

G. E. C[OKAYNE], THE COMPLETE PEERAGE, VOLUME XIV: SCUDAMORE OF SLIGO.

By Warren Skidmore

The second edition of *The Complete Peerage* (London, 1910-40) was finished in 1938 with the 13th and last volume. In 1994 I heard from Peter W. Hamilton who proposed a new third edition of the work. He asked for additions and corrections to what had been published in the second edition about the viscounts Scudamore. I sent a long list of suggestions to Hamilton, and followed this with the proofs he requested. They were published in a 14th volume in 1998. The old account and new additions were not merged together (no doubt for reasons of economy) although hopefully a combined edition may happen eventually on a CD-ROM. In the interim I have done a combined edition of **Scudamore of Sligo**, changing the old format somewhat for this article. In 1994 I also suggested to Lady Patricia Phipps that she undertake an account of the last of the earls of Chesterfield. She cared for their graves in the churchyard at Holme Lacy until her death. Alas I do not think this was done, but I trust that the editor was able to piece together a satisfactory account from the newspaper obituaries. (WS)

VISCOUNTY [1.] 1. JOHN SCUDAMORE, of Holme Lacy, Hereford, son and heir of Sir James SCUDAMORE¹ of the same, by Mary,² widow of Sir Thomas BASKERVILLE (died 1596), only daughter, by his second wife, of Sir Thomas THOCKMORTON, of Coss Court, Tortworth, Gloucestershire, which James, who died in the lifetime of his father, and died 13 April 1619 (buried 14 April) 1619, was son and heir apparent of Sir John SCUDAMORE, Gentleman Usher to Queen Elizabeth, of Holme Lacy aforesaid. He was born 24 (or 28) February and baptized 22 March 1600/1, at Holme Lacy; matriculated at Oxford (Magdalen College), 8 November 1616, created Master of Arts 1 November 1642; admitted to Middle Temple 1 December 1617; had a licence to travel for three years, 15 September 1618; created a Baronet, 1 June 1620; Member of Parliament for Herefordshire 1621-22, 1624-25, and for Hereford 1625 and 1628-29; succeeded his grandfather in the family estates, 14 April 1623; a member of the Council of

¹He is the "gentle" Sir Scudamour in Spenser's *Faerie Queen*, book iv.

²So in Thockmorton, *Throckmorton Family*, page 425, and *Calendar of State Papers*. She is called Anne in the first edition of this work. She married Sir James Scudamore in 1599, and died 17 October 1632, at Sunningwell, Oxon, the home of her son Hannibal by her first marriage. 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. (*Calendar of State Papers Domestic*, 1603-10, page 543)

the Marches, 25 August 1623; attached himself to Buckingham and accompanied the Duke in the La Rochelle Expedition, June 1627.³ He was created,⁴ 1 July 1628, BARON DROMORE and VISCOUNT SCUDAMORE OF SLIGO [1]; Ambassador to France, August 1635-39;⁵ High Steward of Hereford 1631, 1646, and 1660-71. A Royalist, he engaged in the Civil War, but was surprised by Waller at Hereford, 25 April 1643, and sent a prisoner to London, where he remained in confinement for more than three years, his houses in the country (Holme Lacy and Lanthony) being plundered and his estates sequestrated; but he eventually compounded for £2,690 on 18 March 1646/7.⁶ He married, 12 March 1614/5 (register of Holme Lacy), Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Arthur Porter, of Lanthony, Gloucestershire, by Anne, daughter and heir of John Danvers, of Dauntsey, Wiltshire. She died 18 December 1651, at Holme Lacy, aged 51. He died 19 May 1671, in his 71st year, and was buried 8 June at Holme Lacy.⁷ [Monumental Inscription].⁸ Will dated 4 July 1670 to 19 May 1671, proved 10 July 1671.

³He defended the Duke in the House of Commons, 11 June 1628. (*Historical Manuscripts Commission*, Lonsdale MSS, page 46.).

⁴For a list of the profuse creations in the Irish peerage in 1628, see the *G. E. C. Peerage*, volume 3, Appendix H.

⁵A devoted son of the Church of England, he was blamed, when in Paris, for publishing abroad that the Church did not consider the Huguenots to be part of their communion, and also he “furnished his own chapel in his house with such ornaments (as candles upon the communion-table, and the like) as gave great offence and umbrage to those of the Reformation” (Clarendon, *History of the Rebellion*, edited Macray, book vi, 184.)

⁶*Calendar of Committee for Compounding*, page 1643. He estimated his losses owing to the Civil War at £27,690, apart from his alms to distressed Royalists.

⁷“He was an assiduous student, learned in history and theology, but during his retreat (to Holme Lacy, about 1628) paid much attention to grafting and planting orchards, and is credited with introducing into his native county the redstreak apple” (*Dictionary of National Biography*, See also Phillips, *Cyder*, book I, line 503, and Evelyn, *Pomona*, preface). He was a friend of Laud, who stayed with him at Holme Lacy in 1622 and 1625, and with whom he corresponded (Laud, *Works*, volume 3, page 175; Trevor-Roper, *Archbishop Laud*, Appendix). Fuller says that he “during the tyranny of the Protectorian times, kept his secret Loyalty to his Sovereign, Hospitality to his Family, and Charity to the Distressed Clergy, whom he bountifully relieved” (*Worthies*, 1811 edition, volume 1, page 465). He rebuilt the former Cistercian church of Abbey Dore, Herefordshire, consecrated on Palm Sunday, 22 March 1634/5, his birthday (*Genealogist*, New Series, volume 30, pages 30, 175). A portrait of the first Viscount hangs in the dining room at Kentchurch Court in Herefordshire..

⁸The long inscription is given in the *Coll. Top. et Gen.*, volume iv, page 256. Although his monument styles him “Lord Viscount Scudamore,” with no mention of “Sligo,” that of the third Viscount is to the memory of “Dni Scudamore, Vicecomitis de Slygo.”

[JAMES SCUDAMORE, the fourth but only surviving son and heir apparent,⁹ born 26 June 1624 and baptized 4 July; matriculated at Oxford (St. John's College) 20 March 1639/40, but did not graduate; abroad in 1647;¹⁰ Member of Parliament for Hereford 1642-44 and for Herefordshire 1661-68. He married, 14 September 1648, at Babraham, Cambridgeshire, Jane, first daughter and coheiress of Richard Bennet, of Kew, Surrey. He died in the lifetime of his father on 18 June 1668, aged 44,¹¹ and was buried 22 June at Holme Lacy. [Monumental Inscription].¹² His widow died 21 February 1699/1700, aged 71, and was buried as aforesaid.

- II. 1671. 2. JOHN (SCUDAMORE), VISCOUNT SCUDAMORE OF SLIGO, ETC. [I], grandson and heir, being second but first surviving son of the Honorable James SCUDAMORE and Jane, his wife, both above-named, was baptized 19 October 1649; educated at Westminster School 1663-5, matriculated at Oxford (Christ Church) 30 May 1666; created Master of Arts, 5 February 1666/7; Member of Parliament (Tory) for Hereford, February 1673 to 1678, and for Herefordshire, 1678-79, 1679-81, and 1681. He did not sit in the Parliament [I] of James II, 7 May 1689.¹³ Deputy Lieutenant for Gloucestershire 1694; High Steward of Hereford. He married, in 1672 (settlement 4 June) Frances, only daughter of John (Cecil), fourth Earl of Exeter, by his first wife, Frances, first daughter of John (Manners), eighth Earl of Rutland. She was buried 22 June 1694, at Holme Lacy.¹⁴ He died before 2 June 1697, and was buried 22 July at Holme Lacy. Will dated 29 October 1692, proved 7 September 1697 and 21 October 1700.

⁹He was the only one of the seven sons of his father, all of whom died in his lifetime, who lived to man's estate. (*G. E. C. Peerage*). Laud wrote to congratulate him on the birth of a son and heir on 2 August, who died in 1624; when twins were born in 1621 were also dead (Trevor-Roper, *op. cit.*, pages 439, 441).

¹⁰According to Dr. Ian Atherton he apparently stayed abroad for much of the next decade to avoid the collection of money owed for his gambling debts.

¹¹He and six others, knights, citizens and burgesses for the county of Hereford, complained to the Lord Treasurer Southampton, 14 February 1661/2, about the "miscarriage," committed by the local Sub-Commission of Excise, ". . . intending only their own private interest without any regard to His Majesty's benefit (*Calendar Treasury Books*, 1660-67, page 329). A coarse poem *Homer à la Mode*, wrongly attributed to him, was written by another James Scudamore (*Cambridge History of English Literature*, volume ix, page 258).

¹²The monuments to himself and his wife are illustrated in *Historical Monuments Commission*, Herefordshire, vol. I, plates 161, 162.

¹³For a list of peers present in, or absent from this Parliament, see *G. E. C.*, iii, Appendix D.

¹⁴Elizabeth, Viscountess Campden, writing to her daughter, the Countess of Rutland, 25 August 1681, speaks of her as "one of the impedents women as was ever knowne or heard of," and describes her elopement with Mr. Coningsby, who, it is thought, "has got all my Lord Skidmor's childrer" (*Historical Manuscripts Commission*, Rutland MSS, ii, page 56).

III. 1697 to 1716.

3. JAMES SCUDAMORE, VISCOUNT SCUDAMORE OF SLIGO, AND BARON DROMORE [I. 1628], the second but first surviving son and heir.¹⁵ He was born at Shannon Park, Ireland, and baptized 16 July 1684; matriculated at Oxford (Gloucester Hall) 25 September 1695; created Deputy County Lieutenant 12 May 1712; Member of Parliament (Tory) for Herefordshire, in three Parliaments, 1705-15, and for Hereford 1715 till his death. He married, shortly before 5 March 1705/6, Frances, only daughter and heir of Simon (Digby), fourth Baron Digby of Geashill. [I], by Frances (£10,000), first daughter of Edward (Noel), first Earl of Gainsborough. He died without male issue,¹⁶ 2 December 1716, aged 32, and was buried at Holme Lacy. on 11 December. [Monumental Inscription].¹⁷ Will dated 25 July 1716, proved 31 May 1717. At his death all his honours became *extinct*. His widow died 3 May 1729, of small pox, aged 44, and was buried at Holme Lacy. on 17 May. [Monumental Inscription].¹⁸

¹⁵Cecil Scudamore, his eldest brother, had died young in the lifetime of his father. John Scudamore, the third and youngest son of the second Viscount, was born at Holme Lacy; educated at Westminster School (under Knipe); admitted as a Fellow Commoner to Cambridge (St. John's College), 27 October 1701, aged 14; admitted to the Inner Temple, 21 October 1700. He married Elizabeth [_____] who married secondly William Dew, a yeoman of Sellack, Herefordshire. He died on 9 February 1713, and was buried on 12 February at Holme Lacy. [Monumental Inscription]. His widow died 2 August 1760, and was buried on 28 August at Sellack. Robinson, *Mansions and Manors in Herefordshire* (1873) page 43.

¹⁶He had a bad fall from his horse in 1710. His only daughter and heir, Frances, born 14 August 1711, married firstly, Henry (Somerset), third Duke of Beaufort, who, by Act of Parliament in 1730, took the name *Scudamore*, on succeeding in her right to Holme Lacy and the other estates of that family. He obtained a divorce from her for *criminal conduct* by Act of Parliament 2 March 1743/4. After eloping with William (Talbot), Lord, afterwards first Earl, Talbot, she married, secondly, Charles Fitzroy, illegitimate son of the first Duke of Grafton, who took the name Scudamore and died 19 August 1782. By him she, who died 16 February 1749/50, aged 38, had an only daughter and heir Frances, who inherited the Scudamore estates and married, as his second wife, Charles (Howard), Duke of Norfolk, but died without issue 22 October 1820, aged 70. On her death all the issue of the first Viscount became extinct, and the estates devolved on the heirs at law, being the descendants of his sister Mary Scudamore, wife of Sir Giles Brydges, Baronet (created 1627). They consequently passed to Sir Edwyn Francis Stanhope (whose grandfather, Edwyn Francis Stanhope, married Catherine, granddaughter and coheir of James Brydges, first Duke of Chandos), great-grandson and heir of the said Mary (Scudamore) Brydges. Sir Edwyn was father of the ninth Earl of Chesterfield; and Holme Lacy and the other Herefordshire estates were sold by the tenth Earl in 1909. For a description of the house, see *Historic Monument Commission*, Herefordshire, volume i, pages 147-50, plates 163, 164.

¹⁷Which gives his age as 38.

¹⁸A portrait by Kneller of her and her daughter is at Sherborne Castle in Dorset, home of the Digby family. (*Dictionary of National Biography*).