

guardianship of his executors until aged 15 years. His daughter Elizabeth was bequeathed £1500 when aged 20 years, and Anne, then unborn, so not of course named, was left £1000. Marriage portions for his nieces, Walter Devereux's daughters, were being provided under an existing arrangement. In a codicil to his will, he said that Walter's daughters could remain in Ipswich, but if Priscilla did not like this arrangement the girls should live elsewhere and receive an annuity of £25 each until they were married. It would seem that the Viscount was fond of the sisters, but uncertain of how they would fare after his decease. They did in fact move out, and the story of the death of Margaret, and Elizabeth's subsequent elopement with John Clyatt, in 1682 when aged thirty, is told in *Untold Tales from the Suffolk Sandlings*². In the same codicil, made three months after his will was written, the Viscount clearly had doubts whether his widow and Frances would co-habit. Thus he provided Frances with £50 per annum, in addition to an annuity of £200 already bequeathed, should she leave Christchurch. A summary and analysis of the various Devereux wills from 1676, made by an unnamed lawyer, reveals that Frances waived any right to the real estate soon after her father's death and accepted the £7000 dowry. She married William, the fourth Viscount Tracy of Rathcoole in 1679 and died ten years later.

Did Viscount Hereford's executors persuade her to waive her property rights so that the mansions and lands remained in the Devereux family? Viscountess Priscilla made her will in 1681 and made no mention of (the by then married) Frances. Her daughter Elizabeth received jewels and Anne was bequeathed silver, including an inkstand. Her younger son Edward received her mare and its colt. The infant 7th Viscount, Leicester, was left her coach and coach horses, her pictures and curtains in the Great Parlour at Christchurch. She wished all her children to remain faithful to the Church of England and for Leicester to be loving to his brethren. She appointed the Earl of Barkly (Berkeley), Sir Samuel Barnardiston, Mr. Theophilus Hook and Mr Cave Beck as guardians and to have custody of her sons until they reached the age of 15 years. She wanted them to live together in Christchurch during their minority and be taught by Cave Beck. Finally she wished that the guardians she appointed and her late husband's executors would be friendly towards each other.



Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich.
Photo Richard Quarrell