

Montgomery asked for his brother Hugh to be sent back with him because he would be unable to support himself financially if left behind. He further requested that his clerk and two Negroes attend him because of his 'great sea-sickness'. Next was a memorandum by George Hannay who said he had given Montgomery the occupation of three rooms in his house, but his tenant refused to pay for them and when Hannay distrained upon him for the debt Montgomery attacked him with a sword.

On 26th June 1690 Governor Kendall wrote to the Earl of Shrewsbury saying that his instructions empower him to release the two men, one of whom Chamberlayne 'is an ambitious fat fool who changed his religion on the day the King landed in England, hoping to be raised to the Council. He was seduced by Montgomery but has returned to the Church of England and I have released him'. Kendall added that Montgomery's crimes were more serious being of a treasonable nature. 'He is extremely inclined to the service of King James and will escape to him if released'. This and the other letters were read in London on 5th September, and the Earl of Nottingham had received a letter from Sir Hugh Montgomery, Thomas' father, offering to be security for his son so he could be discharged from the ship *New Exchange*, now at the Isle of Wight.

I have not been able to discover what happened to Sir Thomas Montgomery after he returned to England, but six years later he was involved in a plot to restore James to the throne. The Calendar of State Papers (Domestic), 1696, say that a man named Peter Cook had been arrested for high treason and under examination had named people planning the return of the exiled King James with 20,000 French troops. Sir Thomas and Lord Montgomery (William Herbert, so no relation) were named and the former was quoted as saying, 'there were several of the Temple (lawyers) who kept good horses ready to serve King James'. In 1696 a plot to assassinate King William was discovered. It had been planned the previous summer at the King's Head Tavern in Leadenhall Street. At the trial that followed the failure of the plot, one witness named Lord Montgomery among the conspirators at the Tavern. However neither Montgomery was ever charged with a treasonable offence. Perhaps Sir Thomas finally got to France at this time or possibly also after the duel in 1700, but his readiness to reach for his sword at various times is clearly demonstrated in the above evidence.

There was no preamble to his last will and testament in February 1714, probably to disguise his Catholicism. He described himself as 'of the Kingdom of Ireland' and appointed trustees of his properties in Drogheda, (Ireland), England and Barbados. They were to permit his wife, Dame Clemence, to receive the rents and profits until 'the child called Hugh Montgomerie being ten years of age, shall arrive at the age of one and twenty years'. She should also pay to four girls, Elizabeth, Margaret, Clemence and Dorothy Montgomerie £500 each at the time of their marriages, and be guardian to all five children until they were aged 21. It seems likely they were the children of his deceased brother Hugh, though why didn't he describe them as his nephew and nieces? His executrixes were Dame Clemence, Elizabeth and Margaret, so the latter two were of an age to take on this responsibility.

Sources: Orford and District Local History Bulletin, Issue number 16, 2011, for introduction. British History online: Calendar of State Papers (Colonial) America and the West Indies, Volume 13, 1689- 1692.