ROYALIST OFFICERS IN THE CIVIL WAR.

By Warren Skidmore

After the restoration of Charles II, £60,000 pounds was granted to former royalist soldiers who were now needy. To qualify they had to fill three qualification: firstly, they had to have had “Real Command of Soldiers;” secondly, they had to have never “Deserted His Majesty nor His Blessed Fathers Service [that is, Charles I and II] During the late times of Rebellion and Usurpation;” and thirdly, they had to have not enjoyed since the Restoration “any Reward, Office or Imployment sufficient for a Livelyhood.”

A list of all those claiming was drawn up, and published as A list of officers claiming to the sixty thousand pounds, &c. granted by his sacred majesty for the relief of his truly-loyal and indigent party (London, 1663). Six people called Scudamore claimed to be a royalist soldiers and now destitute. They were:

George Scudamore of Dorset, who had been an ensign in Jordan Crooke’s Regiment of Foot. He is presumably the George Scudamore of Motcombe, Dorset, a royalist living on 5 August 1659.

Thomas Scudamore of Yorkshire, who had been a captain in Sir William Robinson’s Regiment of Foot, and his brother,

Henry Scudamore of Yorkshire, would been an ensign in Sir William Robinson’s Regiment of Foot. They were the Thomas (born about 1615), and Henry (born 1622), sons of William Scudamore (1589-1661) of Overton and Shipton, Yorkshire.

James Scudamore of Penrhos, Monmouthshire, who had been a captain in the Marquis of the Worcester’s Regiment of Foot. [See Thirty Generations for a further account of his service.]

Rowland Scudamore of Herefordshire, who had been a captain of Horse to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Lewis, in Sir Nicholas Kemy’s regiment. He was presumably the Rowland Scudamore (died 1697) of Treworgan and Ross, Herefordshire, eldest son of Rowland Scudamore.

Vincent Scudamore of London and Westminster who had been cornet to Captain W. Gibbins in Sir Richard Bagott’s Regiment of Horse. [The parentage of this Vincent Scudamore is unknown. He married Martha, a daughter of Robert Newton of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire. She was granted the administration of her father’s estate on 19 October 1647. Vincent Skidmore was buried in the churchyard of St. Paul’s Covent Garden, in January 1663. The administration of his estate (as Vincent Scudamore) was entered at Leicester in the same year. The will of Martha Scudamore was recorded at the same court in 1676.]

The list is by no means perfect, especially as some may have fabricated a royalist war record in order to claim a part in the share-out. Nonetheless, Peter Newman, who has made a study of the list in his “The 1663 list of indigent royalist officers considered as a primary source for the study of the royalist army” (Historical Journal, 30, 4 December 1987, 885-904) thinks that the list is pretty accurate in the sense that in a sample he could find no examples of men who had definitely fabricated a bogus war record.