

Drunken royalist

Ludovic Lindsay

d.1652

Utterly loyal to his king, the 16th Earl of Crawford may sometimes have been the kind of supporter Charles I felt he could do without.

He was a mercenary in Europe before returning to Scotland in 1639 and fighting for the royalists.

Crawford was part of a group of loud, ill-disciplined nobles and officers whose conduct put at risk Charles I's attempts to reach an agreement with the Presbyterian Covenanters.

He earned notoriety for drunkenly accusing the Marquis of Hamilton, the king's chief adviser, of treachery then allegedly plotting his assassination.

The Civil Wars brought Crawford employment and restored his reputation.

In 1644–45 he supported Montrose's doomed royalist uprising in Scotland and wrote to the king that he would shed all his blood 'to make your Majestie a glorious and happie prince'.

He departed to Ireland, where he converted to Catholicism before heading for Spain.

Some reports claimed he then became rich, others that he was destitute.

Whatever the case, he continued as a soldier of fortune and led the guard protecting a Cardinal before dying of fever at the Hague in 1652.

His only known son, the Henry, was later expelled from the Scots College at Douai after it was decided he was illegitimate.

- Read the Oxford DNB biography here: <http://www.oxforddnb.com/public/dnb/16711.html>.