



CHAPTER I.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME AND FAMILY

The family of Leckie (sometimes spelled Lecky or Leckey) takes its name from the barony of Leckie in Stirlingshire, Scotland.

The estate is situated in the parish of Gargunnock, within a mile of the little village of that name. It is about nine miles west of the Royal burgh of Stirling and not far from the scene of several of the most celebrated battles in Scottish history. The barony of Leckie lies between the baronies of Gargunnock, on the east, and Boquhan, on the west. Originally it was divided into two parts, Easter and Wester Leckie, respectively. It extends through the length of the parish, from the south side of the Lennox hills to the river Forth, and therefore contains moor, pasture and meadow-land. In the earlier part of the last century roe-deer bred in great numbers in the glen of Boquhan and used to frequent the glen of Leckie which afforded excellent cover for game. The then proprietor of the estate, Mr. Moir, with fine taste and at great expense beautified, with winding paths and shrubs, both sides of the wooded banks of the burn. It was he who erected the present commodious and beautiful house, after the plan of the ancient English baronial mansion-house. It is situated on higher ground than the old castle of Leckie and has a commanding view of the picturesque and beautiful Strath of Monteath.¹

In the earliest charters relating to the land the name is spelled "Leky," and later variations have been Lekky, Lekkie, Lecky and Leckie. The last two are practically the only forms used at the present time, Lecky (rarely Leckey) to designate the Irish branch and Leckie, the spelling used by the last Lairds of Leckie, to distinguish the Scottish family. The estate itself is now spelled Leckie.

¹ Statistical Account of Scotland, 1845, vol. viii.