

**AN INDEX OF HEREDITARY
ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND
IRISH TITLE OF HONOR**

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An index of hereditary english, scottish, and irish title of honor by Edward Solly

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EDWARD SOLLY

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HEREDITARY TITLES OF HONOUR.

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PUBLICATIONS, 1879.

v.

AN INDEX
OF
HEREDITARY
ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND IRISH
TITLES OF HONOUR.

COMPILED BY
EDWARD SOLLY, F.R.S., F.S.A.,
TREASURER OF THE INDEX SOCIETY.



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PREFACE.

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A FEW words are needed, not only to explain what this Index is, but also what it is not. It is an index of the Peerages and Baronetages of the United Kingdom, showing the date when each separate title was conferred, the changes which they underwent, and their present condition, whether existent, modified, dormant, or extinct. It is therefore a guide or reference to the existing and extinct Peerages and Baronetages of England, Scotland, and Ireland. It has no pretensions to be a Peerage, or in any way to take the place of the valuable works of Burke, Lodge, Debrett, and others; these volumes now form a small library in themselves, and the present index is merely designed to point out in which of the Peerages or Baronetages any given title is to be found.

It might at first be supposed that a combination of the existing Peerage or Baronetage with the extinct, would supply all the information which a reader could require, but this is not the case; titles are frequently merged or changed in a manner which renders the tracing of them, without an index, very difficult, if not almost impossible. One practical illustration will explain this better than any argument. Some years ago the compiler of this Index was asked by a friend, who had just taken "Amyand" House, to inform him who Sir — Amyand, Baronet, was? Reference to the current Baronetages of England, Scotland, and Ireland, showed that no such title was in existence; and reference to the extinct Baronetages did not show that the title was extinct. The inquirer was at fault, and it was not till some weeks later, when, by the aid of *Seren-dipity*, as Horace Walpole called it—that is, looking for one thing, and finding another—that the explanation was

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accidentally found that the Baronetcy conferred by George III. on the son of his grandfather's skilful medical attendant, Claudius Amyand, in 1764, had, for very good family reasons, been changed into Cornwall by the second Baronet, in 1771, under which title, therefore, the Baronetcy is now to be found.

Another way in which all apparent record of a title may be lost is by absorption in a superior dignity; thus, a Baronetcy may be merged in a Peerage, and hence be found neither in the existing, nor in the extinct Baronetage. This source of confusion is considerably increased by the fact that, a title thus lost, may, after a time, re-appear. A good illustration of this is afforded by the noble family of Liddel of Ravensworth, who were raised to the Baronetcy by Charles I. in 1642. After 105 years the title of Liddel, Bart., was lost, being merged in the Barony of Ravensworth, which was created by George II., in 1747. This title expired in 1784, and then the old Liddel Baronetcy revived and continued till 1821, when George IV. created Sir Thomas Henry Liddel, Baron Ravensworth. Thus, the Baronetcy conferred in 1642 was merged in a higher dignity from 1747 to 1784, was then held as an independent title from 1784 to 1821, and again merged in a superior dignity, and thus twice practically lost for a time, though never extinct.

A third source of trouble to students of history is the distinction of titles into British, English, Scottish, and Irish. Lord Aberdeen, for example, was Prime Minister of Great Britain, and a Peer of England, yet his name is not to be found in that most valuable book, *The Historic Peerage of England* [Nicolas, by Courthope, 1857], unless the searcher happens to remember that his English title was that of Baron Gordon, which, perhaps, not one in a thousand would think of; thus, the lower title being English, necessarily only appears, whilst the superior title of Earl, being Scottish, has no place in the work.

When a title is a territorial one, the local situation often affords no clue to its national character; thus, the title of Viscount Canada is not more suggestive of a Scottish, than of an Irish or English Peerage. In the same way, when the family name clearly points to a distinct nationality, it does not

at all necessarily follow that, if elevated to the peerage, it is to be found in the peerage of that particular country. Thus the family of MacKenzie, of Kintail, has been thrice ennobled under the title of Scaforth, first the peerage of Scotland as Earl of Scaforth in 1623, and forfeited that honour in 1715; a second time created Earl in the peerage of Ireland in 1771, which title became extinct in 1781; and a third time ennobled in the peerage of England in 1797 as Baron Scaforth, the title becoming extinct in 1815. Hence, if we seek to know something about "Lord Scaforth," the title is not now to be found in the peerage; if the title is mentioned in past history, the holder must be sought for between 1623 and 1715 in the Peerage of Scotland; between 1771 and 1781 in that of Ireland; and between 1797 and 1815 in that of the United Kingdom.

From the constant changes which every year necessarily produces in registers of this sort, the large number of dates which they contain, and the facility with which an error once accidentally introduced is copied and carried on from year to year; the amount of confusion which exists in Peerages and Baronetages is necessarily very large. The following index is therefore very far from perfect; but even in its present imperfect form it will be of some assistance to readers, and will form the basis of a more comprehensive and perfect index hereafter.

As a rule mere titles of courtesy have been left out, or only introduced as steps of preferment in the higher titles to which they now form adjuncts.

It will be observed that in the case of a considerable number of Baronetcies a doubt exists whether they are extinct or not, which is indicated by the mark (?). Emigration, loss of evidence, family misfortunes, and in some instances a disinclination to claim a title the means to support which are for a time wanting, etc., have led to this; and, moreover, as in some creations, such especially as those of Scotland or Nova Scotia, the dignity being not only to direct male descendants, but to heirs general, it is scarcely possible ever to declare the title truly extinct, as an heir of line may unexpectedly appear at almost any subsequent time, and the evidence which may be deemed