

**COLONEL JOHN
SCOTT OF
LONG ISLAND**

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Colonel John Scott of Long Island by Wilbur C. Abbott

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WILBUR C. ABBOTT

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SCOTT OF
LONG ISLAND**

COLONEL
JOHN SCOTT

OF LONG ISLAND

1634 (?)—1696

BY

WILBUR C. ABBOTT

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN YALE UNIVERSITY



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NOTE

This essay was prepared originally for the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York and read, in part, before the Society on November 8, 1917. In its present extended form it was printed by the Society for its members in August 1918, as Number 30 of their publications.

Owing to the wider interest of the subject a limited number of extra copies have been printed for independent sale.

PREFACE

If Daniel Defoe had known the subject of this sketch—and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that he did, for he knew many such—and had he written this biography, which he of all men could have done best, it would probably have borne some such title, dear to his age and pen, as this:

The Life and Strange, Surprising Adventures of John Scot, commonly called Colonel Scott; his early Experiences in America and the West Indies; his Career at Court; his Fortunes and Misfortunes as a Soldier; his Exploits as a Spy, Informer and Murderer; his Disgrace and Death; with some Notice of his Writings as Royal Geographer; and of the Glorious Restoration of his Reputation; together with Notes on his Fame as an Historian.

No one would have believed that it was less a work of fiction than *Captain Jack*, or *Moll Flanders*; every one would have recognized it as peculiarly typical of the picaresque character in which he and his contemporaries delighted. That the tale which follows happens to be true—however far it falls short of Defoe's art—detracts in no way from its curious interest and adds to its value in explaining certain sides of late seventeenth century English and colonial history. Colonel Scott, with all of his impossibilities, was not only a very real man and one of the most picturesque and far-wandering scoundrels of his time, but he was an admirable representative of a not inconsiderable class of men who contributed something of importance and a great deal of color to the affairs of his generation.

For the material contained in the following pages I am indebted to the sources quoted in the notes to be found at