

A portrait of Cornwallis Maude

By Patrick Holland

In 1993 Tipperary South Riding County Museum acquired by purchase from a vendor in the United Kingdom a portrait of Cornwallis Maude of Dundrum House, Earl de Montalt and 4th Viscount Hawarden. Readers of the *Journal* may be interested in seeing a reproduction of this picture of a historic personage from the county. The County Museum gratefully acknowledges the generous financial assistance of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland in acquiring the painting.

The portrait (now registered as TSCM 1993.403) shows Cornwallis Maude sitting on a cut stone wall in the countryside with foliage – trees or bushes perhaps – behind him and in front of a grey-coloured tower in the right background. The tower is presently unidentified but could be medieval in date. It appears to have corner bartisans or turrets and slit windows in two storeys. It could also be a much later coastal defence tower. There appears to be a lake or seashore in the left background, with perhaps another tower and hills farther off again. The sky is faintly indicated with some blue patches in white clouds.

Cornwallis Maude is dressed in the uniform of a Lieutenant Colonel of the British army (Fosten 1992, 99). The officer's tunic is of the 1855 double-breasted variety with French cuffs, which was replaced by a single-breasted tunic in 1856 (Taylor 1972, 52). It seems that the 1855 pattern was retained until late in the following year, in this case at least. The collars, cuffs and flaps are in a very dark green or black, the regimental colour. His rank is indicated by crowns on the collar and a crimson sash across his body and passing under a silk cord on his left shoulder.

The dark trousers are probably of the "Oxford Mixture" that was virtually black in colour with a red stripe (Fosten 1992, 83). The tunic buttons, which seem to be of silver, have a harp motif. The gilt clasp on the white leather sword belt has the partly legible title ... ERARY MILITIA in silver. The central badge, also in silver, is of a crowned female conjoined with a harp. Cornwallis Maude is holding a pair of white gloves in his right hand and, in the left, the 1822 officers' pattern sword with gilt halfbasket hilt and gilt three wire spiral on the fishskin grip. He wears a small gold ring with a black setting on the little finger of the left hand.

The subject is shown by the artist with a broad face, green or grey eyes, short curly brown hair, sideburns and a handlebar-style moustache. The portrait is well executed with the hands and face being quite lifelike. It is painted in water-colours with additions in gouache, white on the sword, gloves, buttons and collar and yellow on the collar badges.¹ A transparent glaze, egg-white perhaps, is added to the black facings of the uniform. The portrait is painted on hand-made paper laid down on a wove rag paper backing support, itself laid down on a wooden stretcher. Some 10 mm out from the edge of the paper is an applied thin strip, painted green and 1 mm wide. This has been replaced after conservation as has the backing paper.

The image measures 39.4 cm (width) by 54.4 (height). Before conservation there were both mould and damp stains on the portrait, the latter especially evident in a stain to the left of the sitter. The painting is signed Herbert Luther Smith Oct. (the latter unclear) 1856. Herbert Luther Smith (1809-1869) was a painter of portraits, historical and biblical subjects. He is known to have exhibited from 1830 to 1854 (Wood 1978, 437).



Cornwallis Maude of Dundrum House, Earl de Montalt and 4th Viscount Hawarden. – Copyright Tipperary South Riding County Museum, Clonmel.

In 1856 the two Tipperary militia regiments in the British army were the 27th South Tipperary Artillery (or Duke of Clarence's Munster) regiment of militia and the 105th or 2nd North Tipperary Light Infantry Militia. The latter regiment had been raised in Clonmel in 1854 from parts of the then 84th South Tipperary (or Duke of Clarence's Munster) regiment of militia when that corps was converted into an artillery regiment. The Army Lists (Hart 1856, January and April) record Cornwallis Maude as the Lieut. Colonel of the Tipperary Militia in 1856.

The fragmentary badge inscription noted above refers to the North Tipperary Light Infantry Militia. The North Tipperary Light Infantry was titled the 105th or 2nd North Tipperary Light Infantry in 1860. It became the 4th (militia) battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment in 1881 with Cornwallis Maude being their honorary colonel. The North Tipperary Light Infantry was transferred to the Special Reserve as the 3rd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment in 1908. It was disbanded on 31 July, 1922.

The Maude family were one of the largest landowners in Co. Tipperary, holding over 15,000 acres (Marnane 1985, 15). Sir Robert Maude, who had served with the Cromwellian army, received land confiscated from the O Dwyers of Kilnamanagh barony. The manor of Dundrum was set up for him by the Palatinate Court of Tipperary in 1711 (*ibid.*). During the 1770s the then proprietor, Sir Thomas Maude, was actively involved in the management of his estates, consolidating his holdings and reletting at higher rents (Marnane 1985, 29). The resulting evictions led to ill-feelings against him among his Catholic tenants and neighbours as did his promotion of Protestant settlement and his personal evangelical views which "favoured Protestants with larger holdings" (Power 1993, 131).

He had also been a member of the Grand Jury which tried and convicted Fr. Nicholas Sheehy, executed in Clonmel in 1766, as part of a reassertion of the Penal Laws by a Tipperary Protestant gentry that felt threatened by a resurgent Catholic interest, Whiteboy agitation and a perceived alienation from central administration (*ibid.* 257-8). Dundrum, the village near the family seat, has been described as "a carefully contrived alien cell with its inn, courthouse, Anglican church, corn mill and constabulary barracks" (Jones Hughes 1985, 487).

The family estates survived into the nineteenth century, perhaps because of a judicious marriage in 1798 by Thomas Ralph, the 2nd Viscount (Power 1993, 102). The 3rd Viscount Hawarden became the subject of several critical letters written by a local Catholic curate, Fr. Patrick O'Brien Davern, published by *The Nation* newspaper in early 1843. Fr. O'Brien Davern noted that over 200 families had been evicted and praised the previous Viscount Hawarden in comparison to the current incumbent (MacCarthaigh 1986, 182). It is clear that landlord-tenant relations were again poor.

Cornwallis Maude, Earl de Montalt and 4th Viscount Hawarden, was born on 4 April, 1817. A portrait of him as a younger man, probably in the uniform of the 2nd Life Guards, with whom he was a Captain, is reproduced in MacCarthaigh (1986, 105, source unknown).² He was a conservative candidate in the election of 1841 and became the target of many assaults by the Catholic supporters of the liberal candidates. His coach was daubed with the slogan "Who hung the priest?", referring to his ancestor's involvement in the trial of Fr. Sheehy. His coach was tipped into a river and he was burned in effigy (McGrath 1985, 278-280). A diary of his for a part of 1844 survives.³

He succeeded his father on the latter's death on 12 October, 1856. The portrait may have been executed shortly after he succeeded to the titles. Clementina, his wife, was a noted early photographer, many of her works being portraits of children and young girls (Heyert 1979, 134-136). She received many prizes before her death in January 1865. Her works have an enigmatic intensity and may depict scenes from literature and mythology (Lawson 1997). Her daughters

acted as models, but one scene (Lawson, plate 3) includes a gentleman looking out a window who might possibly be her husband.

The Dundrum property was sold in 1904 (Marnane 1985, 173) and Cornwallis Maude, Earl de Montalt and 4th Viscount Hawarden, died on 5 January, 1905. His son, heir to the titles, predeceased him, being killed in the battle of Majuba Hill in the First Boer War on 27 February, 1881. He was survived by several daughters. The titles passed to a cousin. The Land Commission divided the estate or sold to existing tenants (MacCarthaigh, 1986, 239). Dundrum House was bought c. 1908 by the Presentation Sisters and used as a convent, orphanage and boarding school. It is now a hotel (Murphy 1994, 100).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Mr. Pat McBride, Ms Zoe Reid and Mr. F. Glenn Thompson for permission to quote from their information. Tipperary S. R. County Museum again gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Friends of the National Collections. I would also like to thank Mary M. Billot and Julie Lawson for their assistance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Billot, M.M. 1997: Letter to the author, July 24 1997, from Lord Coutanche Library, 7 Pier Road, St. Helier, Jersey JE2 4XW, now in object history file 1993.403, TSCM.
- Burke, B. and Burke, A. P., 1930: *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Peerage and Baronetage, the Privy Council and Knightage*, London, 88th Edition.
- Fosten, D.S.V. and B.K., 1992: *The Thin Red Line, Uniforms of the British Army between 1751 and 1914*, London.
- Hart, H.G., 1856 (January and April): *The New Army List*, London .
- Heyert, E., 1979: *The Glass House Years: Victorian Portrait Photography 1839-1870*. Montclair and London.
- Jones Hughes, T., 1985: 'Landholding and Settlement in County Tipperary in the Nineteenth Century' in Nolan, W. (Ed), *Tipperary: History and Society*, Dublin, 339-336.
- Lawson, J., 1997: *Women in White, Photographs by Clementina Lady Hawarden*, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh.
- Marnane, D.G., 1985: *Land and Violence, A History of West Tipperary from 1650*, Tipperary.
- Murphy, D.A., 1994: *The Two Tipperarys*, Nenagh.
- MacCarthaigh, M., 1986: *A Tipperary Parish, A History of Knockavilla-Donaskeagh, Carrigrohane*.
- Power, T.P., 1993: *Land, Politics and Society in Eighteenth-Century Tipperary*, Oxford.
- Thompson, F.G., 1991: 'The Lineage of the Tipperary Militia Regiments', *Tipperary Hist. Journal*, 80-81.
- Wood, C., 1978: *A Dictionary of Victorian Painters*, second edition, Woodbridge.
- Taylor, A., 1972: *Discovering British Military Uniforms*, Princes Risborough.

FOOTNOTES

1. Information regarding the physical characteristics of the painting has been supplied by Mr. Pat McBride and Ms. Zoe Reid of the Paper Conservation Studio who conserved the work.
2. Portrait possibly from Maude, F. 1903 and 1924, *The Maude Family*, London, which this author has been unable to consult as yet.

3. The diary records from July 15, 1844 to October 20, 1844. It mostly deals with Cornwallis Maude's visit to Jersey, where he had been stationed previously, but also notes several days spent at Dundrum. The diary is in the Library of the Société Jersiaise in St. Helier and unfortunately is not yet transcribed nor is it sufficiently robust to withstand copying. I am informed that the Dundrum portion includes "critical remarks about a drunken housemaid, the new curate (a very bad preacher), the lack of a watchman or boy to run messages" as well as a note (October 2) indicating that he does not approve of "His Lordship" (his father?) not living in the place. Cornwallis Maude "seems to spend most of his time pruning trees, marking timber (possibly for a new approach to the house) and worrying about Clementina" (Billot, 1997). Perhaps a reader of this Journal might be able to transcribe all the Tipperary entries during a visit to the island.