

## Bio: Richard Coote, Lord Bellomont

Richard Coote, 1st Earl of Bellomont (1636 – 1701) was a member of the English Parliament and a colonial governor. Born in Ireland, he was an early supporter of William and Mary, siding with them in the Glorious Revolution.

In 1695 he was given commissions as governor of the provinces of New York, Massachusetts Bay, and New Hampshire, which he held until his death. He did not arrive in the New World until 1698, and spent most of his tenure as governor in New York. His time in New York was marked by divisive politics resulting from Leisler's Rebellion (1689–1691).

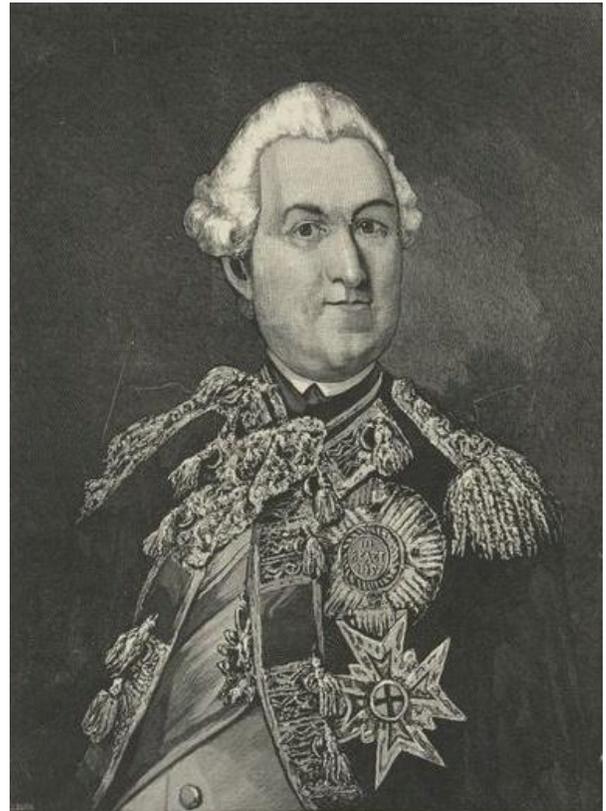
He was a major financial sponsor of William Kidd, whose privateering was later deemed to have descended into piracy. Bellomont engineered the arrest of Kidd in Boston, and had him returned to England, where he was tried, convicted, and hanged.

Richard Coote was born in Ireland in 1636. He was the second son, but the first to survive infancy, of Richard Coote and Mary, daughter of Sir George St George. His father was created Baron Coote of Coloony in 1660 and he succeeded his father as Baron Coote on the latter's death on 10 July 1683.

On 19 August 1680 he married Catherine, the daughter of Bridges Nanfan and the eventual heir to Birtsmorton Court in Worcestershire. They had two sons, Nanfan and Richard Coote. No daughters have been recorded.

The governor succumbed to a severe case of gout in March 1700/1 and was buried in the chapel of Fort William. When the fort was dismantled, his remains were moved to the yard of St. Paul's Chapel. Bellomont's eldest son, Nanfan, Lord Coloony, succeeded to the earldom on his death. His second son Richard, succeeded in turn as 3rd earl on his elder brother's death. Due to a lack of male heirs, the titles were eventually extinguished.

An interesting and well-rounded account of Richard Coote is given at the History of Parliament website, written by Stuart Handley. It gives a more detailed account of his political life – fortunes and misfortunes. The brief sketch above is primarily drawn from the article at the Wikipedia website. Much more can be learned by visiting the complete article.



Do you want to know more?

[Link to Richard Coote, Lord Bellomont in database](#)

[Letter: Lord Bellomont to Secretary Vernon, October 1700](#)

[Sketch: Our Colonial Governor – Three Theories](#)

Further Reading:

[Richard Coote, First Earl of Bellomont at the History of Parliament website](#)

[Richard Coote, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Bellomont from Wikipedia](#)

Richard Coote, Dictionary of American Biography, Vol 2; editors Johnson and Malone.

Richard Coote, National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Vol 7, James T White.

Peerage of Ireland, Vol 3; John Lodge, Dublin.