

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 1 March 1545 and proved 11 February 1546, of Lady Anne Hussey, aunt 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. The new National Archives catalogue number for the will is PROB 11/31/56.

The testatrix was born Anne Grey, the daughter of George Grey (d. 21 December 1503), 2nd Earl of Kent, and his second wife, Katherine Herbert, third daughter of William Herbert (c.1423-1469), 1st Earl of Pembroke, by Anne Devereux, the daughter of Sir Walter Devereux (1411-1459). For the will of the testatrix’ mother, Katherine (nee Herbert) Grey, see TNA PROB 11/14/134.

The testatrix’ father, George Grey, 2nd Earl of Kent, purchased the wardship of Elizabeth Trussell (b. 1496, d. in or before 1527), whom he intended as a bride for the testatrix’ brother, Sir Henry Grey (d. 24 September 1562). However after the death of George Grey, 2nd Earl of Kent, his eldest son and heir by his first marriage, Richard Grey (b. in or before 1478, d. 1524), 3rd Earl of Kent, dissipated the Grey estates, and was also fined by King Henry VII for abducting Elizabeth Trussell. See the *ODNB* entry for Richard Grey, 3rd Earl of Kent:

Aged at least twenty-five when he succeeded his father in 1503, he wasted his family's fortunes—possibly, as Dugdale says, he was a gambler. In a striking series of alienations he gave away or sold most of the lands, principally in Bedfordshire, that he had inherited: the beneficiaries were Henry VII's administrator-courtiers, Charles Somerset, Baron Herbert (later earl of Worcester), Sir John Hussey (Kent's brother-in-law), Sir Richard Empson, Sir Henry Wyatt, and Giles, Baron Daubeney. The earl also fell quickly into debt to the king: he failed to pay livery for his father's lands, and he was fined 2500 marks for abducting Elizabeth Trussell, whose wardship the second earl had left to Richard's half-brother Henry; he then failed to keep up the instalments laid down for the payment of the fine.

When the wardship of Elizabeth Trussell (b. 1496, d. in or before 1527) again came into Henry VII’s hands, he sold it for 1000 marks and an annual payment of £387 18s to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, and his cousin, John de Vere, later 15th Earl of Oxford. Between 1507 and 1509 Elizabeth Trussell became the wife of John de Vere (1482-1540), 15th Earl of Oxford, and Oxford’s paternal grandmother. See Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513), ‘The Foremost Man of the Kingdom’*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell Press, 2011), pp. 95, 101.

The testatrix and her stepbrother, Richard Grey, 3rd Earl of Kent, married siblings. The testatrix married, as his second wife, John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1st Baron Hussey of Sleaford, while her stepbrother, Richard Grey, 3rd Earl of Kent, married Lord Hussey’s sister, Elizabeth Hussey (d. 19 November 1516).

According to some sources the testatrix had four sons by Lord Hussey: Sir Giles Hussey, Gilbert Hussey, Thomas Hussey and Reginald Hussey. However only two daughters are mentioned in the will below: Elizabeth Hussey (d. 23 January 1554), who married firstly, as his third wife, Walter Hungerford (1503–1540), Baron Hungerford of Heytesbury, and secondly, Sir Robert Throckmorton (b. circa 1510, d. 12 February 1581) of Coughton, Warwickshire, uncle of Job Throckmorton (1545–1601) who was involved in the publication of the Marprelate tracts, and Bridget Hussey (b. 1525/6, d. 12 January 1601), who married firstly, Sir Richard Morison (c.1510–1556) of Cassiobury, Hertfordshire, secondly, Henry Manners (1526-1563), 2nd Earl of Rutland, and thirdly, in 1566, Francis Russell (1526/7-1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford. For the will of the testatrix' daughter, Bridget Hussey, see TNA PROB 11/97, ff. 40-3. For the will of Bridget Hussey's first husband, Sir Richard Morison, see TNA PROB 11/39/330. Bridget Hussey's second husband, Henry Manners (1526-1563), 2nd Earl of Rutland, had earlier been married to Margaret Neville (c.1525–1559), daughter of Ralph Neville (1498–1549), 4th Earl of Westmorland, whom he married at a triple wedding ceremony on 3 July 1536 at which the other two bridegrooms were Henry Neville (1524/5–1564), 5th Earl of Westmorland, the son and heir of Ralph Neville (1498–1549), 4th Earl of Westmorland, and Oxford's father, John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, who married Margaret Neville's sister, Dorothy Neville (d.1548). See Anderson, Verily, *The De Veres of Castle Hedingham* (Lavenham, Suffolk: Terence Dalton, 1993), p. 140.

The testatrix' grandson, Reynold Grey (d. 17 March 1572/3), 5th Earl of Kent, married Susan Bertie, the sister of Oxford's brother-in-law, Peregrine Bertie (1555-1601), 13th Baron Willoughby de Eresby.

The testatrix appoints as one of her executors her stepson, Sir William Hussey (d. 19 January 1556/7), the eldest son of John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1st Baron Hussey of Sleaford, by his first wife, Margaret, the daughter of Simon Blount.

For the foregoing, see the *ODNB* entries for Sir William Hussey [Huse] (b. 1481, d. 8 September 1495); John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1st Baron Hussey of Sleaford; George Grey (d. 21 December 1503), 2nd Earl of Kent; Richard Grey (b. in or before 1478, d. 1524), 3rd Earl of Kent; John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford; Walter Hungerford (1503-1540), Baron Hungerford of Heytesbury; and Job Throckmorton (1545–1601). See also GEC, *The Complete Peerage*, (London: St. Catherine Press, 1929), Vol. VI, pp. 152, 160, and Vol. VII, pp. 15-18, 166-172; Maddison, A.R., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* (London: Harleian Society, 1908), pp. 526-30; and http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gowenrf/husseys_003.html. See also the biography of the testatrix by Kathy Lynn Emerson at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenG.htm>.

The testatrix' niece, Elizabeth (nee Hussey) Crane Carleton, the 'Mistress Crane' of the Marprelate tracts, was the daughter of the testatrix' brother-in-law, Sir Robert Hussey (d.1546), and his second wife, Jane Stydolf. Her first husband was Anthony Crane (d.1583), Master of the Queen's Household. In his nuncupative will (TNA PROB

11/65/507), Anthony Crane left all his goods 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 in 1518 to Sir Thomas Heneage (b. before 1482, d. 21 August 1553). 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 in the late 1580s married George Carleton (1529-1590) of Overstone, Northamptonshire. 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 Marprelate Controversy', *The Library* 1931 s4-XII(3):276-283. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Hussey) Crane's second husband, George Carleton (1529-1590), see TNA PROB 11/75, f. 11.

LM: T{estamentum}(?) d{omi}ne Anne Huse

In dei nomine amen. I, Anne, Lady Hussey, in the town of Ufford in the county of Northampton the year of Our Lord a thousand five hundred forty and four the first day of March, in perfect mind, do bequeath my soul to Almighty God and my body to be buried in the monastery of Peterborough;

All my debts paid to my trusty servant, Nicholas Fetherstone, I will the residue of all my goods movable and unmovable to be distributed betwixt my two daughters if so be they will be ordered and ruled by mine executors, and specially by the foresaid Nicholas Fetherstone;

Also I give unto John Fetherstone a grey gelding and his wages;

Also I give my grey gelding that I bought of Anthonis, brother to Nicholas Fetherstone;

Also I give to Sir Giles four marks for his pains;

Also I give to Anthony, my servant, his wages and his livery;

I give to John Fetherstone the younger twenty shillings;

Also I give to the church of Ufford a canopy in the honour of God of black satin and crimson satin, and also a vestment of yellow sasnet [=sarsenet?] and a cross of green;

Also I give to Bainton Church a vestment of white baudekin;

Of this my last will I make mine executors Sir William Hussey and Nicholas Fetherstone, and my Lord of Peterborough to be my supervisor to see that all things may be performed which I have willed other [=either] in writing or else out of writings, as by mouth, whereof be witnesses Giles, husbandman, and Edmu{n}de Entifylde, husbandman, of the same town of Ufford;

Also I will that all such poor men of Casterton as I by Nicholas Fetherstone have received any sums shall have them again;

Also I will that Thomas Soper shall have five shillings claimed for his wages;

Also I bequeath to William Lame(?) a doublet of fustian, a shirt and a coat of a noble, and a pair of hose;

Also I bequeath to Harry Bruce two sheep, two pair of hose and a coat, the price six shillings eight pence, and to Sir Richard twenty-five shillings due at Candlemas, and to all the other of my servants their due wages and livery which they can require of me truly;

Also I will that Jane Thorpe shall have again three silver spoons and a pair of beads of black jet with two rings, freely without any money paying;

Also I give Nicholas Fetherstone all my plate and my money;

Also I give to Annes, my maid of the kitchen, twenty shillings.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum vndecimo die mensis ffebruarij anno d{omi}ni millesimo quingentesimo quadagesimo quinto Iuramento nicho{la}i ffetherston executoris in huius{mo}d{i} testamento nominat{i} ac approbatum et insinuatum et commissa fuit administrac{i}o om{n}i{um} et sing{u}lorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti et eius testamenti qualitercunque concernen{tium} dicto executori de bene et fideliter administra{n}d{o} eadem ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario e{t}c exhibend{o} etc necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo ad sancta dei eu{a}nge{e}lia Iurat{i} Res{erua}ta p{otes}tate alteri executori cum venerit

[=The above-written testament was proved on the eleventh day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-fifth by the oath of Nicholas Fetherstone, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits whatsoever concerning the said deceased and his [sic] said testament to the said executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit etc. a full and

faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved to the other executor when he shall have come.]