

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

Pre-publication Collections

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SIR THOMAS JERVOISE

Thomas Jervoise was born 11 June 1587, only son of Thomas Jervoise of Britford, Wiltshire, but was orphaned at an early age, after which he lived with his stepfather, George Wrottesley. In 1601, the fourteen-year-old Thomas' wardship was purchased by Sir Richard Paulet; Jervoise then married Paulet's daughter Lucy and was made Paulet's heir. Jervoise inherited the Herriard and Freefolk estates at Paulet's death in 1614 and continued to live in Hampshire, although he often visited the estates in Wiltshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire he had from his father, particularly Britford in Wiltshire and Chelmersh in Shropshire.

Jervoise was knighted in 1607 and first elected to Parliament in 1621 from Whitchurch, the seat that had been Paulet's. During the 1624 session he kept a journal similar to Paulet's if somewhat narrower in scope, as it deals only with proceedings in the Commons, and of those primarily the foreign policy debates. Jervoise held the Whitchurch seat through the Civil War, in which he staunchly supported the Parliamentary side, including with some £15,000 of his own money. He died on 20th October 1654 and is buried at Herriard. Thomas' eldest son, Richard, also supported Parliament as a captain of the Hampshire militia and was killed in battle in 1645. The next oldest son, Thomas, inherited the Jervoise estates and himself served in Parliament in the 1680s.¹

¹ 'Jervoise, Sir Thomas (1587-1654), of Herriard and Freefolk, Hants.' *History of Parliament*. n.d. Accessed 28 Aug 2015. URL: <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/jervoise-sir-thomas-1587-1654>