

Events then took a tragic turn. Leicester, the 7th Viscount, died aged nine in 1682, so with Priscilla and the young Leicester dead by 1683, the guardians had three young children in their care. Edward, who had become the 8th Viscount at the age of eight, was married, just before he reached the age of 15, to an heiress, Elizabeth Norborne, who was only thirteen. She was from Calne in Wiltshire, but the marriage took place in Redgrave, Suffolk on May Day 1690. The young Viscountess's father, Walter Norborne (1655-1684) had been killed in a duel. Was this marriage purposely arranged by the 6th Viscount's executors just before their remit expired?

When the 27-year-old and unmarried Elizabeth Devereux made her will in February 1699 (see Appendix) she probably thought the succession to the Hereford title was still secure. She asked to be buried at Sudbourne 'next to my late brother, Leicester, Viscount Hereford'. She left her sister Anne £1000, and her brother Edward, now the 8th Viscount Hereford, £100. There were gold mourning rings for Viscountess Hereford and Cave Beck amongst others. Beck also received £5 and a distant relative Leicester Martin was left £10. In fact, Edward died the following year. Aged only twenty-five, Edward made his will on 26 July 1700, asking to be buried in the chancel of Sudbourne Church. A few days later he died in a duel – the second time that his young widow had been affected by such a tragedy. Soon after this event, Celia Fiennes visited Ipswich on one of her journeys through England when, presumably, the death of the young Viscount was still the talk of the town. She recorded that Edward's adversary had been Sir Thomas Montgomery, but nothing is known of him or of the reason for the duel. Edward left all his property, including the two mansion houses and their lands plus his personal estate (ie plate, jewels, money, furniture and 'household stuff' – except for certain items left to his wife), to his executors, requiring them to transfer them to his (unspecified) 'heir at law' after his death. Perhaps he hoped for a posthumous child. He bequeathed his 'dear and loving wife', Elizabeth, £200 and the plate and jewels she had brought to the marriage. She was also left all the china she had purchased since they married, and his coach and coach horses.

He left his sister Anne £60 and £10 each to Edward and Matthew Martin of Leigh in Worcestershire, presumably relatives of Leicester Martin, who was appointed one of the trustees of the will. Various sums were given to his wife's servant and his own butler and other servants. Three were left £7 'to buy them mourning'. Mourning rings were usually bought for a guinea, so these servants were required to buy mourning clothes. Thus the widowed Viscountess and her sister-in-law Anne alone remained to manage the two estates and cope with their grief. It appears that they were supported by Ann Hooke the widow of Theophilus Hooke, rector of Sudbourne with Orford from 1666 to 1700. Hooke was also rector of Tuddenham, but actually lived in the parish of St Margaret's near Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich. He and his wife Ann seem to have been closely involved with the family at that time and seem to have been given a number of Devereux portraits and keepsakes. Theophilus also died in 1700.

He was buried at Tuddenham on 18 November 1700 where he was described as 'Mr. Hook of St. Margaret's Ipswich'. When Ann Hooke died in 1714 she bequeathed various Devereux family heirlooms to Anne Devereux (by then Martin) and her daughter Elizabeth. There were pictures (portraits) of Anne herself and her two brothers and sister. She left a portrait of 'Lady Herriford' to Lady Barker, and 'a hair ring set with diamonds' to Elizabeth Martin. The hair was that of her aunt Elizabeth who had died in 1699. Why did the Hookes have the portraits and heirloom in their possession? Edward Devereux the 8th Viscount did not bequeath much in coin, unlike his father. Perhaps he was addicted to gambling as so many young men were at that time. This may have been the reason for the duel. From Theophilus Hooke's will we know the Viscount had borrowed money from him, and had also sold him the rectory and tithes of Tuddenham, where many of the clergyman's relatives were buried. Edward did not know who his heir at law was, and maybe his sister, the only survivor of the Suffolk Devereux family, was uncertain too. Whoever was the heir, he or she was left, through the trusteeship of Sir Charles Blois and Leicester Martin, virtually all