

# Dore Abbey and John, Viscount Scudamore

*Dore Abbey, a Parish Church created from an historic Cistercian Monastery in the beautiful Golden Valley*



## Historical Events

In 1282, the church was consecrated by Thomas, later Saint Thomas Cantilupe with armed guards ringing the building. He was Bishop of Hereford and the consecration was carried out in the teeth of opposition from the Bishop of St. David's. He also claimed jurisdiction and the active support of some local lords - many of whose families were to be buried in the Abbey as its importance grew.

You can still see the altar stone in the church. It has the place for a relic and the five consecration crosses cut into it. After the Abbey's dissolution, in 1536/7, the altar stone was lost. At the 1630s restoration, a wooden communion table was made, which can be seen in the ambulatory. However, the altar stone was found, being used for salting meat at the nearby farm, and returned.

The Abbey's life ended in the Dissolution of the Monasteries carried out by Henry VIII. It is likely some worship continued in a part of the church, **BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE 1630S THAT JOHN, VISCOUNT SCUDAMORE, PAID AN ENORMOUS SUM FOR ITS RESTORATION** to expiate the guilt he felt at inheriting church lands. The nave was blocked off, a tower built, and the roof repaired. The design of the church was that of his friend William Laud, who became Archbishop of Canterbury, whose coat-of-arms can also be seen at the entrance to Lambeth Palace chapel in London.

**MORE ON THE SCUDAMORE VISCOUNTS BELOW:**

## **HOLME LACY, HEREFORDSHIRE**

by Warren Skidmore

This family descends from the Skydmores of ROWLSTONE, HEREFORDSHIRE. A doctoral dissertation John, 1st Viscount Scudamore 1601-71: a Career at Court and in the Country, 1602-43, by Ian Jeffery Atherton of Selwyn College was submitted to the University of Cambridge in February 1993. An edition of 25 copies was duplicated (reduced to 369 pages) of Dr. Atherton's dissertation and distributed to major libraries on both sides of the Atlantic. It is likely to remain the best account of Holme Lacy family from the time of the Tudors forward.

PHILIP SKYDMORE alias EWYAS, of Holampton (Holanton, Hollanton) in Holme Lacy (now Hollington Farm) was presumably a son of the Thomas Skydmore who is said to have married an unnamed daughter of Clarice Whelan and is named (with his elder brother Philip) in a deed dated at Rowlstone on 23 March 1348/9. Cooke, the Claren-ceux Herald, notes in the Visitation of Hereford-shire in 1569 that he was "otherwise called Philipe Evias" and that he had served in the wars in France. As Philip Ewias he was a collector of the subsidy in Herefordshire in 1384 and in several years thereafter. He married (probably as his 2nd wife) Agnes (died 14 May 1411), the 2nd daughter of John Huntercombe (died 1349) and previously the widow of 1stly William de la Barre (died 1363) from whom she had a life interest in the manor of Hollanton in Holme Lacy worth 30sh annually, and 2ndly of Edmund fitz John (died 1367). Philip Skydmor was living by 1 January 1382/3 at Holme Lacy when he used this style of his name in witnessing a deed there and had a pardon (called of Holme Lacy) for some unspecified offense on 16 June 1398. Agnes Skydmore was (with her two sisters) an eventual heiress in 1391 on the death of a great-nephew to the Huntercombe estates, and Philip Skydmore died 9 December 1419 holding in her right a third part of Burnham, Buckingham-shire, the advowson of Eton Church (and certain lands there), rents from Windsor Castle, the advowson of Beaconsfield Church in Buckingham-shire as well as lands at Holme Lacy in Herefordshire. He left issue, two sons,

1. John Skydmore, of Kilforge in Ballingham, appears to have been the elder by an earlier marriage of Philip Skydmore to an unknown lady. On 25 June 1408 John (the son of Philip Skydmore of Holan-ton) with a large party of men from Wales including Thomas Skydmore of Ewyas land broke into the house of William Hamme at Holme Lacy to right some unspecified wrong. John Skydmore had the manor of Strangford in Sellack, Herefordshire, on 1 November 1417 from John ap Joan ap Madoc of Kynbryg, and he was appointed by Edmund Lacy, Bishop of Hereford, as Constable of the Bishop's Castle for life on 4 June 1418. He is called of Ballingham on 25 June 1426 when he is mentioned in a release of lands at Ballingham formerly belonging to Cecilia Cradock alias Burghill.
2. GEORGE, of whom further,

### **The younger son,**

**GEORGE SKYDMORE alias EWYAS**, is said to have been aged 26 and more at his mother's death in 1411 (but was certainly an adult in 1401 when he appears as a witness). He is also said (in the Visitation pedigree) to have settled at Holme Lacy in 7 KING HENRY V at the age of 30. He held Hollanton in 1428 as a quarter of a knight's fee, having apparently converted his mother's interest (in the right of her 1st husband) to himself by some further deed or deeds now lost. He married Elizabeth (died 1476), a daughter and heiress of Payn Burghill of Burghill, Herefordshire, who brought to the Skydmores certain lands and rents at Treaddow and Hoarwithy in Hentland and at

Carey in Ballingham. George Skydmore died 28 February 1441/2 seized of the Huntercombe lands in Buckinghamshire and other lands in Herefordshire. Had issue,

1. PHILIP, his heir, of whom further.
2. WILLIAM, ancestor of the family at BALLINGHAM, HEREFORDSHIRE.
3. Thomas. He was living 7 December 1452 when Philip Skydmore granted to his brother William Skydmore all his lands in Ballingham, Carey in Little Dewchurch and Treaddow in Hentland (all formerly belonging to the Burghills) with remainder in default of heirs to their brother Thomas Skydmore.
1. Catherine. She was still unmarried on 8 January 1449/50 when she surrendered her interest in the manor of Treaddow to her brother William Skydmore of Ballingham. She married Thomas Cavendish (died 1477) of Cavendish Overhall, Suffolk, and they were ancestors of the dukes of Devonshire (see BURKE'S Peerage, DEVONSHIRE, D.). She was buried 15 September 1499 at St. Botolph Aldersgate, London.

#### **The eldest son,**

**PHILIP SKYDMORE**, of Holme Lacy, born about 1416, settled the manor of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, on himself and his wife Wenllyan on 18 January 1442/3. He held in addition to his lands in Herefordshire and Buckinghamshire a moiety of several manors in Essex formerly belonging to the Huntercombes (sold to John Holmestead of Great Maplestead, Essex, on 28 November 1571). He is doubtless the man of his name who was Mayor of Hereford in 1482, and died 26 December 1488 having had issue by his wife Wenllyan (alias Joan), a daughter of \_\_\_\_\_ Osborne of London,

1. Thomas, the eldest son. In 1477 he inherited lands and freehold tenements at Holme Lacy following the death of his grandmother Elizabeth Scudamore (who had a life interest) and rendered fealty for them at a court held for the manor of Holme Lacy in 1479. He died without issue in his father's lifetime and the probate of his will was granted at Monmouth on 23 October 1486 to an unnamed relict according to the Consistory Court Act Books at Hereford.
2. WILLIAM, his heir, of whom further.
3. Edward, of Siddington Langley, Gloucestershire. He was named the residuary legatee and executor of Reverend Richard Caple of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, on 26 November 1500, and had a bequest of 40sh in the will of Sir Giles Brugge of Coberley, Gloucestershire, dated 20 November 1511. He married (after 1506) Isabel, (died 7 March 1540/1 aged 66), a daughter and coheir of Edmund Langley of Siddington Langley, and previously the widow 1stly of John Lymbryk and 2ndly of Henry Kettleby. He survived his wife but was probably dead in 1545 when the advowson of the vicarage of Preston (near Cirencester, Gloucestershire) is noted as "lately that of Edward Skydmore." He left posterity, not presently traced, among them a John Skidmore who is noticed at Siddington Langley on 23 March 1579/80.
1. Anne, born 1458. She married John Skydmore of ROWLSTONE, HEREFORDSHIRE, a distant cousin. She died 28 February 1527/8.

#### **The 2nd son,**

**WILLIAM SKYDMORE (SCUDAMORE), of Holme Lacy**, born 1464. He rendered fealty for his father's lands at a court held for the manor of Holampton in Holme Lacy in April 1489. He married Alice (died 4 June 1558 at Holme Lacy), the daughter of Richard Mynors of Treago, Herefordshire (see BURKE'S Peerage, MYNORS, Bt.). On 7 March 1536/7 she was left a hoop [ring] of gold in the codicil of the will

of her eldest brother Sir Roger Mynors of Treago and Windley Hill, Derbyshire. He died about 1520 leaving issue,

1. JOHN, his heir, of whom further.
2. Richard (Dom). He was a Benedictine monk at St. Peter's, Gloucester, and had letters dispensatory on 20 November 1535 "to exchange his monkish habit for the seemly garb of a secular priest." He was instituted Rector at Rudford, Gloucestershire, on 8 February 1536/7. His will is dated 26 March 1538 and he was dead by 7 April when his successor was instituted. He is buried in the chancel of St. Mary's, Rudford.
3. Roger. He was a Petty Captain with 100 footmen in the retinue of the Earl of Shrewsbury in Shropshire in 1513, and served in the 1st division of the army in France throughout the siege of Théroutanne. He married Agnes (previously the widow of William Spenser of Whitton, Shropshire), a daughter of Jenkin Kynaston. Spenser had a mortgage on certain lands at Whitton and Vennington worth 50sh by the year, and after his death Roger Skydmore took the profits of these lands "contrary to right and good conscience" according to a suit in chancery (undated, but 1504-15). He probably had issue not presently traced.
  1. Mary, married Robert Chadnor of Munsley, Herefordshire.
  2. Joan, left a silver goblet and other personalty in the will of Richard Mynors, her grandfather, in 1528. She is probably the lady of her name elected Prioress of Aconbury in 1535, and who was there in 1540 when the house was dissolved and the nuns pensioned.

#### **The eldest son,**

**JOHN SKIDMORE (SCUDAMORE), of Holme Lacy** and Wilton, Herefordshire, born about 1486, was one of the four Gentlemen Ushers as early as 6 HENRY VIII (1514-5). He held this office for over 30 years, and arranged to have it transferred to Sir Richard Blount late in 1547. He was for many years the recipient of a New Years gift from the KING in appreciation of his service. He was later (according to his tomb put up before his death) an Esquire of the Body at Court although no documentary evidence has been found to support his appointment to this latter office and it may have been promised but never granted in fact. His own abilities as well as his presence at Court did lead to a number of other offices; he was Sheriff and Escheator in Merionethshire in 1520 (and for the next eight years), Steward for life in 1523 of the manors of Ashperton, Stretton Grandison, and Yarkhill belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster (being succeeded in this office by his grandson John Scudamore in 1571), Sheriff in Herefordshire in 1524 (and for three later terms), and Steward for life in 1531 of Kidwelly belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster (where he was succeeded by his son Richard Scudamore). He was one of the original Augmentation Court Auditors and Receivers in 1536 for the counties of Herefordshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire; having served KING HENRY well he had a proportionate reward out of the church lands at the dissolution of the monasteries (notably Dore Abbey with its possessions, and much else). He was one of the Council of the Marches of Wales, as were his successive heirs for several generations after him. In the early 1540s he rebuilt Holme Lacy house in brick with picturesque gables and stone mullions moving his household for a time to Wilton. The chapel in the newly completed house at Holme Lacy was consecrated on 11 June 1546. He married 1stly (licence 10 May 1511) Sybil (died 5 May 1559), daughter of Watkin Vaughan of Hergest, Herefordshire, who was the mother of all his children. They are buried in the chancel of the church at Holme Lacy where alabaster effigies of them, John Skydmore in his heavy plate armour, were erected in his lifetime. He married 2ndly (by 1564) Joan, daughter of William Rudhall

of Rudhall, Herefordshire, and previously the widow of Richard Reade of Oddington, Gloucestershire. Despite his prominence at court he and most of his sons remained quietly true to the old Catholic faith. John Scudamore died at Holme Lacy on 25 September (buried 4 October) 1571 aged 85, having had issue,

1. WILLIAM, eldest son, of whom further.
2. Richard, of Blackfriars, London, and Churcham, Gloucestershire. He was with his elder brother William at Oriel College; Richard stayed with him for a time at Oxford but may not have been a student there. An undated letter written by Roger Mynors (died 1536) to his nephew John Scudamore "gentlyman Usher of the Kinge's honorable chamber" mentions this Richard so: he ys welcome to hys aunt, and whedyr he wyll prove a good clerke or not I can not tell you y trust verayly he shall prove a good man, and I wyll help hym unto yt to [the] best of my power." His education, although apparent in his letters, is obscure. The brothers went to London from Oxford. In July of 1535 John Scudamore, their father, wrote in fury about a brawl in Lion's Inn involving "a lewde [ignorant] boy of myn" who was a servant to Sir Thomas Cromwell. If that unhappy boy should come where his father promised to "sette hym ther as he schall see no sonne or mone for oon year." William wrote to his father soon after that Cromwell himself had summoned his brother for a firm warning but then "lyke a good master unto him" had promised to pay for his fees. This brother, never named, may well have been Richard Scudamore. Richard Scudamore had an appointment to serve KING HENRY VIII as Yeoman of the Toils on 30 June 1539 for which he was to be paid 16sh a month and an accommodation at Blackfriars. A toil [tent] was a net or trap used to snare wild animals and on 6 October 1541 Richard Skidmore delivered £100 to Sir Francis Bryan, Master of the Toils, to catch and convey 500 deer from the Great Park below Windsor Castle to Hampton Court Palace. The nets were store at Blackfriars in London, and all of his later letters were dated from that place with the exception of one from Fleet Street. On 22 January 1543 Richard Scudamore was paid 3sh 4d each to supervise the capture and transport of 700 fallow deer to Epping Forest in Essex. His name appears on a list of "yeoman, grooms and pages" in the Royal Household drawn up in February 1547 at the time of KING HENRY'S funeral, and he was still being paid in September 1553. He apparently never found promotion at Court from this humble position. He is called of Wilton, Herefordshire, on 10 March 1540 when QUEEN CATHERINE [PARR] leased her manor of Much Marcle, Herefordshire, to him. [His father seems to have moved the family household to Wilton while Holme Lacy was being rebuilt.] He had entered the employment of Sir Philip Hoby, the ambassador resident at the court of Emperor Charles V at Augsburg in southern Germany by September 1549. Scudamore became Hoby's "secretary" (as he called himself) and a multitude of duties included writing a weekly letter to his master with news of London and the Court even if there seemed "small occasyon" to do so. A book of 32 of his letters from September 1549 to October 1550 (recently published by the Camden Society) survives in the National Library of Scotland and is one of the best accounts of the volatile politics at the court of EDWARD VI. On 10 September 1551 he was named to serve as the Steward of Kidwelly in reversion after the death of his father. He followed Hoby to the continent and on 1 July 1553 the Privy Council

issued a warrant to him as Hoby's servant for 20 marks for his charges and pains in bringing the post to England and returning with it. He was sent back to Hoby immediately thereafter with the news of the death of the young KING. On 2 March 1555 Scudamore was preparing to join Hoby in Italy, and in August "Mr. Skydmore" and Hoby left Padua for England. They visited the congregation of English exiles at Frankfurt on the way home. Early in November he departed Antwerp leaving Hoby who went on to Spain. Sir Philip had converted early to evangelical Protestantism and so had Richard Scudamore. This may have provoked a quarrel between Richard and John Scudamore who remained true to the old Catholic faith.; he is the only one of his father's sons (and grandsons) not remembered in his will. He was not at Holme Lacy on 4 October 1571 for his father's funeral according to an account of the procession to the church at the College of Arms. Nevertheless he succeeded him as Steward of Kidwelly and served until his own death (will proved 23 December 1586) when he was succeeded in this office by his nephew John Scudamore of Holme Lacy. His will was dated some ten years earlier; it left his entire estate to his "kinsman" Richard Arnold of Churcham, Gloucestershire, with whom he apparently made his home. Arnold did not have long to enjoy the bequest; he was dead a few months later (will approved 7 May 1587) providing an annuity for his wife but leaving his entire estate at Bulley in Churcham to his "cousin" Rowland Scudamore (the youngest son of Richard's brother William).

3. JOHN, ancestor of the family at FOWNHOPE, HEREFORDSHIRE.
4. Philip, of Wintercott in Leominster, Herefordshire, married (by 1564) Joan (died 3 April 1597 at Walford, Herefordshire), daughter of Richard Warnecombe, and previously the widow of Walter Kyrle of Walford Court. (She was one of six sisters, heirs to Richard Warnecombe, the younger.) On 15 September 1564 his father granted to Philip and Joan Scudamore a moiety of certain lands at Walford. He was a Gentleman Usher (a quarter waiter on duty three months of the year) to QUEEN ELIZABETH I by 1576, an office that he held continuously until his death. He is said to have been a Catholic recusant in 1574 (even after his father's death), and presumably kept his religion a secret at court. He died 12 June 1602 leaving issue, an only daughter,



1. Sybil, his heir. She married Sir John Kyrle, 1st Bt., (died 1650) of Much Marcle, Herefordshire. (See BURKE'S Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies). She had Wintercott settled on her at the time of her marriage. She was buried 9 February 1635/6 at Much Marcle where handsome effigies of her husband and herself still survive in the church.

1. Catherine, married (licence 21 January 1537) Richard Monington of Sarnesfield, Herefordshire.
2. Jane, married 1stly John Warnecombe (died 1552) of Wintercott, a brother of the wife of Philip Scudamore, and 2ndly (settlement 12 November 1554) Sir William Devereux, Kt., (died 1579) of Myre-vale, Warwickshire, uncle to the earl of Essex. She had apparently died before her father.
3. Sybil, married 1stly (by 1538) Thomas Dansey of Brinsop, Herefordshire, and 2ndly (by 1571) John Delabere of Tibberton, Gloucestershire.
4. Joan, married 1stly Walter Guillim of Gillow in Hentland, Herefordshire, and 2ndly Charles Herbert (died 1602) of Alton Court near Ross, Herefordshire.
5. Elizabeth, married Humphrey Baskerville (died 1587) of Chanston in Vowchurch, Herefordshire.

**The eldest son,**

**WILLIAM SCUDAMORE, of Livers Ocle,** Herefordshire, was educated at Oriel College, Oxford, and admitted 23 January 1537/8 to Lincoln's Inn. He seems to have become his father's chief deputy soon after in surveying and disposing of the property of dissolved monasteries and on 6 July of the same year was in Shropshire to inspect the friaries at Woodhouse and Bridgnorth. In 1549 he granted certain chantry lands in Wilton, Herefordshire, to John ap Gwillim of Fawley. He married Ursula (died 20 June 1558 at Frankley, Worcestershire) daughter and coheir of Sir John Pakington, Kt., of Westwood Park near Hampton Lovet, Worcestershire. (The portraits of Sir John Pakington and Dorothy, his wife, once at Holme Lacy, are now in the dining room at Kentchurch Court.) Mr. Scudamore died before his father on 20 April 1560 at Ross, Herefordshire, seized of Church Lench, Worcestershire, and other lands in the right of his wife, a considerable heiress. Had issue,

1. JOHN (SIR), heir to his grandfather, of whom further.
2. Richard. The 2nd son, he was a mourner at his grandfather's funeral on 4 October 1571 organized by Robert Glover, the Somerset Herald. Glover's memorandum of the rites shows that in the procession following the body from the house to the church at Holme Lacy that Mr. John Skidamore "the chief mourner" (and his grandson and heir) was followed by (on the left) John Scudamor "3. son to the defunct" and (on the right) Richard Scudamor "younger brother to the chief mourner." Nothing else is known of him; he was buried at Holme Lacy on 2 July 1575.
3. GEORGE, born 1552, ancestor of the family at TREWORGAN, HEREFORDSHIRE.
4. Rowland, of Churcham, Gloucestershire, and Sellack, Herefordshire. He had the office of Gaoler and Keeper of Prisoners of several counties and the whole of Wales on 6 April 1586. Mr. Scudamore purchased the manor and mansion of Caradoc Court in Sellack on 2 July 1586 from Roger Mynors and rebuilt the house with so much skill that it became one of the most beautiful examples of Elizabethan architecture in the county. It was remodelled but the great hall in oak survived (until recently) as he knew it. At his death the house passed to his great-nephew and heir, viscount Scudamore, and it was occupied thereafter for several generations as a jointure or dower house by the family. Alas, Caradoc Court was almost totally destroyed by fire on 8 March 1986 as noted subsequently. His distant cousin Richard Arnold by his will dated 16 April 1587 left his lands at Bulley near Churcham, Gloucestershire, to Rowland Scudamore who was also named his residual legatee and executor.

(Presumably much of Arnold's estate had belonged earlier to Rowland's uncle Richard Scudamore of Churcham.) He was Sheriff of Herefordshire in 1616-7 and purchased the manor of Sellack in 1619. He was the donor in 1630 of the stained glass in the east window of the church there which bears his monogram R.S. Rowland Scudamore died unmarried and was buried on 8 January 1630/1 at Sellack.

1. Joan, only daughter, married (settlement 24 September 1562) as his 1st wife Thomas Scudamore, a kinsman, of KENTCHURCH COURT.

#### **The eldest son,**

**SIR JOHN SCUDAMORE, KT., of Holme Lacy**, born 1 February 1541/2, had a general livery of his father's lands on 18 May 1563 and of his grandfather on 19 May 1572. He was admitted to the Inner Temple, London, in November 1569. His sons were educated at Holme Lacy under the tutelage of Thomas Holford, subsequently a Catholic priest. He was a Justice of the Peace for Herefordshire by November 1569, Steward of the manors of Ashperton, Stretton and Yarkhill by 1571, of Kidwelly 23 January 1586/7 (succeeding his uncle Richard Scudamore there), and of Archenfield by 1591. Sir John had been knighted probably about 14 September 1592 while QUEEN ELIZABETH I was at Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire visiting Giles, Lord Chandos; on 12 October Lady Mary Scudamore wrote to the earl and countess of Shrewsbury thanking them for their congratulations. He was a Gentleman Pensioner to the QUEEN by 25 March 1572 and Standard Bearer of the Pensioners on 19 June 1599, an office he held until May 1603. Sir John was Custos Rotulorum by May 1574, Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Hereford by 1577 and Steward and Keeper of the courts of the manors of Fownhope, Cradley, Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye in Hereford-shire, and Bishops Castle, Shropshire, on 12 April 1578. He was Sheriff of Herefordshire 1581-1582, a Member of Parliament for the county in 1571, 1572, 1584, 1586, 1589, 1597 and 1601, and Member of the Council in the Marches of Wales 30 May 1602. Sir John was a great friend of learning and an intimate of Sir Thomas Bodley; he donated -£40 to the Bodleian Library which was used to purchase a manuscript and 114 printed books for the scholars at Oxford University. "John Scudamor of homlacy" appears on a list of Catholics in Inglonde 1574; but this may have only been political slander. However if he was true to the old faith (as seems likely) he must have outwardly conformed in matters of religion. He married before 1563 as his 1st wife Eleanor (buried 9 December 1569 at Holme Lacy), daughter of Sir James Croft of Croft Castle, Hereford-shire, and Controller of the Household to the QUEEN, and by her had issue,

1. Henry, his eldest son and heir apparent, was admitted 16 April 1583 to the Middle Temple, London. He was arrested 4 November 1590 (with other friends of John Scudamore of Holme Lacy) on order of the Privy Council on the complaint of the Earl of Essex that he had caused a riot at Ross. Mary Scudamore, writing from court to her husband at Holme Lacy in this period says of Harry that she hopes that "he will be more careful to please you hereafter and endeavor to your comfort always." He died about 1591 before his father.
2. John (Reverend), baptized 3 August 1567 at Holme Lacy, matri-culated 28 November 1581 at Hart Hall, Oxford, and was admitted to the English College, Rome, on 10 January 1591 where he was ordained a priest on 7 May 1592. He is doubtless the young man of his name who was earlier a confidential secretary to Sir Francis Walsingham in 1587 and as such was actively involved in the unmasking of the Babington plot. He returned immediately to England after his ordination and

distributed large quantities of devotional articles which he said had been blessed by the Pope. On 17 January 1592/3 he was arrested accused of being a party to a Popish plot to assassinate QUEEN ELIZABETH I, but was soon at liberty having presumably proved his innocence. It is difficult to tell what were his true sentiments in this period, but it appears that he was not trusted completely by the Catholics. In September 1593 he took two daughters of the Wiseman family of Braddocks, Essex, to Louvain to become nuns and went on to Rome. In March 1594 he is described so: "Skidmor is a tall man aged 30, long-visaged, his nose long and thick, his beard stubbed, round cut and somewhat long, of a dark colour. He holdeth his head a little down; his cloak and breeches were near a peach colour; his stocking orange tawny." He was at Florence on 7 July 1595 when he wrote a letter for John Dowland recommending his "exquistenes upon the lute and his carriage in musick." Dowland, fearful later that his acquaintance with Skidmore might be misunderstood, wrote a letter on 10 November 1595 from Nuremberg, Germany, stating that Skidmore (who had presented himself as the son of and heir of Sir John Skidmore of the Court) told him that the QUEEN had nothing to fear from the English Catholics. It was the Jesuits of the Spanish faction who wished her harm "and we [the English Catholics] have many jars [disagreements] with them & withall [he] wished to God the Queen were a Catholic, said he, to defend my Country against the Spaniards I would come to England and bear a pike on my shoulders." He had a special pardon on 4 August 1606 having become an apostate and according to a letter "reveals many things of great moment." He was taken into the household of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The last survivor of the sons of Sir John, he is not remembered in his father's will but was living age 56 according to the inquest post mortem taken in 1623. He was living at Oxford on 26 March 1624 when he confirmed to his nephew Sir John Scudamore, baronet (soon after viscount), Holme Lacy as well as all the other lands and leaseholds once belonging to his father. In return his nephew gave him a quarterly annuity of £15. John Scudamore, Esq., entered into an agreement on 28 November 1626 to pay £3 10sh out of his quarterly annuity to James Whittney of Oxford University to reduce the debts that he owed to Richard Davenant and John Nurse, a mercer of London. Nothing further has been learned of him after this date.

3. JAMES (SIR), his heir, of whom further.
1. Ursula, baptized 14 December 1568 at Holme Lacy. She married Alexander Walwyn of Old Court, Lugwardine, Herefordshire.
2. Alice, baptized 20 September 1569. She was left a legacy of £5 in the will of her grandfather in 1571. George Scudamore, her uncle, complained of her behavior in a letter to his brother Sir John: "Your daughter [hath] more neede of a good mistress than a new fashioned gowne; Mrs. Pie or my Lady Aubrie (gentlewoman of great sobrietie fit to tame so unrulie a young gentlewoman as she is if report may be beleaved) are to be inquired and that speadellie." She was buried on 5 November 1580 at Leominster, Herefordshire.

Sir John married 2ndly probably in January 1573/4 Mary (buried 15 August 1603 at Holme Lacy), daughter of Sir John Shelton (died 1558) of Shelton, Norfolk, and a second cousin to QUEEN ELIZABETH I. She had a warrant as one of the Chamberers of the QUEEN'S Privy Chamber on 2

January 1571. She and Sir John were married in secret and when the QUEEN learned of this she so abused poor Lady Mary that she broke her little finger and then “gave out that it was done by the falling of a candlestick.” Later Mary Scudamore (who became one of the most influential women at court) was rewarded with the grant of Cran-bourne Park in Dorset on 7 June 1577 “in consideration of her good, nice and faithful and acceptable services as a gentlewoman of the Queen’s private chambers” and on 3 October 1584 she had a further annuity of £100 in reversion after the death of William Worthington from the QUEEN. Lady Scudamore’s book of expenses connected with the QUEEN’S wardrobe and a description of her gowns is among the Duchess of Norfolk deeds at the Public Record Office. Sir John lived to a great age, and was presumably vigorous in 1617 when he was still steward of Hereford City. Sir John died at 4 o’clock in morning of Easter Monday, 14 April 1623, aged 81, and was buried at Holme Lacy the following day.

### **His 3rd son,**

**SIR JAMES SCUDAMORE, KT., of Holme Lacy**, baptized there 10 June 1568. He bore the armorial pennant at the funeral of Sir Philip Sidney on 16 February 1587 and is called a Catholic recusant in 1592. He was admitted to Gray’s Inn on 13 March 1594/5. James Scudamore accompanied the Earl of Essex to Cadiz where he was knighted at Cadiz by the Earl on 22 June 1596. He was Deputy Lieutenant of Herefordshire (succeeding his father) on 25 August 1600, and an M. P. for the county in 1603 and thereafter. He had been bred a Catholic but later renounced the old faith with the rest of his family soon after the turn of the century having apparently concealed his true sentiments for many years. On Wednesday evening, 19 June 1605, he and three other justices of the county with the blessing of both the Bishop of Hereford and the Bishop of Llandaff made a thirty-mile sweep along the border between Herefordshire and Monmouthshire flushing out Catholics. The justices, accompanied by an armed band of men descended first on The Darren (where mass was known to be said) and then made a house by house, village by village search that lasted all night and the day following. They found “altars, images, books of superstition, relics of idolatry” but the Catholics had fled west and south into Wales. Sir James was Sheriff in 1601 and had the office of Steward of Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, (with Carnallen and Iskenan) on 29 January 1611/2 with the reversion to his son John Scudamore. Spenser held him up as a pattern of chivalry as “the gentle Scudamour” in the fourth book of the Faerie Queen. He was appointed to the council of the Welsh Marches on 12 November 1617 and subscribed £30 to the Virginia Company. He married 1stly on 21 March 1597 Mary (who died in childbirth and was buried 16 August 1598 at Holme Lacy), daughter and coheirress of Peter Houghton, an Alderman of London, who brought him a fortune of £12,000. He married 2ndly on 11 April 1599 at St. James’, Clerkenwell, Mary (buried 17 October 1632 at Sunningwell, Berkshire), daughter of Sir Thomas Throckmorton (buried St. Paul’s Cathedral 2 July 1597) of Coss Court, Tortworth, Gloucestershire, and previously the widow of Sir Thomas Baskerville of Sunningwell. She and Sir James Scudamore were first estranged in the summer of 1607 but were temporarily reconciled. She was living at the birth of her son Barnabas with her sister Margaret and her husband Sir Barnabas Sambourne at Timsbury, Somerset. On 18 September 1609 she complained to Salisbury that she had been turned out of her house by her father-in-law, maltreated by her husband, and refused justice by the Bishop of London. Sir James, writing to his father on 13 February 1607, says that his wife “by her own tongue has brought her into greater miseries than any enemy could have imposed upon her and is condemned by all parties.” She later alienated her son, viscount Scudamore, as his correspondence with Bishop William Laud shows, but he gave her a pension to maintain her ladies and her household at Sunningwell. A codicil to her will in her own

hand of this unhappy lady still survives and it is clear that her mind was badly confused. A portrait, done on the occasion of his marriage on 12 March 1614/5 (no doubt intended as a wedding gift) is now at Montacute House in Somerset. It was formerly thought to be of Lady Mary Scudamore, but is now known to be his mother-in-law Lady Anne Porter of Llantonny (and not the bridegroom's mother). Sir James was one of the foremost tilers before the QUEEN in the tournaments of his day. Two suits of armour made for him are now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, acquired when Holme Lacy and its furnishings were sold in 1909. He died before his father on 13 April 1619 and was buried at Holme Lacy the following day. Had issue,

1. JOHN, 1st VISCOUNT, of whom further.
2. James (Captain), baptized 21 April 1606. He was left £200 in the will of his grandfather. He was serving in the cavalry in the Low Countries on 1 October 1622 when he wrote letters from there to both his half brother Hannibal Baskerville and his brother Sir John (then a baronet). He was apparently home within the month for he was admitted to the Middle Temple, London, on 9 November 1622. He was in the army commanded by General Sir Charles Morgan under the Prince of Orange in 1631. In a letter from Colonel Sir Edmund Harwode to Sir Dudley Carleton (viscount Dorchester) we get a report about a duel between Captain Scudamore and "one Mr. Kaye a Scotche gent." Their quarrel was due in large part to the army being confined to camp near The Hague, and was fought on horseback with two pistols each and short swords. All four pistol shots missed but "wth ther swords it was Scudamore[']s ill fortune to wounde Mr. Kaye in the belly so sore, as he died on the place." He is said by (Hannibal Baskerville) to have died soon after and was buried at The Hague.
3. William, baptized 13 March 1606/7, buried the following day at Holme Lacy.
4. Barnabas (Sir), baptized 2 April 1609 at Timsbury, Somerset. He had the rectory of Bridstow by the will of his grandfather, which together with an annuity of -£50 from his eldest brother was his entire fortune. He followed his brother James to the Low Countries. He and his servant John James (both aged 22) took the oath of allegiance on 26 November 1631 and returned home safely. Among the most forward to join the Royalists in the Civil War, he was severely wounded by a shot in the right arm close to the shoulder at Stoneleigh Abbey (near Coventry, Warwickshire) on 15 August 1642. His wounds were so greivous (on the 28th it was reported that "my Lorde Scidmor brother's arme must bee cut off") that he was left behind when the army retreated. He escaped later to rejoin the army at Shrewsbury and was at the battle of Hopton Heath and the siege of Lichfield. He was Sheriff of Herefordshire in 1644 and was named Governor of the city of Hereford on 10 September 1644. He had the walls and gates of the city repaired antici-pating a seige, and was made a Colonel by Prince Rupert on 26 December 1644. The seige began in July 1645 and stood for six weeks until relieved by a force of cavalry under KING CHARLES I. The KING proceeded on to Holme Lacy where he spent the night on 17 September 1645 although its owner was then a prisoner in London. Barnabas Scudamore had been knighted by the KING on 5 September 1645 for his stout defense of the city, but it was captured in December by treachery. Sir Barnabas escaped across the frozen Wye to Ludlow and Worcester. He published soon after his Defence against the Imputations of Treachery and Neglience in the Loss of the City of Hereford in 1645; a new edition with a biography and notes by Dr. Ian Atherton was published in 1992.

He is said to have married 1stly \_\_\_\_\_, daughter of the Honourable Charles Brydges of Wilton Castle, Herefordshire (and a sister to the husband of his sister Mary), and 2ndly Katherine, daughter of Francis Saunders of Shankton, Leicestershire, on 15 November 1648 at St. Bartholomew-the-Less, London, and died without issue, impoverished by the war, shortly before 11 March 1652 and his admans was given on 14 April 1652 at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Sir Barnabas had petitioned to compound in 1651 on an estate worth only £50 by the year and was fined £100. His fine was reduced to £87 10sh and at his death Lord Scudamore, his brother, petitioned to have the estate discharged as Sir Barnabas' heir and apparently paid the £37 of the fine still outstanding.

1. Mary, eldest daughter, baptized 3 February 1599/1600. She married 16 January 1619/20 Sir Giles Brydges, 1st Bt. (see BURKE'S Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies) of Wilton Castle, Herefordshire. She was buried 20 May 1629 at Peterstow, Herefordshire.
2. Ann, baptized 4 July 1602. She married 4 February 1626/7 Sir Henry Ferrars (died 1663), 1st Bt. (see BURKE'S Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies) of Stratford le Bow, Middlesex, and Skellingthorpe, Lincolnshire.
3. Elizabeth, baptized 19 March 1603/4. She married 1stly 4 February 1626 William Meek, Sergeant at Law, and 2ndly in 1632 Thomas Geers. She died without issue.
4. Penelope, baptized 1 January 1607/8. She married 1 May 1625 Sir John Scudamore, 1st Bt., a kinsman, of BALLINGHAM, HEREFORDSHIRE (noticed elsewhere).
5. Frances, baptized 1 January 1607/8. She married 10 June 1626 John Higford of Dixton, near Alderton, Gloucestershire. She was buried at that place on 6 April 1688.

The eldest son,

**SIR JOHN SCUDAMORE, 1st VISCOUNT**, was born 24 (or 28) February (baptized 22 March) 1600/1 at Holme Lacy, and matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, on 8 November 1616. He was granted an M.A. on 1 November 1642, a degree that was awarded him (and over 100 others) by KING CHARLES I to the consternation of the university which successfully petitioned him to stop the practice soon after. He was admitted to the Middle Temple on 1 December 1617 and had a licence to travel abroad for three years on 15 September 1618. He was created a baronet on 1 June 1620, and was a M. P. for Herefordshire in 1621-2 and 1624-5 and for the city of Hereford in 1625 and 1628-9. He was (with his father) an adventurer in the Virginia Company in 1623; his aunt Elizabeth Throckmorton (died 1640) was the wife of Sir Thomas Dale, one of the early governors of the colony. He succeeded his grandfather in the family estates and was a member of the Council of the Welsh Marches (appointed 25 August 1623) and attached himself soon after to the Duke of Buckingham. He was created baron Dromore and viscount Scudamore of Sligo on 1 July 1628. Lord Scudamore was ambassador to France from 1635 to 1639 giving offense at Paris by refusing to attend the Huguenot Church and by furnishing a chapel in his own house in the Laudian (or high church style) with candlesticks and lighted candles on the altar. He is credited with introducing the Red Streak apple into Herefordshire and brought the breed of what is now known as Hereford cattle into England from the Netherlands. He was High Steward of Hereford in 1631 (until at least his capture there in 1643) and again from 1660 to 1671. A reluctant Royalist he did not declare for KING CHARLES I until late in 1642. He was surprised by Waller at Hereford on 25 April 1643 and sent a prisoner to London where he remained in confinement for more than three years. His houses at Holme Lacy and Llanthony were plundered, and his house in Petty France in Westminster stripped

and the contents auctioned. He later estimated his loss at £37,690 apart from his alms to distressed clergymen. Bishop Kennett estimated that he had expended no less than £50,000 (an exaggerated sum) on various religious works and charities, among them the repair and endowment of Dore Church which was newly consecrated on Palm Sunday, 22 March 1634/5, the anniversary of his baptism. He inherited the literary tastes of his father and grand-father and was so ardent a student that his good friend Bishop Laud in 1624 bade him "book it not too much." His wife Elizabeth (baptized 13 May 1600 at Hempstead, Gloucestershire), was a daughter and heir of Sir Arthur Porter of Llanthony, Gloucestershire; the young couple were married in the chapel at Holme Lacy on 12 March 1614/5. She was buried there on 18 December 1651 aged 51. Lord Scudamore died 19 May (buried 8 June) 1671, aged 70 years, 2 months, and 23 days, and was buried in the church at Holme Lacy. Had issue,

1. John (twin), baptized 4 December 1621, buried the same day.
  2. John (twin), baptized 4 December 1621, buried the same day.
  3. John, baptized 27 July 1623, buried 16 October 1624.
  4. JAMES, the only surviving son, of whom further.
  5. William, baptized 8 May 1629, buried on 18 May 1629.
  6. Rowland, baptized 22 May 1631 at Sellack, buried 23 June 1632 at Holme Lacy.
  7. Charles, born 24 January 1637/8 at Paris. He was named for Charles Cecil, viscount Cranborn, and died shortly before 20 August 1638 of the plague then current in Paris.
1. Anne, born 25 February (baptized 5 March) 1619/20, buried 15 July 1620.
  2. Mary, born and baptized 16 April 1635. She married 1stly Thomas Russell (died 1658) of Strensham, Worcestershire, and 2ndly (licence 25 January 1661/2) William Dutton of Sherborne, Gloucestershire, in the chapel of her father's house in Petty France, Westminster. She died 30 August 1674 and was buried at Sherborne.

**The only surviving son,**

**JAMES SCUDAMORE, of Caradoc Court in Sellack,** Herefordshire, born 26 June (baptized 4 July) 1624. He accompanied his parents to Paris when the viscount was made ambassador. While there he translated The sixty-six admonitory chapters of Basilus, king of the Romans, to his sonne Leo from the Greek, which was printed in Paris in 1638. Since he was only 14 at the time he must have had considerable help in this project perhaps from Michael Brantwaite, his tutor. He appears to have stayed behind in Paris when his father returned home. On 5 September 1639 and again on 23 November the viscount wrote Monsieur Dupont about his education there which was to include (inter alia) fencing, Greek, Latin, French and dancing. He matriculated at St. John's College, Oxford, on 20 March 1639/40, but did not graduate. He accompanied his father to Paris and was abroad again in 1647. He was M. P. for Hereford city from 1642-4 and for Herefordshire 1661-8. He married 14 September 1648 at Babraham, Cambridge-shire, Jane (died 21 February 1699/1700, aged 71, buried 24 February at Holme Lacy), eldest daughter and coheir of Richard Bennett of Kew, Surrey. She brought the manor of Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, to the Scudamores. In the Commonwealth period he got into serious trouble over his gambling debts, and was apparently sent abroad once again to keep him out of further trouble. It was later alleged that on 10 January 1654 James Scudamore had borrowed £10,000 from George Colt in the parish of St. Mary-le-Bow, but this loan was apparently a legal fiction to disguise sums "which the said George Colt and Thomas Colt did deceitfully, craftily and unduly winn from the said James by playing at Cards, dice and unlawful games." (After he became a M.P. a bill was introduced into the House of Commons to

discharge this debt “for Money won at Play” and was ordered to be engrossed after a third reading on 4 March 1661/2. The bill was thrown out by the House of Lords, but it did inspire the Gaming Act of 1665.) He was probably the James Scudamore who obtained a pass from the council on 19 December 1655 for himself and a servant to go to France and who, on 14 February 1655/6, had a licence to export two horses from Dover. After stopping in Paris he went on to Padua and was at Venice in July 1658. The following March he and his servant left on an adventuresome journey to Alexandria, Cairo, the pyramids, and on to Tripoli. On his return the ship in which he was traveling was captured by six ships from Naples; he was imprisoned for three days and the set ashore on the Island of Zante (Zákinthos) in the Ionian sea. Here he fell ill and spent 27 days in the pest house, where on his recovery he was helped to return to Venice by the Venetian governor of the island. He recounted those adventures to his father in a letter from Venice date 4/14 Nov. 1659, further announcing his intention to travel next to Rome and then back to England. James Scudamore paid a tax on the 16 hearths at Caradoc Court in 1665, which was assessed in the parish of Hentland (which adjoins Sellack). He died before his father on 18 June 1668 aged 44 at Sellack, and was buried on 22 June in the church at Holme Lacy where his widow put up a large monument to him of white and grey veined marble half reclining in Roman costume and a curly wig. Had issue,

1. JOHN, 2nd VISCOUNT, of whom further.
1. Mary, baptized 17 December 1650 at Sellack. She married 1stly 23 June 1676 at Sellack, Dennis Cooke (died 1676) of Highnam, Gloucester-shire, and 2ndly 19 October 1682 Richard Prince (died 1684) of Clungunford, Shropshire (by whom she had an only daughter Elizabeth who was buried a spinster at Sellack on 24 November 1754). Mary Prince was executrix of the Honorable Jane Scudamore of Caradock, her mother, in 1700. She died at Oxford on 12 December 1718 aged 68, and was buried at Holme Lacy on (or after) 19 December. Her will leaves £200 to the poor of Sellack and Holme Lacy.

The only son,

**JOHN SCUDAMORE, 2nd VISCOUNT**, grandson and heir of the 1st viscount, of Holme Lacy, was baptized 19 October 1649 at St. Andrew’s, Holborn, London. He was educated at Westminster from 1661 to 1665; on 27 June 1663 his grandfather sent the headmaster Dr. Richard Busby some cider from Holme Lacy “rewarding you for him.” He matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, on 30 May 1666, M. A. 5 February 1666/7. He was a Tory M. P. for Hereford city from 1673-8 and for Here-fordshire 1678-9, 1679-81, and 1681. He was Deputy Lieutenant of Glou-cestershire in 1694, and High Steward of Hereford. In 1665 Holme Lacy was taxed on 48 hearths but it was completely rebuilt in the style of a French or Flemish chateau in 1674 according to the plans (it is said) conceived by the first viscount. Lord Scudamore almost certainly employed Hugh May, one of the greatest architects of his period, whose royal works included the reconstruction of Windsor Castle for KING CHARLES II. The house is notable for its decorated plaster ceilings (which remain) and some fine wood carvings now at Kent-church Court. He married (settlement 4 June 1672) Frances (buried 22 June 1694 at Holme Lacy), only daughter of John Cecil, 4th earl of Exeter. She was called “one of the impudentest women as was ever known or heard of” and in 1681 yielded to the importunities of Thomas Coningsby (later Lord Coningsby) of Hampton Court who it was thought “has got all of my Lord Skidmore’s children.” Her husband received her back with tears of tenderness and commiseration after Coningsby fled when they were discovered five days later at an inn at Banbury, Oxfordshire. Lord Scudamore died 2 June 1697 and was buried at Holme Lacy. Had issue,

1. Cecil, baptized 12 February 1681 at Northleach, Gloucestershire. He was buried 8

August 1691 at Holme Lacy.

2. JAMES, 3rd VISCOUNT, of whom further.
3. John, of Caradoc in Sellack, born 1687. He was educated at Westminster School and admitted as Fellow Commoner to St. John's College, Cambridge, on 27 October 1701, age 14. He had Caradoc house by the will of his father, and married Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ (who married 2ndly William Dew of Sellack) and died 2 August 1760. Mr. Scudamore died without issue and was buried on 12 February 1713/4 aged 27 at Holme Lacy.
1. Frances. She had £3500 under the terms of her father's will and married 26 February 1716/7 at All Hallows, London Wall, Christopher Dominick of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, London. She is called "of Chiswick" at the time of her marriage. She is not remembered in the will of her brother and may have died before him.
2. Mary, baptized 12 February 1674/5, buried 26 May 1679 at Holme Lacy.
3. Elizabeth, baptized 4 December 1676. She had £3500 under the terms of her father's will and married (licence 25 September 1708) John Pugh of Mathaven, Monmouthshire, at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. The Pughs are left £100 each in the will of the 3rd viscount. She was buried 10 November 1744 at Holme Lacy.

The 2nd son,

**JAMES SCUDAMORE, 3rd VISCOUNT**, of Holme Lacy, was born at Shannon Park, Ireland, and was baptized 16 July 1684 at Holme Lacy. He was a ward in 1697 of his grandmother Jane Scudamore. He matriculated at Gloucester Hall, Oxford, on 25 September 1695, D. C. L. 12 May 1712. He was widely traveled in France and Italy as his diaries now in the Herford City Library and at Bodleian Library at Oxford attest. Lord Scudamore was a Tory M. P. for Herefordshire in three parliaments 1705-15, and for Hereford city from 1715 until his death. He was living at Northleach, Gloucestershire, in 1709. He married on 5 March 1705/6, at London, Frances (born 29 September 1684 who died of small-pox at her house in London on 3 May 1729, buried 17 May 1729 at Holme Lacy), only daughter and heir of Simon Digby, 4th baron Digby of Geashill Castle, County Offaly, Ireland. Lady Scudamore was living at Coleshill, Warwickshire, at the time of her marriage. She was accounted a great beauty and could read both French and Italian. A patroness of literary men, she was the darling of the Kit-Kat Club in London. Pope and Gay, two members, were "very sensible of this lady's excelling qualities" and were entertained frequently at Holme Lacy. A fine portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller of Lady Scudamore and her daughter is at Sherborne Castle in Dorset. Lord Scudamore suffered a bad fall from his horse (while riding to Hereford about some electioneering business) which impaired his understanding and caused his death without male issue on 2 December 1716 aged 32. He was buried 11 December at Holme Lacy, all his honours having become extinct. Caradoc Court, which had been a dower house for several generations to Holme Lacy, passed in 1716 at his death to his widow and then to the Digby family. It was destroyed by fire on 8 March 1986; ironically the fine oak paneling which had been a feature of the house fed the fire that led to its destruction. He had issue,

1. James, baptized 23 June 1706 at St. Andrew's Holborn, London. He died young.
1. FRANCES, of whom further.

**His sole heiress,**

**FRANCES SCUDAMORE**, born 14 August 1711, baptized 28 August at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. She married 1stly 28 June 1729 at Holland House, Henry Somerset, 3rd duke of Beaufort (died 24 February 1745/6), who took by an Act of Parliament in 1730 the name Scudamore on succeeding in her right to Holme Lacy and the other estates of the family. But the "pretty Miss

Scudamore" had a vile temper as a duchess and the licentious disposition of her grandmother. The wronged duke was wholly unfitted to be the consort of such a mettlesome woman as Frances Scudamore and he and his duchess had agreed to live separately before 18 June 1740 when he demised his wife's estate to trustees. He obtained a divorce from her by an Act of Parliament on 2 March 1743/4 on the grounds of criminal conduct after she had eloped with William Talbot (later earl Talbot) by whom she appears to have had an illegitimate child in the spring of 1742. He outlived the divorce by less than a year and died on 24 February 1744/5 aged 37, worn out by a complication of disorders. She married 2ndly on 17 July 1748 in the chapel at Holme Lacy house, Colonel Charles Fitzroy (afterwards Scudamore) to the general astonishment of aristocratic society. He was the natural son of the 2nd duke of Grafton and a great-grandson of KING CHARLES II. She died in childbed 15 February 1749/50 aged 38, and was buried 27 February at Holme Lacy leaving an infant daughter surviving. Charles Fitzroy Scudamore was M. P. for Thetford, Norfolk, 1733-54 and 1774-82, for Hereford city 1754-68, and also for Heytesbury, Wiltshire, 1768-74 (bastardy was no insurmountable obstacle to membership in the House of Commons). He died 19 August 1782 aged 75 and was buried in the vault of Holme Lacy church.

**She had issue, an only daughter and sole heiress,**

**FRANCES SCUDAMORE, 11th DUCHESS OF NORFOLK, of Holme Lacy,** born 10 February 1749/50. A great heiress she married (his 2nd wife) on 2 April 1771, Charles Howard, later 11th duke of Norfolk, K.G. (died 16 December 1815 aged 69, buried Dorking, Surrey). called Frances Fitz Roy Scudamore in marr. transcript She went mad soon after their marriage and is said to have had a fit of hysterics on the steps of St. George's, Hanover Square, immediately after the vows were exchanged. Charles Howard applied to KING GEORGE III for an annulment but the old KING consistently refused to grant it. She died without issue on 22 October 1820 aged 70, a lunatic, and was buried at Holme Lacy on the 30th in the Scudamore vault. In 1817, previous to her death, many of the family papers were taken from Holme Lacy to London in wagons to protect her interests. Numbering almost 9000 items, the Duchess of Norfolk deeds remain in the Public Record Office on Chancery Lane. After her death it was decided in the Court of Chancery that since all of the issue of the 1st viscount was now extinct the estates should go to the descendants of his eldest sister Mary, wife of Sir Giles Brydges, Bt., and Frances, wife of John Higford. The partition deeds were dated 13 May 1829 and **Holme Lacy passed to Sir Edwyn Francis Stanhope (father of the 9th earl of Chesterfield) as the senior representative of the elder daughter. Holme Lacy and the other estates in Herefordshire were sold by the 10th earl of Chesterfield in 1909. Sir Edwyn assumed the additional surname and arms of the Scudamore family by Royal Licence on 17 January 1827. The representation of this family passed to the only child of the 12th earl, Lady Patricia Scudamore-Stanhope, formerly Lucas-Scudamore by marriage and the wife of John Phipps of Newcote, Moccas, Herefordshire (see BURKE'S Peerage, 1952 edition, CHESTERFIELD, E.). The family portraits and some notable carvings by Grinling Gibbons once at Holme Lacy are now at Kentchurch Court. Holme Lacy house has been completely refurbished and turned into a resort hotel.**

Sir Edwyn Francis Scudamore-Stanhope, 2nd Bt. was born in 1793. He was the son of Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Edwyn Stanhope, 1st Bt. and Margaret Malbone. He married Mary Dowell, daughter of Major Thomas Dowell, in 1820. He died in 1874.

Sir Edwyn Francis Scudamore-Stanhope, 2nd Bt. was baptised with the name of Edwyn Francis Stanhope. He succeeded to the title of 2nd Baronet Stanhope, of Stanwell House, Middlesex on 20 December 1814. On 17 January 1827 his name was legally changed to Edwyn Francis Scudamore-Stanhope by Royal Licence.