten days after my decease deliver or cause to be delivered to my kinsmen and friends all such bonds and obligations as they and every or any of them do jointly or severally stand bound in for me or with me to her or to any of her friends to her use for any sum or sums of money or for any part or portion of goods to be paid or left unto her after my death or for assurance of her jointure, namely to Sir Anthony Thorold, knight, to Sir John Munson, knight, to Stephen Thimbleby, esquire, to my brother, Charles Hussey, esquire, and to my cousin, John Hussey, their several bonds and obligations as aforesaid;

And if the said Elizabeth, my wife, do refuse to deliver or cause to be redelivered the said bonds and obligations as aforesaid to the parties as aforesaid, then my will is that the said Elizabeth shall not be my executrix of this my last will and testament, nor shall meddle with the probate thereof, nor with any part of my goods, chattels, plate nor other utensils of household;

But I do then ordain and make my brother, Charles Hussey, esquire, and my cousin, John Hussey of Honington, my executors of this my said last will and testament, so as they become bound to John Bushey, esquire, in the sum of two thousand marks to pay and deliver or cause to be satisfied, paid or delivered within two months after my decease unto my said wife all such goods, chattels and sums of money as my said friends stand bounden with me or for me to pay or deliver unto her after my death, she redelivering unto them the said several bonds or other sufficient discharge for them upon the payment or delivery of the said sums of money and goods unto her or to her assign or assigns;

And I do ordain and make my nephew, John Markham, esquire, the supervisor of this my last will and testament, and I do give him for his pains my black bald [=streaked with white] trotting gelding;

And I do forgive unto Thomas Blackheathe, my man, the four pounds he oweth me;

In witness whereof I have to this v(?) my present will set to my hand and seal in the presence of these whose names are underwritten, the day and year above-written.
Charles Hussey.

John Bussey, Charles Hussey, John Hussey, Francis Bushey, Francis Trigge, John Lynam, John Denman, Nicholas Mawdesley's mark.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram ven{er}abili viro m{agist}ro Will{el}mo Drury Legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Mag{ist}ro Custode siue Com{m}issario etc. Octavo Die mens{is} ffebruarij Anno D{omi}ni iuxta cursum et computac{i}o{n}em eccl{es}ie Anglicane Mill{es}imo Quingen{tes}imo Octogesimo Sexto Iuramento Christoferi Smith Notarij publici procur{ator}is Elizabethe Husey Relicte dict{i} def{uncti} executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o etc. De bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} etc Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{e}

[+The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on the eighth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English church the thousand five hundred eighty-sixth by the oath of Christopher Smith, notary public, proctor of Elizabeth Hussey, relict of the said deceased, executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully etc.]