

Notes to Children of the 1st Viscount Molesworth of Swords.

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<https://anaccountofdenmark.wordpress.com/children-of-the-1st-viscount/>

In his autobiographical letter of c1712 Robert Molesworth states he has eight sons and three daughters, and in a letter of 1721 claims that out of seventeen children, nine were then living⁷. Writing much later in 1765, Coote agrees with the number still living, but states these had survived of twenty⁸. It is known that several had died at birth or in early infancy, but for these, evidence is too scant to name them authoritatively. The nine still living in 1721 are, in order of birth: John, Richard, William, Edward, Charlotte-Amelia, Walter, Letitia, Coote and Bysse. To these can be added Margaret, Mary and Robert, whose earlier deaths are verifiable, bringing the total known to twelve. This tallies with the above sources which provide twelve names. Confusion on some of their dates comes about mainly because it was customary for names of earlier-born children that had died in infancy to be given to subsequent children. For instance, two Roberts appear separately in the Heraldic Pedigree, with a third implied in Coote's Pedigree, and there are two Cootes, born some ten years apart⁹. Of the daughters, two were named Letitia, one in the Heraldic Pedigree living in 1688, the other born in 1697¹⁰.

Footnotes

1. Abbreviated LIP. See Chapter 1: 1st Viscount and Primary Sources: MT.
2. Abbreviated LO. See Bibliography: Lodge.
3. Abbreviated CP and HCA. I am most grateful for the loan of these rare documents and other material to Mrs. Ann Molesworth, whose late husband, Robert Hickman, a descendant of the Viscount's youngest son, Bysse, was a keen and knowledgeable family historian. Coote, the penultimate surviving child, was writing from both personal recollection and contemporary records. See Primary Sources: MT.
4. Abbreviated HMC. Dr. Chart writes: *'The Molesworths of this time were affectionate to each other and carried family loyalty almost to the verge of clannishness'*. Even allowing for the florid style of letter-writing of the time, the letters reveal an affection that is remarkable. Nicknames and terms of endearment are used interchangeably, eg *"Letty Goose"* and *"Dear Life"*, which the Viscount uses to address his wife, Letitia. See Primary Sources: NLI and Bibliography: Chart.
5. Abbreviated FR. See Bibliography: Foster.
6. Abbreviated MN. Not strictly a historical work, MN is notoriously inaccurate, nevertheless a useful reference, especially on baptisms. See Bibliography: Mormon.
7. See Primary Sources: BL and HMC p 319.
8. CP.
9. See Roberts 1, II and III, and Coote 1 and H.
10. See Letitia 1 and Letitia II.
11. Abbreviated GM, LM and SM. See Bibliography: Musgrave.
12. LG.
13. LIP. LO also confirms she died young. FR, however, states she died 19th July 1759.
14. See HMC p 243.
15. HP.
16. Also spelt Monk, Moncke or Muncke. She is referred by her married name as early as 1706 in a letter from her brother, Richard, who sends his regards to his *"Sister Monk"* in Yorkshire. See Primary Sources: MT.
17. From at least 1706 until around 1714. See note 16 and HMC pp 243, 252, 265 & 268.
18. See HMC pp 258 and 259.
19. See HMC p 268.
20. Handsworth, outside Sheffield.
21. See Bibliography.

22. HCA states she also understood Latin and Spanish.
23. Some were also published by Colman & Thornton in 1775 and 1773, under the title *Poems by Eminent Ladies*. See Bibliography.
24. LG quotes a Mr. Harris, who wrote of them in his *Continuation of Sir James Ware's Writers of Ireland*: "The fur/lest Critrick must allow to be well done." HCA also cites a Mr. Jacob, who "tells us, they shew the Spirit and numbers of Poetry, a delicacy of Turn, and a justness of thought and expression."
25. Hunter's *South Yorkshire*. Hunter also states she "is further commemorated in the church on a brass plate, having her name in cypher and the date of her decease". See Bibliography: Hunter.
26. CP: Sarah married Robert Mason Esq, of Mason's Brook, Co. Galway. Margaret, married firstly, on 4th April 1730, Henry Butler Esq (see HMC p 404), of Rossroe, Co. Clare, and secondly, Captain Hill.
27. hip.
28. LIP gives a quartering in his own right, indicating that he was already living in 1688. The inscription beneath his name has faded, but it is possible that he had died by the time of another Robert , whose name appears to have been added under the quartering of Richard, as were the names of William. Edward and Walter, all born 1688 or later. See Robert II.
29. CP.
30. CP based on LG In this year he was studying mathematics and surveying. See HMC p 271.
31. See HMC pp 331, 397, 399, 404 (2), 4()4-5 and 405.
32. FR. Her obituary: GM 1st July 1767. Robert Adair, MP for Philipstown, worked closely with his son-in-law as land-agent for the Molesworth estates and became grandfather of the 5th Viscount and ancestor of succeeding Viscounts. LG states he died 31st July 1737. See HMC pp 259, 267, 274, 307, 333, 397, 398, 399, 404, 405 and Chapter 5: 5th Viscount.
33. See Chapters 3 and 4.
34. See Family Trees: Line of Succession.
35. See Chapters 5 and 6.
36. FR: a writer in the East India Company, died unmarried in Bombay, 10th December 1753.
37. See Chapters 7 and 8, and Family Trees: Lines of Succession.
38. FR: died 15th September 1764, having married Captain George Johnston. MN: married St. Peter & St. Kevin, Dublin, 28th October 1749.
39. FR: married Richard Holmes, "gentleman", on 31st August 1756.
40. FR: baptized 22nd January 1734.
41. MN: baptized St. Peter & St. Kevin, Dublin, 3rd November 1740.
42. FR: married Knight Mitchell, of Shute Lodge, Devon, on 20 August 1770, died 12th November 1819.
43. MN: baptized St. Peter & St. Kevin, Dublin, 20th July 1745. FR: married John Clootwyth, died 19th December 1786.
44. See HMC pp 235 and 246. He seems to have had difficulty over relinquishing his position in order to go to Spain and this may have had something to do with his imprisonment at this time and his petition. See HMC pp 248, 247 and 250.
45. See HMC p 257.
46. See HMC p 276.
47. See HMC p 258.
48. FR. Catherine's sister was Mary. who married Edward's eldest brother, John (later 2nd Viscount). See Chapter 2.
49. FR: born 16th April 1719, died January 1720.
50. LG: he was buried 26th June 1750 at St. Anne's, Dublin, with his mother, who died 15th February 1748.

51 . Called *The Calculator* for his celebrated feats of calculation and methods for winning the lottery, he was baptized at St. Anne's, Dublin, 14th February 1751, married 13th June 1786, Frances, daughter of Matthew 11111 Esq, of London, and died 24th April 1791. His eldest son was Rev. John Edward Nassau, the eminent 19th-century Vicar of Rochdale. See Bibliography: Molesworth *Life of John Edward Nassau Molesworth* . From this branch is descended Sophie Rhys-Jones, who married, at St. George's, Windsor, 19th June 1999, HRH The Prince Edward, who were jointly created Earl and Countess of Wessex See Family Trees: Royal Descents and Primary Sources: Daily Mall.

52. FR: married 17th November 1773, Elizabeth, daughter of John Tuke Esq.

53. FR. Obituaries: GM, LM and SM.

54. HMC p 214. Chart confuses this earlier Coote with Coote II, the author of CP. Coote II gives his own birth in 1698 ("1798" is a slip of the pen). See HMC p 215 for reported death.

55. HP is unhelpful about her date of birth: '*filia quarta apud Copenhagen nata A° [gap]*'. Robert (*later* Viscount) Molesworth's wife, Letitia, has joined him in Denmark by the autumn of 1690, and it is likely Charlotte-Amelia was born by 1692, when a son, possibly Robert II, was also born abroad. See HMC p 215 and note 59 on Robert II.

56. In 1737.

57. Her half-cousin. Charlotte Amelia therefore shared with her husband the same grandmother, Judith Bysse. The latter was mother of the 1st Viscount by her first marriage, and mother of Henry (*later* Lord) Ferrard by her second. See Family Trees.

58. LG states there was a third daughter, no longer living.

59. Following Robert (*later* Viscount) Molesworth's hasty departure from Copenhagen in the summer of 1692, Letitia followed him as far as Hamburg and stayed on there, giving birth to a son, before rejoining her husband later that year. CP places a Robert between Charlotte-Amelia and Walter, and it is this one that is likely to be the second Robert in HP. For several reasons he does not seem to be the same one CP states died at Edlington aged 10, and my surmise is that there is a 3rd Robert born even later. See HMC pp 216-7 and note 105 on Robert III.

60. CP's order of births.

61. Elizabeth (*called* Betty). Walter's letters record her declining health, and she dies sometime after c1724-5, presumably from consumption. See HMC pp 345, 353 and 388.

62. Born 1719: "*My dear Betty is safely delivered ola very fine lad.*" See HMC p 280.

63. Initially James had studied law: FR states he entered Lincoln's Inn 24th January 1735-6.

64. FR: entered Lincoln's Inn 1st February 1747-8.

65. FR: died 1772.

66. FR died 1766.

67. His first cousin, Letitia, second daughter of 3rd Viscount. See Chapter 3 on 3rd Viscount.

68. CP.

69. Sec 1-HMC p 282.

70. Robert (*later* Viscount) Molesworth disagreed in 1718 with Edward Bolton's landscaping plans at Brazeel, which neighboured with Brackenstown: "*Some way must be found to take down this young man in his high shoes.*" The family differences seem to have endured over the long-term. See HMC pp 274-5, 275 and 397.

71. LG: Rev. Gustavus Hamilton.

72. LG: Captain John Grant.

73. Today spelt Dunfermline.

74. Coote misses out her last two daughters, Anna-Catharina and Charlotte, listed in LG.

75. Sadly, Letitia's lively letters on family matters and social gossip are heavily edited by Chart. See HMC pp 268, 272 and 356.

76. Obviously 1698.

77. As early as 1717 he expressed the desire to study "*physic*" at Leyden. See HMC p 273.

78. There are several letters reflecting Coote's early struggle for a suitable career, including one to his mother c1720, another from his eldest brother, John (*later* 2nd Viscount), reporting on Coote from Turin in 1721, and Coote's own letter of the same year, also from Turin. See HMC pp 292-3, 327 and 329.
79. See Chapter 1: 1st Viscount.
80. LG: "*conferred by his Majesty*" ie George II. At some point after qualifying he evidently contemplates practice in the West Indies, although his first practice appears to have been in Doncaster, near the family estate at Edlington. See HMC pp 401 -2, 402, 403, 404, 405 and 411.
81. FR: her will dated October 1785.
82. 49 Upper Brook Street, Mayfair. See Bibliography: Sheppard *Survey of London*.
83. CP. See Chapter 3 for further accounts of the fire.
84. FR. Obituary: GM.
85. See Coote H.
86. In 1716 his father writes "*Bysse is a rare young fellow in a garden, which he loves and works in like any labourer.*" It was his father's intention around this time to recommend him for the army. See HMC pp 270 and 272-3.
87. Letters from this period include discussions between his father and eldest brother, John (*later* 2nd Viscount), on plans for Bysse's service in Italy, one from Bysse in Stockholm of 1719, instructions from John on how Bysse should attire himself in Italy, and one from his father on Bysse's voyage to Genoa. See HMC pp 278-9, 327 and 332-3.
88. He serves Lord Carteret in Ireland from around 1724. See HMC p 376.
89. In 1714.
90. LG: MP for Swords to 1760 Je until end of King George II's reign.
91. LG and FR: 7th December.
92. BK: born 27th October 1712. LG and FR: daughter of John Cole Esq, MP for Eniskillen. FR: she died January 1770.
93. FR: baptized 2nd January 1734.
94. FR: 4th December 1756. MN: 7th December 1756, St. Andrew's, Dublin.
95. MN: baptized St. Peter & St. Kevin. Dublin, 7th March 1735.
96. 1747 unlikely: LG and FR give 1737, MN 1732.
97. FR: married firstly, September 1764, Catherine, daughter of Sir William Fletcher-Vane, Bart.; secondly, Henrietta H [gap] Blackett, widow, thirdly, Elizabeth, daughter of [gap] Ledringham. He died 20th August 1803.
98. 1749 unlikely: MN gives c1734.
99. FR: married 1770 Miss Rose. BK: Elizabeth, daughter of Hickmann Rose, of Limerick. Notable descendants include Sir Robert, Judge of the Supreme Court, Melbourne, Australia, during the 19th century, and Olivia de Havilland, Hollywood actress of the 20th century.
100. MN: born c1736, baptized SL Peter & St. Kevin, Dublin, 1742.
101. MN: born c1740, baptized St. Peter & St. Kevin, Dublin, 14th May 1744. FR: married Susannah, sister of Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe, Bart.
102. MN: baptized St. Peter & St. Kevin, Dublin, 6th August 1745.

103. MN: born c1742, baptized St. Peter & St. Kevin, Dublin, 10th June 1748. MN gives four further children: Richard, born c1738, John Cole, born c1744, Alice, baptized c1750, and Caroline-Amelia, born c1752.

104. Obituaries: GM 23rd November 1779, LM *and* SM.

105r CP places his birth between those of Charlotte-Amelia and Walter. However if Bysse, born in 1700, was present at his death, this Robert could not have been the same one born before Walter. His father's autobiographical letter of c1712 numbers 8 sons and 3 daughters then living (*see* Primary Sources: BL), which presumably included Robert III. A later date of death is further supported by the presence of Mary's two daughters, the younger of whom is still of marriageable age in 1741 and not likely to have been born long before 1712. As Mary herself is dead by early 1715, evidence points to a Christmas between 1712-14 as the most probable, making Robert III the last born child of the 1st Viscount.

106. Little more is known of John Phillips, but Molesworth Phillips is mentioned in DNB (1st Supplement 1901) and *Journal and Letters of Fanny Burney* (ed Joyce Hemlow, Oxford 1958), and his likeness is preserved in NPG.