

James Crewes – Settlement of Estate, Dec. 1680

In December 1680, a niece Sarah WHITTINGTON, daughter of James' brother Edward CREWS and Matthew CREWS, son of James' brother Francis CREWS, stating that James CREWS left no widow or "lawful" child, filed for and apparently received the residue of his estate. Both lived in England.

Court Ruling December, 1680 - Henrico County, Virginia, Records, p. 165?)

December 21, 1680. To all to whom these presents shall come greeting, Whereas Capt. James Crewes, late of this County of Henrico, died possessed of a considerable estate here in Virginia, and left no widow or lawful child; and whereas Mr. William Sherwood, attorney of Rowland Place, Esq. attorney of Matthew Crewes, Gent., nephew of the aforesaid deceased James Crewes and son of Francis Crewes one of the brothers of the said deceased; and Lt. Col. Thomas Grendon, as attorney of Sarah Whittingham (alias Crewes) niece of the said deceased James Crewes and sole daughter of Edward Crewes, elder brother of the said deceased; did at a court holden at Varina in the county aforesaid, the first of December 1680, make humble suite to the board that commission of administration might be jointly granted unto them (qualified as aforesaid) by virtue of the equal nearness of blood of the said Matthew and Sarah to their said deceased James Crewes; and whereas there is a clause in an Act of Assembly made at Green Spring the (?) day of February 1676/7, which empowers any two justices of the quorum in their respective counties to sign probates and letters of administration; by virtue whereof for the causes aforesaid we, John Farrar and Richard Cocke, Sr., Gent., two of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the county aforesaid, do give and grant unto the said Mr. William Sherwood and Lt. Col. Thomas Grendon joint administration of all and singular the deceased personal estate of what nature or quantity soever; and likewise do order and appoint the said Mr. William Sherwood and Lt. Col. Thomas Grendon to give in and present a true and perfect inventory of the said estate to the justices of the said county at the next court there held upon oath taken by two sufficient men, and likewise to pay what debts shall appear to be owing from the said estate (?) account of the surplus age/after such debts paid to deliver when thereunto lawfully called; given under our hands this 21st day of December 1680. John Farrar and Richard Cocke, Sr. Recorded by William Randolph, Gent.

Conclusions based upon the aforementioned document

Hannah is believed by many researchers to have been an illegitimate daughter. Her mother was possibly an Indian since there are notes in the court records pertaining to James CREWS "keeping an Indianwoman". As such, she and her children could not inherit CREWS' land outright."

[The attorney's inclusion of the word "lawful" in the phrase "left no widow or lawful child," implies that James Crewes left an "unlawful" child--one who was born outside of wedlock. This circumstance agrees with the relationship between James Crewes and Hannah, which is implied by James Crewes' will.]