Captain William Hervey

Just down the road from the home of the Hyde Parkers, at Melford Hall of which family Edmund Hyde Parker captained the Superb during the Battle of Jutland is Ickworth the home of the Hervey family and it is to William Hervey I refer.

The Hervey's produced several fine naval officers, some quite famous, but William, was infamous, very infamous !

Rock hard discipline was the main theme of the royal navy, and to be accused of being too rock-hard, was not only extremely rare, but branded William Hervey **as unique in his time - the only officer cashiered** because he was a disciplinarian - perhaps over much.

37. Hon. William Hervey (1699–1776), Capt. RN., 1727; commander of the *Superb*, 1740–42. On his return to England he was arrested, and charged with excessive brutality, use of foul language, and the death of a seaman, named White (beaten to death); he was court-martialed at Spithead 19 Aug. 1742, deprived of his command, and declared unfit for any subsequent command in the Navy (Sir Bernard Burke, *Peerage*, 1928, p. 352; *Annual Register*, 1776, p. 221; John Charnock, *Biographia navalis*, 1794–8, iv. 180–1, Robert Beatson, *Political Index*, 3d edn. 1806, ii. 27; David Hannay, *Short History of the Royal Navy*, 1898–1909, ii. 90–1).

Captain Bligh, by comparison, was a lovely guy, done the dirty on by some of his disgruntled officers.

William Hervey, third son of John, Lord Bristol, was born on Christmas Day, 1699 and went to Westminster school and then into the navy, and became a captain on June 2, 1727.

In November 1729 he was married to Elizabeth, only child of Thomas and Elizabeth Ridge of Portsmouth, formerly of Kilmiston, Hants ; but she died the following July on the very day on which she gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth.

Lord Mulgrave, in his memoir of Augustus, Lord Bristol, speaks of William Hervey as having been one of the best seamen of his day.

In January, 1776, he died.

This information has been largely supplied by Godfrey Dykes

Further information can be obtained from **LINK** and **HERE**