

his property, real and personal, including those ‘in the nature of heirlooms’. Rather than let the portraits and heirlooms go out of the immediate family, perhaps the trustees asked the Hookes to take care of them. Why they were not released again for 14 years is a mystery. In the event, it was decided that Anne, the last of the 6th Viscount’s children, was the heir but the Hereford title, in the absence of a male heir, devolved upon the descendants of the 5th Viscount’s brother who had settled in Wales.

Elizabeth, the 8th Viscountess remained a widow for 17 years before she was remarried to John Sims Berkeley and went to live in Stoke Gifford in Gloucestershire. With him she had two children; a boy, Norborne Berkeley, who became the last Governor of Virginia before the loss of the American colonies, and a daughter, another Elizabeth, who married the 4th Duke of Beaufort. In spite of her relatively long marriage to John Berkeley (they had been married for 20 years when he died in 1737), the 8th Viscountess continued to use the title she had acquired from her 10-year marriage to her teenage husband. She seems to have had strong financial reasons to keep her Devereux connection alive. An indenture of 1732 required Elizabeth Devereux (née Martin, see below) to pay an annuity of £500 (about £44,000 at today’s values) to her aunt, the 8th Viscountess, for her life. When Elizabeth Berkeley made her will in 1742 she styled herself ‘The Right Honourable Elizabeth Lady Viscountess Hereford, widow, of Stoke Gifford’. Anne, the only surviving child of the 6th Viscount, married her distant cousin, Leicester Martin, in 1700. Their daughter Elizabeth briefly kept the Suffolk Devereux connection alive when in 1721 she married the 9th Viscount’s son and heir, but she had no children. Not long after her death in 1735, some 90 years after her grandfather had married Elizabeth Withipoll, Christchurch Mansion was sold. Sudbourne Hall passed out of the Devereux family hands twenty years later.

Vic Harrup

APPENDIX: TEXT OF THREE WILLS

ELIZABETH DEVEREUX, gentlewoman of Ipswich, 25 February 1699 (SRO ref. IC/AA1/129/36)

To be buried at Sudbourne next to my late brother, Leicester, Viscount Hereford.

To my dear brother Edward, Viscount Hereford £100.

To my dear sister Ann Devereux £1000.

To my worthy friend Mr. Theophilus Hooke £100, and to his wife Ann 10 broad pieces of gold. To Mrs Ann Wright £40.

To my sister Lady Viscount Hereford a gold mourning ring.

Gold mourning rings to: Mrs. Susan Worbury (?), Mr Hooke and his wife, Mr Cave Beck, Mr John Cullinton, Mrs Coe and Mrs Ratcliff.

To Mrs Abigail Tokely a guinea of gold.

To Mr Cave Beck £5 and Mr Leicester Martin £10.

To Nurse Browne 40 shillings pa.

To my sister Ann all my broad gold except 10 broad pieces for Mrs Hooke.

Executor: Anne Devereux.

[This Elizabeth Devereux was the daughter of Leicester, the 6th Viscount, from his second marriage.

Leicester, 1673-1682, was the 7th Viscount Hereford. Edward, 1675-1700, the 8th Viscount. Ann Devereux was their sister. Ann married Leicester Martin in 1700 after the death of her brother Edward. They had a daughter Elizabeth. In 1720 she married Pryce Devereux, son of the 9th Viscount.

Lady Viscount Hereford was Elizabeth’s sister-in-law, the widow of Edward, 8th Viscount.

Theophilus Hooke was a clergyman, with a brother John who owned property in Orford. Theophilus was heavily involved with the Devereux family, including Walter Devereux of Butley. He died in 1700 and was buried in the chancel in Tuddenham where his widow also asked to be buried.]