

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 10 July 1551 and proved 15 November 1551, of Nicholas Hussey of Gray's Inn, brother of Elizabeth Hussey, the '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.

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 first husband, Anthony Crane (d.1583), Master of the Queen's Household, see TNA PROB 11/65/507.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of Sir Robert Hussey (d.1546), who married firstly Anne Saye and secondly Jane Stidolf. For the will of Sir Robert Hussey see TNA PROB 11/31/244.

The testator mentions only one brother in the will below, Thomas Hussey (d. 31 May 1559). The Hussey pedigree in Maddison, A.R., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* (London: Harleian Society, 1908), pp. 526-30, and the bequests in the will below indicate that the testator's sisters had married as follows:

-**Margaret Hussey** (d.1577) married firstly Henry Sutton, by whom she had John, Thomas, Ambrose and Mary Sutton, and secondly William Thorold, by whom she had Margaret Thorold.

-**Anne Hussey** (d.1562) married firstly Matthew Thimbleby, by whom she had Stephen, Dyonese and Katherine Thimbleby, and secondly Sir Robert Savile. For the will of Matthew Thimbleby, proved 5 May 1550, see TNA PROB 11/33/195.

-**Mary Hussey** (d. 4 March 1573) married Sir John Monson.

-**Dorothy Hussey** (d.1580) married firstly Ralph Quadring, and secondly John Massingberd.

-**Elizabeth Hussey** (d.1553) married firstly a husband surnamed Ascough, and secondly Thomas Horsman.

The testator mentions three cousins in the will below, Bridget Hussey, Dorothy Hussey, and Agnes Hussey, all three of whom were the children of the testator's uncle, John Hussey (executed 29 June 1537), 1st Baron Hussey of Sleaford. Bridget Hussey married firstly, Sir Richard Morison (c.1510-1557); secondly, Henry Manners (1526-1563), 2nd Earl of Rutland; and thirdly, Francis Russell (1526/7-1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford. Dorothy Hussey married Edmund Docwra. Agnes Hussey was the third wife of the judge

Sir Humphrey Browne (d.1562), by whom she had three daughters, including Mary Browne, mentioned in the will below.

For the will of the testator's cousin, Bridget (nee Hussey) Morison Manners Russell, see TNA PROB 11/97/10.

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

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

See also 'The Hussey Manuscript' at:

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gowenrf/husseysms_003.html

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator's executor, Gilbert Gerard, would appear to have been Sir Gilbert Gerard (d.1593), Master of the Rolls.

LM: Nicholai Hussey

[f. 248v] In the name of God, Amen. I, Nicholas Hussey, of whole and good mind and perfect remembrance, the tenth day of July in the fifth year of the reign of our most dread Sovereign Lord King Edward the Sixth, do revoke all and singular my former wills and testaments, and this I will to stand as my perfect last will and testament, by which I betake my soul to th' hands of Almighty God by whom and through his sufferings and shedding of his most precious blood and by the merits of his passion I am assured to enjoy the life everlasting which he before all worlds hath prepared for all people which unfeignedly do love him and walk in his ways;

And as concerning the disposition of the goods which for a time hath been lent me, I will to be given and bestowed in manner and form following:

First I bequeath and give to my loved cousin, Dorothy Docwra, twenty pounds in current money, a piece of Holland cloth that lieth in my chest, and a sugar-loaf;

Item, I give to John Sutton, one of my sister Thorold's sons, twenty pound in current money of England, to be delivered to him when he doth return from beyond the seas, and in the meantime my brother Thorold to have the keeping thereof;

I give to the said John Sutton a cap of velvet set with aglets of gold to the number of 23 pair, to be delivered and kept for him in manner and form aforesaid;

And if he die before delivery and return, then I give and bequeath as well the money as the cap with aglets bequeathed as is aforesaid to Thomas Sutton, his brother;

And if he die, then I will the said bequest shall go to Mary Sutton, one of the sisters of the said John and Thomas;

Item, I bequeath and give to Ambrose Sutton, another brother to Thomas and John, a cap of velvet with the buttons of gold of it, and a doublet of crimson taffeta lined with tinsel;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Sutton before-named twenty marks of current money, to be bestowed either in binding him apprentice or otherwise as by his father-in-law & other of his friends shall seem meet;

I give & bequeath to Mary Sutton aforesaid twenty pounds towards her marriage;

Item, I give & bequeath to my nephews, Stephen Thimbleby and Dyonese Thimbleby, twenty pounds of current money of England equally to be divided betwixt them, and if thone die, thother to have th' whole;

I give to my niece, Katherine Thimbleby, ten pounds of like English money as is aforesaid:

And I will that if any of those three last named do die before delivery of their said legacies, that the overliver to have all;

And if all die before delivery, then I will John Sutton to have th' whole;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin, the Lady Morison, my two bracelets of gold having my name upon the lockets of them, to be delivered to her at her return from beyond the seas;

And if she die before her return and delivery, as God defend, then I will that my cousin, Dorothy Docwra, shall have them if she then live;

If not, I will that my niece, Anne Bygg{es} have them, to whom also I give and bequeath ten pounds of lawful English money, minding wholly that if she die before delivery thereof having issue, that then the said issue to have it;

If she have more than one, then the youngest to have it, and so from one to another of the said issues;

If she die without issue, then I will that th' issue had between Anthony Thorold and my niece shall have it;

Item, I give and bequeath to my nephew, Richard Thimbleby, my aglets of gold with buttons to them that lie in a box with other aglets greater than they, and to be delivered to him at his return from beyond the seas, with a jerkin of Spanish leather pinked, and a coat of black cloth fine (except the buttons of gold of it), my shirt with spiders, black coloured, and ruffed with black, and a new shirt of fine cloth new with a white standing collar wrought, a pair of hoses of velvet, and two other pair new, one pyrled, and another with guards of black about them, which all I will to be delivered in manner and form aforesaid;

And if he die before delivery of them and his return into England, I will and bequeath them to Stephen & Dyonese, his brethren;

Item, I give and bequeath to my nephew Ambrose Sutton's wife all my aglets of gold of my taffeta coat, and the coat also;

I give and bequeath to Ambrose Sutton, my nephew, my rapier that is new, the girdle to it black of silk, and a bag of silk;

I give and bequeath to my nephew Ambrose Sutton's wife my purse of silk and gold red;

If Ambrose die before delivery of his former legacies, I will his brother, John Sutton, to have them, and from him if he die before delivery and return into England, then Thomas, his brother, to have them;

Item, I give & bequeath to my sister, Anne Savile, my fair napkin or handkerchief wrought with red & edged with gold fair;

And to my sister Thorold all my other handkerchiefs;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother Thorold's youngest sons had by my sister twenty nobles, equally to be divided between them;

I give and bequeath to Jane Babington (one such who for her virtue and honesty beareth the price) my ring of gold with a death's head, that Jane I mean that to the world is known if the cruelty of her parents had not been should and was before God married, as to my conscience is evident;

I give & bequeath to my sister Mary Monson's son ten pounds of lawful English money;

And to my said [f. 249r] sister, Mary, my brooch of gold great and enameled on the edge with white;

I give and bequeath to my very friend, Mistress Margaret Cotton, my Lady Chaloner's mother, a ring of gold enameled all with black orells, another ring of gold having two seals of it which you may turn about, and that to be at her election and choice;

I give & bequeath a pair of woman's sleeves with ruffs of gold to my niece, Katherine Thimbleby, and if she die before delivery, then I give & bequeath them to my niece, Mary Sutton;

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Dorothy Quadrying, ten pounds of lawful English money;

Item, I give and bequeath to Charles Morison five pounds of current money of England;

If he die before delivery, I give the same to such child of the said Lady Morison, my cousin, as she shall then have alive;

And if it die, then to such child as Dorothy Docwra shall have alive, being the youngest;

I give and bequeath to my cousin, Thomas Hussey, brother to Dorothy Docwra, twenty pounds of lawful English money, and all my doublets unbequeathed, and my shirts unbequeathed, and my bay gelding ambling, with my saddle and bridle to him;

I pray my cousin Docwra to give him grass of the said gelding to his return;

If he, the said Thomas, die before his return, I will his legacy and that th' whole legacy to his brother that is with the Bishop of Peterborough;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother, Thomas Hussey, my great chain of gold, to be delivered to him when he shall have suffered fines and recoveries of all his lands or other lawful conveyance by the law, and to entail them for lack of issue male of his body to such that beareth the name of Hussey being male and of kin to him, and that either have issue male or like to have;

It is given him towards his charges in the making th' assurance thereof, to be made sure in manner and form beforesaid;

Item, if he will not do these things abovesaid, and that within two of the next terms after my death, then if the said Thomas do deliver to mine executors £20 of current money of England at and before the delivery of the said chain, that then he to have the said chain, and the said £20 so delivered to be bestowed in manner and form following, that is to say, £20 thereof to my sister Horsman's two youngest children;

I will to my very friend, Thomas Leyghe, four old angels to make a death's head for memory of the friendship that nothing but death could sever;

I give to my niece, Margaret Thorold, such one of the rings as Mrs Cotton refuseth;

I give and bequeath to my Lord William Eure a ring with an emerald therein;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin, Mary Browne, daughter to my Lady Browne, my cousin also, four marks to buy her a gown with;

I give to my cousin, Sir Richard Morison, a piece of gold of 20s called a double sovereign;

I will that my executors shall expend £40 of money mand(?) about the recovery of such legacies as is due to me by my father's last will;

And if it happen them to expend less, then the rest so remaining to be bestowed amongst the children of my sister Quadring;

And the legacies be recovered, I will the third part thereof to be given to the house of saint Bartholomew's called the Spital, to be to the poor there;

And the rest to be bestowed betwixt John Sutton, Thomas Sutton and Mary Sutton;

My will is that if any of mine executors do any thing or act whereby the said legacies may not be recovered, that he that so shall do shall not be mine executor, but clearly avoided thereof as though he had never been named nor spoken of;

I require them and every of them to do their diligence for the recovery thereof;

I give and bequeath to Humphrey Gryswold, my late bedfellow, my best gown of black, my ruffell {es} [=ruffled?] coat guarded with velvet, my satin coat, my study gown furred with foins;

I give him also one ring of my four round hoops, and that the best of them;

I give & bequeath to the steward of Gray's Inn 20s to make him a ring of;

I do owe to Ambrose Dormer money upon his return from Venice, as it may appear by bills of my hand; he doth owe me for an annuity due by patent, the whole except 40s; I think thone debt will pay thother;

I give to the same Ambrose Dormer two old angels;

I make executors of this my last will Gilbert Gerard, Thomas Marrow, my brother, William Thorold, Christopher Yaxley, & my cousin, Edmund Docwra, and Dorothy, his wife;

To Gilbert Gerard for his pains I give one of my round hoops of gold, and that the best, with a face of black budge that he would have bought of me, and 20s in money;

To Yaxley, another of mine executors, I give another hoop next the best, and a face of martens, and 20s of money;

And to my brother Thorold, one other of mine executors, I give mine nightgown guarded with velvet furred through;

To my othe[r] executor I give three yards of black satin, and to his wife four buttons of gold enameled and round and also hollow; there is none like them in my hands;

I give to my sister, Mary Monson, my knobbed ring of base gold;

I give to my cousin, Thomas Hussey, Sir Giles Hussey's summer gown, my cloak guarded with velvet lined or faced with sarsenet, my cloak guarded with velvet and a russet lace;

I give and bequeath to John Fryeston of Gray's Inn 40s in money, and the horse that Master Hynd oweth me;

To my friend, Mr William Porter, I give & bequeath a plain ring of gold meet for the little finger, and weigheth about an angel;

To Mr Lawrence I give the rapier that he had of me;

I give to th' above-named Christopher Yaxley the gown that was Baker's;

I give to Dorothy Docwra my whole bedding & sheets;

I give and bequeath to my servant, William Hunt, my coat of bat's(?) colour, and a new coat of what he will, so that it be blue or marble, and not above a mark the coat cloth;

I give to him also forty shillings in money and also four marks towards the making of his coat and getting him a master;

I require mine executors to help him to [f. 249v] a master;

[-I require mine executors to help him to a master];

I give and bequeath to Master Thomas Marrowe, another of mine executors, another round hoop that remaineth of the 4 hoops for his pains;

I give and bequeath to my brother Morison a tablet of gold of the vewedames [=Vidame's?], and forty shillings in money;

I give and bequeath to Persyvalls wife 20s;

I give to my cousin, Anthony Hussey, 40s, desiring him to aid mine executors for my legacy;

I give to his brother, Hubert Hussey, ten shillings;

The residue of my goods unbequeathed (except my dagger with the dudgeon heft which I give to Mr Savage, one of the keepers of Marybone [=Marylebone?] park, and a cloak of black laced with parchment lace black for the goodwill he beareth me), I will to be sold by mine executors and the money thereof coming to be bestowed in & upon the marriage of my niece, Mary Sutton, and the preferment of her younger brother, and the two sons of my sister Savile, equally to be divided amongst them, & specially such of them as do stand need, as to mine executors or the most of them shall some meet;

I make my brother, Thomas Hussey, the supervisor of this my last will and testament;

Witness then and there being present, John Freston, William Hunt and Alice Oliver, with other mo, the day and year abovesaid.

Probatum fuit testamentum coram domino Cantuariensis Archiepiscopo apud London xvto die Novembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo primo Iuramento Thome Docwrey procuratoris Gilbert Gerrard Thome Marrowe Willielmi Thorolde Edmund Docwrey et Dorothee eius uxoris Executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum quibus commissa fuit administratio omnium bonorum & dicitur defuncti prefatiss Executoribus De bene et fideliter administrandis eadem Ac de pleno Inventario &c exhibendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iuratis Reseruatate Christo fore Yaxley executori &c cum venerit

[=The testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 15th day of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-first by the oath of Thomas Docwra, proctor of Gilbert Gerrard, Thomas Marrow, William Thorold, Edmund Docwra and Dorothy, his wife, executors named in the same testatment, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc., with power reserved to Christopher Yaxley, executor etc., when he shall have come.]