

**DERWENTWATER, JAMES
RADCLIFFE, EARL OF, 1689-1716.**
James Radcliffe, Earl of Derwentwater speech, 1716

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Derwentwater, James Radcliffe, Earl of, 1689-1716.
Title: James Radcliffe, Earl of Derwentwater speech, 1716
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 108
Extent: 0.1 cubic ft. (1 item)
Abstract: Contains a handwritten copy of the speech made by James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, from the scaffold on February 24, 1716.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

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Citation

[after identification of item(s)], James Radcliffe, Earl of Derwentwater Speech, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Jim Cooper and Nancy Watkins, 1989, 1996.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, was born on June 28, 1689 in London. He was the eldest son of Edward Radcliffe, second Earl of Derwentwater, by Lady Mary Tudor, daughter

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of Charles II and the Actress Mary Davies. Radcliffe spent the greater part of his youth at the exiled court of James Edward, the Old Pretender, at St. Germaine, France. He developed a close friendship with Charles Edward the Young Pretender, often called James III by his supporters.

In 1715 Radcliffe joined in the conspiracy to reinstate the Stuarts. The rebellion failed. Derwentwater surrendered and went to London to stand trial. On January 10, 1716 he appeared before the privy council. He pled guilty and begged for mercy, blaming his participation on youth and inexperience. The council denied the plea and sentenced him to death. Radcliffe was beheaded on February 24, 1716. He was one of only two peers executed during the Rising of 1715.

Scope and Content Note

This manuscript consists of a handwritten copy of the speech made by James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, from the scaffold on February 24, 1716. Radcliffe was sentenced to death by King George I because of his participation in the conspiracy to reinstate the Stuarts. In the speech Radcliffe renounced his plea of guilt, affirmed his adherence to the Roman Catholic faith, and professed his loyalty to James III.

