

APPENDIX 1

WALPOLE'S ACCOUNT OF LADY HERVEY, CA 1775

Printed for the first time from HW's MS 'Book of Materials,' 1771, pp. 39-40, 61. The account, except the last paragraph, was apparently written before the death of Lady Hervey's eldest son in 1775; the references to Lady Hervey from Young and Gay were added later. The last paragraph was written in or after 1778.

Mary Lepel Lady Hervey

only daughter of Brigadier-General Nicholas Lepel,¹ was maid of honour to Queen Caroline,² and was married in 1720 to John Lord Hervey,³ eldest son⁴ of John Earl of Bristol;⁵ the beauty of each was remarkable enough to occasion a ballad in which was this line

When Hervey the handsome was married to beautiful Molly Lepel.⁶

In another these,

Like Manchester⁷ I'll grace the ball,
And move with Hervey's air.⁸

By Lord Hervey she had four sons,⁹ George William, who succeeded his grandfather in the title, was ambassador in Spain, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Privy Seal, and Groom of the Stole; Augustus

1. Nicholas Wedig Lepell (ca 1666—ante 1731), born in Santau, Germany; came to England as a page to Prince George of Denmark, 1683; naturalized, 1699; Brig.-Gen., 1710 (D. M. Stuart, *Molly Lepell, Lady Hervey*, 1936, pp. 15-19; Robert Beatson, *Political Index*, 3d edn, 1806, ii. 148).

2. When Ps of Wales, from about 1716 until her marriage in 1720.

3. John Hervey (1696-1743), styled Lord Hervey 1723-33; summoned to Parliament as Bn Hervey, 1733.

4. By Bristol's second wife; he had a son, Carr (d. 1723), and two daughters by his first marriage.

5. John Hervey (1665-1751), cr. (1703) Bn Hervey of Ickworth and (1714) E. of Bristol.

6. 'Bright Venus yet never saw bedded
So perfect a beau and a belle

As when Harvey the handsome was wedded
To the beautiful Molly Lepel'

The ballad, to the tune of Molly Mog, was written by Chesterfield and Pulteney in 1726 (Jonathan Swift, *Correspondence*, ed. F. Elrington Ball, 1910-14, iii. 357). It is printed in Chesterfield's *Miscellaneous Works*, 1777-8, iii. 192-4.

7. Lady Isabella Montagu (d. 1786), m. 1 (1723) William Montagu, 2d D. of Manchester; m. 2 (1743) Edward Hussey (after 1749 Hussey Montagu), cr. (1762) Bn and (1784) E. of Beaulieu.

8. This ballad is printed in Hist. MSS Comm., 12th Report, App. ix, *R. W. Ketton MSS*, 1891, p. 188.

9. For biographical notes on Lady Hervey's children, see *ante* 1 Oct. 1762, n. 1; 13 March 1766, n. 3; 8 Sept. 1766, n. 8; and 27 Sept. 1788, n. 25.