

## BEDLOE, WILLIAM (1650 - 1680), adventurer and Popish Plot informer

**Name:** William Bedloe

**Date of birth:** 1650

**Date of death:** 1680

**Gender:** Male

**Occupation:** adventurer and Popish Plot informer

**Area of activity:** Politics, Government and Political Movements; Religion; Royalty and Society

**Author:** John Martin Cleary

Born at Chepstow, Monmouth. He progressed from thieving in England to swindling on the Continent and, on emerging from a spell in Valladolid prison, achieved the rare feat of stealing money from Titus Oates. In October 1678, on the conclusion of a six months' stay in Newgate, he embarked on an exceptionally successful career as an informer, by claiming to be able to reveal the facts of the murder of Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey. He gave evidence against over a dozen priests, and even accused the queen, Catherine of Braganza, of plotting to murder the king. He died at Bristol, 20 August 1680. A contemporary considered him much superior to Oates in imagination and fluency of speech, and hardly inferior to him as a liar and a perjurer.

### Author

John Martin Cleary

### Sources

*Catholic Record Society*, xvii, xviii

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

J. Pollock, *The Popish Plot. A study in the history of the reign of Charles II*

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [William Bedloe](#)

### Additional Links

VIAF: [10185436](#)

Wikidata: [Q8005312](#)

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