

## THE DUEL

When Leicester Devereux (later the sixth Viscount Hereford) married Elizabeth Withipole in 1642, he became the owner of Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich and Sudbourne Hall with their estates. His second wife Priscilla Catchpole provided him with two male heirs, Leicester, born 1674, and Edward, born 1675. Following his father's death in 1676, Leicester became the seventh Viscount Hereford, but died aged nine in 1682. Thus Edward inherited the title also as a child. Priscilla had died the previous year and appointed four guardians for her sons, including the Puritan clergyman Theophilus Hooke and Cave Beck who was to be their tutor at the Mansion. Edward Devereux was married to Elizabeth Norborne of Calne, Wiltshire, on May Day 1690 at Redgrave, Suffolk, he being not quite 15 years of age and she only thirteen. Narcissus Lutterall noted in his diary on 23rd December 1689 that 'an act to enable the Lord Viscount to make a jointure upon his marriage with Elizabeth Northbourn, notwithstanding his minority'.

When faced with a duel in 1700, Edward made his will on 26th July, asking to be buried in the chancel of Sudbourne Church. He left his two estates to his executors (except for certain items for his wife) to transfer them to his 'heir at law' when of age. Early the next month he was killed in the duel. Celia Fiennes visited Ipswich on one of her journeys through England soon afterwards and recorded Edward's adversary was Sir Thomas Montgomery. No local records that I have found mention the duel or the reason it took place. Lutterall merely noted on 15th August 1700 that Hereford had died 'at his seat in Suffolk without male issue'.

There seem to be several possible reasons for the duel – gambling (the two estates were diminished in financial terms from the time Edward's father died), religion or politics. The latter two were often connected in 1700, and Edward had a strongly Protestant upbringing, but who was Sir Thomas Montgomery?

Montgomery's Catholic beliefs and his actions in Barbados between 1688 and 1690 lead me to propose that religion and politics were the reasons for the duel. Quotations from the Calendar of State Papers (Colonial), America and the West Indies follow. The context is the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688 when William of Orange landed in England and replaced James, who fled to France, as King of England. It must also be borne in mind that news from England to and from the West Indies took several weeks. James Mackleburne wrote to Montgomery who was in Barbados in February 1689 saying that shortly he would see his adversary Colonel Edwyn Stede displaced and he would find himself in power with a new Governor from London. Later that month on the 23rd Garret Trant wrote to say that the Dauphin was in Picardy with 50,000 men, implying Catholic forces were intending to reverse the succession. Also forces in England were mutinous and not willing to go to Ireland to face James who had arrived to lead an army which included French and German troops. These letters must have been written in February, but were not intercepted in Barbados until much later. This is proved by the fact that in England Luttrell wrote about the army being 'disaffected' in his diary the same day. Then there was a report to the Council of Barbados that Montgomery was a 'Papist' and had entertained a French Jesuit and attended Mass. Also France had declared war on England.