

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 6 August 1503 and proved 11 December 1504, of Elizabeth (nee Berkeley) Hussey, grandmother of ‘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. For the identification of the testatrix’ granddaughter, Elizabeth Hussey as ‘Mistress Crane’, see the *ODNB* entry for her, and McCorkle, Julia Norton, ‘A Note concerning “Mistress Crane” and the Martin Marprelate Controversy’, *The Library* 1931 s4-XII(3):276-283.

The testatrix was the daughter of Sir Thomas Berkeley (d.1488), esquire, of Wymondham, Leicestershire, and Emma (or Petronella), the daughter of William Brokesby, esquire. Her brother, Sir Maurice Berkeley (d.1522), married Margaret or Margery Byron, the daughter of Sir John Byron. See Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Leicester in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1870), Vol. II, p. 2 at:

[https://archive.org/stream/TheVisitationOfTheCountyOfLeicesterInTheYear1619/VisitationCountyLeicester1619\\_camdenVol.2#page/n19/mode/2up](https://archive.org/stream/TheVisitationOfTheCountyOfLeicesterInTheYear1619/VisitationCountyLeicester1619_camdenVol.2#page/n19/mode/2up).

See also the pedigree of Berkeley of Wymondham in Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (London: John Russell Smith, 1844), pp. 58-9 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=LKIKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA58&lpg=PA58&dq=%22thomas+berkeley%22+%22wymondham%22&source=bl&ots=4UQVD-dchC&sig=2zxTdK92IHR0XswJPsgCJzjqwNQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=PPkhU86-KcHhoASQn4L4Aw&ved=0CCcQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22thomas%20berkeley%22%20%22wymondham%22&f=false>.

See also Burton, William, *The Description of Leicestershire*, p. 290:

[http://books.google.ca/books?id=WolbAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA290&lpg=PA290&dq=%22sir+Maurice+Berkeley%22+%221522%22&source=bl&ots=hK0ohwOUKF&sig=j4GNnmW8\\_V-MXDE0Pbscob9t2aQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=rQAIU-r7EYbroASShoLQCA&ved=0CDQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22sir%20Maurice%20Berkeley%22%20%221522%22&f=false](http://books.google.ca/books?id=WolbAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA290&lpg=PA290&dq=%22sir+Maurice+Berkeley%22+%221522%22&source=bl&ots=hK0ohwOUKF&sig=j4GNnmW8_V-MXDE0Pbscob9t2aQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=rQAIU-r7EYbroASShoLQCA&ved=0CDQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22sir%20Maurice%20Berkeley%22%20%221522%22&f=false).

For the testatrix’ husband, Sir William Hussey (d.1495), see the *ODNB* entry and his will, TNA PROB 11/10/592.

For the testatrix’ eldest son, John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hussey of Sleaford, see the *ODNB* entry, his will, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hussey-sir-john-146365-1537>.

For the testatrix' second son, William Hussey (b. by 1473, d.1531?), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/hussey-william-i-1473-1531>.

For the will of the testatrix' third son, Sir Robert Hussey (d.1546), see TNA PROB 11/31/244.

See also the Hussey pedigree in Maddison, A.R., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* (London: Harleian Society, 1908), pp. 526-30:

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

For the testatrix' daughter, Elizabeth Hussey, who died 19 November 1516 without issue, see the *ODNB* entry for her husband, Richard Grey, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Kent.

For the testatrix' daughter, Mary Hussey, who died without issue before 1512, see the will of her husband, William Willoughby (d. 14 October 1526), 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, TNA PROB 11/23/362. In June 1516 Lord Willoughby married, as his second wife, Maria de Salinas, lady in waiting to Henry VIII's first Queen, Catherine of Aragon, by whom he was the father of Katherine Willoughby (22 March 1519 – 19 September 1580), Duchess of Suffolk, mother-in-law of Oxford's sister, Mary de Vere. See Goff, Cecilie, *A Woman of the Tudor Age*, (London: John Murray, 1930), pp. 2-3, 9, 13, 290; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 299 and Vol. IV, p. 339; and the *ODNB* entry for Katherine, Duchess of Suffolk.

LM: Test{amentum} d{omi}ne Elizabeth{e} Huse

[f. 173r] In dei nomine amen. I, Dame Elizabeth Hussey, widow, and sometime wife to Sir William Hussey, knight, and Chief Judge of England, having perfect mind and memory, loved be God, make my will and testament the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August the year of Our Lord 1500 and three and of the reign of King Henry the 7<sup>th</sup> the 18<sup>th</sup> year in this form following:

First I bequeath my soul to my Lord God Christ Jesus which hath create[d] it and redeemed [+it?] with his precious blood, and to the merits of his blessed Mother and to the suffrages of all the saints in heaven, my body to be buried in the monastery of Sempringham under the tomb there [+where?] my foresaid husband is buried, and there at the day of my burial I will be spended £40 by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I will as hastily as can be conveniently provided have said for me 1000 Masses, and every priest to have 4d, and so to be spended £10;

Item, I will have said for me 1000 David psalters, and for every psalter 4d, and so to be spende other £10;

Item, I will have likewise have said for me 1000 Lady psalters, and for every psalter to be paid 1d to the sum of 50s;

Item, I will have no pompous burial nor no month's mind;

Item, I will that in the month's day after my departing be Masses said for me at Sempringham and in every parish church within the space of three mile(?) about Seldforth [=Sleaford?];

Item, I will my mortuary and other debts pertaining to holy Church be paid after [f. 174r] the laudable custom of holy Church;

Item, I will that all my husband's debts and mine be truly paid be [=by] mine executors and content to all such persons as can probably and truly prove [+them?] as soon as they can be conveniently levied by mine executors in cattle or other goods;

Item, I will that true restitution & satisfaction be done and made by mine executors to all persons both for my said husband and for me as can be evidently proved;

Item, where my son, William Hussey, hath aforetime sold and granted to me the ward & marriage of George Hussey, his son and heir apparent, to him and Anne, his wife, the daughter and heir to Sir John Salvaine, knight, for 400 marks, which is paid to him in ready money with much more, as it is well known, and hath for the ward and marriage of the same levied a fine to me and to mine heirs & other persons expressed in the same fine of the manor of Ashawell, which is worth £40, to th' intent that I shall and may make a lawful estate of the lands and tenements parcels of the said manor to such persons as shall marry with him to the yearly value of 40 marks, to have and to hold to the foresaid George and to his wife that shall be married to him and to the heirs males of their bodies begotten, and for default of issue of them to the right heirs of the right ancestors of the said Anne as have been used before, I will that this ward and marriage be sold by mine [+executors?] to the most value without disparagement according to the premises for payment of my husband's debts and mine and restitutions after rehearsed, and that the residue of the said manor that is above 40 marks remain to my son, William Hussey, during his life toward his living without impeachment of waste;

Item, I will that mine wool at Calais, 23 cloths and a pol [=poll?] containing 2 sekas [=sacks?] and 4 stone beside [+go?] toward the payments of my debts and restitutions;

Item, I will that the clear profits of the farm and terms that I have and may take of Bowett's lands go to the performing of my will to the time there may be raised thereof £200 other [=either] by the sale of the said terms or otherwise by the discretion of mine

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executors, and the residue above the said £200 that may be had beside I will that Bowet and his wife have it;

Item, I will have 3 priests singing at Cambridge for all those to whom my lord or I ought of duty to make any restitution the space of 3 years;

Item, I give to Sir John Hussey, my son, all the implements of my house in Old Sleaford;

Item, I give to my daughter and [sic?] Lady Gray such a bed as mine executors think according for her;

Item, to my daughter, Lady Willoughby my best primer;

Item, I give to Robert, my son, 20 marks;

Item, I give to my brother and sister Marmion £10;

Item, I bequeath to my brother and sister Gaton £10, and to either of their daughters toward their marriage £5;

Item, I bequeath to my sister Parlar and her children £10;

Item I bequeath to Agnes Glenyson 20 marks;

Item, to Hardwick, my servant, I bequeath 10 marks;

Item, I give to Sir Oliver 20s;

Item, to Master Thomas 20s;

Item, to Sir Robert Grene 10s;

Item, I will have 3 scholars found at Cambridge 3 years;

Item, I give to the stanlyng(?) of the library of the College of John £20;

Item, I will that my neighbours of Old Sleaford have £5 disposed amongst them in recompensing of hurts done to them by my lord or me in corn or otherwise;

Item, I will a release be purchased of the chief lords of the commons in Awplandis and in Wounge;

Item, I bequeath to the Abbey of Wawde £5 to be spended for some ornament to the church or else in money;

Item, whereas my lord gave to Burton 5 marks in his will to be kept by the vicar and 4 honest men of the town to relieve poor men when they stand in need or to the help of them in the time of their taxes, so that it be paid again within a quarter of a year to the same intent I give to them 10 marks;

Item, I will have £10 spende in delivering of prisoners which lyen for their fees, and of them specially which are called of good disposition and are wrongfully vexed;

Item, I will that such writings as are of fraternities be sent to the places they come fro[m] that I may have the suffrage promised in them done for my soul;

Executors of this my foresaid will I make Sir John Hussey, knight, my son, Sir Maurice Berkeley, knight, my brother, and William Chubis(?), clerk, beseeching them truly to execute my will to the profit of my soul and to the most pleasure of my Lord God, to whom be honour and glory in eternity, Amen.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lambhith xj<sup>o</sup> die mensis decembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quarto Iuramento Magistri Willielmi Chubis executoris onus executionis eiusdem testamenti in se assumere refutavit(?) et domino Iohannis huse militis etiam executoris in huiusmodi testamento non inter se. Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissum fuit administrationi omnium bonorum et debitorum dicti defuncti prefato domino Iohanni executori De bene et fide liter administrationis Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario citra festum Natalis domini proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo ad satisfactionem dei euegelia in debita iuris forma iuravit Resolute siquidem commissio faciendum domino Mauricio Berkeley militi executori similiter in huiusmodi testamento non inter se cum venisset &c

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fourth by the oath of Master William Chubis, executor, refusing to assume in himself the burden of the execution of the same testament, and Sir John Hussey, knight, also executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods and debts of the said deceased to the forenamed Sir John, executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory before the feast of the Birth of the Lord next to come, and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Sir Maurice Berkeley, knight, executor similarly named in the same testament, when he shall have come etc.]