SKIDMORE FAMILIES OF THE BLACK COUNTRY, the first five generations

by Linda Moffatt © 2012

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It is an account of the first five generations of this branch. Throughout the fifth generation I have placed a note of the file to which the reader can go to discover descendants. These files can be found on the website www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.

Superscript numbers next to the name of the head of household denote the generation to which he belongs, William Skidmore of Kingswinford parish (d.1664) being Generation 1.

DATES
- Prior to 1752 the year began on 25 March (Lady Day). In order to avoid confusion, a date which in the modern calendar would be written 2 February 1714 is written 2 February 1713/4 - i.e. the baptism, marriage or burial occurred in the 3 months (January, February and the first 3 weeks of March) of 1713 which ‘rolled over’ into what in a modern calendar would be 1714.
- Civil registration was introduced in England and Wales in 1837 and records were archived quarterly; hence, for example, ‘born in 1840Q1’ the author here uses to mean that the birth took place in January, February or March of 1840. Where only a baptism date is given for an individual born after 1837, assume the birth was registered in the same quarter.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS
Databases of all known Skidmore and Scudamore bmds can be found at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com

PROBATE
A list of all known Skidmore and Scudamore wills - many with full transcription or an abstract of its contents - can be found at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com in the file Skidmore/Scudamore One-Name Study Probate.

PRIVACY
The Skidmore/Scudamore One-Name Study does not, as a matter of course, publish any biographical detail from the last 100 years, unless with permission of descendants. Information posted online, for example at Ancestry.com, is considered to be posted with permission of descendants and is always acknowledged as deriving from an online pedigree.
INTRODUCTION

This work is intended to help those researching families with the name Skidmore originating in the English county now known as the West Midlands. The particular geographical area covered is that region commonly known as the Black Country, an area north west of the city of Birmingham, and which, until the county boundary changes of 1974, straddled the border between south Staffordshire and north Worcestershire. The Skidmore name appeared in this area at the beginning of the seventeenth century and was confined for the following 150 years largely to the adjacent parishes of Kingswinford in the county of Staffordshire and Oldswinford in the county of Worcestershire.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica ascribes the name Black Country ‘. . . to the numerous collieries and iron furnaces and the desolation of the scenery and the conglomeration of dwellings consequent upon the mining of coal, iron-stone and their dependent industries’. The Black Country can be said to be defined geologically - its towns lie on the famous South Staffordshire thick coal seam and mining has taken place there since the thirteenth century. The broken edges of coal seams had been thrust up to the surface in two roughly parallel lines across the southern slopes of Pensnett Chase in Kingswinford parish, one on each side of what are today the Thorns and Pedmore Road. These outcrops were worked first, then the covering earth was removed and the opencast method used. In his pamphlet dealing with the development of the Chase from a royal hunting ground into the townships of Brierley Hill, Quarry Bank and Pensnett, Guttery outlines the phases involved in acquiring coal from greater depths’. Narrow and shallow shafts were sunk into bell-shaped caverns in the seams. When the roof threatened to collapse the shaft was abandoned and another dug nearby. The coal was hauled up in baskets, carried by packhorse and donkey to the local nailers, scythe makers, locksmiths and glass makers (all of these trades are mentioned in the Kingswinford parish registers in the first half of the seventeenth century) and further afield to the cutlers and sword-cutters of Birmingham. By the mid-seventeenth century in this area a variety of methods, including the digging and drainage of deeper mines with the consequent organisation and finance, were in use side-by-side.

There was a very rapid expansion in the coal industry after 1550. The Dissolution of the Monasteries in the first half of the sixteenth century led to the Crown taking over monastic lands and offering favourable leases for the development of mines. The great landlords, merchants and courtiers obtained most of the concessions. In the Black Country the land of the Earl of Dudley around Dudley, Sedgley and Wednesbury was extensively mined in the period 1550 - 1700. By the end of the seventeenth century in the West Midlands, as in most of the major coal producing areas, there was scarcely a spot that was not within a morning's ride of a coal pit.

It was the coal industry above all other factors which made possible the expansion and development of the Black Country iron industry in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. By the time Curzon was writing in 1875 2 the Earl of Dudley's collieries embraced about 400 distinct pits and gave employment underground and on bank, to some 4000 or 5000 workpeople. As the demand for Black Country iron products increased so did the need for an efficient transportation system to supply Birmingham, Bristol and London, the most important centres of population and manufacturing. The network of canals that subsequently evolved made the Black Country the hub of the nation's canal system. However, long before the Black Country had been linked via the Stourbridge Canal and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal to the River Severn, the area had important links with the town of Bewdley, a major port on the River Severn in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Black Country nails and other iron products were carried by packhorse to Bewdley and then loaded onto barges bound for Bristol where they were sold, or transhipped to London, Liverpool or overseas.

The numerous Skidmore families of this region can be traced back almost without exception to William Skidmore, collier of Kingswinford parish, and his wife Joyce, who married at Kingswinford Parish Church at the beginning of 1625. Genealogical DNA testing supports the paper research which has led me to this conclusion. Two male Skidmores, eleven generations removed from William Skidmore, have been found to have the closest possible match on the 26 Y chromosome markers used in genealogical DNA testing. They are descended from two different sons of William's grandson John Skidmore (born 1681) and his wife Penelope. William Skidmore's origins are unknown.

This paper describes the first five generations of William and Joyce Skidmore's descendants, with links provided to various branches of the ten generations so far traced. I have taken the British census of 1911 as an end-point, unless living descendants have provided information on later generations. Analysis of British censuses reveals that individuals descended from William Skidmore account for 40-45% of the total. Connections have been traced into north Staffordshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Teesside, Leicestershire, Birmingham and London, and further afield to the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Note that William, his children and grandchildren used both forms of the surname, Scudamore and Skidmore. It is likely that at this time in this area Skidmore was the form used in everyday speech and that Skud(e)more or Scudamore were sometimes used in written documents. Spellings such as Skidimore, Skydmore and Scidmor(e) are occasionally found.

Maps
For those unfamiliar with the locality, I have included some maps but I would advise having to hand a copy of the modern street atlas called the Birmingham A-Z. In addition, it is now possible to purchase copies of the early Ordnance Survey maps of this area of Britain, dated around the beginning of the 20th century. These large-scale maps contain a wealth of detail and can be obtained from Alan Godfrey Maps.

In 1822 William Fowler made a survey of the Parish of Kingswinford for the Earl of Dudley. In 1824 a Reference to a Plan of the Parish of Kingswinford (the Plan being that of Fowler) was published by W. Hodgetts. In it there were listed all the reference numbers of properties together with the names of occupiers, proprietors, descriptions of premises and their areas. This predates the first widely-available census of 1841 by nearly twenty years. Appendix 2 lists probably all of the Skidmores to be found in this survey. In 1999 the Black Country Society published Eric Richardson's excellent little book, which succeeds in interpreting Fowler's map for us in a very clear and entertaining way. He uses the 'strip-route' map method favoured by motoring organisations for planning their members' holiday routes, thereby relating Fowler's plan to the layout of present-day Kingswinford.

It is helpful to look at the Enclosure Map of Pensnett Chase, made around the same time as Fowler's map in 1820. This covers the area north and south of Delph Road known as the Delph, and the area around Amblescote Road. The Enclosure Map shows only proprietors of land, not occupiers. A somewhat later source (which I have not yet managed to search) is the will of Lord Ward, Earl of Dudley, dated 1847, in which are enclosed maps and plans of a vast number of holdings, covering a large tract of land and recording a multitude of place-names in the parishes of Sedgley, Kingswinford, Rowley Regis and Wombourne. Each holding mentioned is usually quite small, sometimes only a few perches for a house; seldom is the area as much as two acres of land.
The Parish of Kingswinford

This early phase of the Industrial Revolution resulted in a marked increase in the population of the district. Chandler\(^3\) estimates that there were about 60 families in Kingswinford parish in 1524, 320 in 1680 and 600 in 1725. New cottages were continually being built, seemingly at random on Pensnett Chase, especially at Ravensitch and the Delph. Little was done by the Manor Court (held every three weeks in the Courthouse near the Church) to prevent the enclosure of this common land. Indeed, the estate of Lord Dudley granted a number of leases, one to William Skidmore, the founder of the Skidmore family in the area.

In seventeenth century Kingswinford parish the industries of metal working and mining were emerging in a landscape still dominated by farming. Crops were still grown on the strip system in big open fields lying on either side of the present A491. This road ran north-south through the centre of the parish. Three-quarters of the population were part-time farmers working on the land as jobs demanded and spending the rest of the time in nailing, locksmithing and coalmining. Only one-tenth of the population of the parish, the full-time farmers and the trades people, lived in Kingswinford village (or ‘Swinford town’) centred around the church and the green. In the 1680s the total population for the parish was probably about 1500, with around 300 in Wordsley and 150 in each of Shut End, Bromley, Brettell and Brockmoor villages. The remainder lived in isolated cottages mostly along the edges of the commons, as at Wall Heath, Barnet Lane, the Delph and Quarry Bank\(^4\).

The colliers of Kingswinford parish lived in Brettell, Amblecote Bank and Brierley Hill\(^5\). The hamlet of Brettell presumably corresponds with the area known later as Brettell Lane, shown on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map of Brierley Hill (West) on either side of the road called Brettell Lane and in the mid-section between its


\(^4\) Chandler, no.1, p.37.

\(^5\) Chandler, no.3, p.16
junctions with Collis Street and Bull Street. The descendants of William and Joyce Skidmore remained (with the odd exception) in these areas for the next 150 years and used the parish churches of Kingswinford and Oldswinford and later the new church at Brierley Hill. Almost all the Skidmore men of the region in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were coal miners. A small number were glassmen. Some Skidmores migrated away from Amblecote and Brierley Hill in the eighteenth century, usually to exploit new pits. A few Skidmore families were in Wednesbury in the first half of the eighteenth century and in Bilston and Dudley by the 1770s. Moves to West Bromwich, Tipton, Coseley and Oldbury took place in the 1790s and it was not until the early decades of the nineteenth century that Skidmore families were found in numbers in Smethwick. Coal mining and iron working were the main occupations at these later dates. A small number of families moved further afield in the 18th century - notably to Birmingham and to London.

The parish of Kingswinford was in the county of Staffordshire and the diocese of Lichfield. The mediaeval parish church of St Mary’s was built in the middle of Kingswinford village. The registers date from 6 April 1603 and for the purposes of this book original registers have been checked for the name Skidmore and its variants. Bishop’s Transcripts have been searched for some years missing from the registers (1666, 1670-1692, 1698-1708, 1713-1722) and memorials in the churchyard have been noted. The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry (BMSGH) has produced a transcript of the Kingswinford parish registers for the years 1603-1761 and this has been invaluable in identifying spouses. St Mary’s was built as the parish church of Kingswinford and remained so until the late 1820s. At this time the then Earl of Dudley obtained permission by Act of Parliament to mine the coal beneath the Church on condition that he built a new Church to replace the existing one which was fully expected to collapse as a result of the mining operations. This new parish church for Kingswinford was duly built in High Street, Wordsley. Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley, opened in 1831. St Mary’s Church was closed at the same time and remained in that state for fifteen years. In 1846 it was realised that the likelihood of collapse was remote and after further investigations it was reopened and has been in use ever since.

A church for Brierley Hill - St Michael’s - was provided as the population in the eastern half of the parish expanded, and separate registers began in 1766, though it was not licensed for marriages between May 1781 and November 1837. Original registers have been studied for this book, though a transcript of Brierley Hill registers for the years 1766-1812 has been produced by the BMSGH.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the Church of England recognised that there was an acute shortage of churches in the new industrial areas where the population was increasing rapidly. To remedy this deficiency and to try to keep pace with the speed with which Methodism was growing the C of E embarked on a massive church building programme. The New Parishes Act of 1843 made it possible to create a new parish without a separate Act of Parliament. Additionally, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who were in charge of the Church’s finances, were empowered to divide large parishes into smaller parishes. The following new parishes were created out of the old and original parish of St Mary’s, Kingswinford:

Holy Trinity, Wordsley 1831; St John’s, Brockmoor 1845; St Mary’s, Kingswinford 1846 (a new parish, a fraction of the original in size); Christ Church, Quarry Bank 1847; St Michael’s, Brierley Hill 1848 (church built in 1765, originally a chapel-of-ease); St Mark’s, Pensnett 1849.

6 Dudley was until 1974 in Worcestershire, though it was completely surrounded by Staffordshire.
8 The parish registers of St Mary, Kingswinford commence in 1603, but as was noted above, Holy Trinity, Wordsley became the parish church in 1832 when the old registers were transferred to Wordsley. St Mary, Kingswinford commenced its own new registers in 1832. Thus the early parish register commencing in 1603 is usually shown as Holy Trinity, Wordsley, although it was the register of St Mary from 1603-1831, and St Mary is shown as commencing in 1832.
KINGSWINFORD PARISH
east of the Wolverhampton/ Stourbridge road,
after the first phase of the Stourbridge Canal (begun 1780s)
and before the coming of the railway LM 2003

- parish boundary
- Stourbridge Canal

a. St Mary's, Kingswinford
b. St Michael's, Brierley Hill
c. Delph Locks (Nine Locks)
d. Delph Bridge
e. Amblecote Bank
f. Boundary follows River Stour at these points
The Parish of Oldswinford

The parish of Old Swinford, now written as one word, was in the county of Worcestershire and the Worcester diocese. A predominantly rural parish at the end of the sixteenth century, it included Stourbridge township (93), Lye (24), Wollescote (11), Oldswinford (21), Norton, Wollaston (23) and Amblecote. The numbers in brackets refer to the number of households of some of the hamlets, obtained from papers of the Lyttleton family dated 1578.

Old Swinford parish adjoins the parish of Kingswinford such that in places crossing the street or turning a corner takes you into a different parish and, indeed, a different county. The registers of St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, date from 1602 and I have spent many hours reading these. Parts are faded, stained and water marked with portions indecipherable. I have checked Bishop’s Transcripts for the years 1650-1699. Note there are no Bishop’s Transcripts for Oldswinford for the Commonwealth period. There are then gaps in the sequence for a number of years from 1666-79. Those that have survived are mostly in bad condition. Bishop’s Transcripts for 1700-1719 have not been searched. The Oldswinford registers (but not BTs) have been transcribed and indexed by the BMSGH for the period up to 1819 (baptisms) and 1813 (burials and marriages). The BMSGH has also transcribed the poor law and settlement documents of this parish 1651-1794; no Skidmores are mentioned but these documents have been useful for background information on spouses and others. References to Skidmore on 33 gravestones in the large Oldswinford churchyard have been noted.

The following new parishes were created out of the old and original parish of St Mary's, Oldswinford: Christ Church, Lye 1839 (built 1813); Holy Trinity, Amblecote 1842; St James', Wollaston 1860; St John's, Stourbridge 1861; St Thomas', Stourbridge 1866 (built 1728-35, originally a chapel-of-ease); St Mark's, Stambermill 1870 (church demolished 1987); St Andrew's, Wollescote 1939; St Michael's, Norton 1951.
Amblecote

A note about Amblecote. It is that area on the southern side of Brettell Lane, as far south as the river Stour and as far east as, but not including the Delph area of the present-day Brierley Hill. It lies mostly on the eastern side of the main N-S road between Wolverhampton and Stourbridge [modern-day A491], but also includes a little to the west. Though it was generally considered by the locals to be part of Kingswinford, Amblecote was, in fact, in Oldswinford parish. Oldswinford parish was in Worcestershire. The parish boundary went down the middle of the lower part of Brettell Lane, with Kingswinford to the north and Oldswinford to the south of Brettell Lane.

However, the Staffordshire/ Worcestershire county boundary went down as far as Stourbridge town which explains why Amblecote was in Staffordshire. Amblecote was in that part of Oldswinford parish which lay in Staffordshire. To add to the confusion, an area of Kingswinford parish - around Delph Lane and Turk Street, and at Ravensitch - seems to have been given the misleading name of 'Amblecote in the Parish of Kingswinford'. Remember too that although Amblecote was in Staffordshire, the wills of Amblecote people were proved at Worcester, the diocesan centre for Oldswinford parish. It is helpful to keep this somewhat confused scenario in mind since most of the Skidmores of the 17th and 18th centuries lived on either side of the Kingswinford/ Amblecote boundary in the areas known as Amblecote Bank and the Delph.

The significance of the boundary between Amblecote and the area called Brettell Lane can be clearly seen by the information given by one Thomas Skidmore to the 1851 census enumerator. Thomas and/or his wife were very precise about their children's birth places; in birth order, Richard was born in Brettell Lane, Thomas and Benjamin in Amblecote, Alfred and Henry in Brettell Lane, and Sarah Ann in Amblecote.

Dates before and after 1752
For the sake of clarity, pre-1752 dates (when the new year began part-way through March) for the months January – March are written, for example, 21 January 1653/4. On the family trees, this date will be found as 1654.

Spelling
The following spellings are adopted regardless of the spelling in the parish register or other documents.
First names: Ann; Eleanor; Hannah; Phoebe; Rosannah; Susannah.
Surnames: Davies; Parkes.

Pronunciation of place names
For those not local to the area, here is a guide to local pronunciation.
Amblecote        Amble-coat.
Coseley          The first syllable rhymes with 'doze'.
Cradley          First syllable rhymes with prayed.
Oldbury          Old-bree.
Rowley Regis     Often called simply Rowley, pronounced 'Row' to rhyme with 'cow'.
Walsall          Rhyme with 'morse'!
Wednesbury       Wenz-bree.
West Bromwich    West Brom-it-ch.
Withymoor        Sometimes pronounced locally Wittmer.
Wollaston        Wool-us-tun.
Wombourne        The first syllable as in 'wool', the second as the second syllable of 'auburn', almost with no vowel.
Woolescote       Wool-us-coat.

I wish to thank Hilary and Sylvia Edwards of Oldswinford for their painstaking collection of much of the early parish register material, for trudging round graveyards reading near-unreadable inscriptions, and for their continuing support and encouragement. I am also indebted to Jean Line of Oldbury who transcribed the Skidmore families from censuses taken in Rowley, Oldbury, Tipton, Smethwick and West Bromwich, long before they were available online; to Maria Boucker for transcriptions of later Dudley parish registers; to Kathleen Skidmore of London for searches made in numerous London record repositories. The late John S. Hunt of Potton extracted all Scudamores and Skidmores from the enormous tomes, then located at St Catherine's
House in London, containing the index of the General Register Office (GRO), for births, marriages and deaths to 1912 - again, long before this was online. Warren Skidmore of Akron, Ohio, provided census and other material of people who went to America. The late Peter Skidmore of Wollaston provided much assistance with his knowledge of local history. Thanks are also due to my husband Terry and my daughter Katie for their seemingly endless patience in explaining the intricacies of computer software packages.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Those readers with some experience of family history research will know that it is not an exact science. The lines of descent are based on information currently available to me and where there are alternatives or ambiguities I have tried to make this clear. Those searching for a John Skidmore or a Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth or Sarah, may need to accept some doubt as to lineage and are advised to search the Notes as well as the main text.

Where feasible, an attempt has been made to identify spouses. It is important to realise that references to individuals not called Skidmore or Scudamore have been found almost exclusively from the International Genealogical Index (IGI) produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Omissions and errors do occur in this index and entries should always be checked in the original registers. It should be remembered too that the IGI does not cover all parishes and without a detailed study of a family wrong assumptions can be drawn from a study of the IGI alone. Necessarily, without deeper study of these associated families, an element of doubt must exist and descendants are asked to bear this in mind and to confirm facts from other sources.

Undoubtedly some changes will in future need to be made in the light of new evidence. Descendants are advised to obtain certificates of births, marriages and deaths for events after 1837 to confirm information. You are invited to contribute additional information to the author and to point out errors. skidmore@one-name.org
GENERATION 1

For the purposes of this account William Skidmore of Kingswinford parish and his wife Joyce Hawkes are considered Generation 1.

Their descendants can be identified in databases of the Skidmore/Scudamore One-Name Study with the prefix KFD; thus William herebelow is found as KFD [1]. (LM)

1. WILLIAM I SKIDMORE was a collier of Kingswinford parish. His marriage to Mrs Joyce Batch on 24 January 1624/5 at St Mary's, Kingswinford is the first record of the name Skidmore in this area.

Joyce, formerly Hawkes, was the widow of collier Humphrey Batch (sometimes written Bache and pronounced Bay-ch) whom she married on 28 November 1615 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. There are known to have been children of this marriage; Mary Bache 1616, (thought to have married John Windell 'of Enville' (Enville), Joyce Batch 1619, John Batch 1621 (married Joan and baptised children in Kingswinford) and Humphrey Bach 1624 (married Alice and baptised children in Kingswinford). Joyce's first husband was buried at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 10 April 1624, before the baptism of the youngest child Humphrey. At the time of her marriage to William Skidmore, Joyce's children ranged in age from nine months to ten years, but it is not known whether they were raised in the house of her second husband or with Joyce's relatives. No will has been found for Humphrey Batch the elder.

Joyce was born probably several years before 1602, the date from which parish registers exist. There were two Hawkes families using Oldswinford Church for baptisms from 1602. She could be a daughter of William Hawkes or of Paul Hawkes, no doubt brothers or cousins. Paul Hawkes could be the butcher of Stourbridge, born about 1566, who was a witness in 1595 in a lawsuit concerning the management of Stourbridge Grammar School\(^\text{10}\) brought by Richard Madstard. Chambers' work is a most entertaining and informative account of aspects of life in Stourbridge in the late sixteenth century. A later Paul Hawkes is mentioned in 1610 in the arrest of Thomas Walton of Oldswinford 'an evil doer fighter quarreller and a common disturber of His Majesty's peace'. The warrant is endorsed 'It is affirmed and proved that the Constable going to arrest the defendant who goeth armed with weapons and evil company one Paul Hawkes an alehouse (keeper?) locked him in the house that the Constable could not come to him'.\(^\text{11}\)

Assuming that William Skidmore was about the same age as Joyce his wife, he was born in the mid-1590s.

On 3 September 1629 Edward Lord Dudley\(^\text{12}\) of Dudley Castle granted to William Skydmore, a 'collier of Brettell', a lease of two acres of land to build a cottage. The lease gives the position of this land as 'between

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\(^{10}\) Chambers, R.L., p.5

\(^{11}\) Chambers, R.L., p.299

\(^{12}\) The Dudley barons had estates that extended widely over the Midlands. Warren Skidmore points to Edward Skydmore of Siddington Langley, Gloucestershire, whose father was Philip Skydmore of Holme Lacy, Herefordshire. Edward had a wife Isabella whose family had a grant from the Dudleys at Stratford-on-Avon. Then Augustine Skydmore, Edward's presumptive son, is found near Stratford-on-Avon at Budbrooke, Warwickshire (a sometime Dudley fee), who perhaps settled there by a boon from Edward (ca. 1515-1586), the fourth baron Dudley. This does not amount to proof of a connection with the William Skidmore of Kingswinford parish but provides some shreds of evidence with which to pursue William's origin and, together with the information on Bewdley Skidmores, with which to tie other Skidmore families in north Worcestershire to those near Stratford-on-Avon.
lande nowe in the holding of Thomas Cary Gent and land now in the holding of Thomas Cartwright on both sides and is parcel of a coppice there called Ravensitch'. Ravensitch Coppice occupied the area of Pensnett Chase south and west of enclosures belonging to Thomas Carey, who lived at Mousehall. Interestingly, Mousehall Farm still stands between the Thorns and Amblecote Road about a quarter of a mile from the most southerly point of the Kingswinford parish boundary. Mousehall was probably one of the first houses to be built on the Chase, the lower part of the north wall thought to be part of the original building. At the beginning of the seventeenth century John Carey the Chase Ranger lived there (father of Thomas and brother to Sir George Carey of Cockington, Devon). Early Ordnance Survey maps identify a spot with grid reference 917853 as Ravensitch - there were a few houses there; but this spot, roughly where Woods Lane and Calewood Road now meet, is probably too precise in defining a coppice. The area has, of course, been completely changed as it has been extensively mined for coal, ironstone and fire-clay. Within a year the property was out of William's holding. Within twelve months of leasing the land, William had assigned the lease to Richard Southwicke. An assignment of lease dated 23 September 1630 recites the above mentioned lease of 1629 'and now said William Skidmore by his indenture has assigned to lease to Richard Southwicke and Mary his wife the said parcell of land and the cottage or dwelling house thereupon lately erected and to be erected.' Richard Southwicke then lived in the premises, probably until his death.

On 20 October 1643 William, along with 71 other people so fined, paid 2d to avoid attending the Michaelmas Frankpledge of all inhabitants at the Court Leet. In the Poll Tax of 1641 William paid 6d. This was the amount paid by all who were not paupers, but not worth £5 a year. The order in which payers of this tax is recorded around Kingswinford parish suggests that William lived in the Brierley Hill/ Brettell/ Pensnett Chase area, i.e. in the south-east of the parish and close to the border with Oldswinford parish.

The Hearth Tax lists William Skidmore and Francis Skidmore in Amblecote (almost certainly William's two sons) and William Skidmore in Kingswinford. Since William had died in 1664, presumably the house was occupied by his widow Joyce and the name not changed. This tax list enables us to pinpoint William's house in the hamlet of Brettell, which lay on each side of a wide road (now Brettell Lane) leading up towards the chase. Most of Brettell's inhabitants were nail makers and coal miners. There are no Skidmores in the 1673 Hearth Tax, but only twelve names are given for Amblecote. The Poor Rate Assessment of February 1674/5 required widow Skidmore to pay (as opposed to receive) 6d.

The will of William Skudemore is dated 9 January 1663/4 (proved 25 May 1664 at Lichfield) and left to his wife Joyce (and after her death equally to his four children) a life interest in several leasings, and to his widow Joyce and the name not changed. This tax list enables us to pinpoint William's house in the hamlet of Brettell, which lay on each side of a wide road (now Brettell Lane) leading up towards the chase. Most of Brettell's inhabitants were nail makers and coal miners. There are no Skidmores in the 1673 Hearth Tax, but only twelve names are given for Amblecote. The Poor Rate Assessment of February 1674/5 required widow Skidmore to pay (as opposed to receive) 6d.

'A true and perfect Inventory of all the goods chattells & Cattle of William Skudemore of the parish of Kingswinford & County of Stafford Collyer deceased taken and apprised by Richard Brettle & Richard Hoskys the 20th day of February in the 16th yeare of the Reigne of King Charles the second Ano Dom[in]i 1663.


13 Manorial Records. Default of Suit 20 Oct 1643. The frankpledge was a system in medieval England under which all but the greatest men and their households were bound together by mutual responsibility to keep the peace. The court leet was a criminal court for the punishment of small offences, left denoting a territorial and a jurisdictional area.

14 House of Lords Library LP1180/3.4. Poll Tax is a term that has a different meaning in the United States and the United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom it refers to a tax that is levied equally on everyone. In the United States, it is a tax that was to be paid in order to be allowed to vote.

15 The Hearth Tax or chimney money was first levied in 1662 and continued until 1689. 2 shillings a year was charged on each fire hearth, but people too poor to be assessed for the church and poor rates were exempt, as were occupiers of property rented for less than 20s. a year or below £10 in total capital value.

16 The poor rate was an assessment or tax that is levied equally on everyone. In the United States, it is a tax that was to be paid in order to be allowed to vote.

17 The author is grateful to Peter Chandler of Wordsley, Kingswinford, for help with the interpretation of William Skidmore's and Isaiah Skidmore's inventories. Also for Skidmores found in and an interpretation of the Manorial Records, Poll Tax and Hearth Tax returns for Kingswinford parish.
In[primis] A table boord & frame a joynd
presse & a joynd Chest t 1-14-8
Item two fire grates a fire shovel & tongs
& a pair of weights 0- 8-0
Item two iron potts 4 brass kettles
6 dishes of pewter & a fflaggon 2-10-0
Item two mares 13 sheepe & two loads of hay at 8-10-0
Item a half headed bed & bedding 3- 0-0
Item two other beds and bedding 2- 0-0
Item two little Coffers 2 wheeles
hempe hearden yarne 2 benches & a ffourme 1- 0-0
Item two chaires 2 spitts a paire
of Cobbits gayles and pothookes 0- 9-0
Item a kneading trough, a loome,
a frying panne, a plate & a basting spoone a[t] 0- 5-0
Item Certayne leases & Chattells valued at 10- 0-0
Item six pairs of sheeetes and
two table clothes a[t] 2-02-0
Item Husbandry implements and things forgott
or out of sight 0-10-0
Item Three severall bonds or obliga[t]ions from Richard Brindley of the parish of Kinvar & County of Stafford
gent being debts as may now at large appeare
haveing relation to the s[ai]d bonds a[t] 46- 0-0
The tott[al] sume is 78- 8-0'

Notes on the inventory:
Joynd meant mortice-and-tenon joints.
Load (singular here) was 36 parcels of hay weighing 56 pounds each.
Gayles were an almost invariable presence in inventories of this area, since they were the local word for a
kitchen crane, used for holding pots over the fire. Even quite recent usage, e.g. Raven's Black Country mentions
‘gale-hook’ as a term that has persisted.
Hemp hearden [hardened] yarn. Hurden has a precise meaning (well discussed in Barrie Trinder’s Yeomen and
Colliers). It is specifically the coarser part of the hemp, and made the less regarded ‘hurden’ sheets - inventories
of yeomen often lovingly recite the different grades of linen.

A man of William’s means would certainly earlier have been a working collier. The inventory has no mention
of colliery goods. This is not entirely unexpected, as it is also true of other inventories of colliers, but it may be
that William had retired and was living partly on his capital, lent to a ‘safe’, bigger man, probably Richard
Brindley of Compton, near Arley, Worcestershire. In a portfolio of papers on early ironworks in Worcestershire
and Staffordshire Richard Brindley is mentioned. On 29 July 1654 Richard Brindley undertook to cast 8 tons of
bar iron for his uncle Richard Foley (presumably the man who married Alice Brindley around 1610), and to carry
it at the rate of a ton a week from Bewdley to Foley at Stourbridge.

William’s thirteen sheep needed no more than a few acres around the house, and right of common. There is no
mention of any arable land sown, nor of any corn, so probably he had no lands in the common fields. The two
loads of hay mentioned was not a great deal and could indeed have been bought for his own animals’
consumption. It is, however, unusual for a relatively poor man to have two mares.

Of the Kingswinford men for whom probate documents survive about one-eighth were coal miners, one-half
metal workers and one-quarter farmers. The nailers and scythesmiths were generally wealthier than the
colliers, with the odd exception, including William Skidmore, as shown in this list, prepared by Peter Chandler,
of Kingswinford colliers leaving probate documents between 1600 and 1740.

18 Records of the Foley family in Herefordshire Record Office, ref.E12/IV/166/1/1
19 Oliver, Irene, Philip Foley (1653-1716), The Blackcountryman Vol.35 No.1.
William was buried in the churchyard at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 4 February 1663/4 and his widow was buried there on 11 August 1676.

The children of William and Joyce (Batch) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

i. Margaret, baptised 8 January 1625/6. She married James Seager (son of Jeffrey Seager, carpenter, and his wife Ann) on 1 November 1647 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Although James Seager is described as a collier, his inventory mentions no colliery goods. The practice of combining mining with husbandry is revealed by his possession of five horses and two cows, also sheep, pigs, poultry, ‘corne upon the ground and in the barn and mault in the house’. James Seager made his will on 14 December 1689 (proved Lichfield 24 December 1689, includes inventory). He had at some time given to each of his sons James Seager and William Seager and to his daughter Ann Gill ‘considerable estate a

William Seager appears to be the man mentioned in the Rent Rolls of Lord Dudley. Guttery in his book on Pensnett Chase describes the considerable income derived by Lord Dudley from ownership of the Chase. In the year 1701 one mine called ‘The Paddock’, managed by two Brierley Hill men William Seager and John Brettell, brought in £443 0s. 3d.

James Seager was buried at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 22 December 1689, six weeks before the death of his wife Margaret, who was buried there on 12 February 1689/90. In her will (made on 18 January 1689/90, a month before her death, and proved at Lichfield 3 April 1690) she honoured the legacies intended by her husband to their children and grandchildren. In addition she left eight sheep and one pair of iron cobberts to son George and the ‘great joyned presse

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20 Guttery, D.R., p.20.
now standing in the kitchin in my now dwelling house' passed to her daughter Margaret Nightingale - apparently the item of furniture mentioned in her father William's will. Her son James was named as executor.

Information on the Hawkes families, and on William Skidmore's son-in-law James Seager, was kindly supplied by Janet Rowley of Birmingham, England, a descendant of James & Margaret Seager.

2. ii. WILLIAM, baptised 23 January 1628/9.
3. iii. FRANCIS, baptised 2 April 1632.
4. iv. Ann, baptised 4 October 1635 (buried 4 July 1699). She married Richard Phibs on 16 May 1654 at St Mary's, Kingswinford and three children of this marriage were baptised in the parish to 1671. Richard Phibs was baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 3 December 1631, the son of the only family of that name in the parish, Hayward and Ann Phibs, whose sons Richard Phibbs and William Phibbs were nailers in Kingswinford.
GENERATION 2

2. WILLIAM² SKIDMORE of Amblecote was baptised on 23 January 1628/9 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, the son of William [1] and Joyce (Hawkes) Skidmore. No evidence has been found for William’s occupation, but it is fair to assume that he was a collier as were his father and his sons. He married Bridget ______, and they were living in Amblecote in 1665 when he was taxed on one hearth. Unlike their father, both William Skidmore junior and Francis Skidmore his brother, had their children baptised at St Mary’s Church, Oldswinford. This, coupled with the information from the Hearth Tax of 1665, suggests that they lived on the Amblecote side of the parish boundary, in Oldswinford parish.

William was buried on 25 April 1695 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford and his widow later that same year, on 3 November.

The children of William and Bridget Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

*It appears on present evidence that William had two daughters called Mary.*

1. William, baptised 20 January 1651/2 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. William, ‘son of William Skidmore’, was buried on 30 May 1671 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. It is most unusual for a man of about twenty years of age to be referred to as ‘son of’ in the burial register.

2. Susannah, born on 24 December 1653, daughter of William Skidmore. She was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 23 April 1655, daughter of William Skidmore.

3. Mary, born 12 (baptised 28) December 1655, daughter of William Skidmore. She appears to have married John Brooke on 31 July 1680 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Five children of John and Mary Brooke were baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford between 1679 and 1686.


6. Joyce, baptised 19 October 1661. She married Charles Brooke (baptised 21 February 1656 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, the son of Thomas Brookes) on 4 November 1682 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Four children of this marriage were baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford and Oldswinford between 1683 and 1705. Charles Brooke ‘of Amblecoat’ was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 22 March 1719/20. Where the occupation of Brooke men has been found in parish records of this time, they are always nailers.

7. Joseph, probably born between 1663 and 1667.

8. Isaiah, baptised 29 January 1664/5.

9. [perhaps] Alice, baptised 23 January 1668/9. There are two entries of a Skidmore baptism in the original Oldswinford register on this date. In the first, at the beginning of 1668/9 there is no reference to the child’s name and the word ‘baptised’ is missing, viz. (the entries immediately preceding and following the Skidmore entry are included to illustrate the usual form used by this clerk):

   Jane D of Richard Parker bapt 23rd
   Alice D of James Insole bapt 26th

Following the 1668 entries is a note to the effect that between 1668-73 no entries were made (though clearly a few were at the beginning of 1668/9) but instead were written in (presumably into the parchment book from less substantial documents or from memory) and examined in 1673. These entries follow the note and among them are found:

   Alice daughter of William Skidmore Jan 23rd
   Alice daughter of James Insole bapt Jan 26th

The author doubts that this is a daughter of William but has included full details to illustrate the haphazard keeping of records for certain years.
3. FRANCIS SKIDMORE, the second son of William [1] and Joyce (Batch) Skidmore, was baptised on 2 April 1632 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. He married his cousin Isabel Handy, who was baptised on 1 December 1633 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, the first child of Richard Handy of Kingswinford parish and his wife Isabel Bornes.

Isabel Handy’s paternal aunt Margaret Handy (1603-79) married Francis Hawkes, the supposed brother of Joyce Hawkes and so uncle to Francis Skidmore. Banns for the marriage of Francis Skidmore were called at Kingswinford Church in August and September 1655. No marriage date is recorded in the register of Kingswinford, but this was not unusual. Of the 25 notices of banns recorded that year, five have no marriage date entered and two have an incomplete entry. Following the 1653 Marriage Act, marriage was carried out by a magistrate and could take place in front of justices at a local market town, if the banns had been read. In fact, a note in the Oldswinford register in 1657 reads ‘The cause why weddings are not ---- this yeare and some yeares before: was because people were then generally married out of the parish by a justice of peace’.

Francis and Isabel were living in Amblecote in 1665 when he was taxed on one hearth.

He probably married secondly Ann Glover at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 8 February 1675/6. Ann appears to be a daughter of Humphrey Glover and his wife Mary (née Shifhocke, of Halesowen parish), baptised on 19 April 1646 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Humphrey was part of apparently the only Glover family in Kingswinford parish at that time. He and his sons Job Glover and Jeremiah Glover were nailers in Kingswinford. (On 10 June 1729 a Jeremiah Glover witnessed the will of Samuel Stevens, father-in-law of Susannah Stevens the daughter of Francis Skidmore’s supposed nephew Joseph [6]).

The Bishop’s Transcripts of the Kingswinford burial register show that Ann Skidmore was buried at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 13 February 1683/4. Francis Skidmore, collier, died a few days later and was buried on 17 February.

Two further burials of individuals called Francis Skidmore took place at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, one on 6 June 1701 (no indication of age), the other on 2 October 1712 (probably an adult). One was likely the son of Jonas [9]. The other could be a son, whose baptism I have not found, of William [2] or of any of the older grandsons of William and Joyce Skidmore.

Also at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, on 13 April 1710, Mrs Isabel Skidmore, a widow, was buried. It is unlikely that she is Isabel Handy but until the marriage is found of another Isabel to one of the Skidmore men, this should remain a possibility.

The children of Francis and Isabel (Handy) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. [perhaps] Francis (buried 24 August 1684 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford) married Margaret (buried, wife of Francis, 31 August 1684).

8. ii. JOSEPH, born 24 December 1658.

9. iii. JONAS, baptised 2 December 1661.

10. iv. JOB, baptised 20 January 1666/7.

v. Sarah, baptised 22 November 1674. She married Joseph Marret on 26 June 1692 at Oldswinford. His baptism has not been found. Humphrey Marret married Dorothy Green at Kingswinford in 1666 and these could be his parents. Another Humphrey Marriot, perhaps a brother or cousin to
Joseph Marret, married Dorothy _____ and had a son Joseph at Kingswinford in 1716. Sarah Skidmore is perhaps the Sarah Marriott buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 17 April 1755.

vi. Mary, baptised 26 August 1676.

The children of Francis and Ann (Glover) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

12. viii. JOHN, baptised 30 March 1681.
GENERATION 3

5. **PAUL Skidmore**, the son of William [2] and Bridget Skidmore, was born on 21 January 1658/9 and baptised on 7 February of that year at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He married, though we have no evidence of his wife's name since the baptismal register names only the father. Only one child is known to have survived past infancy, though Daniel [30] is a possible further son. Paul was buried on 1 December 1717 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.

The children of Paul Skidmore the elder, baptisms and burials at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

13. i. **PAUL**, baptised 10 January 1685/6.
   ii. Moses, baptised 28 January 1687/8 and buried the following day.
   iii. Samuel, buried an infant on 14 February 1688/9, son of Paul.
   v. Elijah, buried an infant on 7 January 1699/1700, son of Paul Scudamore.

6. **JOSEPH Skidmore** of Amblecote, the son of William [2] and Bridget Skidmore, is easily confused with another Joseph [8] of the same parish, his cousin. No baptism has been found for this man but fortunately much information is available from his will of 1728. He is known to be the brother of Paul [5], from mention in his will of his nephew[a] Paul Skidmore. Joseph married firstly Elizabeth Goold on 7 April 1689 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. She was perhaps baptised on 25 June 1653, daughter of Richard and Margery Gould whose children were baptised at Penn, Staffordshire, between 1650 and 1669. Alternatively, she could be the daughter of Edward and Elizabeth (Pen) Gould, baptised at Wombourn on 12 May 1665. Her relationship to Jane Goold who married her husband’s brother Isaiah [7] has not been discovered. Joseph and Elizabeth Skidmore had two daughters before Elizabeth died in 1696. She was buried on 31 July of that year at St Mary's, Oldswinford, 'wife of Joseph'. Six months later, on 13 January 1696/7 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, Joseph married his second wife Joan Tilley. She is perhaps Johane, daughter of William Tylley, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 27 February 1668.

In 1714 Joseph Scudamore was a voter for Kidderminster in the Worcestershire County Council, presumably as a result of his owning five houses and a shop (occupied at the time Joseph’s will was made by Mr. Wallis, a locksmith) in Kidderminster. He lived, however, in part of his freehold property in Amblecote, where he was a collier. His daughters and sons-in-law Samuel Stephens and William Dean were his tenants in other of his freehold property in Amblecote.

In his will made at Amblecote on 12 August 1728 (and proved 4 November 1728 at Worcester) he provides three shillings per week for life out of the rents of his freehold properties to his wife Joan. After his wife’s death his three houses in Amblecote in his own possession and in the possession of his daughter Susannah and her husband were to pass to Susannah, as were his three houses in Lye. The two tenements in Kidderminster mortgaged to his nephew Paul Skidmore were to be sold and the residue, together with the remaining property in Kidderminster, was to pass to his daughter Ann Dean, together with the house occupied by Ann and her husband William Dean in Amblecote. His household goods and his wife's apparel he left to 'my two daughters Susannah Stephens and Ann Gardiner [sic]'. The surname Gardiner is not found in the printed transcripts of Kingswinford and Oldswinford parish registers. The identity of Ann Gardiner is not known (she was possibly a stepdaughter) but the wording of the will suggests very strongly that he had only two daughters. His son-in-law Samuel Stephens is named as sole executor. Joseph Skidmore was said to be 'of a weak constitution' when he made his will and he was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford only three days later, on 15 August 1728. Joan survived him by three months and was living in Amblecote at the time of her death. She was buried on 3 December 1728 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.

The children of Joseph and Elizabeth (Goold) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

   i. Susannah, baptised 16 December 1689. She married Samuel Stephens on 7 November 1713 at St

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[a] The terms cousin, nephew, son-in-law, etc are sometimes used differently from nowadays, but in the absence of other information I have assumed this use of nephew to be correct.
Mary’s, Oldswinford. Samuel had land settled upon him by his father Samuel Stevens, collier (will proved at Lichfield on 6 August 1729). Burials of children of Susannah’s marriage are found at Kingswinford in 1715 and 1716, and baptisms are found at St Mary’s, Oldswinford to 1728. Susannah Stephens died at the age of about forty and was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 23 December 1729. Samuel Stephens married Elizabeth Meredith there two years later on 2 August 1731.

ii. Ann, baptised 20 February 1691/2. She married William Dean and their children were baptised in Kingswinford and Oldswinford between 1715 and 1736. Their son Thomas Dean probably married his second cousin Mary Skidmore, daughter of Thomas [14]. Ann Dean was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 22 October 1765, on the same day as Rebecca Skidmore (apparently the daughter of Ann’s cousin Paul [13]).

7. ISAIAH (alias ESAU) SKIDMORE, the son of William [2] and Bridget Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 29 January 1664/5. He was a collier of Amblecote and married Jane Goold on 4 April 1687 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Sometimes at the baptism of their children he is recorded as Esau Skidmore in the parish register.

Isaiah made his will on 13 January 1721 and was said to be of Kingswinford parish. The burial register says that both he and Jane were of Amblecote (which was in Oldswinford parish). They perhaps lived in that area of Kingswinford parish given the misleading name of ‘Amblecote in the Parish of Kingswinford’. This comprised the Delph (between Delph Lane and Turk Street), and the area around Ravensitch. He left £8.10s to his eldest son Thomas, £7 to his second son Edmund and also to his youngest son Joseph, £6 to his daughter Jane Tilly, wife of John Tilly and to his daughters Margaret and Priscilla the same sum. To his daughter Elizabeth, wife of Edward Webb he left one shilling and to her three children Jane, Edward and Elizabeth Webb, one guinea apiece. His household goods, stock (his inventory shows two cows and a tun of hay) and chattels he left to his wife Jane. He names as sole executor ‘my loving kinsman Samuel Stephens’ who was the husband of Isaiah’s niece Susannah. His will was proved on 25 May 1724 at Lichfield.

Isaiah was said to be ‘in an indifferent state of health but of a sound mind and perfect memory’ when he made his will at the age of about 56. He lived three more years and was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 22 February 1723/4. Jane died five months later and was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 5 August 1724.

The children of Isaiah and Jane (Goold) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. Elizabeth, baptised 28 April 1688. She married Edward Webb, a collier. Their children were baptised in Kingswinford and Oldswinford from 1711 to 1729.

ii. Edward, baptised on 11 January 1689/90 and buried an infant on 20 September 1690 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford.

iii. Jane, baptised 23 July 1691. She died a young child and was buried on 18 November 1697 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford.

14. iv. THOMAS, baptised 5 April 1693.

15. v. EDMUND (EDWARD), born in 1695.

vi. Jane, married John Tilly 6 August 1720 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. She is remembered in her father’s will. One child, Ann Tilly, was baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford in 1721. Jane Tilly died in 1728 (buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 8 December).

vii. Margaret, baptised 14 June 1701. She married Thomas Brettle (perhaps the son of John and Margaret Brettil, baptised at Kingswinford on 17 May 1701) on 16 April 1723 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Six children of this marriage were baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford to 1743.

16. viii. JOSEPH, born 17 July 1703.

ix. Priscilla, born 10 May 1706 and baptised three days later. She married John Wood on 12 February 1725/6 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Priscilla Wood appears to have been married for a second time, at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 28 August 1746, to Benjamin Richards.

8. JOSEPH (alias) SKIDMORE of Amblecote, son of Francis [3] and Isabel (Handy) Skidmore, was born on 24 December 1658 and baptised on 23 January 1658/9 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Joseph and his wife Sarah would appear to be the people of their names buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 13 May 1711.

The children of Joseph and Sarah Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i.&ii. Two infants both buried 22 February 1682/3.

iii. Ann, baptised 4 October 1684.
17. iv. WILLIAM, baptised 19 June 1686.

v. Sarah, baptised 26 November 1687.

19. vi. JOSEPH, baptised 2 November 1689.

vii. Mary, baptised 12 August 1691.

20. viii. SAMUEL, baptised 18 March 1692/3.

ix. Ellen, baptised 15 December 1694.

x. Elizabeth, born 17 March (baptised 7 April) 1696.


xii. Hester, born about 1696 and baptised 19 January 1700/1. Hester Scudamore married Joseph Perkes, a butcher of Oldswinford, on 30 December 1723 at Hartlebury, Worcestershire. Their marriage bond gives her age as 27 years. In view of the marriage place, he is perhaps the son of Francis and Margery Pirk, born 30 October 1692 and baptised at Ribbesford, Worcestershire on 30 October 1693. Four children of Joseph and Esther Perkes were baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford between 1724 and 1730.

9. JONAS III SKIDMORE, son of Francis [3] and Isabel (Handy) Skidmore, was baptised on 2 December 1661 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. He almost certainly lived in Amblecote since he was described as a collier of Oldswinford parish at the time of his marriage to Mary Green of Gornal Wood on 28 March 1687 at All Saints’, Sedgley, Staffordshire. She was perhaps the daughter of William and Mary Greene, baptised at All Saints’, Sedgley on 24 March 1664. Jonas was buried on 9 June 1712 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford.

The children of Jonas and Mary (Green) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. Isabel, baptised 14 January 1687/8. Although the parish register gives the father’s name as James, the Bishop’s Transcript shows it to be Jonah. Since there is no other evidence of a James Skidmore at this time, the latter is more likely.

ii. Francis, baptised 15 March 1689/90. Perhaps buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 6 June 1701 or 2 October 1712.

iii. Ann, baptised 22 April 1692. She was buried on 22 July of that year at St Mary’s, Oldswinford.

22. iv. [probably] JONAS.

v. Job, buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 2 August 1703.

vi. Phoebe, born on 9 October (baptised 12 November) 1704. She married John Cooper on 19 July 1730 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Children are known to this marriage to 1741, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. The burials of two ladies called Phoebe Cooper were recorded (one of these presumably the wife of Josiah Cooper of Kingswinford), at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 4 June 1758 and at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 7 January 1756.

10. JOB III SKIDMORE, son of Francis [3] and Isabel (Handy) Skidmore, was baptised on 20 January 1666/7 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. He married Priscilla, surname unknown. Job Skidmore was a nailer in 1684, and a collier in 1691 and again in 1700. In 1696 Job was among 976 residents of Kingswinford parish who signed or made their mark (as did Job) for the Association Roll23. Priscilla and Job were buried at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, she on 20 May 1700 and Job on 22 June 1715.

The children of Job and Priscilla Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

i. Mary, baptised November 1684 (known from Bishop’s Transcripts only).

ii. Francis, buried an infant on 10 August 1689 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford.

iii. Job, buried an infant on 8 February 1689/90 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford.

iv. Jane, baptised 17 February 1690/1.


11. JEREMIAH III SKIDMORE, the son of Francis [3] and Ann (Glover) Skidmore, was baptised on 23 February 1678/9 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. He married Emme Weet on 30 June 1706 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Her

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23 Association Roll C213/258 (1696). Between the 16th and 19th centuries, various groups of people were required to take oaths of loyalty to the crown and to the Church of England. The most comprehensive of these oaths was probably the ‘Solemn Association’ for the defence of the king and in support of the succession, established by Parliament in 1696, after an assassination attempt on King William III. It was compulsory for all office holders under the crown, military and civil, who were to take it at one of the courts of law. MPs, local clergy and gentry, freemen of city livery companies and other groups were also encouraged to subscribe. In some places, most adult males of status in the local community appear to have done so as well.
baptism has not been found. She was a contemporary of Thomas Weet who married Ann Wheeler on 2 November 1702 at St Giles', Rowley Regis. Jeremiah and Emme were probably the first Skidmores to move away from the Amblecote area, and certainly the only ones to settle at this time in Halesowen, where Emme inherited property in the will of her aunt Hannah Gaskin. Although Hannah Gaskin died in 1735 (will proved at Worcester on 19 August of that year) it appears that Jeremiah had moved to Halesowen some years before this. His son John Skidmore married there in 1732 and had children baptised there from 1733.

Hannah Gaskin left to Emme Skidmore her houses in Halesowen with their buildings, barn, hempyard, garden, fold and draw well, to be divided equally at Emme's death between her kinsman John Skidmore and kinswoman Ann Skidmore. She also left to her kinsman John Skidmore's eldest son [not named] the chest in the room in which she lay. Emme and Ann received all the stock in trade, presumably connected with the hemp yard. The will mentions her godson James Gardiner, her goddaughter Isabel Cresswell and her cousin William Robertson and his wife Hannah. She left three pounds for her funeral expenses to buy '20 white cakes at eighteen apiece', ten shillings to be paid to the poor on her burying day, the remainder for her coffin and shroud. It is not clear whether Hannah Gaskin was single or a widow; her will certainly suggests she had no surviving children.

At the time of their deaths Jeremiah and Emme were both described as 'of Halesowen Town'. Jeremiah was buried on 6 May 1747 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen (then in the county of Shropshire and the diocese of Worcester). Emme left a will at Halesowen dated 8 April 1749 (proved at Worcester 15 August 1751) in which she left to her son John Skidmore a room in her house in Cornbow Street, Halesowen, above the entry and adjoining a house belonging to Sir Thomas Littleton and in the tenure of Henry Moore. John was also to receive one half of the barn, the end next to Cornbow Bridge, half the hemp yard, half the garden, half the fold and half of the draw well belonging to the house. To her daughter Ann the wife of Edward Davies of Birmingham, bricklayer, she left the entry and the 4 rooms below it, and the other half of the barn, hempyard, garden, fold and draw well. These premises were 'given or intended to be given unto them by the will of my late Aunt Hannah Gaskin'. Her daughter Ann was to receive also all her goods and personal estate and to be her sole executor. Emme was buried at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 30 July 1751.

The children of Jeremiah and Emme (Weet) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

23. i. JOHN, born 28 October 1707.
   ii. Ann, baptised 26 September 1714. She was named an executor in 1735, with her mother, to the will of her mother's aunt, Hannah Gaskin. She was living in Stourbridge at the time the will was proved. She married (using the form Skudamore) Edward Davies, bricklayer of Birmingham, on 2 July 1742 at St Philip's, Birmingham. They appear to have lived in Birmingham – a daughter Nancy was baptised at St Philip's on 7 May 1752 to Edward and Ann Davies.

12. John SKIDMORE, son of Francis [3] and Ann (Glover) Skidmore, was baptised on 30 March 1681 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. Though a little young, he is thought to be the man who married Penelope ______ around 1700.

There are two possible burials for this man at St Mary's, Kingswinford, either John Skidmore, a collier buried on 29 November 1730, or John Skidmore buried 16 January 1734/5. Penelope was buried there on 7 May 1735 as his widow.

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24 In this vicinity, there appear to have been three men called John Skidmore born ten years either side of 1700 and they have proved difficult to identify with any certainty:
- John [28], thought to have been born in the mid-1690s and whose baptism has not been found, could be the son of Paul [5], Joseph [8], Jonas [9] or Job [10]. He appears to have married Ann Phibs in 1719 and perhaps secondly Mary Mills in 1731, both in Kingswinford.
- John [25], son of John [12], was born in 1704 and married Mary ______ around 1740. He died in Brierley Hill in 1787 aged 84.
- John [23], son of Jeremiah [11], was born in 1707 and moved with his parents to Halesowen town, where he married Mary Crump in 1732. He died in Halesowen in 1764. John [25] or John [23] could have married earlier......
  - a John Skidmore married Elizabeth Gill in 1727 in Kingswinford (she died in November 1729),
  - a John Skidmore married Elizabeth Bullows (perhaps born in 1706), both of Kingswinford, in December 1730 there.
John Skidmore, a collier in November 1730 and John Skidmore, almost certainly an adult, died in January 1735 - exact age of these men was not noted. One is presumably John [12] the husband of Penelope.
The children of John and Penelope Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford,

i. Richard, baptised 10 November 1701 and buried there two days later.

24. ii. JOSEPH, baptised 14 November 1702.

25. iii. JOHN, baptised 29 April 1704\textsuperscript{14}.

iv. Ann, baptised 25 February 1705/6. She married Daniel Parkes on 29 May 1725 at Kingswinford. Baptisms which cannot be ascribed with certainty to this couple are found at All Saints', Sedgley and St Martin's, Tipton between 1725 and 1748.

v. Margaret, baptised 22 August 1708. No burial has been found for this child. The child Margaret buried on 25 November 1714 at St Mary's, Kingswinford as the daughter of John and Mary Skidmore is probably the child of John and Penelope Skidmore, recorded in error by the clerk.

vi. Elizabeth, baptised 18 June 1710. She married, on 13 August 1731 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, Benjamin Glover (probably the son of Edward and Elizabeth Glover, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 17 October 1708). Benjamin and Elizabeth had twelve children baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford between 1732 and 1754.

vii. Francis, baptised 8 March 1712/3

viii. Margaret, baptised 18 April 1715. She married William Aston (perhaps the son of William and Elizabeth (Aston) Aston, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 20 November 1710) on 10 September 1733 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. Nine children of William and Margaret Aston were baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford between 1736 and 1758.

26. ix. THOMAS, baptised 10 June 1717.

27. x. BENJAMIN, baptised 7 March 1718/9.

xi. Esther, baptised 15 April 1721. The author suggests she married Edward Shaw on 30 March 1741 at St Mary's, Kingswinford (rather than Robert Smith at St Thomas', Dudley on 5 June 1750 who more likely married Esther the daughter of Henry [21]). Edward Shaw appears to be the son of John and Mary Shaw, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 18 March 1721. Nine children are known to Edward and Esther Shaw, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford to 1761. Their second child Priscilla married Peter [50], Esther’s nephew and son of John [25].
GENERATION 4

13. **PAUL** 4 SKIDMORE of Stourbridge, son of Paul Skidmore [5], was baptised on 10 January 1685/6 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He married Rebecca ______. He is mentioned in 1728 in the will of his uncle Joseph [6] from whom he mortgaged two tenements in Kidderminster. The midsummer Quarter Sessions of 1741 contain a certificate of oath sworn by Rebecca, wife of Paul Skidmore, victualler. At the Quarter Sessions held at the Talbot at Sidbury, Worcestershire, on 22 May 1756 Paul Skidmore and others pleaded guilty to keeping a disorderly house and entertaining rogues and vagabonds at Stourbridge. He was discharged with a fine of one shilling. Again in the 1761 Quarter Sessions 25 Paul Skidmore 'late of the town of Stowerbridge Collier' pleaded guilty to keeping a disorderly house and was discharged with a fine of sixpence.

According to the Freeholder's Book for Worcestershire Paul was living, infirm and a victualler, at Stourbridge in 1752. A gravestone in the churchyard at St Mary's, Oldswinford shows that he died on 14 March 1765 aged 81. Buried nearby are his wife, his daughter Mary Siddens, her husband and their descendants. Rebecca Skidmore survived her husband by three years, dying on 16 May 1768 aged 79.

**The children of Paul and Rebecca Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford,**

i. **Rebecca,** baptised 24 May 1710. She was one of two ladies of her name, the first buried on 20 December 1747, the other on 22 October 1765, both at St Mary's, Oldswinford. See also Rebecca the wife of Joseph [19].

ii. **Mary,** baptised 20 March 1720/1, died 7 January 1801 aged 79 26. Mary Scudimore married on 6 April 1743 at Hagley, Worcestershire, Joseph Siddens (baptised 7 October 1718 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, son of Henry and Mary Siddens, died May 1771 aged 53). The baptisms of nine children of Joseph and Mary Siddens are known to 1761 at St Mary's, Oldswinford and St Mary's, Kingswinford 27. Their son Skidmore Siddens was a butcher in Stourbridge 28.

14. **THOMAS** 4 SKIDMORE, son of Isaiah [7] and Jane (Goold) Skidmore, was baptised on 5 April 1693 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He was a ground collier of Amblecote. Thomas Skidmore is thought to have married three times. He and his first wife Ann Cox were resident in Kingswinford parish when they married there on 27 June 1715. Ann was perhaps the daughter of Joseph Cox, baptised 11 Feb 1695 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, or the daughter of William and Elizabeth Cox, baptised at St Giles', Rowley Regis on 3 Dec 1696. She is probably the Ann Skidmore of Amblecote buried on 7 November 1725 at St Mary's, Oldswinford but could have been buried on 3 July 1728.

His second wife Mary _____, and the mother of his children, was perhaps the Mary Skidmore of Amblecote buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 8 July 1740. Hannah _____, his third wife, survived him.

During the period of his first marriage Thomas was listed in Kingswinford tenants on ‘the borders of Pensnett’ 29, presumably a reference to Pensnett Chase in the SE of the parish and not modern-day Pensnett. He is known from Oldswinford registers to have lived in Amblecote in 1729 and 1732, and again at the time he made his will dated 22 November 1761. He held leasehold dwelling houses in Stourbridge (rents from which were to support his wife Hannah and his children) and in Amblecote (which were to be given to his son Thomas). It appears that

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25 These courts were held four times a year at Epiphany, Easter, Midsummer and Michaelmas. The offences considered were mostly classified as misdemeanors which did not carry the death penalty. Before the formation of County Councils in 1889 the Quarter Sessions also had an administrative role ordering repairs to roads and bridges and arbitrating in disputes between parishes over the operation of the Poor Law.

26 On the same stone: Henry Siddens died Aug 22 1822 aged 44; Mary wife of above died Dec 21st 1830 aged 67.

27 Gravestones in Oldswinford churchyard record the following (amongst others): Skidmore Siddens died Apr 12 1825 aged 41; Paul Siddens died Dec 27 1804 aged 50; Hannah Siddens his wife died Oct 5 1816 aged 53; Skidmore Siddens died Feb 21 1812 aged 66; Mary his wife died Nov 3 1811 aged 70.

28 Account books and papers related to the estate of Skidmore Siddens, at Worcester Record Office ref.705:87/8610/2/ii.

29 Kingswinford Suit Roll 1712-1720. Records the names of free tenants who owe suit of court. A suit is a petition or an appeal to a person of rank or station.
the leaseholds in Amblecote, including 'the .. little house given to my wife' were held of the Rt. Hon. Earl of Stamford. The little house occupied by his wife was to pass to his granddaughter Mary Smith on his wife's decease. If his wife should die before his granddaughter was apprenticed he wished that she may continue to live with his sister-in-law Margaret Chetwin. Also mentioned are his brother John Seager (named with Thomas' daughter Sarah Edge as executors).

John Seager is presumably his brother-in-law and the brother of either his second wife Mary or third wife Hannah. If this is indeed so, it is interesting to note the births (found on the International Genealogical Index as births; I have not checked the actual baptism register) of a brother and sister born in Kidderminster, the children of Seager - John Seager 22 September 1697, Mary Seager 29 September 1700. Note also a John Seager (27 November 1711) and his sister Anne (13 October 1708) baptised in Kingswinford, the children of James and Mary Seager. Thomas Skidmore’s will was witnessed by Mary Wilcox, Henry Wilcox and Thomas Brettell (presumably his brother-in-law). Harry Wilcox of Enfield married Mary Seager of Kingswinford, at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 3 December 1722, and it is likely that this couple are two of the named witnesses.

Thomas Skidmore was buried on 8 March 1762 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. His will was proved on 16 April 1762 at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (presumably since he had property in two counties). Hannah his widow is probably the lady buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 3 May 1774.

The children of Thomas Skidmore by his second wife Mary, baptisms and burials at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

i. Mary, baptised 6 November 1729 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, buried 28 November at Oldswinford.
ii. Thomas, baptised 2 September 1731, buried 10 April 1732.
iii. Mary, baptised 8 January 1732/3. She is probably the mother of Mary Smith, the grandchild mentioned in Thomas’ will. She is known from her father’s will to have married Mr Deane. Mary Smith of St Martin’s in Birmingham married Thomas Deane of Kingswinford at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 26 May 1756. He appears to be the son of William and Ann (Skidmore) Dean, baptised 1 March 1732 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, and, if correctly identified, Mary’s second cousin.
iv. James, baptised 28 October 1734 and buried 22 May 1740.
v. Sarah, baptised 25 June 1736. She married Samuel Edge at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 17 April 1757 and accepted probate of her father’s will on 16 April 1762. Six children of this marriage were baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford between 1753 and 1764.
vi. THOMAS, baptised 18 June 1738.

15. EDMUND (EDWARD) SKIDMORE of Amblecote and later of Brettell, is known from the will of Isaiah [7] to have been his second son by his wife Jane Goold. He was born in or about 1695. He and his wife Ann are known to have been living in Amblecote in 1726 and 1731 when two of their children were buried. The sons of Edmund Skidmore switched from Kingswinford to Brierley Hill Church when the latter opened in 1766, presumably because this was nearer to their homes in the eastern part of the parish. Edmund Skidmore is listed among Kingswinford tenants of 1764-1766 in Brettell (though this could be his son). Also in Brettell were Joseph Skidmore, presumably his brother [16] and William Skidmore, presumably Joseph’s son [37]. Banns were called at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 26 September 1762 for the marriage of Edmund Skidmore and Sarah Grice, but this was presumably his son. Edmund Skidmore senior was buried at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 5 January 1765 aged 70.

The children of Edmund and Ann Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

Sometimes the father’s name appears in the register as Edward *

i. Elizabeth, baptised 1 December 1719.
ii. Edmund, baptised 25 January 1723/4. Banns were called in 1762 between Edmund Skidmore and Sarah Grice of Kingswinford. He was buried on 6 September 1787 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, aged 64.
iii. Jane, baptised 14 November 1725. Buried 27 July 1726 at St Mary's, Oldswinford in infancy.
iv. Jane, baptised 30 August 1728*. An infant Jane Skidmore was buried at Oldswinford on 21 August 1731. However, Edmund's daughter could be the Jane Skidmore who married John Williams at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 11 April 1753. Three children of the marriage were baptised there to 1757.
v. Ann, baptised 10 October 1731*. She probably married Joseph Smallman (baptised 13 March 1725/6 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, son of Joseph and Sarah Smallman) on 26 February 1749/50 at
St Mary's, Kingswinford. Nine children of this marriage were baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford to 1768 (including Edmund Smallman who is probably the man who witnessed in London in 1800 the 2nd marriage of Thomas Robert Skidmore, the son of Solomon below).

34. vi. THOMAS, baptised 8 October 1733*.
35. vii. BENJAMIN, baptised 7 January 1735/6*.
36. viii. Job, baptised 4 October 1738. He is thought to be the infant buried on 29 April 1742 at St Mary's, Kingswinford.
35a. ix. SOLOMON, baptised 6 July 1741*.
36. x. JOB, baptised 11 January 1742/3*.

16. JOSEPH SKIDMORE, son of Isaiah [7] and Jane (Goold) Skidmore, was born 17 July 1703 and baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 25 July. The author believes he married Sarah Bullows on 2 February 1724/5 at St Mary's, Kingswinford and has distinguished him from Joseph [24] on the basis of names given to his children, and from Joseph [41] from the information given on Sarah (Littleford) Skidmore's gravestone.

Joseph's occupation is unknown, though it is safe to assume that he was a collier like his father and his son Benjamin. He is presumably the Joseph Skidmore in the Kingswinford list of tenants 1764-1766 in Brettell. Also in Brettell were Edmund Skidmore (either his brother [15] or nephew) and William Skidmore his son [37].

The children of Joseph and Sarah (Bullows) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford,

i. Hannah, baptised 31 December 1727. She perhaps married Thomas Gill on 13 October 1746 at St Mary's, Kingswinford - see also Hannah the daughter of Joseph [24]. Their children are difficult to distinguish from those of Thomas Gill and Ann, née Pike, married June 1746 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.

37. ii. WILLIAM, baptised 13 February 1731/2.
38. iii. Sarah, baptised 14 March 1733/4. Buried 20 December 1734 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. (I believe that this burial is not that of Sarah the daughter of Samuel [20], since Samuel used Oldswinford Church).
38. v. Mary, baptised 19 June 1737. Presumably died in infancy.

17. WILLIAM SKIDMORE of Amblecote, baptised 'son of Joseph Skidmore' on 19 June 1686 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He does not appear in the will of Joseph [6] and was almost certainly the grandson of Francis [3], and the son of Joseph [8] and Sarah Skidmore. William appears to have married three times. His first wife and the mother of all his children was Isabel Pasmore whom he married on 31 July 1715 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. She died in 1732 and was buried on 30 November at St Mary's, Kingswinford.

William married secondly Elizabeth Phibs on 28 March 1733 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, one day after John Phibs married Jane Cartor there. John Phibs was a grandson of Richard and Ann (Skidmore) Phibbs and perhaps Elizabeth's brother. William's second wife was buried on 22 November 1741 at St Mary's, Kingswinford.

He married Frances Taylor on 1 November 1742 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. He died three years later and the entry of 11 December 1745 in Oldswinford burial register shows that William lived in Amblecote at the time of his death. His age is given as 56, which does not correspond exactly with his baptism. Frances' burial or remarriage have not been found.
Note that the switches from Kingswinford to Oldswinford Church for the children’s baptisms, match those adopted by Daniel [30]. Note also that William [17] named one of his sons Daniel. It is a possibility that Daniel [30] is a brother or cousin of William [17].

The children of William and Isabel (Pasmore) Skidmore,

i. Isabella, baptised 3 June 1716 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Isabell Skidmore was buried there 23 March 1736/7. She appears to have had a daughter,
   i. Martha baptised 10 July 1737 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford and buried there 6 November 1737.

ii. Joseph, baptised 16 August 1719 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford and buried there an infant on 16 September 1719.

iii. Mary, baptised 16 August 1719 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford.

iv. DANIEL, born 17 December 1720.

v. Theodosia, born and baptised 25 October 1724 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. She appears to have had a daughter, but her subsequent death or marriage have yet to be found.
   i. Maria baptised 5 June 1749 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford (buried there on 23 February 1770).

vi. Margery, baptised 10 July 1726 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Nothing further known.

vii. Diana, baptised 20 February 1731/2 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. She married Edward Cardoe (perhaps the son of Edward and Mary Cardoe, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 8 September 1727) on 10 January 1749/50 at St Michael Bedwardine, Worcester. The marriage bond states that she was the daughter of William and Isabel, both deceased. Children of this couple were baptised in Oldswinford between 1750 and 1761.

19. JOSEPH⁴ SKIDMORE married Rebecca _______. He is presumably a grandson of William [2] or Francis [3], and given his likely connection with the glass industry in London, is perhaps more likely to be a brother of Henry [21] than is Joseph [18].

Joseph and Rebecca had a child baptised in Kingswinford in 1716. They are probably the couple who had a child in Whitechapel in London in 1714, at which time their address was specified as Townsend. This points to a connection with the glass trade there or with its associated coal wharfs.

Note that Thomas [45] was a glassman in Whitechapel and Solomon [35a] was a warehouseman for a glassman in Whitefriars.

Rebecca Skidmore was buried on 20 December 1747 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford or even later on 22 October 1765 (see also Rebecca the daughter of Paul [13]). The burials of several Joseph Skidmores of unspecified age were recorded at Oldswinford, making it impossible to be sure when Joseph died.

The children of Joseph and Rebecca Skidmore,

i. [perhaps] Jane, baptised 15 August 1714 at St Mary’s, Whitechapel.

ii. Thomas, baptised 13 August 1716 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford and buried there 21 August of that year.

20. SAMUEL⁴ SKIDMORE, son of Joseph [8] and Sarah Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 18 March 1692/3.

Samuel Skidmore of Oldswinford was admitted to Old Swinford Hospital School at the age of 9. It is interesting here to digress on the history of this school, founded in 1667 by Thomas Foley. The Lyttleton family of Frankley were lords of Oldswinford until they fell from favour and lost much of their wealth through involvement in the Gunpowder Plot and the Royalist and Roman Catholic causes in Stuart times. They were superseded by the Foleys who, from their forges and mills powered by water wheels on the River Stour and other rivers and streams, built up substantial fortunes which were supplemented as a result of judicious marriages into wealthy and influential families. Old Swinford Hospital School was to maintain sixty boys drawn from specified parishes in Staffordshire and Worcestershire - Stourbridge and Oldswinford, Kinver, Kingswinford, Wombourne, Sedgley, Rowley, Harborne, Bromwich, Wednesbury, Dudley, Kidderminster, Bewdley, Great Witley, Little Witley, Bromsgrove, Pedmore, Hagley, Alvechurch, Martley and Halesowen (which was then in Shropshire).

These boys were to be children of poor honest parents of the craft worker and labouring classes, who could not otherwise afford to educate their sons, who would be thus maintained from their admittance at an age not earlier than 7 or later than 11 and until the age of 14. Then, if possible, they were to be apprenticed with sums drawn from the school funds to appropriate trades. Alas, Samuel Skidmore was expelled in October 1702 after he ran away, which he did frequently according to the school’s Admissions Book. We can only speculate whether he was readmitted to pursue his education. Nor do we know whether his brothers entered the school.

He was married twice and had children by both of his wives. Samuel married firstly Mary Brisco on 26 September 1713 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. She was perhaps the daughter of Humphrey Brisco, baptised on 5 June 1686, or of Jacob and Mary (Shimell) Brisco, baptised on 4 December 1686, both at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Samuel and Mary were living in Amblecote at the time of her death in 1729. She was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 17 February 1728/9.

Samuel’s fourth child, John, was baptised in August 1731, a year after his marriage to Elizabeth Allen, though the baptismal register for Oldswinford records that John was the son of Samuel and Rebecca. No marriage between Samuel Skidmore and Rebecca has been found, nor a burial of Rebecca Skidmore. Further, the date of John’s baptism was one year after Samuel’s marriage to Elizabeth Allen. It can probably safely be assumed that the entry in Oldswinford baptism register was a clerk’s error and that John was the first child of Samuel and his wife Elizabeth. Samuel married Elizabeth Allen (perhaps the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Allen, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 4 November 1704) on 30 July 1730 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. A marriage bond states that Samuel was of Oldswinford, a widower ‘aged 40 years or thereabouts’ while Elizabeth was of Kingswinford, a spinster of about 30. The bond bears the marks of Samuel and his brother Henry Skidmore. Elizabeth appears to have spent her earlier adult years as a housekeeper. An indenture of 1717 shows that Elizabeth Allen was apprenticed to Thomas Toy of Oldswinford, a locksmith and overseer of the poor, to be a housewife until she reached 21 or married.

Samuel and Elizabeth were in Amblecote in 1735 and in 1745 and probably remained there all their lives. He was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 28 September 1777. Two possible burials have been found for Elizabeth Skidmore at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, either 3 June 1776 or 22 April 1778 (see also Elizabeth (Seager), wife of Thomas [34]).

The children of Samuel and Mary (Brisco) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. Mary, baptised 24 June 1714.
ii. JOSEPH, baptised 20 July 1717.
iii. Samuel, born 6 October (baptised 13 October) 1722. He is perhaps the Samuel Skidmore of Amblecote buried 8 July 1735 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford.

The children of Samuel and Elizabeth (Allen) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

iv. John, baptised 19 August 1731.
v. Sarah, baptised 3 June 1734. She perhaps married Peter Hill (baptised 23 October 1731 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, son of John and Mary Hill) on 4 December 1758 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. William Asson and Joseph Allchurch were witnesses. Eight children of this marriage were baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford to 1772. An alternative marriage for Sarah would be that to Mark Patchet at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 1 July 1759. Both bride and groom were of Kingswinford parish. See also her cousin Sarah daughter of Henry [21].
vi. HENRY, baptised 19 June 1737.
vii. Richard, baptised 7 October 1744, buried 19 February 1744/5 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, of Amblecote.
viii. Esther, baptised 21 March 1745/6. She married William Cartwright on 16 July 1769 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. The marriage was witnessed by Priscilla Woodall and Mary Skidmore (possibly Esther’s half-sister). Five children of this marriage were baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford between 1770 and 1776.

21. HENRY SKIDMORE, son of Joseph [8] and Sarah Skidmore, was born on 21 February 1697/8 and baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 9 March of that year. The bond for his marriage to Mary Cox, made at Clent, Worcestershire, on 1 July 1720 - to which both Henry Scudamore, yeoman, and Thomas Scudamore, made their marks - states that Mary was born about 1698. A child Mary, daughter of Joseph and Hester Cox,

31 Oldswinford Hospital Admissions Book, no.310.
was baptised at Clent on 29 August 1697 but it should be noted that other Mary Cox’s were baptised in 1697 and 1698 in Abberley, Belbroughton and Sedgley.

The land owned by Henry Skidmore is shown in Yates’ Map of Staffordshire 1775, on the corner of Amblecote Bank Road and Black Delph Road. He died in Amblecote and was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 21 June 1741 aged 43, before the birth of their child Benjamin.

Henry Skidmore’s children and grandchildren acquired a degree of wealth and status in the community. His son John was a friend of Michael Grazebrook (owner of a glasshouse, steel mills and brick works and Chairman of Stourbridge Glass Manufacturers). His granddaughter Sarah married a member of the King family, who were proprietors of fire-brick and fire-clay works in Lye.

Mary Skidmore married secondly Benjamin Littlewood on 2 December 1744 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford (Ben Littlewood witnessed the marriage of Barbara Skidmore, Henry’s fourth child, in 1756). The author has been able to find only one Benjamin Littlewood locally - born 24 May (baptised 26 May at St Mary’s, Oldswinford) 1716, son of Jeremiah and Ann Littlewood. Entries on the IGI website (contributor unknown) state that this Benjamin Littlewood married firstly Mary Skidmore and secondly Sarah Grazebrook of Audnam in 1766. Sarah (who died on 13 March 1797) was baptised on 31 March 1733, a daughter of Michael Grazebrook and his wife Elizabeth Hunt. Benjamin and Sarah (Grazebrook) Littlewood had a son Benjamin Littlewood baptised 11 June 1769 Oldswinford, (died 21 Oct 1844, married Esther Badger of Hayes, Worcestershire in 1810). He is presumably the Benjamin Littlewood who was in partnership with Thomas Wheeler at Brettell Lane Glasshouses and later took over the Holloway End Glasshouse in Amblecote32. (The glasshouse at Holloway End was taken in 1851 by William Richardson and Elijah Smith, the latter the husband of Sarah Hardwick Skidmore, daughter of Thomas [168]).

The children of Henry and Mary (Cox) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. Mary, born and baptised 29 October 1720. No record of her burial has been found, though a further daughter Mary was baptised in 1729.

ii. Esther, twin to Mary above. Two possible marriages have been found for Esther Skidmore, (one of them presumably Esther the daughter of John [12]). She maybe married Edward Shaw on 30 March 1741 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford or, perhaps more likely, Robert Smith (perhaps the son of Thomas and Mary Smith, baptised on 4 August 1717 at St Thomas’, Dudley) at St Thomas’, Dudley on 5 June 1750. Robert and Esther Smith had two known children to 1758, baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley and Kingswinford.

iii. Elizabeth, born 23 January 1723/4 and baptised two days later.

iv. Barbara, born 15 October 1725 and baptised the following day. Barbara had a son, i. William, baptised 24 April 1751 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford and buried there on 28 April.

She married Thomas Winser of Halesowen at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 21 November 1756. The witnesses were Ann Sadler and Ben Littlewood. Thomas and Barbara had one known child, Frances Windsor baptised 11 June 1769 at St Mary's, Kingswinford.

43. [probably] JOSEPH, born in or about 1726.

vi. John, baptised 11 February 1727/8, buried 2 March that year at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, 'of Amblecote'.

vii. Mary, baptised 8 April 1729.

viii. Ann, baptised 9 October 1731.

44. ix. RICHARD, baptised 23 January 1733/4.

x. Sarah, baptised 31 August 1735. See her cousin Sarah daughter of Samuel [20].

45. xi. THOMAS, baptised 24 July 1737.

46. xii. JOHN, baptised 29 April 1739.

xiii. Benjamin, baptised 17 August 1741. He was buried either 24 March 1742/3 aged 1, or 31 March 1749 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. See also Benjamin son of Thomas [59].

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22. JONAS SKIDMORE of Amblecote was probably the son of Jonas [9] and Mary (Green) Skidmore. He married Margaret Chappell (also known as Mary) on 30 June 1722 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. He was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 24 July 1754, his widow on 8 May 1757.

The children of Jonas and Margaret (Chappell) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

i. Elizabeth, born 11 March (baptised 23 March) 1722/3.

ii. Mary, born 28 January 1725/6 and baptised the following day.

iii. Jonas, baptised 10 August 1729, buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 4 April 1730, 'of Amblecote'.

iv. JOHN, baptised 4 May 1733.

23. JOHN SKIDMORE of Halesowen town, son of Jeremiah [11] and Emme (Weet) Skidmore, was born on 28 October 1707 (baptised 7 November at St Mary’s, Oldswinford). Following his parents' move to Halesowen he departed from the usual trade of mining favoured by the Amblecote Skidmores to become a nailer. Domestic nailmaking dominated the town of Halesowen and nearly every cottage had a nailshop in the backyard\(^{33}\).

John Skidmore certainly married Mary Crump on 9 May 1732 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen. It is pertinent to refer to the will of Hannah Gaskin, aunt of John’s mother, when considering possible earlier marriages for this man. Hannah Gaskin in her will made on 7 March 1732, refers to her kinsman John Skidmore and kinswoman Ann Skidmore, clearly the children of Jeremiah [11]. She left the chest in her room to ‘my kinsman John Skidmore’s eldest son’ (not named), implying an earlier marriage for John Skidmore.

John Skidmore married Elizabeth Gill on 13 February 1726/7 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford and Elizabeth Skidmore, wife of John, was buried at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 28 November 1729. They had 2 (known) children - John baptised 20 January 1728 at St Mary's, Oldswinford and Ann baptised 20 November 1729 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. If we assume this John who married Elizabeth Gill to be the son of Jeremiah and Emme (though he would have been only 19 at the time of the marriage) then his son John baptised in 1728 would be ‘my kinsman John Skidmore’s eldest son’. Note that if Elizabeth Gill’s husband John Skidmore later married Mary Crump, and called two of his children John and Ann, then the children of John and Elizabeth (Gill) Skidmore presumably died young. Only one burial of a John Skidmore is known between the time Hannah Gaskin made her will and the baptism of John’s son John at St John the Baptist, Halesowen in 1732/3. This was at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 10 September 1732. We know that the child Ann was buried on 23 November 1729 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford.

John Skidmore left a will dated 7 February 1764 (proved at Worcester 9 December 1765). It appears that he had acquired his sister Ann Davies’ half share in the property next to Cornbow Bridge, Halesowen, left to him by his mother Emme, since he leaves half of this (after the death of his wife and sole executor Mary) to his son Joseph Skidmore, together with his nailshop on the other side of the street, and half to his son John Skidmore, together with his shop tools. Each son was to provide ten shillings and sixpence to each of John’s four daughters, Hannah Rose the wife of Henry Rose, Mary Skidmore, Elizabeth Skidmore and Ann Skidmore. He was buried on 20 December 1764 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen, his widow on 25 August 1768.

The children of John and Elizabeth (Gill) Skidmore,\(^{34}\)

i. John, baptised 20 January 1727/8 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. It is thought this child was buried 10 September 1732 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford.

ii. Ann, baptised 20 November 1729 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford and buried there 3 days later.

The children of John and Mary (Crump) Skidmore, baptisms and burials at St John the Baptist, Halesowen,


iv. Joseph, baptised 2 February 1734/5. Note that three boys called Joseph Skidmore were born in 1735. See also Joseph son of Joseph [24] and Joseph son of Daniel [30].

v. Mary, baptised 6 March 1736/7. Buried 30 May 1742 an infant.

vi. Hannah, baptised 22 July 1739. She married Henry Rose on 9 January 1759 at Harborne, Staffordshire. Four children of Henry and Hannah Rose were baptised at St John the Baptist, Halesowen between 1760 and 1770.

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\(^{34}\) The author in the 2004 edition treated the following as two separate families, the husband of Elizabeth Gill numbered [32].
48. vii. JOHN, baptised 21 February 1741/2.

viii. Mary, baptised 17 March 1744/5.

ix. Jeremiah, baptised 1 November 1747. Buried two weeks later on 18 November.

x. Elizabeth, baptised 1 November 1747. She probably married John Mansell (perhaps the son of John and Mary Mansell, baptised at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 27 January 1742) on 9 December 1766 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen. Six children of John and Elizabeth (or Betty) Mansell were baptised at St John the Baptist, Halesowen between 1767 and 1778.


xii. Sarah, baptised 5 July 1754. Not mentioned in her father’s will.

xiii. [probably] James, buried 3 September 1756, an infant ‘of the Town’.

24. JOSEPH, son of John [12] and Penelope Skidmore, is known from Bishop's Transcripts to have been baptised on 14 November 1702 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. The author distinguishes him from Joseph [16] on the basis of names given to his children and believes he married Ann Webb at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 24 January 1724/5, by licence. Joseph was buried on 21 February 1779 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, aged 78, Ann probably on 24 April 1782 aged 80.

The children of Joseph and Ann (Webb) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

i. John, baptised 23 February 1724/5.

ii. Thomas. He was buried on 6 June 1726 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, son of Joseph.

iii. Hannah, baptised 2 September 1727 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. See also Hannah the daughter of Joseph [16].

iv. Jeremiah, baptised 30 September 1733. Buried 8 October 1733 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, son of Joseph [35].

49. v. JOSEPH, baptised 19 January 1734/5. Note that three boys called Joseph Skidmore were born in 1735. See also Joseph son of John [23] and Joseph son of Daniel [30].

vi. Penelope, baptised 11 March 1738/9. She married Thomas Holte (perhaps the son of Edward and Hannah (Holt) Holt, baptised 26 June 1737 in Kingswinford) on 4 November 1758 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Two children born to this couple have been found to 1768, both baptised in Kingswinford.

25. JOHN SKIDMORE married around 1740 a wife Mary _____ (born about 1710)24. The author considers him to be the son of John [12] and Penelope Skidmore, who was baptised 29 April 1704 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, for the following reasons:

John [51] married his cousin Penelope, daughter of Benjamin [27].

The witness to Peter [50]’s marriage to Priscilla Shaw was Ben Glover, husband of Elizabeth, his aunt and daughter of John [12].

John [25]’s sister Esther married Edward Shaw. Their second child Priscilla Shaw married John’s son (and her cousin) Peter [50].

Edward Shaw’s brother George Shaw had a daughter Rebecca, hence a first cousin to Priscilla Shaw. Rebecca Shaw married Peter’s cousin, Obadiah Skidmore [55].

Francis [57] witnessed the wedding of his cousin William [52].

John and Mary Skidmore most probably lived in or close to Brettell Lane since their son John [51] was a Baptist deacon, at first with the society in Brettell Lane and later in Coseley. The Baptist Magazine of 10 May 1817 describes how their son introduced John and Mary to meetings; they were baptised by the Baptist Society of Bromsgrove when nearly seventy years of age.

There is some confusing evidence regarding two cousins Jeremiah, viz. the son of Joseph [24] baptised 30 September 1733 and the son of Thomas [26], baptised 25 September 1743, one of whom married Joanna Cartwright in 1764. Jeremiah Skidmore who married Joanna Cartwright was buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill on 25 August 1801 aged 67, his age at death suggesting that he was the son of Joseph [24]. However, there is also evidence to suggest that he was the son of Thomas [26]:

a. A child Jeremiah was buried at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 8 October 1733 ‘son of Joseph’.

b. Mary (Coley) Skidmore, wife of Thomas [26], calls Jeremiah (the husband of Joanna) her ‘son-in-law’ [stepson] in her will of 1778.
John and Mary Skidmore were buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill, he on 8 December 1787 aged 84, his widow on 27 December 1795 aged 85.

**The children of John and Mary Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,**

50. i. **PETER**, baptised 27 June 1742.

ii. Maria, baptised 16 June 1745. She married Joseph Knowles (perhaps the son of Thomas and Louisa Knowles, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 9 October 1742) at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 15 February 1763. The marriage was witnessed by Peter Skidmore, her brother, and William Aston, perhaps her uncle. Twelve children of Joseph and Maria Knowles were baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford between 1764 and 1789.

iii. Mary, baptised 28 August 1748. See also Mary daughter of Joseph [16] and Mary daughter of Thomas [34].

iv. Sarah, baptised 5 May 1751.

51. v. **JOHN**, baptised 11 November 1753.


26. **THOMAS SKIDMORE**, son of John [12] and Penelope Skidmore, was baptised on 10 June 1717 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. He married firstly Sarah Foley on 22 July 1737 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. Sarah Skidmore is possibly the lady of that name buried on 22 June 1757 at St Mary's, Kingswinford.

On 25 March 1755 he acquired from Thomas Brettell of Stourbridge, gentleman, a portion of Millfield *alias* Tanhouse Close on the north side of Mill Lane in Stourbridge, measuring 360 square yards. Further transactions regarding this land and its premises (tannery, tan pits, etc) are to be found in deeds of W. J. Turney & Co., leather dressers of Stourbridge, held by Dudley Archives and Local History Service. On 1 November 1755 this portion of land was formally partitioned between Joseph Brettell of Clent, wheelwright, and Thomas Brettell and wife (named as Sarah in a deed signed the following day and not concerning Thomas Skidmore), George Parson of Amblecote, hop merchant, Edward Gritton, Henry Whitehouse, Richard Coley and Thomas Skidmore.

It is unlikely that Thomas was resident on his Stourbridge land, but the author has not yet found documentary evidence of the position of his residence in Kingswinford parish. Thomas married secondly Mrs Mary Coley of Oldswinford (born about 1709) on 20 November 1759 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, by licence. She appears to be the sister of Joseph Gascoign and of Ann Gascoign, parents unknown. In his will, made on 30 April 1770, Thomas bequeathed to his wife Mary his two tenements or dwelling houses in Mill Lane, Stourbridge, then in the occupation of James Holloway and John Dancer or their undertenants. After his wife's death one of these houses was to pass to his son Jeremiah, the other to his oldest son Henry. After Henry's death, Henry's house should pass to his heirs, or if no heirs existed then to Jeremiah. Thomas' wife received all his household goods and furniture. After her decease the clock and clock case were to pass to Henry, his silver watch to Jeremiah. The will was witnessed by Joseph Cartwright, presumably the father of his daughters-in-law, Thomas Cooksey and Rich Mee.

Thomas Skidmore died at the age of 54 and was buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 10 March 1771. His widow Mary Skidmore was buried on 23 December 1777 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill, leaving a will dated 25 July 1775 and proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 27 August 1778. She remembers her nephews William Gascoign and Benjamin Gascoign, sons of Joseph Gascoign. Also remembered are her two sons-in-law (actually her stepsons) Henry Skidmore and Jeremiah Skidmore. Money was placed with John Bradley, maltster of Worcester, towards the education of her five grandchildren until they reached the age of 21 - Sarah Skidmore, Thomas Skidmore, Mary Skidmore, Henry Skidmore and Phoebe Skidmore (the first 5 children of Jeremiah and Joanna (Cartwright) Skidmore). Her granddaughter Sarah received her yellow damask gown, silk quilt and a gold ring, Mary her green silk gown, white quilt and gold ring and Joanna, wife of Jeremiah Skidmore, all her remaining residue and apparel. Joseph Cartwright (presumably the father of Joanna (Cartwright) Skidmore) was her executor. In a codicil dated 25 November 1777 Mary distributes ‘my legacy which my sister, Ann Cooper, left me at Wolverhampton’ (Ann Gascoign married William Cooper at Wolverhampton on 7 June 1752) between Henry Skidmore, Jeremiah Skidmore, William and Benjamin sons of Joseph Gascoign and Joanna Skidmore, wife of Jeremiah Skidmore.

**The children of Thomas and Sarah (Foley) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford,**

i. **John**, baptised 2 April 1738. Buried 1 August 1741 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, 'a child of Thomas Skidmore'.

53. ii. **HENRY**, baptised 14 December 1740.
54. iii. JEREMIAH, baptised 25 September 1743. See also Jeremiah the son of Joseph [24].

27. BENJAMIN SKIDMORE, son of John [12] and Penelope Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 7 March 1718/9. There is no evidence of Benjamin’s occupation but it is known that his sons were colliers. He married Mary Hatton on 6 March 1738/9 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Mary was born on 1 November 1721 and baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford 4 days later, the daughter of Obadiah and Mercy Hatton of Oldswinford. Benjamin and many of his descendants lived in Amblecote and used St Mary’s Church in Oldswinford and a number of gravestones there commemorating this branch of the family are helpful in confirming connections unclear from other sources. He was buried there on 5 January 1780. The burials of five Mary Skidmores were recorded in the Oldswinford register between 1772 and 1779, with no ages specified, making it impossible to say when Mary died.

Benjamin and Mary lived at Stamford House, then a ‘commodious cottage’ situated, according to information given in 1908 to the local press[36] by Benjamin’s great grandson Jeremiah Skidmore, at Amblecote Bank. It is possible that this house had been occupied by Skidmores before Benjamin’s time since it was said to have been in their continuous occupation since at least 1710. Jeremiah Skidmore cited documentary evidence that his great grandfather obtained a lease on it from the then Lord Stamford. Amblecote Bank was originally a gorse bank and cottagers were then allowed to enclose more or less what they liked and bring it into cultivation. Stamford House was associated with the stirring evangelical times of the founder of Wesleyanism, John Wesley. According to Benjamin’s great grandson, John Wesley visited the house on three occasions between 1760 and 1780. He would notify the Skidmores of his proposed visits a month in advance, after mapping out his circuit for visitation. He travelled on horseback and usually visited on his way to Dudley. The services were held in the kitchen of the cottage and so vast was the enthusiasm of the people to hear Wesley that the accommodation was found to be inadequate. Benjamin had an aperture cut in the ceiling and a trap door, made of oak with stout iron hinges, fixed there. The furniture in the bedroom above the kitchen was cleared away and Wesley would stand on a stool in the kitchen with his head halfway through the aperture in the ceiling leaving little room for movement - the aperture being only a foot wide. Despite extensive improvements to the house in later years, the trap door was still in existence in 1968.

The children of Benjamin and Mary (Hatton) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. Ann, baptised 20 January 1739/40. She could be the lady who married William Asson [sic] at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 9 May 1759. Thomas Cartwright was a witness. Four children of this marriage were baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford to 1765. Note that William Asson witnessed the marriage in 1758 of Peter Hill and Sarah Skidmore, perhaps the daughter of Samuel [20] or of Henry [21].

55. ii. OBADIAH, baptised 19 September 1742.

iii. [perchaps] Charles, buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 5 June 1747.

iv. Charles, baptised 22 October 1747 and buried 19 March 1750 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford.

56. v. THOMAS, baptised 16 April 1750.

vi. Penelope, baptised 29 October 1752. She married firstly Joseph Witton (baptised 8 September 1745 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, the son of James and Jane Witton) at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 9 June 1772. They had one son Joseph Witton in 1773. Penelope married secondly her cousin John [51] at St Mary’s, Oldswinford 14 October 1776. She lived with her second husband at Amblecote and was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 14 February 1779.

57. vii. FRANCIS, baptised 3 November 1754.

viii. Sarah, baptised 11 February 1757.

ix. Mary, baptised 20 May 1759.

x. Sophia, baptised 6 January 1762. She married James Male on 21 June 1789 at Oldswinford. James and Sophia had five known children who were baptised in Brierley Hill, Dudley and Oldswinford to 1807.

xi. Elizabeth, baptised 9 October 1763.

NOTES ON THE FOURTH GENERATION

- great grandsons of William [1] whose baptisms have not been found.

18. JOSEPH SKIDMORE, a presumed grandson of William [2] or Francis [3], married Hannah Robins (also known as Susannah) at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 13 December 1712. Their first child was baptised on 17 February 1712/3 at St Thomas', Dudley. This is the only record of the Skidmore family using St Thomas', Dudley at this time. It was to be another sixty years before members of the family began to move to Dudley to live. The Dudley register reads 'Hannah ye daughter of Joseph Skidmore Horse (or Horsd) and Hannah his wife..' The right hand margin has crumbled away after the word 'Horse' but there does not seem to have been room for any more letters.

On 27 May 1721 Joseph Skidmore was convicted at Stafford of larceny (theft). Joseph Skidmore of Staffordshire was reprieved at Lent 1721 from transportation to America for 14 years. It appears that Joseph remained imprisoned or at least away from his home; shortly after his reprieve, the parish of Oldswinford appealed against the removal (and hence the drain on parish resources) of Susannah, wife of Joseph Skidmore, and Sarah, Phoebe, Theodosia, Joseph and Susannah her children, from Amblecote to the parish of Oldswinford. The order was quashed and repealed. (Note that William [17] also named a daughter Theodosia, born 1724).

Susannah Skidmore was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 2 July 1762 - this could be Joseph's wife or his daughter.

The children of Joseph and Hannah (Robins) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,
All living mid-1721.

i. Hannah, baptised on 17 February 1712/3 at St Thomas', Dudley, Worcestershire.
ii. Sarah, born 1 June (baptised 5 June) 1714.
iii. Phoebe, born 20 May (baptised 26 May) 1716.
v. Joseph, born 10 November 1719, and baptised the next day.
vi. [apparently] Susannah.

28. JOHN SKIDMORE of Oldswinford parish married Ann Phibbs on 25 July 1719 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. Assuming him to have been a bachelor when he married, then he was probably born in the early to mid-1690s and presumably in Amblecote. He was probably too young at marriage to be either John the son of Jeremiah [11] or John the son of John [12]. Assuming all the grandsons of William [1] are known, and taking into account the wills of Joseph [6] and Isaiah [7], then he could be the son of Paul [5], Joseph [8], Jonas [9] or Job [10].

Ann was baptised 23 March 1695/6 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, the daughter of William and Ann Phibbs. It was presumably her brother William Phibbs, baptised 6 January 1699/1700, who married a Mary Skidmore (as yet unidentified) on 20 February 1726 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.

On present evidence, it seems likely that John Skidmore ‘of Kingswinford parish’ then married secondly Mary Mills (born about 1710) of Oldswinford parish on 28 July 1731 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. Banns were read at

37 Staffordshire Record Office, Q/SBe/9/31, Title Bond for transporting felons.
39 Stafford Quarter Sessions for Summer 1721.
40 Ann Skidmore is perhaps the lady of that name buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 3 July 1728, though one would expect her burial to be at Kingswinford church. The author suggests tentatively that the Mary wife of John Skidmore buried at Kingswinford on 14 December 1728 was, in fact, Ann recorded in error as Mary.
Wombourne, Staffordshire, on the day of their marriage at Kingswinford, for the intended marriage of John Kidmore [sic] to Mary Mills.41

Two John Skidmores were buried at St Mary's, Kingswinford in 1743, one of whom could be this man.

The children of John and Ann (Phibbs) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford,

i. John, baptised 15 May 1720. Buried 'son of John' (as was his brother Thomas) at Kingswinford 17 December 1721.

ii. Mary, baptised 22 January 1722/3. Hers was perhaps the burial at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 14 December 1728.

iii. Phoebe, baptised 31 March 1725. She probably married Abraham Bullhouse on 17 January 1747/8 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. He appears to be the son of Joseph and Margaret Bullows, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 20 September 1724.

iv. Thomas, baptised 9 December 1728. Buried at St Mary's, Kingswinford two days later.

The children of John and Mary (Mills) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford,

v. Elizabeth, baptised 11 June 1732.

vi. Mary, baptised 28 October 1734. It seems that two girls called Mary Skidmore were born in 1734. One of these died in infancy (usually used to denote a child under a year old) and was buried at Kingswinford on 30 January 1734/5. The other, thought to be the daughter of John [28], married William Simpson on 17 January 1759 at Kingswinford and was living near to her son Aaron Simpson in Brettell Lane when she died on 31 August 1813 aged 78 years. Eleven children of this marriage were baptised at Kingswinford and Brierley Hill between 1759 and 1779. I am grateful for this information to Edward Dyas of California who has made a close study of the Simpsons of Kingswinford parish and is a descendant of Aaron Simpson.

vii. Hannah, baptised 7 January 1735/6, on the same day that Benjamin son of Edmund [15] was baptised. She married John Pearson on 25 April 1756 at St Mary's, Kingswinford.

viii. Ephraim, baptised 7 January 1739.

30. DANIEL4 SKIDMORE, whose baptism has not been found, was a collier of Amblecote and later of Wednesbury, Staffordshire. The names given to his children suggest he was a son of Paul Skidmore [5] the elder. However, it is worth noting that the switches from Kingswinford to Oldswinford Church for his children’s baptisms, match those adopted by William [17], who named one of his sons Daniel. It is a possibility that Daniel [30] is a brother or cousin of William [17].

Daniel Skidmore married Mary Hawkins on 29 June 1720 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. Daniel and Mary are known from parish registers to have lived in Amblecote between 1728 and 1732. There are two possible burials for Mary Skidmore at St Mary’s, Oldswinford - on 8 July 1740 (of Amblecote, perhaps more likely the wife of Thomas [14]) and on 24 March 1747.

His son Thomas probably remained in Amblecote whilst Daniel and his son Paul moved to Wednesbury, perhaps following the death of Daniel’s wife. Daniel and Paul were killed in pit accidents in Wednesbury early in the year 1753; Daniel was buried there on 13 January of that year.

The children of Daniel and Mary (Hawkins) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. Thomas, born 30 August 1721.

ii. Elizabeth, born 23 April (baptised 11 May) 1723.

iii. Paul, born 2 March 1724/5 (baptised a day later). He was buried on 4 March 1753 at St Bartholomew’s, Wednesbury. The burial register states 'killed in coal pitt. His father Daniel died ye like accident about 7 weeks before.'

iv. Susannah, baptised 19 April 1727. Buried there 18 September 1728.


and baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

vi. Mary, baptised 12 January 1731/2. Presumed to be the Mary Skidmore of Amblecote buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 8 April 1732.


41 The author in the 2004 edition treated the following as two separate families, the husband of Mary Mills numbered [29].
Three boys called Joseph Skidmore were born in 1735. See also Joseph son of John [23] and Joseph son of Joseph [24].

ix. [perhaps] John of Wednesbury who married Mary Holland there on 6 February 1769. John Skidmore met his death in a mine accident only one month later. The Wednesbury burial register records ’22 March 1769 Joseph Thompson. Was burnt in one of Mr Jno. Wood’s cole pits, by the pit taking fire. He was burnt on the 11th inst. and died on the 20th. There were several more men burnt very bad at the same time’ and ’25 March 1769 John Skidmore. Was burnt in a cole pit belonging to Mr Jno. Wood at the same time and in the same pit as the above Joseph Thompson was burnt in. He was killed by the firing and explosion of the damp ..’. 
GENERATION 5

33. THOMAS Skidmore married Sarah Parkes at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 19 February 1760. The marriage was witnessed by Enoch Rolason and Sarah Parkes, who appear to be the couple who were married at St Mary's, Kingswinford two months later on 23 April. Thomas' wife was baptised on 15 February 1739/40 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Parkes. She died aged 44 and was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 25 June 1783 (this burial more likely than that of the 37 year old Sarah Skidmore buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 15 February 1778).

The author considers Thomas the husband of Sarah Parkes to more likely be the son of Thomas [14] than the son of Henry [21]. Thomas' burial at St Paul's, Birmingham, suggests he was born between December 1737 and December 1738. This age at burial more closely matches the baptism date of Thomas the son of Thomas [14] than Thomas the son of Henry [21]. Further, Thomas [14] had a son James, and Thomas and Sarah (Parkes) Skidmore named their first child James. However, it would be foolhardy to base a decision on an age at death (these were frequently out by a year or two) and the question of whether Thomas Skidmore, son of Thomas [14], married Sarah Parkes must remain open until further evidence is found.

It appears that after the death of Thomas' wife, and perhaps after the death of his son Enoch in 1787, Thomas moved with his daughter Prudence to Birmingham. He died there on 6 December 1806 aged 68. A headstone and footstone in St Paul's churchyard, Hockley, Birmingham, record in the same plot his daughter Prudence (died 1 June 1842), her husband Thomas Hampton (died 1822) and their daughter Mary Hampton (died 9 March 1819 aged 9).

The children of Thomas and Sarah (Parkes) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

i. James, baptised 26 December 1760 at St Mary's, Kingswinford.

69. ii. Enoch, baptised 28 March 1762. He married Elizabeth Bate (perhaps baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 23 April 1769, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Jones) Bate) at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 10 September 1786. The marriage was witnessed by Thomas Cooksey junior and Joseph Stevens. Thomas Cooksey junior (baptised 1744, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Arden) Cooksey) married Elizabeth Cartwright in 1767 and was the father of Elizabeth Cooksey who married Richard Skidmore [85], and of Susannah Cooksey who married William Meese.

Enoch died aged only 25 and was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 7 September 1787. His widow appears to have married twice more. With her second husband Daniel Higgs (married at All Saints', Sedgley 4 August 1788) she had two children Henry Higgs and Nancy Higgs. She married thirdly Thomas Skidmore [101] at All Saints', Sedgley on 3 October 1803.

Enoch and Elizabeth (Bate) Skidmore had one known child, baptised at St Thomas', Dudley,

i. Sarah, baptised 8 April 1787.

70. iii. Noah, baptised 29 January 1764. See 2. 'SKIDMORES OF BROMSGROVE & LATER WOLVERHAMPTON'

iv. Elizabeth, baptised 8 December 1765 (on the same day as children of Adam [61] and of Joseph [62]). Buried either 15 May or 11 November 1769 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.

v. Mary, baptised 8 March 1767. She perhaps died in Birmingham in 1841Q1 aged 74.

vi. Prudence, baptised 11 February 1770. She married Thomas Hampton, broker of Edgbaston Street, Birmingham, and nine children of this marriage were baptised at St Martin's, Birmingham, between 1793 and 1814. In his will, dated 2 July 1822 (proved at Lichfield 7 November 1822) he remembers his four children, James, Hannah, Charlotte and Phillip Hampton. Prudence Hampton was living alone, a broker, in Edgbaston Street, Birmingham at the time of the 1841 census. Her will is dated 15 October 1841 (proved at Lichfield 3 November 1842) and the date on her death

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**42 Both would almost certainly have been too young to have married Elizabeth Seager in 1754 (see Thomas [34] below), and Miss Seager's husband was probably the son of Edmund [15]. Thomas [45] was a glassman and probably the son of Henry [21].**
Certificate 1 June 1842. Her estate was divided between her three children (Hannah presumably having died), James, Phillip and Charlotte the wife of William Davies.

Elizabeth, baptised 20 September 1772.

34. **THOMAS** SKIDMORE, son of Edmund [15] and Ann Skidmore, was baptised on 8 October 1733 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. He appears to have married Elizabeth Seager on 25 August 1754 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. (Thomas [33] and Thomas [45] were probably too young to have done so). The marriage was by licence and with consent of parents since bride and groom were minors - if identified correctly, Thomas would have been some months short of his 21st birthday. The marriage was witnessed by Thomas Seager and George Groves.

Elizabeth was baptised on 28 August 1733 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, the daughter of Thomas and Phoebe (Barrett) Seager. Two possible burials at St Mary’s, Oldswinford have been found for Elizabeth Skidmore, either 3 June 1776 or 22 April 1778 (see also Elizabeth (Allen) wife of Samuel [20]). Thomas Skidmore was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 7 July 1786, said to be aged 56.

**The children of Thomas and Elizabeth (Seager) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,**

i. Mary, baptised 16 November 1754.

ii. Mary, baptised 20 December 1756. See also Mary the daughter of Joseph [16] and Mary the daughter of John [25].

iii. James Barrett, baptised 18 March 1759.

iv. Elizabeth, baptised 10 September 1761.

v. Hannah, baptised 29 April 1764.

vi. Thomas, baptised 24 August 1766. He or his cousin Thomas Skidmore (son of Benjamin [35]) might be the man killed in a coal pit and buried at St Bartholomew’s, Wednesbury on 6 November 1809.

35. **BENJAMIN** SKIDMORE, son of Edmund [15] and Ann Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 7 January 1735/6. He married Hannah Arden (probably a daughter of John and Sarah Harden, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 19 June 1737) on 3 May 1756 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, witnessed by Benjamin Cartwright. Hannah Skidmore is probably the lady of that name buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill aged 50 on 4 August 1878. Benjamin Skidmore had died two months before, and been buried on 28 June aged 51, only four days after his son Arden. Two of his brothers, Job and Edmund, died in August and September of that year too - his brother Solomon had moved to London some years earlier.

**The children of Benjamin and Hannah (Harden) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,**

i. Thomas, baptised 19 June 1757. He or his cousin Thomas Skidmore (son of Thomas [34]) might be the man killed in a coal pit and buried at St Bartholomew’s, Wednesbury on 6 November 1809.

ii. Arden, baptised 30 August 1761, buried 24 June 1787 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill aged 25.

iii. Samuel, baptised 6 May 1764, buried 10 June 1766 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford aged 2.

71. or 72. iv. **BENJAMIN**, baptised 25 December 1766. **See 3. ‘SKIDMORES OF BRETTELL LANE AND BROCKMOOR’**

v. John, baptised 24 September 1769. He is perhaps the infant buried at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 24 April 1770.

35a. **SOLOMON** SKIDMORE, glassmaker of Whitefriars, London and later Whitechapel, London was the son of Edmund [15] and Ann Skidmore, baptised on 6 July 1741 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. He was apprenticed in 1755 to William Batham of Kingswinford, a cordwainer, for £2 2sh. but does not appear thereafter in records of that district. Solomon Scudamore married Eliza Saunders (known as Betty), both of Whitefriars, on 14 September 1766 at St Bride Fleet Street and they were living at least through the 1770s in White’s Yard, Whitechapel. For other London glassmen see Joseph [19] and Thomas [45].

The link between Oldswinford and London glassmen was well-established. This illustration is taken from John Rocque’s map of 1746. Here the dotted line shows the city boundary.

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43 A cordwainer was originally a worker in cordwain (Cordovan leather), not necessarily a shoemaker. Despite opposition from cordwainers in 18-19c. the Company of Shoemakers kept the term as a Trade Guild. Culling, J., *Occupations, A Preliminary List*, 2nd ed. Federation of Family History Societies, 1999.
made an agreement to supply the Glass Sellers Company to regularly supply them with 'white glasses'. These same people and apparent relations had children baptised at St Mary Whitechapel in the 1640s, 1650s and 1670s. H.J. Powell in his book Glass making in England mentions the Saltpetre Bank glass house in Whitechapel. This was principally a bottle producing house in the late seventeenth century, whilst the Minories made flint-glass at about that time.\textsuperscript{45,46}

There is now DNA evidence to confirm the following paper evidence of Solomon's origins in the Black Country. His son Thomas Robert Skidmore married three times. A witness to his second marriage was Edmund Smallman who was almost certainly a son of Ann, daughter of Edmund \textsuperscript{[15]}. Thomas Robert married as his third wife a Dudley lady, daughter of a glassman called Mark Capewell. Other evidence for Solomon Skidmore having migrated to London comes from the will of Carey Stafford of Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, London, glass manufacturer, which mentions a Solomon Scudamore. Carey Stafford had relatives, acquaintances and workmen who had moved from the areas of Oldswinford and Chaddesley Corbett in Worcestershire to London where they were involved in glass manufacture. The will mentions various 'servants', including Solomon Scudamore, who appear to be workmen in the glasshouse of a Mr John Williams of Fetter Lane.

On 10 July 1776 at the Old Bailey Solomon Skidmore, warehouseman to Carey Stafford, appeared in the trial of Henry Hall who was found guilty of stealing from Whitefriars 870 pounds weight of pearl-ashes, value £18, and a hempen sack, value one shilling, the property of Carey Stafford.

Betty Skidmore died in Mile End Old Town aged 60 of 'dropsey' and was buried at St Dunstan and All Saints on 4 June 1807. Her funeral cost 9 shillings. Solomon's burial has not yet been found but he was not recorded as deceased on 1 October 1788 when his son Thomas Robert was apprenticed.

**Children of Solomon and Eliza (Saunders) Skidmore,**

*The parents were recorded in baptism registers as Solomon and Betty Skidmore.*

i. Benjamin, born 21 September 1768, baptised 16 October at St Bride Fleet Street, 'of Whitefriars'. He was buried at Fetter Lane, from St Dunstan and All Saints church, on 2 May 1772.

ii. Susannah Sophia, baptised 17 June 1770 at St Ann's, Blackfriars.

iii. Richard, baptised 20 September 1772 at St Bride Fleet Street.

iv. THOMAS ROBERT, born 31 July 1774. **See 4. 'SKIDMORES OF WHITECHAPEL AND HACKNEY'**

\textsuperscript{44} From www.cbrain.mistral.co.uk and with kind permission of Colin Brain.

\textsuperscript{45} Personal communication with Colin Brain.

\textsuperscript{46} It is worth noting - though no link can presently be established with the family of Solomon Skidmore - at No. 6 Aldgate Street in 1784, a John Skidmore, plumber [Bailey's Directory] and R.B. Skidmore, plumber at 22 Swan Street, Minories 1799-1802, and Tom Skidmore, plumber of 22 Swan Street in 1808. The Times of 8 May 1793 reports a sale of a leasehold estate at Goodman's Fields by Mr Winstanley 'at Garraway's Coffee-house, Exchange-alley, Cornhill, this day the 8th of May, at 12 o'clock, in 13 lots' ... 'comprising ---- substantial ?back Dwelling Houses, No. 9, 11, 67 and 68, on the North side, and No. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, on the South side of Great Pick--? Street, Goodman's fields, with large gardens to each, the whole in good repair, and let to very respectable Tenants, part on Lease, and part at Will, at Rents producing a nett income 251L 10s. per Annum, clear of Ground Rent, Less? Tax and other deductions. Likewise a complete Range of --- as Warehouses, with Cranes and Jibbs, ----- Store Cellars, Workshops and Premises forming a Square, which extends from Goodman's-yard, to Swann-street, Minories, part on Lease to ________ Jordan, Esq and the remainder in the several possession of Messrs. Backhouse, P--ter, Skidmore, Ford, Woodgar?, Samuel and Bowden, at Rents producing a nett Annual income of 4£l. ?s. clear of - deductions._____ to be viewed; printed particulars had of Mr Williams, Solicitor, Curs--on-street, at Garraway's, and of Mr Winstanley, Paternoster Row'.

72b. vi. JAMES, baptised 25 June 1780.

vii. Betty, baptised 6 April 1783 at St Mary's, Whitechapel. She was buried there on 20 August 1786 aged 3.

viii. Sarah, baptised 17 February 1788 at St Mary's, Whitechapel. She was buried there on 16 March 1788 aged 3 months.

ix. Elizabeth Mary, baptised 29 November 1789 at St Mary's, Whitechapel. She married Jonathan Ruddock Hoy (perhaps baptised 15 June 1783 at St Augustine's, Norwich, son of William and Susannah Hoy) on 1 September 1811 at St Martin in the Fields, Westminster. Her brother Thomas Robert Skidmore and Thomas Jones were witnesses. Two children were baptised at Pentonville to 1827. She died in 1846Q4.

36. JOB SKIDMORE, son of Edmund [15] and Ann Skidmore, was baptised on 11 January 1742/3 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. He married (as Job Scudamore) Mary Harrison (born about 1747) on 22 November 1764 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. The witnesses were Edward Cole and James Harrison. James Harrison could be Mary’s brother, possibly the child of Benjamin and Mary (Tilley) Harrison, baptised at the Old Meeting House in Netherton on 19 November 1746. No baptism has been found for Mary Harrison at the right time. Job Skidmore died at the age of 42 and was buried on 30 August 1787 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. His widow Mary lived to be 70 and was also buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, on 11 May 1817. She was a resident of Wormwood Bank at the time of her death.

It is possible that Job and Mary Skidmore had other children, baptised between 1781 and 1786, in non-conformist registers now lost.

The children of Job and Mary (Harrison) Skidmore, baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill,

71.or72. i. BENJAMIN, baptised 22 September 1765 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. (See 3. SKIDMOREs OF BRETTEll LANE AND BROCKMOOR).

73. ii. THOMAS, baptised 24 January 1768. (See 3. SKIDmoreS OF BRETTEll LANE AND BROCKMOOR).

iii. Susannah, baptised 24 June 1771. She had a daughter

i. Susannah Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 29 April 1798.

She married John Pearson on 25 November 1798 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen, witnessed by Benjamin Eades, thought to be the man who married Mrs Priscilla Skidmore at St John the Baptist, Halesowen in 179747. One child of John and Susannah was baptised in Brierley Hill in 1800.

iv. [perhaps] Job, died aged 16, buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 13 June 1790.

74. v. JAMES, baptised 30 October 1781. (See 3. SKIDMOREs OF BRETTEll LANE AND BROCKMOOR).

vi. Aaron, baptised 27 March 1787 and buried 23 May 1808 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill aged 21.

37. WILLIAM SKIDMORE, son of Joseph [16] and Sarah (Bullows) Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 13 February 1731/2. He married twice and had children by both wives.

His first wife Sarah Scriven was perhaps the daughter of Richard and Sarah Scriven, baptised 2 July 1732 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Another child Sarah was baptised in Oldswinford on 28 June 1729, daughter of Thomas and Mary Scriven, but this child was perhaps the Sarah Scriven buried 8 November 1731 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. William Skidmore and Sarah were married on 2 February 1754 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. Sarah Skidmore died in her early thirties and was buried at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 9 June 1763.

William married secondarily Ann Westwood on 5 March 1764 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, witnessed by William Haden. Ann Skidmore was perhaps the lady of that name buried aged 34 on 27 March 1774 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. Assuming this burial to be correct two possible baptisms for Ann Westwood have been found in Kingswinford; firstly on 6 May 1739, daughter of James and Theodosia Westwood and, secondly, on 1 April 1740, daughter of John and Elizabeth Westwood.

It is possible William was married for a third time at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, to Mary Hardwick on 27 May 1776, witnessed by Luke Heathcock.

47 Benjamin Eades and Priscilla Eades witnessed at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 14 September 1801 the marriage of Richard Franklin (who was himself a witness at Benjamin and Priscilla Eade’s wedding) and Hannah Tilley.
William Skidmore is presumed to be the man in the Kingswinford list of tenants 1764-1766 who, together with his father and his uncle Edmund [15], lived in Brettell. Very little can be found concerning his descendants. This was a period of movement away from the Amblecote and Brettell area. Several men appear in Bilston, Staffordshire at the time that William’s children would have been of an age to marry, though the author has no information concerning their occupations. One of these, John Skidmore, might be William’s eldest son. The others are described in the Notes on the fifth generation.

William Skidmore was buried on 27 August 1809 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill aged 79.

The children of William and Sarah (Scriven) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

768. i. JOHN\\textsuperscript{75}, baptised 22 February 1756, was in Bilston in the late 1770s and early 1780s. He married Ann _____, also called Nancy. Judging from the names of his children, and his likely marriage date, he is perhaps the son of William [37] of Brettell. John was buried at St Leonard’s, Bilston on 24 October 1787.

The children of John and Ann Skidmore, baptised in Bilston,

i. William, baptised 31 October 1779.
ii. Sarah, baptised 30 November 1783.
iii. Sarah, baptised 13 November 1785.

John Skidmore married firstly Sarah Wheeler (baptised on 14 September 1740 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, daughter of John and Mary Wheeler) on 31 December 1758 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. He could well be the John Skidmore of Moor Lane listed among Kingswinford tenants in 1764-66, though there was another John Skidmore in Brierley Hill at this time, John [47]. It appears that Sarah died aged only 29 and was buried at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 14 May 1770. The author is confident that John married for a second time in 1771 and descendants of both marriages became miners in Netherton\textsuperscript{48}. His son John [76] went to Oldbury, presumably with his uncle Benjamin [39].

John married secondly Elizabeth Parry at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 25 February 1771, the marriage witnessed by James Plant and Benjamin Dewes. Elizabeth appears to be Elizabeth Sparry, baptised on 14 June 1741 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Sparry. There were families by the name of Parry in Kingswinford, but this baptism of Elizabeth Sparry is consistent with the burial of Elizabeth Skidmore on 2 March 1800 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, aged 59. John Skidmore was buried on 7 October 1788 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, though his recorded age of 53 appears to be wrong.

The children of John and Sarah (Wheeler) Skidmore, baptisms and burials at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

i. John Wheeler, baptised 17 February 1760, said in the burial register on 24 November 1763 to have been 11 months old.

\textsuperscript{48} The burial of a further Sarah Skidmore, aged 37, took place on 15 February 1778. Her identity so far remains a puzzle.
iii. Samuel, baptised 14 October 1764 and buried an infant on 23 April 1765.

75. iv. DANIEL, baptised 9 March 1766. See 5. ‘SKIDMORES OF NETHERTON, DUDLEY’.
76. v. JOHN, baptised 4 May 1768. See 6. ‘SKIDMORES OF OLDbury’.
vi. Benjamin, baptised 4 February 1770 and buried later that year on 19 December.

The children of John and Elizabeth (Sparry) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

77. vii. WILLIAM, born about 1771. See 5. ‘SKIDMORES OF NETHERTON, DUDLEY’.
viii. James, baptised 3 May 1776. He married Nancy Danks (born about 1775 in Dudley) on 9 April 1798 at St Thomas’, Dudley. He was a coal miner and lived at Cinder Bank, Netherton, in 1841, with his wife (called Ann in the censuses) and Thomas Homer aged 15 and John Homer aged 13, both coal mining apprentices. James and Ann were at 6 Cinder Bank, in 1851. He died in 1855Q2 leaving a will (made on 26 November 1831 and proved at Worcester on 24 March 1856) in which he left to his wife Nancy Skidmore (his sole executor) all his buildings, household goods and monies.

His widow Nancy Skidmore then lived with the family of David Raybould, a miner of Sweet Turf, Netherton. She made her will on 13 July 1866, when she was said to be blind and illiterate but perfectly understood the will’s contents when it was read to her. Her executor was Elijah Skidmore clerk of Cinder Bank (Elijah [288], grandson of her brother-in-law Daniel [75]). Elijah received her clock and was charged with selling and disposing of her estate by public auction and dividing the sum raised equally between James Turner, coal miner of Cinder Bank, and David Raybould. James Turner was a coal miner and later a rag and bone man who lived next door to James and Ann Skidmore in 1841 and remained in Cinder Bank: he married Ann Price (born about 1818 in Holly Hall).

Elijah Skidmore received Nancy’s house at Sweet Turf occupied by William Moy, and also four houses at Cinder Bank, two then in the occupation of James Turner and two occupied by Thomas Piper and Nancy herself. Ann Skidmore died at Cinder Bank on 7 July 1868 said to be aged 90 but probably 93.

ix. [perhaps] Thomas, buried an infant at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 4 February 1778.
x. Sarah, baptised 20 February 1780.
xi. [perhaps] Elizabeth, buried 24 September 1784 at St Thomas’, Dudley.

78. xii. THOMAS, baptised 17 April 1785. See 5. ‘SKIDMORES OF NETHERTON, DUDLEY’.

39. BENJAMIN SKIDMORE, son of Joseph [16] and Sarah (Bullows) Skidmore, was baptised on 5 June 1743 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. He is known to have been living in November 1796 when he consented to the marriage of his son John. His burial on 23 July 1797 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill aged 54 probably distinguishes him from the two children called Benjamin Skidmore baptised two years earlier than he (Benjamin son of Henry [21] and Benjamin son of Thomas [59], both thought to have died in infancy). Like his cousin Benjamin [35] he called one of his sons Harden - perhaps he named his youngest son in November 1787 in memory of his cousin’s son who had died earlier that year at the age of 25.

He married Mary Green (possibly the daughter of Richard and Mary (Garratt) Green, baptised on 30 October 1743 at St Giles’, Rowley Regis) on 26 January 1762 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. William Haden was a witness. BENJAMIN AND MARY SKIDMORE WERE ANCESTORS TO THE SKIDMORE FAMILIES AT OLDbury AND LATER YORKSHIRE AND LEICESTER.

Mary Skidmore was buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill aged 77 on 2 January 1820.

There is no evidence of Benjamin Skidmore’s occupation but it is safe to assume he was a miner since four of his five sons who lived in Oldbury are known to have been miners. The date of the family’s move to Oldbury is not certain. Although Mary (Green) Skidmore and their son James Skidmore were buried in Brierley Hill (in 1820 and 1825 respectively) the burial register states they were of Oldbury. The move appears to have been much earlier since son John was said to be of Halesowen parish at the time of his marriage in November 1796 and his first child was baptised in Oldbury in 1797. The only child of Benjamin and Mary Skidmore for whom a

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49 The manor of Halesowen was granted in Norman times to Roger de Montgomery. He was Earl of Shropshire and so Halesowen was part of that county and it was not until 1844 that it was reclaimed by Worcestershire. Oldbury was for
The children of Benjamin and Mary (Green) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford,

79.  
   i.  JAMES, baptised 12 December 1762 at St Mary's, Kingswinford.  See 6. 'SKIDMORES OF OLDisbury'.  
   ii. Ruth, baptised 1 July 1764 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. See also Ruth the daughter of John [47].
   One of these ladies had a son and given that she named him John, was perhaps more likely the daughter of John [47], but is recorded here until other evidence emerges.
   i.  John, baptised on 5 October 1783 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. This child, rather than John son of Henry [53] or John son of Jeremiah [54], was perhaps buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 14 February 1786, aged 2.
   
   Two marriages have been found for Ruth Skidmore, both at St Mary's, Oldswinford. Given their ages she is more likely to have married Benjamin Bird, bachelor (perhaps the son of Joseph and Mary Bird, baptised 18 December 1763 at St Mary's, Oldswinford), on 27 April 1785. Five children of this marriage were baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford and Brierley Hill to 1795. The lady who married, by licence, Cornelius Dunn of Kingswinford parish (baptised there 18 August 1754, son of Vincent and Sarah (Bache) Dunn) on 22 February 1786 was perhaps more likely the daughter of John [47].

and baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill,

   iii.  [perhaps] Sarah, baptised 25 December 1766, daughter of Benjamin & Sarah Skidmore, possibly a clerk's error.
   iv.  Benjamin, baptised 5 February 1769. He is found in the 1841 census for Oldbury, a labourer living with his sister Jane in Furnace Row. He died aged 86 and was buried at Christ Church, Oldbury on 8 February 1848.
   v.  Mary, baptised 14 May 1773.
80.  
   vi.  JOHN, baptised 1 June 1777.  See 6. 'SKIDMORES OF OLDisbury'.
   vii.  Aaron, baptised 16 November 1779 and buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill an infant on 6 December of that year.
   viii. Harden, baptised 15 November 1780 and buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill an infant on 28 January 1781.
   ix.  Jane, baptised 13 January 1782. She married Benjamin Astins on 27 October 1803 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen and was living in 1841, perhaps a widow, with two of her four (known) children in Furnace Row. I have not yet found her in later censuses.
81.  
   x.  JEREMIAH, baptised 1 August 1784.  See 6. 'SKIDMORES OF OLDisbury'.
82.  
   xi.  HARDEN, baptised 27 November 1787.  See 7. 'SKIDMORES OF WEST BROMWICH AND HOYLAND'.

40.  
   DANIEL5 SKIDMORE, son of William [17] and Isabel (Pasmore) Skidmore, was born on 17 December 1720 and baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 21 December of that year. He married Mary Lawley on 20 November 1740 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. She is perhaps the daughter of John and Margaret Lawley baptised 21 July 1720 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, or of John and Mary Lawley baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 2 April 1721. Daniel and Mary Skidmore are known to have been resident in Amblecote in 1745. It is possible that some of this family moved to Birmingham as a result of its connection to the Lawley family there.

   The children of Daniel and Mary (Lawley) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,
   
   i.  Joseph, baptised 21 September 1741. He is possibly the Joseph Skidmore apprenticed for £6 in 1760 to Samuel Lawley, a button maker of Birmingham. It is not known whether Samuel Lawley was a relative of Mary Lawley - he would appear to be the son of William and Hannah Lawley (baptised 7 February 1732 at St Mary's, Oldswinford) who married Mary Mills on 24 November 1755 at St Martin's, Birmingham, and had children baptised at St Martin's and St Philip's between 1756 and 1769. Two buttonmakers called Joseph Skidmore appear in Birmingham in the second half of the 18th century. The man of an age to be the son of Daniel Skidmore married Ann Spinks in 1771 and left no known offspring.
   
   ii.  Lawley, baptised 8 July 1744 and buried 30 March 1745 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, aged 1 of Amblecote.
iii. Susannah, baptised 9 February 1745/6. She probably married Abraham Worton (baptised 5 February 1743 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, son of William and Mary Worton) at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 4 May 1762. Samuel Cox and Thomas Hall were witnesses.

iv. John, baptised 2 September 1748.

v. Mary, baptised 3 February 1751/2. She is perhaps the Birmingham lady of that name who died of dropsy and was buried at St Peter & St Paul, Aston aged 44 on 8 April 1795.

vi. Cornelius, baptised 9 February 1755 and thought to have been buried at Oldswinford on 24 January 1758.

vii. Sarah, baptised 8 January 1758.

viii. Elizabeth, baptised 9 August 1761.

41. **JOSEPH** Skidmore, son of Samuel [20] and Mary (Brisco) Skidmore, was baptised on 20 July 1717 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He was born and spent his childhood in Amblecote. He married Sarah Littleford at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 22 September 1741. Sarah was the daughter of John and Ann Littleford, born on 8 November 1722 and baptised Sarah Elizabeth on 29 November of that year.

Joseph was a collier of Stourbridge at the time of his death on 27 January 1771 aged 54. He was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on the same day and is remembered on a stone there, together with his wife Sarah and four of their children, John, Henry, Samuel and Thomas. Sarah Skidmore died aged 58 on 30 June 1781 (buried 3 July). Joseph made his will six days before he died, bequeathing all his personal estate to his wife Sarah and after her to his [only surviving] son Joseph. The will was proved on 15 February 1771 at Worcester.

**The children of Joseph and Sarah (Littleford) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,**

- i. John, baptised 1 July 1742, died 10 October 1763 aged 21, buried 12 October.
- ii. Joseph, baptised 12 May 1744. He was living in 1771 at the time his father made his will. He is perhaps the man who married Sarah Morton at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 7 August 1769. Richard Mountford and William Aston were witnesses.
- iii. Henry, baptised 9 November 1745, died 9 October 1746, buried 12 October.
- iv. Samuel, baptised 2 August 1747, died 4 November that year, buried 13 November.
- v. Thomas, baptised 29 June 1755, died 16 June 1761 aged 6, buried 18 June.

42. **HENRY** Skidmore, son of Samuel [20] and Elizabeth (Allen) Skidmore, was baptised on 19 June 1737 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He was born and spent his early years in Amblecote. It is probable that he was, like his half-brother Joseph, a miner. He married Esther Catherine Bolus on 28 June 1758 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. The witnesses were Henry Webb and John Webb. Esther Catherine was baptised on 16 January 1737 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, the daughter of Edmund and Mary Bolus.

Both Henry and Esther lived to a good age and died in Stourbridge. She was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 13 October 1811 aged 74. Henry survived his wife by almost two years, and was buried there on 7 October 1813 aged 75.

**The children of Henry and Esther Catherine (Bolus) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,**

- i. Samuel, baptised 8 October 1758.

83. ii. **BENJAMIN,** baptised 8 March 1761. See B. ‘**SKIDMORE MINERS OF AMBLECOTE**’.

iii. Sarah, baptised 2 October 1763 (on the same day that Benjamin son of Peter [50] was baptised). She married Richard Wilcox on 28 December 1784 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. William Aston was a witness. The connection is not yet clear between William Aston and the Cornelius Asson whose daughter married Sarah's brother Benjamin [83], or the Benjamin Asson whose daughters married Sarah's brother Joseph [84] and Joseph's brother-in-law Joseph [111]. Four children of Richard and Sarah Wilcox were baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford between 1785 and 1793.

84. iv. **JOSEPH,** baptised 2 February 1766. See B. ‘**SKIDMORE MINERS OF AMBLECOTE**’.

v. Elizabeth, baptised 20 November 1768 and buried either 15 May or 11 November 1769 at Oldswinford. See also Elizabeth daughter of Thomas [45].

vi. Elizabeth, baptised 23 September 1770.

vii. Mary, baptised 13 June 1773. This child presumably died an infant.

85. viii. **RICHARD,** baptised 20 November 1774. See B. ‘**SKIDMORE MINERS OF AMBLECOTE**’.

ix. Mary, baptised 1 February 1778. She married Jeremiah Stevens (baptised 18 July 1773 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, son of Samuel and Sarah (Lea) Stevens) on 19 October 1795 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, on the same day that her brother Richard married Elizabeth Cooksey. Richard
Willard witnessed the wedding. Seven children of this marriage were baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill and Oldswinford between 1796 and 1808.

Margaret, baptised 26 November 1780. She married John Hambrey (Hanbury, born about 1781 in Oldswinford), a miner and later a victualler, on 5 July 1801 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen. The wedding was witnessed by Richard Wilcox, presumably her brother-in-law. Nine children of this marriage were baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford between 1804 and 1825, including Richard Hambrey whose son Skidmore Hambrey, glass cutter of Hagley Road, Upperswinford, was involved in the struggle to secure recognition of Amblecote’s Urban District status. John and Margaret’s home was at Hungary Hill, Oldswinford. Margaret Hambrey died on 4 June 1849.

The following diagram might be of help in illustrating the connections between Henry’s family and the extensive Aston clan in Amblecote.

A gravestone in Oldswinford churchyard records the death on 19 July 1782 of Ann Skidmore aged 67 wife of Joseph of Coalbournbrook. The burial register gives her age as 65 (buried 21 July). Joseph’s stone is difficult to read but he died at the end of August 1794 (buried 3 September). The burial register shows he was aged 68. His will, made 1 September 1794 very shortly before his death, was proved at Worcester on 2 July 1795 and a copy is also to be found among papers of the King family of Stourbridge, at Stafford Record Office. He was then a victualler of Coalbournbrook in Amblecote in the parish of Oldswinford. There is reason to believe Joseph and Ann spent some time in Bilston; Mary daughter of Joseph and Ann Skidmore was baptised and buried there in 1759. Two years later the last of the children of Joseph’s brother Richard [44] was baptised there.

43. **JOSEPH SKIDMORE**, born about 1726, is known to be the brother of John [46]. These brothers appear to be sons of Henry [21] and his wife Mary Cox. Joseph Skidmore married Ann Mole (born about 1715) of Oldswinford parish on 1 April 1752 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. There is reason to believe Joseph and Ann spent some time in Bilston; Mary daughter of Joseph and Ann Skidmore was baptised and buried there in 1759. Two years later the last of the children of Joseph’s brother Richard [44] was baptised there.

A gravestone in Oldswinford churchyard records the death on 19 July 1782 of Ann Skidmore aged 67 wife of Joseph of Coalbournbrook. The burial register gives her age as 65 (buried 21 July). Joseph’s stone is difficult to read but he died at the end of August 1794 (buried 3 September). The burial register shows he was aged 68. His will, made 1 September 1794 very shortly before his death, was proved at Worcester on 2 July 1795 and a copy is also to be found among papers of the King family of Stourbridge, at Stafford Record Office. He was then a victualler of Coalbournbrook in Amblecote in the parish of Oldswinford. He left to his widowed daughter-in-law Deborah Skidmore and her heirs for ever the house in which she lived. All his other houses passed to his son Henry Skidmore. His son Charles Skidmore received two tenements ‘situate near to the Bridge at the bottom of the Town of Stourbridge’ then in the occupation of Philip Hall and Richard Atkins. Each son received £500. £300 was placed in trust with his sons for the maintenance of his daughter Sarah King (and after her death to her children). The interest on £100 was for the education of his granddaughter Ann Skidmore, daughter of his deceased son Richard Skidmore, the sum to pass to her at the age of 21 (or to his son Henry should Ann not attain 21). A similar arrangement was made for his granddaughter Ann King, her legacy to pass to her brother Joseph King should she not attain 21. Joseph Skidmore named his two sons his executors. The will was witnessed by Bate Richards, John Skidmore (presumably Joseph’s brother) and Henry Roberts.

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50 County Express 16 October 1909.
The children of Joseph and Ann (Mole) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

86. i. HENRY, baptised 9 August 1752. See 9. ‘SKIDMORE GLASSMEN OF AMBLECOTE’
87. ii. RICHARD, baptised 10 March 1754. See 9. ‘SKIDMORE GLASSMEN OF AMBLECOTE’

iii. Charles, baptised 25 September 1757. He was a clay merchant of the hamlet of Amblecote in Oldswinford parish and is found in the voting lists of 1818 and 1834, a gentleman of Coalbournbrook. Charles Skidmore and his brother Henry held shares in the Stourbridge Canal and are listed in the company’s minutes in September 1820, both of Coalbournbrook. This canal was constructed in the 1780s, following pressure from Black Country industrialists and was intended to connect the coal mines around Dudley with engineering works near Stourbridge and also with towns on the River Severn, via the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal.

On the 1822 map of Kingswinford parish, prepared by William Fowler (see Appendix 2), four houses and gardens are shown belonging to Charles Skidmore (plot 620). These are on the north side of Brierley Hill Road in Wordsley, between, to the west, Dob Hill (occupied by William Price) and Dob Hill Meadow (proprietor John Foster) and, to the east, a croft (proprietor Joseph Cox, occupied by William Wood). These elongated enclosures led down to Wordsley Brook. It seems likely that the Dob Hill area, including plot 620, became before 1840 the site of Buckpool School.

Charles Skidmore’s will was made on 24 June 1828 and proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 11 January 1836. He left to his three nephews Joseph King, William King and Henry King his fourth part share in several pieces of land, a house, buildings, a mill, forge pool, and mines in Oldwinford parish (purchased over time by himself, by Benjamin Littlewood and Thomas Badger and by his sister Sarah King); his interest in the lease of a house, brickworks, mines, veins and beds of coal, glasshouse pot clay and firebrick clay in Lye; his fourth part share in the firm known as Messieurs Littlewood, King and Company; and £500 each. One of his two shares in the Stourbridge Navigation passed to William King, the other to Henry King. Henry Skidmore King, son of his nephew Joseph King, received £100; his niece Ann Perrins £800 and his copyhold premises at Bugpool, Kingswinford, mention being made of her eldest son Charles Skidmore Perrins and also William King Perrins and Sarah Perrins. He left £1200 in stocks to his niece Hannah Harrison, wife of Benjamin Harrison, corn merchant of Liverpool, with mention made of her children George King Harrison and Sarah Harrison. He left £600 for the benefit of his sister Deborah Skidmore and her daughter Ann Skidmore.

A gravestone in the churchyard at St Mary’s, Oldswinford records the deaths of Charles Skidmore and his brother Henry. Charles died on 29 June (buried 2 July) 1835 aged 77.

iv. [probably] Mary, baptised 27 April 1759 at St Leonard’s, Bilston, buried there an infant on 3 September 1759.

v. Sarah, baptised 12 August 1764. She married William King on 31 January 1790 at Oldswinford. Two children of this marriage, Ann King and Joseph King, are remembered in the will of Sarah’s father. Sarah King, widow of Amblecote, and Joseph King of Amblecote held shares in the Stourbridge Canal in 1820. In 1841 she was living alone in Amblecote and her death was perhaps that registered at Stourbridge in 1843Q4.

Joseph King was one of two hundred people in 1825 to express confidence ‘in the two respectable and long established banks in this town’ of Messrs Hill, Bate and Robins, and Messrs Rufford and Biggs. In 1834 on 29th January the Stourbridge and Kidderminster Banking Company was inaugurated at a meeting held at the Talbot Hotel. The first Directors were James Foster, iron manufacturer, John Hancock, ironmaster, Joseph King, fire brick manufacturer, Henry Parkes Skidmore (Sarah’s cousin, son of John [46]), nail manufacturer, William Orme, spade manufacturer, and Robert Scott, barrister.

53 Occupied by Richard Cooper, Henry Hammonds, Richard Westwood and William Gill. See 1841 census 996/3/41.
In 1841 Joseph King gave evidence to the Royal Commission enquiring into the employment of children in mines, collieries, trades and manufacture. He was described as a Stourbridge magistrate and proprietor of the Lye fire-brick and fire-clay works employing 120 men, women and children. Joseph and William King left houses, a forge and a mill in Stambermill, mines under land at Bott Lane, brickworks and land called the Lunts, lands at Netherend, Cradley, houses at Audnam Bank, Dennis Park Estate and a plot on Silver Street, Birmingham. In 1846 they sold a plot of land at Hymn's Green, Oldswinford, to Jeremiah Skidmore.

On 28 September 1858 Charles Skidmore Perrins, with others, leased part of lands, cottages and a clay mine at Broadfields, Brettell Lane from Thomas Brettell. Charles was the son of William Perrins and Ann King who were married at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 1 January 1818. Ann King was presumably the daughter of William and Sarah (Skidmore) King.

Richard Skidmore, a widower and a whitesmith of the parish of St Philip and St Jacob, married by licence on 24 August 1780 at Temple Church, Bristol, widow Mary May of that parish. The witnesses were Thomas Clifford and Mary Lawrence. By 1792 he had become a maltster and brewer and appears in Reed’s New Bristol Directory and again in 1793 at Cheese Lane in Matthew’s Directory. He invested in property in Kingsmead and Bread Street.

Richard Skidmore, gentleman of St Philip and St Jacob Out, Bristol, made a will in 1806 in which he mentions his son Richard Skidmore, glassman and his daughter Mary, widow of William Garmston, hairdresser, also John Phillips, glassman and a tenant of Bread Street, Charles Baker, [Seedsman], builder of Malthouse in Bread Street, Ebenezer Burges, accountant of St. Phillips & St. Jacob, good friend, James Hartford, ironmaster, tenant of Bread Street, and Mr James, purchaser of house & garden in Kingsmead Court. The witnesses to his will were [us]rence Gulley, Richard Northcott, John Smar[t] and Revd. Thomas Johne[r], clerk. A year later Richard Skidmore made a codicil, which he was obliged to sign with his mark following a ‘paralytic stroke to his right hand’ in the intervening year. This shows that he owned 11 tenements in Kingsmead / Bread Street, two rented by John Phillips, and Malthouse with offices and garden, a house in Cheese Lane (late occupied by William Garmston Hairdresser [dec’d]). These properties were bequeathed to his wife Mary and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life, then to Ebenezer Burges (described in his will as his ‘good friend’). He died on 1 April 1808 aged 67 and was buried on 7 April, his widow aged 72, buried 5 February 1811.

The children of Richard and Mary (Whitehouse) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. Ann, baptised 29 September 1755 and buried 3 October of that year at Oldswinford.

ii. HENRY, baptised 28 October 1756. He married Hannah _____ and is perhaps the son of Richard [44], though the name William is unusual in this particular family; if so, he was not mentioned in the will of his father made in 1806. He is perhaps the Henry Skidmore who died in Bristol aged 29 and was buried on 26 May 1786.

In view of the use of Brierley Hill Church, he is unlikely to be Henry Skidmore [86].

iii. William and Hannah Skidmore had one known child, baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill,

i. William, baptised 28 June 1787.

See 9. 'Skidmore Glassmen of Amblecote'

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57 Staffordshire Record Office D648/ 1/ 16, 1861.
58 ibid D648/ 1/ 12.
59 Dudley Archives and Local History Service 8631/64.
60 Temple was an old parish of Bristol. The parish church of Holy Cross stands overlooking Victoria Street in what was really the first suburb of the old City of Bristol. Holy Cross is more generally called Temple Church.
iv. Sarah, born perhaps around 1759. She married by licence Richard Veale, a carpenter of St James parish, Bristol, on 5 June 1781 at St James, Bristol. The bond was signed by William Chiswell, a tailor of Chew Magna, Somerset, and the marriage witnessed by Sarah Veale and William Veale.

v. Mary, baptised 22 July 1761 at St Leonard’s, Bilston.

and baptised at St Philip and St Jacob, Bristol,

vi. Betty, born 3 October 1762.

vii. John, born 6 August 1766. He died in 1808.


ix. Mary, born 20 April 1770. Mary Skidmore and Joseph Skidmore were buried on the same day in Bristol, 22 July 1771.

x. Mary, born 15 April (baptised 22 April) 1772. She married by licence on 19 April 1792 at St Ewen, Bristol, William Garmston, a peruke maker of Cheese Lane (son of John and Elizabeth (Smith) Garmston). The witnesses were her sister and brother-in-law Sarah and Richard Veale. She was widowed by 1808 when, in the will of her father, she received the rent from his five tenements, messuages or dwelling houses situated in Kingsmead Court and the one in Cheese Lane "to be disposed of as she my said daughter shall from time to time think fit & proper." "And from immediately after the decease of my said Daughter, to pay, apply and dispose of the rents for and toward the support and maintenance & education of all and every of the children of my said Daughter by the said William Garmston, deceased".

45. THOMAS SKIDMORE could be a son of Thomas [14] or Henry [21]. I feel the evidence favours the latter, not least because of the names given to his children. The existence of glassmen in the family of Henry [21] also points to this conclusion.

He was a glassman of Whitechapel, Middlesex at the time of his marriage to Isabel Jenks (daughter of George and Elizabeth Jenks, baptised at Codsal on 14 May 1738) at St Nicholas, Codsall, Staffordshire, on 4 October 1762. The marriage was witnessed by Ann Jenks, presumably Isabel’s sister, and by Sarah Lowe. The licence cannot be traced at Lichfield Record Office. The name Jenks appears in the Codsall parish registers from the 1660s though I have not been able to discover the occupation of the Jenks men but it is possible they were glassmen. (Isabella Skidmore was buried on 9 May 1793 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, though this was more likely Isabella the daughter of Thomas [136]).

Thomas Skidmore probably married secondly Ann Wooldridge on 8 December 1783 at Clent, Worcestershire, which would explain the appearance of the name Wooldridge as a first name in this family. The witnesses were Thomas Beach, senior and Thomas Beach junior.

The children of Thomas and Isabel (Jenks) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. [probably] Mary, baptised 18 October 1763 as the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Skidmore. She would appear to be the lady of Audnam Bank, Kingswinford, who died aged 54 and was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 24 February 1818.

89. ii. THOMAS, baptised 17 November 1765. See 9. ‘SKIDMORE GLASSMEN OF AMBLECOTE’

iii. Elizabeth, baptised 13 March 1768 and buried either 15 May or 11 November 1769 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. See also Elizabeth daughter of Henry [42].

iv. Elizabeth, baptised 2 September 1770.

and baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford,

90. v. JOHN, baptised 24 January 1773. See 9. ‘SKIDMORE GLASSMEN OF AMBLECOTE’

vi. Joseph, baptised 7 July 1776.

vii. Ann, baptised 9 May 1779. She perhaps married Timothy Cartwright at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 27 June 1803 (witnessed by Edward Cox) or John Knowles at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 24 July 1809 (witnessed by John Mannerley - who married Elizabeth Skidmore in 1796 - and Betty Gauden).

viii. Sarah, baptised 25 November 1781.

61 I have not yet discovered Thomas’ burial and do not know his year of birth. Given their involvement in the glass industry in Whitechapel at the same time, Thomas [45] and Solomon [35a] are likely closely related. I have assumed that Solomon’s brother Thomas married Elizabeth Seager, this based on his likely burial and his age when he died. See also Thomas [33].
46. JOHN SKIDMORE is known from his will to be the uncle of Henry Skidmore and Charles Skidmore and, hence, the brother of Joseph [43]. He would, therefore, appear to be the son of Henry [21] and Mary (Cox) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 29 April 1739.

There is confusing evidence to suggest he married twice and that he was the glass maker of Kingswinford who married Mary Mann there on 27 April 1761. (James Pagett was a witness). A gravestone in Oldswinford churchyard records the deaths of Ann wife of John Skidmore of Audnam Brook who died July 9 1786 aged -- and also John Skidmore died Mar -- 179- aged -6. Oldswinford burial register helps us to fill in the indecipherable portions of the stone. There was a burial on 12 July 1786 of a Mary Skidmore (not Ann) aged 56, and John Skidmore was buried on 23 March 1797 aged 56. This identifies him as the son of Henry [21]. Despite the discrepancies in the names in the register and on the memorial, and the age gap between bride and groom, this points to his having married Mary Mann. No children are known to this marriage.

John's second wife appears to have been about thirteen years younger than he. He married, by licence, Elizabeth Parkes on 4 February 1787 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. This marriage was witnessed by Ann Parkes, perhaps Elizabeth's step-mother, and Joseph Skidmore, presumably John's brother. Elizabeth was baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 27 March 1754, the daughter of Daniel and Mary (Hackett) Parkes.

If John began as a glass maker (the only evidence being on the marriage entry of John Skidmore and Mary Mann) he was by the time he made his will, a grocer. John is presumably the mercer listed in the 1788 inauguration deed for the Independent (Methodist) Chapel in King Street, Dudley 62. His will, made on 21 November 1796 (proved at Lichfield 9 August 1797) shows he was a grocer of Audnam Bank in the parish of Kingswinford. His wife (not named), his esteemed friend Mr Michael Grazebrook and his nephews Henry Skidmore and Charles Skidmore were appointed executors and guardians to his children. His wife received all his real and personal estate and was to continue his business. Should his wife die or remarry then proceeds of his estate were to be divided between his children Mary Skidmore and Henry Parkes Skidmore and any other child (Elizabeth was expecting their third child when John made his will). He gave £100 to his daughter Mary 'in case the real estate of Daniel Parkes deceased his grandfather' should descend to his son Henry Parkes Skidmore.

The children of John and Elizabeth (Parkes) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford,

i. Mary, baptised 5 March 1791. Miss Mary Skidmore of The Thorns, Kingswinford parish, was a voter in 1834. She is known from the King family papers 63 to have married Rev. James Eddy of Lyce Waste 'eldest son of Mr Eddy of Truro' 64 (baptised 14 December 1795 at St Philip's, Birmingham, son of Thomas and Jemima Eady) on 9 December 1834 at St George's, Birmingham. William Deer and Eliza Skidmore, presumably her sister-in-law, were witnesses.

91. ii. HENRY PARKES 65, born 19 June 1795. See 9. SKIDMORE GLASSMEN OF AMBLECOTE

iii. Ann, baptised 9 April 1797 and buried 9 October 1798 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.

47. JOHN SKIDMORE, son of Jonas [22] and Margaret (Chappell) Skidmore, was baptised on 4 May 1733 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. My belief that he married Betty Bate at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 22 April 1753 is based on his presumed death in 1771 and hence the calculation of his approximate birth year. He might be the John Skidmore of Moor Lane listed among Kingswinford tenants in 1764-66, though there was another John Skidmore in Brierley Hill at this time, John [38].

He was buried aged 38 on 30 August 1771 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. His widow Elizabeth Skidmore married William Skelding at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 29 December 1773, the marriage being witnessed by Thomas Nott. Phoebe Skelding was baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford in 1774.

The children of John and Betty (Bate) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford,

i. Ruth, baptised 8 June 1755. See Ruth the daughter of Benjamin [39].

ii. Ann, baptised 28 November 1756. She perhaps married William Westwood at Oldswinford on 16

62 William Hughes of Dudley, baker and malster; Thomas Hateley; Joseph Edwards, carpenter; John Skidmore, mercer.
63 Stafford Record Office, ref. 648/91.
64 Trewman's Exeter Flying Post or Plymouth and Cornish Advertiser (Exeter, England), Thursday, December 25, 1834; Issue 3612.
Joseph, aged 25, died on 12 (buried 15) September 1791, witnessed by John Gauden, or alternatively James Price at All Saints', Sedgley on 7 November 1791, witnessed by Jeremiah Silvers. A third possibility is the marriage at St Mary's, Kingswinford of Ann Skidmore to Luke Cartwright, witnessed by Benjamin Skidmore. See also Ann the daughter of Joseph [49].

iii. Elizabeth, baptised 16 February 1759. Buried 16 August 1763 at St Mary's, Kingswinford.
iv. Sarah, baptised 26 August 1760. It is probably safe to assume that she died aged 3 and was buried on the same day as her sister Elizabeth, but see also Sarah daughter of Joseph [49].

92. v. JONAH, baptised 11 April 1762.

SEE 10. 'SKIDMORES OF DAWLEY, SHROPSHIRE & OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE'.

vi. John, baptised 11 December 1763.

vii. Sarah Elizabeth, baptised 22 September 1765. She is probably the Elizabeth Skidmore who married Thomas Hill on 4 February 1788 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Joseph Higgs and Cornelius Plant were witnesses. They had four children baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill to 1794, the first Jonah Skidmore Hill, the second Lucy Hill, possibly named after her brother and sister-in-law.

viii. Joseph, baptised 23 March 1768 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. Buried an infant at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 11 July of that year.

ix. Thompson, baptised 9 July 1769 at Brierley Hill. She appears to be the Tampson Skidmore married at Clent on 27 December 1790 to Joseph Green (though both were said to be of Clent when they married). Benjamin Street was a witness. Joseph and Thomasin Green had five children baptised at Brierley Hill to 1804.

48. JOHN 2 SKIDMORE, the son of John [23] and Mary (Crump) Skidmore, was baptised at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 21 February 1742. He married Ann Davies at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 11 October 1761. They lived in property adjacent to Cornbow Bridge in the town of Halesowen willed to John by his father. It is probable that John was a nailer since his father left him all his nail shop tools.

John and Ann were to have two children before his untimely death at the age of twenty five. He was buried at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 10 December 1767. His widow was married two years later on 23 October 1769 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen to Joseph Baker. In 1793 she witnessed a deed of property transfer to her son John Skidmore. Joseph Baker died a widower, intestate, and his son Joseph Baker was sworn to administer his estate on the last day of 1801.

The children of John and Ann (Davies) Skidmore, baptised at St John the Baptist, Halesowen,

i. Phoebe, baptised 3 July 1763. She married John Robathan on 14 May 1782 at St Martin’s, Birmingham and the baptisms of five of their children are found at St Philip’s and St Martin’s, Birmingham between 1783 and 1805.

ii. John, baptised 19 April 1767. He married Truth Hill (baptised at St Giles’, Rowley Regis on 25 February 1770, daughter of John and Margaret Hill) at St Martin’s, Birmingham, on 11 September 1798. I am unaware of any children of this marriage. John was a grocer in Halesowen and held freehold dwelling houses, buildings, land and premises, which passed to his wife in his will dated 10 February 1827 (proved in October 1827 at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury). The will mentions his nephew John Robathan (executor), his great nephew Alfred (Alfred Skidmore Robathan was baptised in 1816 in Birmingham, son of John and Mary Ann Robathan) and several other sons and daughters of his sister. Also remembered are the children of his brother-in-law James Ditheridge, husband of Truth’s sister Sarah Hill (married 4 January 1790 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, eight children baptised at St Giles’, Rowley Regis to 1809).

In deeds at Worcester Record Office relating to the Dog and Duck public house and two adjacent houses called the Bakehouse in Prickingham Street, we find that John Skidmore purchased the property at auction for £296 in 1793. A deed dated 29 September 1814 (amongst a collection relating to a newly erected house with blacksmith’s shop and penthouse, at one time used as a shop for making hinges in Cornbow Street) describes consideration money of £100 paid by John Skidmore, shopkeeper of Halesowen, to Henry Grove of Halesowen, mason, and Joseph Salt of Hasbury, miller.

John Skidmore, grocer, died in Halesowen on 12 (buried 15) September 1827, leaving a will (not seen). Truth Skidmore survived her husband and was buried on 4 November 1836. In her will dated 16 April 1832 (and proved at Worcester on 13 February 1837) she left her money and
clothes to be divided among the children of her sister Esther Detheridge (note that a marriage has been found for Sarah Hill, not Esther Hill, to James Ditheridge).

A map of about 1840 shows the position of the bridge over the River Stour in Cornbow Street and a field to the north of the town owned by Skidmore.

49. **JOSEPH** Skidmore married Sarah Holmer on 26 December 1754 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Of the three men of this name born in the mid-1730s he is perhaps most likely the son of Joseph [24] and Ann (Webb) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 19 January 1734/5. Sarah was the daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Holmer, baptised on 23 July 1734 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. He is probably the Joseph Skidmore who died at the age of 45 and was buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill on 21 April 1778.

The children of Joseph and Sarah (Holmer) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. Elizabeth, baptised 27 June 1756. She married Joseph Penn on 25 December 1776 at Brierley Hill, witnessed by Thomas Cooksey.

ii. Joseph, baptised 9 July 1758, buried 26 November 1763 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford aged 6.

iii. Sarah, baptised 20 July 1760. See also Sarah the daughter of John [47].

iv. Thomas, baptised 11 April 1762, buried 28 December 1763 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford.

v. Ann, baptised 13 May 1764. See also Ann the daughter of John [47].

and baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill,

vi. Esther, baptised 3 August 1766. She married Geoffrey Dudley (possibly a son of John and Jane Dudley, baptised at St Lawrence’s, Darlaston on 4 February 1768) on 20 October 1788 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. The witnesses were her sister and brother-in-law, Joseph and Elizabeth Penn.

vii. James, baptised 8 January 1769 [baptism register gives parents as Joseph and Skidmore Skidmore [sic]], buried 6 October of that year at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, aged 1.

viii. James, baptised 25 December 1770. I think this child died an infant and was buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, aged 1, on 15 March 1772. See also James the son of Peter [50].

50. **PETER** Skidmore, the son of John [25] and Mary Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 27 June 1742. He was probably born and raised in Brettell Lane and was very likely a collier. He married his cousin Priscilla Shaw at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 8 November 1762. Priscilla’s mother and Peter’s father were brother and sister. Priscilla was baptised on 23 September 1744, the daughter of Edward and Esther (Skidmore) Shaw. The wedding was witnessed by Ben Glover who married Elizabeth Skidmore, Peter’s aunt. Priscilla’s cousin Rebecca Shaw married Obadiah [55].

Peter Skidmore died aged 43 and was buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill on 26 June 1785 and his widow would appear to be the Priscilla Skidmore, mantua maker of Stourbridge, who took Mary Smithman as her apprentice on 1 May 1787. It is possible that she married Benjamin Eades, widower, on 16 October 1797 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen, though this could be Priscilla the widow of Thomas [136].

Peter’s parents became Baptists late in life. His brother John [51] moved from Brettell Lane to Coseley and was deacon of the Darkhouse Baptist Chapel in Deepfields for many years. It appears that Peter and Priscilla’s two eldest sons, Benjamin and John, also moved away from Brierley Hill to become miners in the Deepfields and Princes End area of Coseley, perhaps in the care initially of their uncle. Their younger sons James Skidmore and Thomas Skidmore moved into Dudley and their descendants remained in the Queens Cross and Dock area on the western edge of the town.

The children of Peter and Priscilla (Shaw) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. Benjamin Skidmore, baptised 2 October 1763, on the same day that Sarah daughter of Henry [42] was baptised. Benjamin was a miner of Skidmore’s Row, Deepfields, Coseley, in 1820 when he accepted probate of his brother John’s will.

He perhaps married firstly Nancy Baker on 28 April 1788 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Thomas Baker and John Webb were witnesses. Nancy died aged 27 and was buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill on 29 July 1794. Benjamin Skidmore married Hannah Taylor (born about 1877 in Dudley) on 12 May 1805 at St Peter’s, Wolverhampton. He and his wife (called Ann) were living at the time of the 1841 census at the ‘bottom of Bunns Lane’ in the Oakham area of Dudley parish, though he is described as a
labourer at this time. He died in 1845Q1 and Hannah his widow was a housekeeper, living alone at Tividale at the time of the 1851 census. She died at the age of 76 on 28 May 1852 at Tividale.  

A possible son of Benjamin and Hannah (Taylor) Skidmore,

i. Benjamin, born about 1809, died at the age of 20 was buried at the Darkhouse Baptist Chapel on 5 November 1829.

ii. Mary, baptised 22 September 1765. Buried 22 March 1780 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill, aged 14.

and baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill,

93. iii. JOHN, baptised 10 January 1768. See 11. 'SKIDMORES OF DEEPFIELDS, COSELEY AND THE TOWN OF DUDLEY'.

94. iv. JAMES, baptised 22 June 1770. See 11. 'SKIDMORES OF DEEPFIELDS, COSELEY AND THE TOWN OF DUDLEY'.

95. v. THOMAS, baptised 27 December 1772. See 11. 'SKIDMORES OF DEEPFIELDS, COSELEY AND THE TOWN OF DUDLEY'.

vi. [perhaps] David, died aged 10 and buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 22 September 1784.

vii. Esther, born early in 1777 and baptised aged 15 months on 8 April 1778. She is perhaps the lady for whom marriage banns were called twice at Pedmore in August 1794. A loose sheet in the Pedmore register states that she and Joseph Heathcock did not live in Pedmore and that he was 19 and, therefore, they did not marry. He is perhaps the son of Joseph and Tamar (Homer) Heathcock, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford in 1775. Joseph and Esther were, in fact, married a month later on 21 September 1794 at St Benedict's, Wombourne. Thomas Skidmore and Edward Cartwright were witnesses. Four children of this marriage are known to 1802.

51. JOHN'S SKIDMORE, the son of John [25] and Mary Skidmore, was baptised on 11 November 1753 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. During his final illness he related much about his life, subsequently published as a memorial in The Baptist Magazine after his death on 9 March 1817. He was born and raised in Brettell Lane and from his earliest years worked in a coal pit. When a boy, he drove the horse with the coals from the extremity of the pit to the shaft. On several occasions he narrowly escaped death in pit accidents, and carried a scar above one eye where part of a pillar fell as he passed by, a piece cutting him badly. He remembered as a boy being taken by his parents to Netherton to hear Messrs McGowan and Mason preach. In his early twenties he was ‘earnestly longing for divine mercy, and praying and seeking after it’. He recalls finding quiet parts of the coal pit in which he worked to pray. He met with persecution among his fellow miners when he professed his religion, one man cursing him and stripping to fight.

John married for the first time at the age of 23. His wife (not named) was ‘a member of the Wesleyan friends’. I believe her to be his first cousin, Penelope the daughter of Benjamin [27] and the widow of Joseph Witton. They were married at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 14 October 1776, witnessed by Peter Skidmore, presumably John's brother. His wife did not share his longing for religious worship and one night ‘violently opposed me, and fastened the door’. John did not argue but slipped out from an upstairs window to attend a meeting. Penelope Skidmore died in 1779 and was buried on 14 February at St Mary’s, Oldswinford.

John's second wife is known from his will to have been Elizabeth. He could then be the widower who married Elizabeth Tibbetts at St Martin’s in Birmingham on 5 August 1782. A witness was Sarah Bird. John and Elizabeth were baptised together by Mr James Butterworth at Bromsgrove and joined the Baptist society at Brettell Lane. The Baptist Meeting House was on Meeting Lane off the south side of Brettell Lane (plot 1022h on Fowler’s map of 1822). Soon after he joined the Baptist Society he was ordained deacon with Mr Thomas Green. His time as deacon was not always an easy one and he recalls trouble at the meetings from ‘visiting disorderly members’.  

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65 Apparently sharing their home, though whether relatives or lodgers is not known, were William Southwick, a blacksmith born about 1795, his wife Ann Southwick, born about 1794, and their daughter Ann Southwick born about 1826. William Southwick was a blacksmith of Princes End who married Diana (surname unknown). Their daughter Ann Southwick’s birth on 25 October 1826 is recorded in the register of the Darkhouse Baptist Chapel. (A William Southwick, miner of West Bromwich, and his wife Ann baptised two children at St Martin’s, Tipton – Thomas in 1829 and Noah in 1831 – but this would appear to be a different man).  


67 Richardson, E., p.16.
In December 1782 John moved to Coseley where two friends of Brierley Hill origin, namely Thomas Smith and John Smith, had previously settled with their families. Thomas Smith had moved to live in the Deepfields area in 1776, shortly followed by five others. They began to worship in the week in their houses and went to the Baptist Chapel at Dudley on Sundays. In Coseley they held meetings in the large kitchen of a farmhouse belonging to a Mr Wassell. This was known as the 'Darkhouse', so called because it was completely surrounded by trees which obscured the light. The lane leading to the farm was also known as Dark Lane because it was overshadowed by an avenue of trees.

A record of the founding of this new church is to be found in the Church Minute Book 68. 'On Wednesday June 18th 1783, met in the fear of the Lord, and, after prayer, unanimously agreed to separate ourselves from the Church of Christ at Dudley and to embody ourselves as the Church of Christ at the Darkhouse. This was the first meeting upon this solemn occasion. Our reason for this is the inconvenience we and our families labour under, being three miles from the church at Dudley'. It is noted that the Church at Dudley opposed this move. The names attached to the declaration were Smith, Groucutt, Claridge, Horton, Wassell, Bissell, Waterhouse, Dangerfield (perhaps B.H.D. who wrote The Baptist Magazine article), Cornfield, Parkes, Webb, Hill, Mason, Jeavons, Stevens, Skidmore, Wagstaff, Green, Turley and Lewis.

A new chapel was opened on 17 December 1785 and John Skidmore remained its deacon for thirty three years. It was registered for the Particular Baptists in 1787 by Thomas Smith who became the Pastor until his death in 1808. This left the church without a Pastor for a period, during which time a division occurred resulting in the founding of the Providence Baptist Church, Coseley. Unfortunately, the earliest register for Darkhouse chapel was not deposited and almost certainly contains the births of John and Elizabeth Skidmore's children, and perhaps those of his nephew John Skidmore.

It is possible that, after the death of his brother Peter [50] in 1785, John undertook to care for Peter's sons Benjamin and John, who both settled in Coseley.

On 4 May 1796 John Skidmore, coal miner, together with others, borrowed £600 from Mrs Alice Gough, widow of Wolverhampton. This was in connection with the Temple Street Baptist Chapel in Wolverhampton. Others named were William Taylor, steel toy maker, Thomas Smith, rule maker and George Williams, tinplate worker, all of Wolverhampton; Thomas Smith, coal miner, Joshua Bissell, woodscrew forger, Richard Mills, butcher, all of Coseley, John Smith, coal miner, Richard Bayliss, enamel box maker and Joseph Pagett, box maker, all of Bilston 69.

John Skidmore was not always a working collier. He was appointed bailiff over several large collieries and, at the time he made his will in 1815 (proved at Lichfield on 11 June 1817) described himself as a yeoman. His executors were John Wassell, engineer of Sedgley parish (presumably the Mr Wassell in whose farmhouse meetings were originally held) and William Green, coal bailiff of the Deepfields. John Skidmore had purchased from Thomas Smith eight houses in the Capon Field, which he bequeathed (after his wife's death) to his sons Joseph Skidmore and David Skidmore. His sons also received his canal boat, his watch and his wearing apparel. His own dwelling in Skidmore's Row passed to his daughter Deborah. Three houses adjacent to John's house in Skidmore's Row, one in the possession of Benjamin Skidmore (presumably his nephew, son of Peter [50]) passed to his daughter Elizabeth. His daughter Hannah received the three houses adjacent to Benjamin Skidmore's house. Present-day Skidmore Road in Coseley corresponds to Skidmore's Row in Deepfields.

Elizabeth Skidmore survived her husband and was present at the births of her daughter Deborah Rollason's children, the last in 1826, though not at the births of her daughter Elizabeth's children beginning in 1828.

The children of John and Elizabeth (Tibbetts) Skidmore,

i. Joseph, born about 1786. He married Mary Butterworth (born about 1784, daughter of Henry Butterworth, gentleman of Coventry) on 16 March 1819 at St Michael's, Coventry. Mary was given £4500 and three Rochdale Canal Co. shares in the will of her father in 1840 70. She also received a copy of Dr Manton's Sermons. Her family belonged to the Cow Lane Baptist Chapel in Coventry, where they had a family vault. Mary was perhaps an invalid or in poor health since her

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68 The Surrendered Nonconformist Registers of the Parish of Sedgley including Coseley, Staffordshire, BMSGH 1989.
69 Wolverhampton Archives DX/602/19.
70 Coventry Archives PA.101/8/1 - PA/101/9/156.
father's will allowed the trustees to support her from her moneys if she became incapable. Nine people each received a gold ring, including Mary Skidmore and 'M. Skidmore's husband'.

Joseph Skidmore was an excise officer, living with his wife in Frankwell, Shrewsbury, Shropshire at the time of the 1841 census. He moved back to Deepfields and bought land in Broad Lanes, Ettingshall, which he left to his sister Deborah Rollason in his will (proved at Lichfield on 10 April 1850). He died in 1850Q1.

Marianne Skidmore, daughter of Henry Butterworth married William Mason (born 1811/12 in Alphington, Devon, son of William Mason) on 11 January 1851 St Michael's, Coventry and lived in Smithford Street, Coventry at census time that year. Her will, made on 4 November 1850 when she was still a widow, divides her personalty equally between her brother Henry Butterworth (of London, esq. and her executor) and her widowed sister Elizabeth Johnson of Birmingham. She expressed the wish to be buried in their family vault at Cow Lane Baptist Chapel. Her death was perhaps registered at Coventry in 1852Q4. Mr Mason then married Mary Ann _____ and went to live in Paddington, London.

96. ii. DAVID, born about 1789 in Deepfields. He was apprenticed on 20 August 1803 to Robert Hewitt, a joiner of Sedgley parish. He married Mary Ann _____ and they lived in Broad Lanes in the hamlet of Ettingshall, Sedgley parish, in the 1820s. He is among a list of joiners and carpenters in Kelly's Directory of 1828-29, of Brierley, Bilston, and again in Robson's Directory of 1839, a carpenter of Broad Lane, Bilston.

He is almost certainly the 80 year old man mentioned in Freeman's Black Country Folk as having been the deacon at the Darkhouse Chapel for many years. He was known at Ladymoor (in Sedgley parish) where he lived as 'a bit of an oddity', who made his own coffin and kept it ready in his house for forty years. He related the story of a winter's day in 1830 when buckets of hot water were carried from the Deepfields furnaces to supply water for immersion in the Darkhouse baptistry. The workmen did not disabuse the visiting Dudley minister, who was unaware of the carriage of the hot water, of his conviction that a miracle had occurred.

Mrs Skidmore was presumably the lady of her name whose death was registered at Dudley in 1859Q3. David Skidmore gent died on 25 July 1876 in Broad Lane, leaving a will (not seen). An executor was his grandson William Henry Harrold (born about 1855), baker of Monmore Green, Wolverhampton.

The children of David and Mary Ann Skidmore, baptised in Bilston,

i. John, baptised 4 December 1823.

ii. Deborah, baptised 10 September 1826. She married Henry Harrold, a bricklayer (born about 1832, son of William Harrold, master bricklayer and builder of Hall Green, Brierley, and his wife Ann) on 9 March 1852 at Sedgley. Henry was a carpenter and builder, living in 1861 with his children in Romford, Essex and in 1871 in New Hampton Road, Wolverhampton, where he also ran a general provisions shop. Deborah lived with her father in Ettingshall until at least 1871 and died in 1874Q4 aged 48.

iii. [perhaps] Peter, died aged 2, buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill 3 May 1795.

iv. Deborah, born late 1790s. She married Benjamin Rollason, engineer, on 17 December 1817 at St Michael's, Coventry. It is probable that Benjamin's parents were Peter & Hannah Rollason from the Bradley/Bilston area. The birth records of four of their children, born in Brierley hamlet in Coseley (not to be confused with Brierley Hill township) between 1819 and 1826, were copied from the earlier register and from Mr Rollason's family bible, and three more children are recorded to 1834. Benjamin Rollason was a wire and cement manufacturer, whose works were near the Pot House Bridge in Bilston, and whose family were also involved in the Bradley Iron Works at Deepfields and in wire manufacture in Birmingham and also in the area of Wellington or

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Freeman, John, Black Country Stories and Sketches, pub. 1930, extracts of which pub. by the Black Country Society in 1970 as Freeman's Black Country Folk. John Freeman (1853-1944) lived in Bilston and most of the sketches relate to Bilston inhabitants, with a few Sedgley people. Unfortunately there is no indication in Freeman's work of when David Skidmore lived.
William Dunning was a witness.

ock areas of Dudley, becoming in the main iron workers and

71 she shared her home with her widowed daughter Dinah Hughes and

y lived in the New Dock, Dudley, where he was a coal mine

- 

s cousin, the son of Benjamin

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The children of William and Mary (Taylor) Skidmore, baptised

4 March 1827

Mary perhaps died on 13 February 1820 though her age is given as 60. William died aged 70 and was buried on

4 March 1827, like his wife at St Thomas', Dudley.

The children of William and Mary (Taylor) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

i. Jonas (presumably named after his maternal grandfather), baptised 25 March 1781. He died aged 14 and was buried as Jonah at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 16 July 1795.

ii. Ephraim, baptised 5 February 1784.

iii. WILLIAM, baptised 26 March 1786. See 11. ‘SKIDMORES OF DEEPFIELDS, COSELEY AND THE TOWN OF DUDLEY’.

and baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley,


v. Mary, baptised 26 September 1790. Buried 27 April 1793 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, aged 3.

vi. John, baptised 14 October 1792 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Buried there 17 January 1796 aged 3.


viii. Jemima, baptised 12 July 1797. She married Thomas Jones, an iron moulder (born about 1804 in Newport, Monmouthshire) on 25 February 1828 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. The witnesses were Elizabeth Brown and Peter Skidmore, her brother. Thomas and Jemima lived with their large family in Springs Mire and later the New Dock area of Dudley before moving to live with the family of their son William in North Ormesby, Yorkshire. Mrs Jones appears to have died in Dudley in 1880Q3 aged 83.

ix. Elizabeth, baptised 4 June 1799. She married John Darby, a coal labourer (born about 1795 in Dudley) at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 18 February 1821, witnessed by William and Sarah (Brettell) Bullows. Mr and Mrs Darby lived in the New Dock, Dudley, where he was a coal mine labourer and she a nailer. Elizabeth Darby died in 1868Q1 aged 68. My thanks to Zena Howell, whose husband is descended from this couple, for information on this family.

x. Mary Ann, baptised 10 October 1802. Buried 2 December 1805 at St Thomas’, Dudley.
98. xi. CORNELIUS, born 14 December 1803. **See 11. 'SKIDMores of DeePFIELDS, Coseley and the TOWn of Dudley'**.

53. **HENRY⁵ SKIDMORE** of Amblecote, the son of Thomas [26] and Sarah (Foley) Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 14 December 1740. Henry and his brother Jeremiah married sisters. Henry married, by licence, Phoebe Cartwright (baptised 7 March 1756 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, the daughter of Joseph and Susannah Cartwright) on 5 July 1778 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. A witness was Benjamin Cartwright, presumably Phoebe's older brother. Shortly after his marriage Henry received a legacy in the will of his step-mother Mary Skidmore.

Phoebe Skidmore died aged 45 and was buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 15 February 1801. Henry lived to be 69 and was buried there on 25 February 1810.

**The children of Henry and Phoebe (Cartwright) Skidmore, baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill,**

i. Anna Maria, baptised 29 August 1779. She married John Plant (baptised 22 September 1776 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, son of John and Elizabeth (Parry) Plant) at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 25 December 1797. Harden Cooksey and Thomas Pinches were witnesses. Two children of this marriage are known, baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill in 1798 and 1799. Information on the Plant families of the area was kindly supplied by Kathy Compagno.

99. ii. THOMAS, baptised 6 May 1781. **See 12. 'SKIDMores of Amblecote Bank & the Delph, Kingswinford parish'**.

100. iii. JOHN, baptised 26 January 1783. **See 12. 'SKIDMores of Amblecote Bank & the Delph.....'**.

iv. Sarah, baptised 25 December 1784. She could be the lady who married William Evans, coal miner (born about 1801 in Bilston) at St Martin's, Tipton on 30 October 1820. They lived for many years in Portway Road, Wednesbury. At the time of the 1841 census, their family home was shared by a lady called Ensy Skidmore aged 40-[44] - perhaps Henzy Skidmore, Sarah's sister, though her age was nearer 50 - and by 1-year old Eliza Deventon, unfortunately so far unidentified. Sarah Evans' age was given in 1841 as 50[-54] but in 1851 as 67, birthplace Brierley Hill.


vi. David, 26 October 1794. He died at the age of 23 and was buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 5 October 1817, of Amblecote.

54. **JEREMIAH⁶ SKIDMORE**, the son of Thomas [26] and Sarah (Foley) Skidmore, was baptised on 25 September 1743 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. He married Joanna Cartwright on 12 June 1764 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, witnessed by Thomas Westwood. Joanna was baptised on 8 December 1741 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, the daughter of Joseph and Susannah Cartwright (and sister to Phoebe who married Jeremiah's brother Henry [53]).

In 1778 Jeremiah received a legacy in the will of his step-mother Mary Skidmore. The will's executor was Joseph Cartwright, presumably Joanna's father. Money was placed with John Bradley, maltster of Worcester, towards the education of Jeremiah's children until they should reach the age of 21. Three men who appear to be Jeremiah's sons - Henry, John and Thomas - were living in the Delph according to Fowler's plan of Kingswinford of 1822.

He appears to be the Jeremiah Skidmore buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 25 August 1801, although his age is given as 67. Joanna lived to be 74 and was buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 21 November 1815.

**The children of Jeremiah and Joanna (Cartwright) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford,**

i. Sarah, baptised 26 May 1765. She married Dudley Stevens (baptised 20 July 1760 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, son of Edward and Mary (Cartwright) Stevens) on 18 January 1784 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. Richard Rolleston and Till Nash were witnesses. On 4 August 1826 Thomas [99] of the Delph, and Dudley Stevens of Cliers Plain, parish of Kingswinford, miner and Sarah his wife (née Skidmore) leased property in Mill Lane, Stourbridge. This was one or both of the two houses left in the will of Sarah's grandfather Thomas [26] to Sarah's father (and uncle Henry).

Note that there is only one reference to the surname Deventon in the complete GRO indexes of births, deaths and marriages (and that in Suffolk) and a few variants in London. The IGI has a very few Deventon references.
Sarah and Dudley Stevens were living in 1841 at Amblecote Bank with son James (baptised 1791) and Joseph (baptised 1821), two of several children baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford. Dudley Stevens died in 1847Q3 and by 1851 his widow was living with her son James Stevens who farmed 50 acres at Thorn.

101. ii. THOMAS, baptised 1 February 1767. See 12. ‘SKIDMORES OF AMBLECOTE BANK & THE DELPH.....’ and baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill,

iii. Mary, baptised 11 June 1769. A possible marriage for Mary Skidmore was that to Harden Cooksey (baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford 3 December 1759, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Arden) Cooksey) on 10 February 1793. Henry Skidmore, perhaps her brother, was a witness. Their daughter Emma Cooksey married Obadiah [210].

102. iv. HENRY, baptised 22 September 1771. See 12. ‘SKIDMORES OF AMBLECOTE BANK & THE DELPH.....’. v. Phoebe, baptised 13 February 1774. She married Benjamin Holt, coal miner (born about 1774 in Amblecote), at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 27 March 1796. Thomas Cartwright and Joanna (Stevens) Cartwright were witnesses, apparently the couple married on 25 December 1795 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Nine children of Benjamin and Phoebe were baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill between 1797 and 1817. William Fowler’s survey of Kingswinford in 1822 shows a Benjamin Holt leasing a house and garden (plot 450g) on the north-west side of Church Street, Brierley Hill, at its junction with Crescent Street. The Holt, Cartwright and Stevens families also held land in the Delph, Brierley Hill, as shown in the 1820 Enclosure Map of Pensnett Chase. Benjamin and Phoebe Holt were living in Brierley Hill at the time of the 1841 census. Mrs Holt’s death was probably that registered at Stourbridge in 1851Q1 after which her husband lived with the family of his son Enoch.

103. vi. BENJAMIN, baptised 11 March 1776. See 12. ‘SKIDMORES OF AMBLECOTE BANK & THE DELPH.....’.

vii. John, baptised 12 July 1778 and buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill on 12 September 1781.

viii. Joseph, baptised 11 June 1780. Buried 3 November 1807 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, aged 27.

104. ix. JOHN, baptised 29 May 1783. See 12. ‘SKIDMORES OF AMBLECOTE BANK & THE DELPH.....’.

x. [probably] JAMES, born about 1787. See 12. ‘SKIDMORES OF AMBLECOTE BANK & THE DELPH.....’.

55. OBADIAH SKIDMORE, the son of Benjamin [27] and Mary (Hatton) Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 19 September 1742. This is the first occurrence of the name Obadiah in the Midlands family and presumably was a tribute to his mother’s father, Obadiah Hatton. The name was to persist through the next three generations within this section of the family. Obadiah married Rebecca Shaw (daughter of George and Mary (Jones) Shaw, baptised 25 April 1747 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford) on 17 July 1768 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. Her cousin Priscilla Shaw married Peter [50].

The burial register for Oldswinford records that Obadiah was killed in a coal pit and was buried aged 51 on 4 December 1793. It appears that Obadiah had a premonition since it is said that on the grave of Mary Stevens, perhaps the daughter of Henry [42], is inscribed

‘Obadiah Skidmore died Dec 2nd 1793 aged 51 years.
Pleased be God who thought it fit
That I should be killed in a coal pit.
So as I dreamed it proved true
And unto Christ my soul was due.’

This inscription is related in a letter written in 1946 by George Robert Joshua Skidmore, great great grandson of Obadiah. This letter says that Obadiah lived in Withymoor.

Rebecca survived her husband and was living at Lye Waste at the time of her death. She was buried on 8 October 1815 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, said to be aged 63 (thought to be 68).

The children of Obadiah and Rebecca (Shaw) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,

106. i. GEORGE, baptised 23 April 1769. See 13. ‘SKIDMORE COLLIERS AND INNKEEPERS OF AMBLECOTE, STAFFORDSHIRE, AND POTMAKERS OF STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE, 1750-1910’.

ii. Mary, baptised 23 June 1771. Although she would have been in her late forties at the birth of her

73 Richardson, E., p.16.
last child, she perhaps married John Cartwright on 27 December 1802 at Hagley. Eight baptisms are recorded for John and Mary Cartwright at St Mary's, Oldswinford to 1818 including Francis Skidmore Cartwright in 1809.

iii. Obadiah, baptised 4 April 1773, buried 8 December 1774 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.
iv. Obadiah, baptised 23 April 1775 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He married Ann Hicken (baptised 9 November 1777 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, daughter of John and Ann Hicken) on 21 September 1799 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. The marriage was witnessed by Francis Skidmore, almost certainly Obadiah's brother, and Elizabeth Hicken. A gravestone in Oldswinford churchyard commemorates (only) this couple. Obadiah died on 17 June 1819, aged 44 of Kingswinford. Ann survived him by 11 years. She died on 25 January 1830, aged 53 of Stourbridge. She would appear to have been the tenant in 1822 of a house and garden in Withymoor.

vi. Margaret, baptised 25 December 1778. She married Benjamin Pearson on 25 March 1799 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen. The marriage was witnessed by Francis Skidmore, probably Margaret's brother. Five children of this marriage were baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill between 1800 and 1808. Margaret appears to be the lady aged 60\(-64\) in the 1841 census in Turk Street, with Margaret Gould aged 4 and living close to Thomas [99] and John [100].

108. vii. FREDERICK, baptised 24 December 1780. See 14. 'SKIDMORE FURNACEMEN OF BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE'.

viii. Rebecca, baptised 24 November 1782. She married Thomas Perry, a miner on 6 February 1804 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, on the same day that her brother Frederick was married to Susannah Edge. Both marriages were witnessed by Mary Edge and Thomas Ireland. Thomas Perry was perhaps the son of Richard and Mary (Perks) Perry, baptised 1 January 1780 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, and brother to John Perry who probably married firstly a Sarah Skidmore at St Thomas', Dudley on 2 June 1816 (witness John Allen), and secondly Elizabeth (Cooksey) Skidmore, widow of Richard [85]. Five children of this marriage were baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill to 1817. Thomas and Rebecca Perry were living in 1851 at the Delph.

ix. Esther, baptised 5 March 1786. She married John Barnbrooke on 28 April 1811 at Kingswinford. William Holmes was a witness. Seven of their children were baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill and Oldswinford to 1825. John Barnbrooke was a potter of Brierley Hill, and one of the executors of the will of his wife's brother George (Shaw) Skidmore (proved at Worcester on 21 August 1834).

In the family bible of Jeremiah [115], Esther's cousin, are found the words 'Jane Barnbrooke was baptised at Old Swinford Church in the year 1743 Feb 4th. 90 years of age last Feb 4t\(h\)'. Eight baptisms are recorded for John and Mary Cartwright at St Mary's, Oldswinford to 1818 including Francis Skidmore Cartwright in 1809.

In the family bible of Jeremiah [115], Esther's cousin, are found the words 'Jane Barnbrooke was baptised at Old Swinford Church in the year 1743 Feb 4th. 90 years of age last Feb 4t\(h\)'.

John Barnbrooke's pottery was left in his will of 1855 to John Jeavons. It seems likely that at some time John Barnbrooke acquired the watch of Jeremiah [115] and that the watch passed to John Jeavons, the husband of John Barnbrooke's granddaughter Esther Meese (daughter of Thomas and Diana (Barnbrooke) Meese). John Jeavons in turn left it, in his will of 1904, to his nephew John Thomas Skidmore, son of Thomas [439a]. John Jeavons attended Silver End Methodist Church, Brierley Hill and his signature can be regularly seen throughout their baptism and marriage registers. This information was kindly provided by Connie Phillips of Stourbridge, great granddaughter of John Jeavons.

At the time of the 1861 census John Jeavons was still an iron puddler but by 1871 had become a potter (with his father-in-law Thomas Meese) in Silver End Street, Brierley Hill. It is possible that John Barnbrooke's death was that registered at Stourbridge in 1864Q1.

56. THOMAS'S SKIDMORE, son of Benjamin [27] and Mary (Hatton) Skidmore, was born at Stamford House, Amblecote, and baptised on 16 April 1750 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He married Mary Walker on 8 June 1770 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. She was baptised on 12 May 1751 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, the daughter of Simon
and Elizabeth Walker. We have no documentary evidence of his occupation but he was doubtless involved in coal mining, as were all his sons. Thomas and Mary Skidmore lived at Stamford House in Amblecote and both reached a good age. Thomas died at the age of 71 and was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 3 May 1821. The bible of his son Jeremiah Skidmore shows that Thomas died on 29 April, a Sunday evening. 'It wanted about 22 mints of 6 oclock happy are the dead that die in the Lord as I verely believe he did'.

Mary Skidmore reached 86 years and was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on Easter Tuesday in the year 1837 (28 March). She died on 23 March, a Thursday, at half past ten am. 'Thus died one of the greatest Peace Makers in a family. One who never sowed discord in families among friends or neboers eather in the churches or out. She was one of the kindest one of the lovingest one of the mercyfullest one of the tenderhearte in a family. One who never sowed discord in familyes among friends or nebours eather in the churches or out. Owing to the large number of descendants of Thomas and Mary Skidmore, these have been split between a number of files. The children of Thomas and Mary (Walker) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

109. i. BENJAMIN, baptised 8 March 1772. See 15. 'SKIDMORES OF STAMFORD HOUSE, AMBLECOTE'.
110. ii. JOHN, baptised 27 February 1774. See 15. 'SKIDMORES OF STAMFORD HOUSE, AMBLECOTE'.
111. iii. JOSEPH, baptised 25 December 1776. See 15. 'SKIDMORES OF STAMFORD HOUSE, AMBLECOTE'.
iv. George, baptised 5 September 1779. No burial has been found but this child presumably died an infant since a further son George was baptised.
v. Phoebe, baptised 4 March 1781. She married Joseph Scriven, a glassmaker, on 11 January 1800 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen. The marriage was witnessed by Thomas Knight. Their son Ben Scriven's baptism on 6 July 1817 is recorded in the Bible of Phoebe's brother Jeremiah, as is Phoebe's death on 12 August 1856 aged 75 years, 'wife of Jos. Scriven, Moore Lane'. Joseph and Phoebe had ten children baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford and Brierley Hill between 1800 and 1824.
vi. George, baptised 7 November 1784, buried 17 January 1804 at St Mary's, Oldswinford aged 19. His brother Jeremiah's bible tells us that he was killed.
112. vii. THOMAS, baptised 18 November 1787. See 15. 'SKIDMORES OF STAMFORD HOUSE, AMBLECOTE'.
113. viii. Susannah, baptised 25 December 1790. She married Levi Hill, a moulder (baptised 9 May 1786 at St Lawrence's, Darlaston, son of Isaac and Sarah Hill) at All Saints, West Bromwich74, on 1 October 1810, witnessed by Lot Hill, Levi's brother, and Sarah Hill. Levi and Susan Hill had six children baptised at St Bartholomew's, Wednesbury to 1830 and were living in 1841 at New Village, Oldbury. Levi Hill's death on 28 December 1847 is recorded in the Bible of Susannah's brother Jeremiah and by 1851 Susannah was in Bilston Road, Tipton with her son John and daughter Mary Read and family. She later lived with the family of her daughter Pheobe Colley in Horseley Heath and died perhaps in 1861Q4.
114. ix. CHARLES, baptised 31 March 1793. See 15. 'SKIDMORES OF STAMFORD HOUSE, AMBLECOTE'.
115. x. DAVID, baptised 24 April 1796. See 15. 'SKIDMORES OF STAMFORD HOUSE, AMBLECOTE'.
116. xi. JEREMIAH, baptised 4 November 1798. See 15. 'SKIDMORES OF STAMFORD HOUSE, AMBLECOTE'.

57. FRANCIS 5 SKIDMORE, the son of Benjamin [27] and Mary (Hatton) Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 3 November 1754. He married Ann Aston on 9 February 1778 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. Unlike

74 All Saints, the parish church of West Bromwich, stands on the east side of the parish. Christ Church ecclesiastical parish was formed in February 1827; the church is in High Street, in the most populous part of the town. Holy Trinity ecclesiastical parish was formed in 1842, with the church in Trinity Street. St James Church at Hill Top serves St James ecclesiastical parish, formed September 1844. St Peter's ecclesiastical parish was formed in 1861; the church in Whitehall Road, Greets Green, was consecrated in 1858. St John the Evangelist ecclesiastical parish was formed in March 1879 from part of Christ Church parish; the church in Sams Lane was erected in 1878. St Andrew's ecclesiastical parish was formed in March 1879 from parts of All Saints, Christ Church, St James and St Peter's parishes; the original church was in Old Meeting Street, later replaced by a new building in Dudley Street. St Philip's ecclesiastical parish was formed in 1900 from part of Christ Church parish; the church in Beeches Road, was erected in 1898-9.
his older brothers Obadiah and Thomas he and his bride were able to write their names on the marriage certificate. The marriage was witnessed by Thomas Martin and Elizabeth Aston. Francis died when only 28 and a gravestone in Oldswinford churchyard records that he died on 3 May (buried 6 May) 1783. His widow married secondly James Bradley, a widower, at Wolverhampton on 17 January 1789. The two surviving children of Francis and Ann presumably lived with their mother and stepfather until their untimely deaths, both at the age of 19.

The children of Francis and Ann (Aston) Skidmore, baptised and buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

i. Mary, baptised 9 May 1779 and buried 4 June of that year.
ii. Charles, baptised 28 May 1780. His death at the age of 19 on 19 December 1799 is recorded on his father's gravestone.
iii. Mary, baptised 25 December 1782. She died at the age of 19 and was buried at Oldswinford on 30 October 1803. The latter part of the gravestone bearing her father and brother's memorials could well record her death though it is difficult to decipher.

NOTES on the fifth generation

MARY SKIDMORE had a son, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

i. Joseph, baptised 3 April 1768. Perhaps died an infant, buried at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 11 July - see also Joseph son of John [47].
ii. [perhaps] Mary, buried a pauper at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 3 May 1788, aged 16.

58. EPHRAIM\textsuperscript{5} SKIDMORE, the son of John [28] & Mary (Mills) Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 7 January 1739. He was apprenticed in 1754 to Samuel Maberly, a gunsmith in Birmingham, for £3.3.0d, and later pursued his trade in Wednesbury. Ephraim Skidmore married Hannah Bissell on 15 February 1767 at St Bartholomew's, Wednesbury, where their four known children were baptised. He is found in the 1801 census for Wednesbury in Potters Lane. The house was occupied by one family, a male and a female - presumably his wife - with the head of the household 'employed in trade, manufacture and handicraft'. Ephraim is the only head of household with the surname Skidmore found in this census of Wednesbury (held in Smethwick library). 771 houses are covered, with 5372 inhabitants.

It is probable Ephraim married for a second time. Ephraim Skidmore, said to be a bachelor, married Mrs Joanna Russon on 18 September 1774. Joshua Bissell was a witness. Ephraim was buried at St Bartholomew's, Wednesbury on 1 February 1807.

The children of Ephraim and Hannah (Bissell) Skidmore, baptised and buried at St Bartholomew's, Wednesbury,

116. i. CHARLES, baptised 3 April 1768. See 16. 'SKIDMORE GUNSMITHS OF WEDNESBURY, Staffs'.
ii. James, baptised 25 December 1769 and buried on 15 August 1771 aged 1.
iii. [perhaps] James, died at the age of 65 of Upper Green, buried at St Martin's, Tipton on 20 August 1837.
iv. Mary, baptised 14 March 1773 and buried 8 August 1778.
v. Ephraim, baptised 2 June 1776 and buried 4 January 1778.
117. vi. [presumably] JOSEPH. See 16. 'SKIDMORE GUNSMITHS OF WEDNESBURY, Staffs'.

59. THOMAS\textsuperscript{5} SKIDMORE, son of Daniel [30] and Mary (Hawkins) Skidmore, was born on 30 August 1721 and baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 3 September of that year. He is thought to have married Diana Smith there on 24 February 1740/1. It is possible he married secondly Ann Green at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 6 August 1744 (see Thomas [60] below). No evidence of Thomas Skidmore's occupation has been found.

Thomas and Diana (Smith) Skidmore had one known child, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

i. Benjamin, baptised 28 June 1741. I believe he died young and was buried on either 24 March 1743 or 31 March 1749 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.

63. JOSEPH\textsuperscript{5} SKIDMORE was perhaps the son of Daniel [30] and Mary (Hawkins) Skidmore, baptised 14 December 1735 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. He married Margaret Holland (perhaps baptised 26 December 1748 at St Chad's, Shrewsbury, daughter of Gilbert and Eleanor Holland of Shrewsbury and later Kidderminster) in
Shrewsbury on 16 November 1769. Gilbert Holland is probably the man mentioned in the marriage settlement of 1746 between Humphrey Sandford and Elizabeth Jones, as the tenant of a house in Rowsell Lane in Shrewsbury. Margaret Skidmore could be the lady buried at St Thomas', Dudley on 8 March 1781.

Possible children of Joseph and Margaret (Holland) Skidmore,

- Joseph, baptised 18 June 1775 at St Thomas', Dudley.
- James, baptised 28 November 1775 at All Saints', Worcester.

60. THOMAS⁵ SKIDMORE married Ann Green at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 6 August 1744. She is perhaps the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Green, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 20 April 1712. Thomas' origins are uncertain. This could be a second marriage for Thomas [59].

Children of Thomas and Ann (Green) Skidmore, baptised at Kingswinford,

- Thomas, baptised 24 August 1745.
- John, probably born in the late 1740s.

61. ADAM⁵ SKIDMORE married Sarah Harper⁷⁶ (baptised 29 July 1731 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, daughter of Thomas and Susannah Harper) at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 16 June 1754. No baptism has been found for this man. The name Adam occurs amongst the children of Thomas [73]. Adam Skidmore was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 17 November 1781, on the same day as a Joseph Skidmore (perhaps Joseph [62]).

The children of Adam and Sarah (Harper) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

- Ann, baptised 29 September 1754, buried 3 October of that year.
- John, baptised 31 March 1756.
- Hannah, baptised 21 January 1759.
- Sarah, baptised 8 December 1765, (on the same day as children of Thomas [33] and Joseph [62]).
- Mary, baptised 24 March 1771.

62. JOSEPH⁵ SKIDMORE married Ann Brook (perhaps daughter of William and Elizabeth Brook, baptised 2 April 1737 at St Mary's, Oldswinford) on 15 April 1762 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. The marriage was witnessed by William Parkes and Robert Lucas. Daughters Sarah and Rose were born in 1763 and 1765 and then - following a ten-year interval, two further girls were born to a Joseph and Ann Skidmore. In the absence of other information, these latter are included here.

Ann Skidmore was buried on 14 September 1806 at St Mary's, Oldswinford aged 69. Joseph was perhaps man of his name buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 17 November 1781, on the same day as a Joseph Skidmore [61].

The children of Joseph and Ann (Brook) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

- Sarah, baptised 27 February 1763⁸³.
- Rose, baptised 8 December 1765, (on the same day as children of Adam Skidmore [61] and of Thomas [33]).
- Sarah, baptised 17 April 1775⁸³.
- Mary, baptised 14 September 1777.

65. JOSEPH⁷ SKIDMORE married Mary and had one known child. Mary Skidmore, 'wife of Joseph' and perhaps this lady, was buried at St Thomas', Dudley on 3 November 1771.

A child of Joseph and Mary Skidmore,

- Edward, baptised, apparently posthumously, on 3 October 1773 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill.

See also notes on Edward son of William [37].

66. MAURICE⁷ SKIDMORE married Martha ____. They were one of the few Skidmore families to live in Bilston parish, or at least to use Bilston Church. This is the only known occurrence of the name Maurice amongst the Skidmores of the West Midlands and could be the use of the surname Morris as a forename.

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⁷⁵ Shropshire Records and Research Centre 465/596, 597 28 and 29 January 1745/6.
⁷⁶ Burials of Sarah Skidmore, ages not specified in the burial register, who could be the wife of Adam Skidmore or of his daughter Sarah, or either of the presumed daughters of Joseph [62]: 2 November 1768; 18 September 1771; 22 October 1775; 3 July 1781, all burials at St Mary's, Oldswinford.
other known instances of Skidmores in Bilston at this time, see Joseph [43], Richard [44], and Thomas [67] and John [68].

The children of Maurice and Martha Skidmore, baptisms (and burials) at St Leonard’s, Bilston,

i. Sarah, baptised 18 April 1767.
ii. Mary, buried 19 March 1773.
iii. James, buried 4 February 1775.

67. THOMAS75 SKIDMORE, like Maurice [66], was in Bilston in the early 1770s. He married Ann _____ and perhaps secondly Mrs Mary Bond at St Martin’s, Tipton on 22 January 1775.

One known child of Thomas and Ann Skidmore,

?118. i. THOMAS, baptised 3 May 1772 at St Leonard’s, Bilston.

See 18. ‘SKIDMORE GLASSMEN OF BIRMINGHAM, LATER OF LAMBETH, LONDON’.
PROBATE

1664, WILL OF WILLIAM SKUDEMORE, COLLIER OF KINGSWINFORD, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [1].

1724, WILL OF ESAIAH SKIDMORE, COLLIER OF KINGSWINFORD, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [7].

1728, WILL OF JOSEPH SKIDMORE OF AMBLECOTE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [6].

1732, WILL OF HANNAH GASKIN, WIDOW OF HALESOWEN, SHROPSHIRE.

1751, WILL OF EMME SKIDMORE, WIDOW OF HALESOWEN, SHROPSHIRE.

1761, WILL OF THOMAS SKIDMORE, GROUND COLLIER OF OLDSWINFORD, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [14].

1765, WILL OF JOHN SKIDMORE, NAILER, OF HALESOWEN, SHROPSHIRE.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [23].

1770, WILL OF THOMAS SKIDMORE, COLLIER OF KINGSWINFORD, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [26].

1771, WILL OF JOSEPH SKIDMORE, COLLIER OF STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [41].

1778, WILL OF MARY SKIDMORE OF KINGSWINFORD, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Widow of Thomas Skidmore - Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [26].

1778, WILL OF CARY STAFFORD OF LONDON.
Employer of Solomon Skidmore - Skidmore/ Scudamore One-Name Study code KFD [35a].

1795, WILL OF JOSEPH SKIDMORE, VICTUALLER OF COLBOURNE BROOK, OLDSWINFORD PARISH, WORCESTERSHIRE.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [43].

1795, WILL OF JOSEPH SKIDMORE, DOUBLE PROBATE.
PCC 1261/343.

1806, WILL OF RICHARD SKIDMORE, GENTLEMAN OF ST PHILIP AND ST JACOB OUT, BRISTOL.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [44].

1817, WILL OF JOHN SKIDMORE, YEOMAN OF SEDGLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Skidmore/ Scudamore One-Name Study code KFD [51].

1827, WILL OF HENRY SKIDMORE, OF AMBLECOTE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [86].

1834, WILL OF HENRY PARKES SKIDMORE.
Scudamore Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [91].

1836, WILL OF CHARLES SKIDMORE, CLAY MERCHANT OF AMBLECOTE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Son of Joseph Skidmore Scudamore Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [43].

1827, WILL OF HENRY SKIDMORE, OF AMBLECOTE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name study code KFD [86].

1827, WILL OF JOHN SKIDMORE, GROCER OF HALESOWEN, SHROPSHIRE.
Son of John Skidmore - Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [48].

1837, WILL OF TRUTH SKIDMORE OF HALESOWEN, SHROPSHIRE.
Widow of John Skidmore of Halesowen son of John Skidmore KFD [48].

1842 WILL OF PRUDENCE HAMPTON, WIDOW OF BIRMINGHAM, WARWICKSHIRE.
Widow of Thomas Hampton and daughter of Thomas Skidmore - Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [33].

1850, WILL OF JOSEPH SKIDMORE, YEOMAN, LATE OFFICER OF EXCISE OF COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.
Son of John Skidmore -- Scudamore Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [51].

1856, WILL OF JAMES SKIDMORE, MINER OF CINDER BANK, DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
Son of John Skidmore - Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [38].

1858, WILL OF ANN SKIDMORE, SPINNER OF WOLLASTON, OLDSWINFORD, WORCESTERSHIRE.
Daughter of Richard Skidmore - Scudamore/Skidmore One-Name Study code KFD [87].

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77 See Databases of the Skidmore/ Scudamore One-Name Study for details of these wills (as known). These can be found at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com
UNKNOWN$^{76}$

These databases cross-reference to this and other written accounts using the code allocated to the male head of household. Individuals who cannot presently be identified are highlighted in these Excel workbooks in blue.

APPENDIX 1

Approximate numbers of individuals bearing the name Skidmore and thought to be descendants of
William Skidmore (c.1590-1664) and his wife Joyce (Batch, formerly Hawkes),
recorded in the 1881 British census and 1880 US census

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<th>County</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Surrey (including parts of London, e.g. Lambeth, Battersea)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Warwickshire</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Leicestershire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>4(78)</td>
<td>Lanarkshire</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>London, e.g.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holborn, Bromley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulham</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire</td>
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<td>USA (1880 census)</td>
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<td>TOTAL 1098 (?1119)</td>
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<td>Grand total of persons bearing the name Skidmore for whole of Britain</td>
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APPENDIX 2

In 1822 William Fowler made a survey of the Parish of Kingswinford for the Earl of Dudley. In 1824 Reference to a Plan of the Parish of Kingswinford was published by W.Hodgetts. In it there was listed all the reference numbers of properties surveyed by Fowler, together with the names of occupiers, proprietors, descriptions of premises and their areas. This can be viewed on the Latter Day Saints film no. 1470771, from which Mrs Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum of Duxbury, Massachusetts, has kindly made the following extractions.

In 1999 the Black Country Society published Eric Richardson's excellent little book, William Fowler's Kingswinford. The Man, His Maps and the People and Places of 1822 and 1840. This succeeds in interpreting Fowler's map for us in a very clear and entertaining way. He uses the 'strip-route' map method used by motoring organisations for planning their members' holiday routes, thereby relating it to the layout of present-day Kingswinford. I have not seen the original Fowler plan and the position of the plots described below I have taken from Richardson. Where the plot does not appear in Richardson, I have made a best guess from the position of plots with similar numbers.

CLOCKWISE JOURNEY AROUND
THE ANCIENT PARISH OF KINGSWINFORD

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<th>NO. ON PLAN</th>
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<th>PROPRIETORS</th>
<th>PREMISES Acres rods perches</th>
<th>NOTES BY THE AUTHOR</th>
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FROM SUMMERHILL ROAD TO DUDLEY ROAD, THE VILLAGE

No Skidmores found.

FROM BROMLEY LANE TO BRIERLEY HILL THROUGH BROCKMOOR AND HOLLAND

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<th>PREMISES Acres rods perches</th>
<th>NOTES BY THE AUTHOR</th>
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<td>516g</td>
<td>Sarah Skidmore, John Brey,</td>
<td>Joshua Horton</td>
<td>Each occupier: House &amp;</td>
<td>Land at the junction of High Street &amp; Sun Street, in the area of Brockmoor then called</td>
</tr>
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<td>William Wood, John Bennett,</td>
<td></td>
<td>Garden 0 0 37</td>
<td>Hulland. ? daughter of Benjamin [71].</td>
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<td>Michael Saunders, Joseph</td>
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<td>Street, Richard Barnett</td>
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<tr>
<td>910a</td>
<td>John Westwood</td>
<td>Thomas Westwood</td>
<td>Each occupier: House &amp;</td>
<td>Land to the south of High Street (in the vicinity of the present Brockmoor Primary School and close to Plot 516g above. Perhaps Benjamin [71].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Benjamin Skidmore</td>
<td></td>
<td>Garden 0 3 39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Westwood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edward Beddall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Sower</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Benjamin Whitty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Morris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Talbot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Pargiter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1472</td>
<td>George Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>Stable &amp; land 1 1 4</td>
<td>George [106] or his son George [208].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FROM SHUT-END HALL TO BROCKMOOR

No Skidmores found.

ALONG DUDLEY ROAD AND HIGH STREET, BRIERLEY HILL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO. ON PLAN</th>
<th>OCCUPIERS</th>
<th>PROPRIETORS</th>
<th>PREMISES Acres rods perches</th>
<th>NOTES BY THE AUTHOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>469a</td>
<td>Benjamin Skidmore</td>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>House &amp; garden 0 1 32</td>
<td>NW side of Church Street, Brierley Hill, at its junction with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plot</td>
<td>Name1</td>
<td>Name2</td>
<td>Name3</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>942</td>
<td>Sarah Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>North Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>963k</td>
<td>Josiah Skidmore</td>
<td>Josiah Skidmore</td>
<td>Each occupier: House &amp; Garden</td>
<td>Beside High Street on east side, and south of junction with Mill Street, not far from Plot 942 above. An area including the school rooms, carpenter's shop, steam engine, shop &amp; slaughter house. I cannot identify this man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>461</td>
<td>Sarah Skidmore</td>
<td>Thomas Honeyborne</td>
<td>House &amp; garden</td>
<td>The NW side of Church Street in the vicinity of North Street. Widow of John [90].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1012</td>
<td>Frederick Skidmore</td>
<td>Thomas Brettell</td>
<td>House &amp; garden</td>
<td>Near where Church Street becomes Brettell Lane (present-day A461), SE side of road. Frederick [108].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1022d</td>
<td>Shadrach Talbot</td>
<td>John Griffis</td>
<td>Each occupier: House &amp; Garden</td>
<td>SW side of Brettell Lane, alongside Meeting Lane and/or the Stourbridge Canal. John [169].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1043b</td>
<td>James Skidmore</td>
<td>Benjamin Brettell</td>
<td>Each occupier: House &amp; Garden</td>
<td>To the SE of Brettell Lane and perhaps south of the Canal. James [74].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1082</td>
<td>Ann Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>House &amp; garden</td>
<td>Not far from Plot 1132 below. Probably in Withymoor, i.e. south of Delph Road. Widow of Joseph [84].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1132</td>
<td>Henry Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>Each occupier: House &amp; Garden</td>
<td>S. side of Delph Road and close to its junction with Turners Lane. Probably Henry [102].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1160</td>
<td>John Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>House &amp; garden</td>
<td>John [100].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1162</td>
<td>Thomas Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>Garden</td>
<td>Probably Thomas [99].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1173</td>
<td>Thomas Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>Croft</td>
<td>Thomas [99] or Thomas [101].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1178</td>
<td>Joseph Pearson</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>0 3 39</td>
<td>The Delph. Thomas [99] or Thomas [101].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1188</td>
<td>Maria Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>House &amp; garden</td>
<td>Probably near Amblecote Road. Widow of James [105].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1189</td>
<td>Benjamin Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>Croft 0 1 34</td>
<td>Benjamin [103].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1190a</td>
<td>Thomas Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>House &amp; garden 0 1 38</td>
<td>Probably Thomas [101].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1209</td>
<td>Thomas Skidmore</td>
<td>Lord Dudley</td>
<td>Croft 1 1 30</td>
<td>Dudley Stevens owned the croft at Plot 1201 on the NW side of Thorns Road, near its junction with Mount Pleasant. This is probably Thomas [101].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1424g</td>
<td>Richard Jones Sarah Barnett Charles Skidmore John Watt</td>
<td>Richard Penn</td>
<td>Blue Ball Public House Others house &amp; garden 0 0 39</td>
<td>Corner of Thorns Road and Quarry Bank High Street. Charles [113].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Along Brettell Lane to Audnam Bank**

| 299d | George Skidmore + 3 other tenants | Thomas Lowe | House & Garden 0 0 37 | North side of Lower Brettell Lane, opposite Dennis Park. Either George [106] or his son George [208]. |

**Wordsley from The Green to Buckpool**

| 620 | Benjamin Gill Richard Cooper Henry Hammond | Charles Skidmore | House & Garden. House, barn, stable, land etc. 2 1 2 | Charles son of Joseph [43]. Perhaps father of Ann Hammonds and/or Mary Hammonds. |
| 640g | Thomas Cardoe John Nicklin Hannah Capewell Ann Stamp | Henry Skidmore | Each occupier: House & Garden House & garden House, etc. | 840a-i 26 properties inc. Rose and Crown Inn (Wm Hind) & Cottage of Content (Benj. Eves). On E. side of Wordsley High Street, N. of junction with Brierley Hill Road. Henry [86]. |

**Through Townsend to Kingswinford Village**

No Skidmores found.
APPENDIX 3

Descendants of William Skidmore (d.1664) of Kingswinford parish
found in Trade Directories and Voting Lists

*Assume Skidmore unless otherwise stated. Surnames in capital letters.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Directory (where known)</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Author’s notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1752</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paul</td>
<td>Victualler, Stourbridge</td>
<td>Paul [13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>Bailey</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Stovegrate manufacturer, Coppice Row, Clerkenwell, London</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1797</td>
<td>Skidmore SIDENS</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>victualler, Stourbridge</td>
<td>?Joseph [43]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1797</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>hair dresser, Stourbridge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1793</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>maltster food/ drink</td>
<td>Richard [44]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td></td>
<td>Skidmore &amp; Sons</td>
<td>Ironfounders, 123 High Holborn &amp; 15 Coppice Row, Clerkenwell</td>
<td>John [121]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-11</td>
<td>G.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stovegrate maker, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1806,7,8</td>
<td>John</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stoves &amp; Grates Manufacturer to HM Board of Ordnance, 123 High Holborn &amp; 15 Coppice Row</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peter [Paul]</td>
<td>Manufacturer of Tradesmen’s Tokens; Commercial coins &amp; fakes. Coppice Row</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802</td>
<td></td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Miner, Sedgley</td>
<td>John [93]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818 + 1834</td>
<td>Mr Charles</td>
<td>Coalbournbrook. Gent</td>
<td></td>
<td>Son of Joseph [43]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>Coalbournbrook. Gent</td>
<td></td>
<td>Son of Joseph [43]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Clockmaker, Owen Street, Tipton.</td>
<td></td>
<td>? [Died in Owen Street, aged 79, buried at Tipton 8 June 1824].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Butty collier, Bloomfield, Tipton</td>
<td></td>
<td>John [110]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818</td>
<td>Mrs Skidmore</td>
<td>Ladies School, Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham</td>
<td></td>
<td>wife of William [127]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824</td>
<td>Susan &amp; Son</td>
<td>123 High Holborn &amp; 15 Coppice Row</td>
<td></td>
<td>widow of Gamaliel [248]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828-29</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Joiner &amp; carpenter, Brierley, Bilston</td>
<td></td>
<td>David [96]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828-29</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Carpenter &amp; builder, Summer Hill, Tipton</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas [224]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828-29</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>George &amp; Dragon, Princes End</td>
<td></td>
<td>and 1830 Pigot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828-29</td>
<td>Isaiah</td>
<td>Linen &amp; woollen draper, High Street, Walsall</td>
<td></td>
<td>Isaiah [220]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828-29, 30</td>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>Duke of York, Catherine’s Cross, Darlaston</td>
<td></td>
<td>Benjamin [109]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830 + 1837</td>
<td>Robsons</td>
<td>Henry Silversmith, 3 Coldbath Square, Clerkenwell</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>T.R.</td>
<td>Glass bottles, lampshades etc.</td>
<td>Thomas Robert [145a]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>T.R.</td>
<td>19 Haymarket, Westminster</td>
<td>Henry [91]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Henry Parkes</td>
<td>Nail ironmonger, Thorns, Kingswinford</td>
<td>Sister of Henry [91]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Bull’s Head, Princes End, Tipton</td>
<td>?Thomas [224]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Mary Ann</td>
<td>Day school, Smethwick</td>
<td>wife of Edward [172]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1838</td>
<td>Frederick</td>
<td>Hatter of Princes End</td>
<td>Frederick [227]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td>J.</td>
<td>Beer retailer, Great Bridge</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>Cooper, Oxford Street, Bilston</td>
<td>Benjamin [222]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Carpenter, Broad Lanes, Bilston</td>
<td>David [96]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td>T.</td>
<td>The James Bridge Inn, James Bridge, Darlaston</td>
<td>?Thomas [224]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Beer seller, Brierley Hill</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840 + 1850</td>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>Miner, Brierley Hill</td>
<td>Richard [207]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Glass cutter, Wordsley</td>
<td>Thomas [168]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Butcher &amp; victualler, The Three Crowns, Stourbridge</td>
<td>Thomas [230]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Agent of Old Park, Sedgley</td>
<td>John [223]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Butcher</td>
<td>John [334]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Frederick</td>
<td>Beer house/ also listed as a tailor</td>
<td>Frederick [227]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Deborah ROLLINSON</td>
<td>Private resident, Skidmore's Row, cement manufacturer</td>
<td>daughter of John [51]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Private resident, Old Park, Sedgley, agent</td>
<td>John [223]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>Malt Shovel, Hart’s Hill, Dudley</td>
<td>Henry [394]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>Maltster, Wellington Road, Dudley</td>
<td>Joseph [395]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Henry &amp; Joseph</td>
<td>Maltsters, Hart’s Hill</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>Shoe warehouse, Church ?, Tipton</td>
<td>Benjamin [225]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Butcher, Bloomfield, Tipton</td>
<td>John [334]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Caleb</td>
<td>Victualler &amp; Maltster, Amblecote</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Caleb</td>
<td>Maltster, Hight</td>
<td>Caleb [211]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Victualler, Old Rose &amp; Crown, Lye</td>
<td>Thomas [230]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>Butcher, Halesowen Road, Oldbury</td>
<td>Richard [174]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Henry Parkes</td>
<td>Nail merchant, Reddal Hill</td>
<td>Henry [91]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>Cabinet maker, High Street, Bromsgrove</td>
<td>James [143]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852/53</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Coalmaster, Booth Street, Handsworth</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852/53</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Cabinet maker, 55 Edgbaston Street, Birmingham</td>
<td>Thomas [142]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1855  Billings  Henry  Victualler, Malt Shovel, Hart’s Hill  Henry [394]
  Joseph  Maltster, Wellington Road  Joseph [395]
  1855  Mary Ann  Stay maker, New Mill Street, (?Dudley)  ?
  Richard  Miner, Brierley Hill  Richard [207]
  1857/8/9/60 Voters' Register  T.R.  38 St Martins Lane  Thomas Robert [145a]
  1859  Post Office Directory SKIDMORE & JONES  Nail manufacturers, 9 Coleman Street  Thomas Robert [276d]
  1859  Post Office Directory Henry  Gas pipe maker, 9 Coleman Street/ also at 2 Ellington Terrace, Gt Bride Street.  Henry Parkes [176]
  1863  Caleb  Amblecote Amblecote [211]
  1863  Jeremiah  Amblecote, Amblecote House, land in Lower Lye, & 4 houses in Park Street, Stourbridge (nos.18-21)  Jeremiah [115]
  1864  Thomas Robert  China dealer of 19 Bartlett Buildings, Holborn Edward WALDREN, Jeremiah [115]
  1865  JONES WALDREN & SKIDMORE Coalmasters of Old Hill  John [334]
  1865  Jones  Thomas  Glass, 12 Court, Bordesley Street  Thomas [272]
  1868  Birmingham  John  92 Watery Lane, shop at 50 Miles Street, Sandy Lane  John [255]
  1868  Birmingham  Thomas  High Park, Stourbridge, also High Street, Stourbridge, Glass, 12 Court, Bordesley Street, & property in Rocks Hill, Brierley Hill David [396]
  1874  David  Dudley Road, Brierley Hill  George [392]
  1874  George  Constitution Hill, Brierley Hill & land in Albert Street, Brierley Hill  ?James [144], John [244]
  1874  John  Albert Street, Brierley Hill  John [244]
  1874  Joseph A. [Arimathea]  The Lamp Pub, 1 Fenton Street, Brierley Hill  son of Frederick [215]
  1874  Thomas  Amblecote Bank, & house & land in Orchard Lane, Lye Thomas [242]
  1876  Kelly  John  Commercial Inn, Highfields [Coseley]  John [334]
  1876  Skidmore & Sons  House agents of 19 Bartlett Buildings, Holborn. Also of 50 Brecknock Road N. Thomas Robert [276d]
  1880  Jeremiah  Mining engineer & land surveyor, Dennis Park, Amblecote  Jeremiah [243]
  1880  John  61 Albion Street, Brierley Hill  John [244]
  1880  Joseph A.  The Lamp Pub, 1 Fenton Street  son of Frederick [215]
  1880  David  Greengrocer, 11 High Street, Brierley Hill  David [275]
  1896  Kelly  Nathaniel  Lead glazier, 43 Flash Road, Oldbury  Nathaniel [523]
  1896  Mrs Emma  Shopkeeper, 50 Parsonage Street, Oldbury  wife of Noah [298]
  1896  Job  Butler, 12 Talbot Street, Oldbury  Job [524]
  1896  Job  Clerk-in-charge, National Telephone Co. Limited, exchange & call office, 1 Flash Road, Oldbury  Job [297]
  1896  Jeremiah  Brick & tile maker, Hadcroft brick works, Stourbridge Jeremiah [243]
  1900  David  Greengrocer, 11 High Street, Brierley Hill, also Dairyman, the Delph David [275]
  1900  Benjamin  Greengrocer, 67 Hart’s Hill, Brierley Hill Benjamin [431]
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