

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the nuncupative will, dated 16 August 1583, of Anthony Crane, Master of the Queen's Household, 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. In his will the testator leaves everything to his wife, Elizabeth (nee Hussey), and daughter, Mary, including the remaining years of his lease of the manor of East Molesey. 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. The outcome of the proceedings against her is unknown, as is the outcome of proceedings instigated against George Carleton, who in April 1589 was called before the Privy Council and ordered to attend daily until otherwise advised.

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 [ ] huius(?) 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 eodem constituit executorem De bene etc. in persona Iohannis Burroughe notarij publici procuratoris sui etc. Iurato De et cum consensu Elizabethhe Crane Relicte dicti defuncti ex certis causis etc administracionem bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti In persona dicti Iohannis Burrough expresse renunciantis

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[=On the ninth day of the month of September in the year of the Lord a thousand five hundred eighty-three 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 abovementioned 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, for certain causes etc. expressly renouncing administration of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, in the person of the said John Burrough.]