This was originally part of the book *Skidmore Families of the Black Country and Birmingham 1600-1900* by Linda Moffatt, published in 2004.

For an Introduction to this branch of the family and an account of the first five generations of this branch, see *Skidmore Families Of The Black Country, the first five generations* on the website www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.

This account begins at Generation 6, denoted by superscript 6 next to the name of the head of household.

**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.

**CITATION**
Please respect the author’s contribution and state where you found this information if you quote it.
Suggested citation
'The Skidmore and Scudamore Families of Frampton Cotterell, Gloucestershire 1650-1915 by Linda Moffatt at the website of the Skidmore/ Scudamore One-Name Study www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com'.

**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.

Please note: There are numerous school admissions records at findmypast.co.uk, only a few of which are included in this account.
The Skidmore men of the southern part of Dudley town (Springs Mire, The Dock, Queens Cross) 
descend from colliers who were sons of two brothers -

Peter Skidmore [50]¹ and 
William Skidmore [52],

both of Brierley Hill, Staffordshire².

Other sons of Peter Skidmore [50], together with those of his brother John Skidmore [51], had descendants 
in Deepfields, Coseley. John [51] had left Brierley Hill in 1782 to help establish the Baptist Chapel in 
Darkhouse Lane, Deepfields.

This account includes moves from Coseley to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Launceston, Tasmania</td>
<td>1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolverhampton, Staffordshire</td>
<td>1900s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrewsbury, Shropshire</td>
<td>1880s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiff, Glamorganshire</td>
<td>1890s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tividale, Staffordshire</td>
<td>1840s</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ West Bromwich</td>
<td>1860s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melbourne, Victoria</td>
<td>1886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowley Regis</td>
<td>1840s</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Wednesbury</td>
<td>1850s</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This account includes moves from Dudley to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tyldesley, Lancashire</td>
<td>from 1880s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jump, West Yorkshire</td>
<td>1880s</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Pontefract</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Creswell, Notts</td>
<td>c.1900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miner's Mills, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1860s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leicester</td>
<td>1880s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masbrough, West Yorkshire</td>
<td>1870s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elgin?, Ontario</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham, Warwickshire</td>
<td>1870s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hart's Hill, Staffordshire</td>
<td>1890s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne, Victoria</td>
<td>c.1880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workington, Cumberland</td>
<td>1880s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whittingdon Moor, Derbyshire</td>
<td>1870s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesbury, Staffordshire</td>
<td>1880s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eckington, Derbyshire</td>
<td>1900s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Ormesby, North Yorkshire</td>
<td>1870s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratford, Ontario</td>
<td>1904</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

¹ The code numbers of the heads of household found in my 2004 book are retained here. There are modifications to the 
numbering in Generation 9, but changes are indicated, allowing readers who have the book to cross-reference.

² There had been somewhat earlier movement into Dudley - see Joseph [63], Thomas [60].
93. JOHN⁶ SKIDMORE, coal miner of that part of Princes End which was in Sedgley parish, was probably the son of Peter [50] and Priscilla (Shaw) Skidmore, baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 10 January 1768. It is possible that, after the death of his father in 1785, he was cared for by his uncle John Skidmore [51], who had settled in Coseley.

He married Nancy Ammons at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 12 June 1791. I believe she was Nancy Hammonds, born about 1772 and probably baptised 20 May 1774 at St Thomas', Dudley, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Holt) Hammonds and related to Mary Hammonds who married Henry [102]³. The witnesses were Job Pearson and John Wood. John and Nancy Skidmore's first child is the only one for whom a baptism has been found - at St Michael's, Brierley Hill in 1792 - but later children are known, in the order given below, from John's will. This suggests their move to Sedgley parish took place in the early 1790s. He was on the voting list of 1802, by virtue of owning his own house, a miner of Sedgley. I strongly suspect the baptisms of the remaining children would be found in the earliest register for Darkhouse Baptist Chapel, which unfortunately was not deposited⁴.

John Skidmore, miner of Tipton, took on apprentice Benjamin Taylor of Northfield, Birmingham on 30 June 1818⁵. John died within the following two years. In his will (made 7 November 1815 and proved at Lichfield on 14 June 1820) he left to his wife Nancy (and after her death to his ten children) his freehold messuage, in which he and his family lived, with the brewhouse, pigsty, garden and ground. She was charged with selling all his horses, pit tools, his pit and all associated implements, the profits to be used for her own and his children's support. The will was witnessed by James Shore, Pharez Shore and Thomas Shore (apparently sons of Thomas and Mary (Trowman) Shore of Dudley).

At the time of the 1841 census Nancy Skidmore was living at Upper Princes End, Sedgley, with David Skidmore (said to be aged 20-24 but I believe her son) and Martha Skidmore (aged 15-19, otherwise unknown). Nancy Skidmore died in 1846Q1.

The children of John and Nancy (Hammonds) Skidmore, born in Sedgley,
in the order in which they are named in his will but research so far suggests this may not be the order of their births.

i. John, born in Brierley Hill and baptised there on 1 October 1792. In 1836 John Skidmore, who lived 'near Tipton', was in a list of subscribers to The Miners Guide⁶. He is presumably part of the firm Skidmore, Davies and Williams.

'Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership subsisting between us, at Tipton, in the County of Stafford, as Coal-Masters and Miners, under the firm of Skidmore, Davies, and Williams, was this day dissolved by mutual consent; and that all debts due to and from the joint trade will be received and paid by John Skidmore, by whom the works and trade

⁴ The baptism register commencing in 1822 exists and judging by the numbered entries follows on from an earlier register, now lost. The Skidmore family did not appear to switch to the Providence Baptist Chapel at its foundation in 1809. www.sedgleymanor.com.
⁵ Birmingham Library Card Index, Apprenticeship Indenture Details.
⁶ The Miners Guide of the principal mines of coal and ironstone in the counties of Stafford, Salop, Warwick and Durham by Thomas Smith, mine and land agent Sandy-Fields, nr Sedgley. Published and sold by Radclyffe and Company, 3 Peck Lane, Birmingham in 1836.
will in future be continued on his separate account. - Dated the 19th
day of December 1833.

He later became a coal master in Handsworth, Staffordshire. At the time of the 1841 census he
was living there in Booth Street with his wife and is mentioned in Slater's Directory of 1852-53 at
that address, though the 1851 census gives his address as West Bromwich Street. He married, on
13 March 1816 at All Saints', West Bromwich, Rachel Wilkes (born in Cirencester, Gloucestershire
and baptised there on 26 February 1796 or 1797, daughter of John Wilks); Sarah Williams was a
witness.

John Skidmore died on 11 March 1861, styled a gentleman of Handsworth, Staffordshire, leaving a
will (not seen) whose executors were Rachel Skidmore, Richard Marsh (thought to be her
brother-in-law, husband of Mary Wilkes) and John Marsh, grocers. Mrs Skidmore retired to her
native Gloucestershire and lived at Raymond Terrace, Charlton Kings, a house proprietor. She died
on 4 November 1869 aged 71, leaving a will (proved at Gloucester, naming Richard Davis of
Cheltenham her executor).

178. ii. JEREMIAH⁷, of whom more below.
   iii. Elizabeth. She perhaps married James Northwood, miner of Princes End, at St Martin's, Tipton on
   8 August 1814 and had one child John baptised there in 1816. However, it should be noted that a
   James Northwood married Elizabeth Knowles at Wolverhampton on 4 April 1816 and more work
   is needed on the Northwood families to be sure that Elizabeth Skidmore's marriage and child
   John have been correctly ascribed.
   iv. Deborah, born about 1798. She married Thomas Hatwood on 18 September 1815 at All Saints',
   Sedgley. William Hatwood was a witness.
   vii. Rhoda, listed after Mary in her father's will but born about 1801. She was called a 'sewer' of
   Princes End when her child was baptised.
      i. Emma Skidmore, baptised 18 December 1825 at St Martin's, Tipton, died in Princes
   End aged 6 and was buried at Christ Church, Coseley on 15 August 1832.
   Rhoda married William Parton at All Saints', Sedgley on 3 November 1828, witnessed by Thomas
   Tomkins and Mary Jones. Rhoda Parton died at the age of 34 and was buried at Christ Church,
   Coseley on 15 November 1835. A daughter Deborah Parton had been baptised in Coseley in 1832,
   and this child was part of the family of William Parton, a colliery banksman (born about 1806 in
   Kinsley or Kinver, Shropshire) and his second wife Ann (born about 1812 in Sedgley) who lived in
   Upper Princes End and Summerhill until at least 1871.
   v. David, born about 1803. He was a coal miner and appears to have been living with his mother in
   1841 in Upper Princes End, though this man was said to be aged 20-24. Again in 1851 he was
   said to be aged 25 and was living in Dimmocks Lane, Sedgley, close to his nephew John [334]. He
   was unmarried in 1871 (and said to be 60 years of age), living in the home of his sister Mary
   Willday in Tibbington Terrace, Tipton. He styled himself a gentleman at the time of the 1881
   census, when he shared a home at 53 Ash Street in Coseley with his nephew John [334]. David
   Skidmore died at Bilston on 25 November 1882 aged 79, leaving a will (proved at Lichfield on 2
   January 1883), naming as his executor his nephew John Skidmore, licensed victualler of
   Halffields, Bilston.
   vi. Mary, born about 1804. She married Joseph Willday, a coal miner and dealer (born about 1803 in
   Sedgley, son of _____ and Sarah Willday) at All Saints', Sedgley on 17 April 1825 (B. Baker was a
   witness) and their one known child Isaiah was baptised in Dudley in 1826, at which time Joseph
   was a miner of Princes End. They were living in 1841 at the Freebodies, Dudley, later moving to
   Tipton. Mr Willday died at the age of 65 in 1869Q1. Mary Willday was living a widow in 1871 with
   her brother David, and died in 1876Q2 aged 73.
   vii. Peter, born about 1809. He was a collier who died of asthma at Broad Lane(s), Princes End on 1
   January 1841, aged 32.

179. ix. ENOCH⁷, born about 1810, of whom more below.
   x. Nancy, born about 1813. She married William Skidmore [250] at All Saints', Sedgley on 6
   November 1831⁷.

⁷ See Skidmore Families Of Brettell Lane And Brockmoor, Staffordshire, 1750-1900 by Linda Moffatt at
The second son of John [93] and Nancy (Hammonds) Skidmore, 

178. JEREMIAH7 SKIDMORE, born, according to the 1841 census, between 1796 and 1801. A coal miner of Coseley, he married Mary Ann Harris on 15 October 1821 at St Benedict's, Wombourne. In the 1820s their home was in the hamlet of Brierley in Coseley (part of Sedgley parish and not to be confused with Brierley Hill). They were in the Upper Princes End area, close to Jeremiah’s mother, at the time of the 1841 census. Jeremiah Skidmore died in 1843Q4 and sight of the age recorded on his death certificate would indicate more precisely the year of his birth. His burial place is presently unknown but in Sedgley cemetery is an octagonal vault of the Harris family which records burials for Mary Rollason, Elizabeth Darbey and, on 3 February 1843, Mary Ann Skidmore.

The children of Jeremiah and Mary Ann (Harris) Skidmore, born in Coseley and baptised at All Saints’, Sedgley, 

334. i. JOHN8, born in Brierley hamlet and baptised 1 June 1823. He was apprenticed to butcher John Round of Lockside, Tipton, whose premises are found in the 1841 census in Owen Street, Tipton. John Skidmore is listed in White’s 1851 Directory as a butcher of Princes End, Tipton. He married Mary Ann Hadley (born about 1832 in Birmingham), in 1850Q2 at All Saints’, West Bromwich. They were living in 1851 in Dimmocks Lane, Tipton, in 1861 in the High Street in Princes End and by 1871 at 61 Ash Street in Brierley hamlet.

John Skidmore was licensee of the Commercial Inn in Highfields according to Kelly’s Directory of 1876 and was made executor of his uncle David’s will in 1883. He was declared bankrupt on 24 November 1886. Mary Ann Skidmore died on 4 August 1887 at Highfields, Bradley, Bilston at the age of 54, leaving a will naming her husband as executor. John Skidmore died aged 77 on 31 May 1899 at White Street, Coseley.

The children of John and Mary Ann (Hadley) Skidmore, born in Coseley and baptised 

at All Saints’, Sedgley, 

643. i. WILLIAM GEORGE8, [was 56] known as George, born in Princes End on 18 February 1851 and baptised on 28 December of that year. At the time of the 1871 census George was a roll turner, living at 61 Ash Street, Coseley in the home of his parents. He left England firstly in 1875. The Strathmore, under Captain Alex. Macdonald, left London on 17 April 1875 bound for Dunedin, New Zealand, with a total of 88 people, including 38 crew. In June, when the ship was in the Southern Ocean and the weather very foggy, the captain set a course that he thought would take him south of the Crozets but in the early morning on 1 July, the ship drove onto the rocky coast of one of the Crozets. (The Crozet Islands are a sub-antarctic archipelago of small islands in the southern Indian Ocean). A full account of the privations faced by these people, shipwrecked for six months before rescue came, can be found in Appendix 1.

A Reuters Cablegram of 3 May 1876:

'Sydney, May 2.

R.A. Wilson, W.G. Skidmore, Joseph Ward, George Ward, William Wilson, William Rooke, William Handling, and James Wright, survivors of the Strathmore, arrived here by the mail [steamer]. Subscriptions have been opened to assist them to reach New Zealand.'

Otago Daily Times, Issue 4464, 9 June 1876, Page 1

'George Skidmore (one of the survivors of the Strathmore) is now in Dunedin, and is desirous of obtaining Employment in an Iron Foundry, or as Warehouseman, or in any similar capacity. He is by trade a Roll Turner. Address G. Skidmore, office of Daily Times.'

George was presumably unsuccessful since by mid-1878 he was back in Staffordshire, when he married there Hannah Kettle Tandy. She was born in Newport, Shropshire in 1851Q3, daughter of Henry Tandy, grocer, and his wife Mary Ann, of Penn, Staffordshire. They were living in 1881 with their son George (Ralph Strathmore George Skidmore) at the Royal Oak, 83 Salop Street in Wednesfield, Staffordshire, where George Skidmore was publican.

George and Hannah Skidmore later emigrated to Australia, arriving on 17 January 1883 on board the Sorata. No further children of this couple are found in the

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8 The Times, 2 December 1886 and The London Gazette 23 November 1886 & 1 February 1887.
Australia Birth Index. William George Skidmore died in 1918 in Launceston, Tasmania, his wife a year later.

**A child of William George and Hannah Kettle (Tandy) Skidmore,**

i. Ralph Strathmore George, born in Bilston in 1879Q3. He died at the age of 12 on 9 February 1892, registered at Launceston, Tasmania.

ii. Mary Ann, born 28 December 1852, baptised with her sister Rachel and brother John Thomas on 20 July 1856. She married Thomas Johnson, brass and iron moulder (born about 1848 in Coseley, son of Joseph Johnson) on 8 March 1874 at All Saints’, Sedgley. They lived at first in Wednesfield but had moved by 1881 to Alice Street, Bilston, close to Mrs Elizabeth Skidmore [436]. Mary Ann moved to 54 Chapel Street, Coseley, where she remained (married, not widowed) until at least 1911 with her son Thomas E. Johnson 22, a baker who ran his business from this family home. Two further children of her marriage were not living in 1911.

iii. Rachel Ellen, born 14 March 1854. She married Edward Powell, an office clerk of Aston Manor (born about 1847 in Saul, Gloucestershire, son of Peter Powell, farmer, and Hannah), on 15 June 1874 at Aston. Their home was at 132 Lea Brook Road in Tipton, where Rachel Powell died in 1887Q2 aged 33. Children, as known - Albert E., Hannah Gertrude.

iv. John Thomas, born 19 April 1855. Called Thomas. At the time of the 1871 census he was an apprentice to a druggist in the High Street, Dudley. In 1881Q3 he married Sarah Slatter Vick of Elmore Farm (born 1856Q2 in Elmore, Gloucestershire, daughter of farmer Daniel Vick and his wife Sarah Ann (Beach)). John Skidmore was farm bailiff at Ulverton Farm, Frampton Road, Arlingham, Gloucestershire and later a farmer in Saul, Gloucestershire. Sarah Vick died in 1912Q1 aged 57.

v. Stephen, born 1856Q3 and baptised with his sister Elizabeth and brothers John and David on 31 January 1864. He was a colliery proprietor in the partnership of Colley and Skidmore. The Birmingham Daily Post of 18 December 1888 reported as follows:

> Alleged Embezzlement by a Partner:
> Yesterday at Tipton Police Court, before Alderman Williams and Mr J B Lees, Stephen Skidmore of Wallbrook, Sedgley, a member of the firm of Messrs. Colley and Skidmore, coalmasters, Moat Colliery, Princes End, was charged with embezzling £10.14s. on 28 July last, and also with embezzling other sums amounting in all to about £35, the money of the firm. It was alleged that he had received the money on account of the partnership….. Mr Joseph Colley said the partnership agreement stated that all money was to be paid to the firm and that it was to be retained only until the next time the recipient came to the office and then it was to be accounted for in the books. Mr James Ritson, Messrs. Whitehouse’s manager, Tipton, [who purchased rough slack from the firm] proved the pay of £10.14s, to Skidmore on 28 July. Mr Joseph Colley, a son of the prosecutor and cashier to the firm, said he had received no such sum from the defendant. A remand was granted until Monday next, bail being granted.

On 13 March 1889 at Stafford Assizes Stephen Skidmore was found not guilty of embezzlement.

At the time of the 1891 census he was a mining engineer, boarding at the home of William and Esther Stock in Gloucester. He married Mary Elizabeth Williams (born about 1858Q2 in Darlaston) in a civil ceremony registered at West Bromwich in 1895Q3 and was County Surveyor of main roads in North-Eastern Shropshire, living at the time of the 1901 census in the High Street, Hodnet and later at Wollerton Bank House, Market Drayton.

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9 Australia Death Index, 1787-1985.
10 Kelly’s Directory for Staffordshire, 1888.
11 England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892 [database on-line].
Amongst the working papers of Frederick G. Meachem, mining engineer\textsuperscript{13} are papers dated 1905 relating to mining activity in Tipton and West Bromwich, the Swan Village Colliery Company, Sedgley and Broadwater Colliery, Moxley. This was a report by Meachem for Mr Stephen Skidmore, Wollerton Bank, Market Drayton on Broadwater Colliery and forms part of a larger collection relating to property in Handsworth, Birmingham, Moxley, Bignall End and West Bromwich. In 1915 there were further reports for Skidmore’s Trustees relating to damage in Whitmore Street, Moxley\textsuperscript{14}. I have not studied either of these sets of papers.

Stephen Skidmore and his wife cared for their niece Hannah Gertrude Powell. Mary Elizabeth Skidmore died in 1902Q2 aged 44, her husband on 7 April 1922 in Coseley, aged 66, leaving a will (proved at London on 14 June) naming as executors his brother John Skidmore, an auctioneer’s cashier, and his niece Hannah Gertrude, widow of William P. Thomson.

vi. Elizabeth, born 1857Q4. She accepted probate of her father’s will in 1899 and was living with her sister Mary Ann at the time of the 1901 census. She appears to have later become assistant to Maurice and Florence Gabriel, publicans of the Hop and Barleycorn Inn in Mason Street, Coseley.

644. vii. \textbf{JEREMIAH\textsuperscript{9} (was 565)}, born 30 November 1859 and baptised 18 December of that year. He married Elizabeth Birks (born about 1863 in Wednesbury) in 1889Q1. He managed the Red Lion in Parkfield Road, Bilston, later becoming a carter in Wolverhampton where they lived at 81 Great Hampton Street. Jeremiah Skidmore died in 1905Q4 aged 45.

The children of \textbf{Jeremiah and Elizabeth (Birks) Skidmore},

i. John Wilfred, born 1891Q3 in Bilston. He is perhaps the John W. Skidmore who married Kate Farnell in 1916Q4 in Wolverhampton. A wood machinist for the Sunbeam Motor Co., he lost his left forefinger and thumb whilst working on a circular saw. Nevertheless, he joined the 6th Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment and on 5 August 1914 enlisted for war service. Corporal Skidmore was discharged on 14 January 1916 in consequence of being unable to use a rifle. His record states ‘An excellent N.C.O., clean & smart in appearance, has been employed & given every satisfaction as a Regimental Policeman’.

ii. May, born 1893Q3 in Bilston.


iv. George Hadly, born 30 March 1904 in Wolverhampton. He attended Christ Church Church of England (Controlled) School, Leicester Street, Whitmore Reans from 2 September 1912, leaving at the age of 14\textsuperscript{15}. He died in 1976.

v. A child who did not survive.

645. viii. \textbf{JOHN\textsuperscript{9}}, born 1861Q1 in Walbrook, Coseley. He married Alice Hannah Craddock (born 1860Q3 in Bilston, daughter of George Craddock, butcher of Bilston Street, Bilston, and his wife Ann) in 1883Q3. He was living by the time of the 1891 census with his wife in Cleveland Street, Shrewsbury, where he was an auctioneers’ clerk. They appear to have cared for the daughters of Alice’s sister Clara Lucy (who died in 1887) by her husband John Venton, farm labourer of Cross Street - Clara Lucy Venton, 1880-1897, and Beatrice Skidmore Venton born 1887. John Skidmore died in 1923 aged 62, his wife in 1940 aged 79.

A son of \textbf{John and Alice Hannah (Craddock) Skidmore},

i. John Hadley, born 9 April 1898 at 48 Cleveland Street, Shrewsbury and baptised at Holy Cross on 4 May that year. He served during WW1 with the King’s Shropshire Light Infantry, reaching the rank of Lieutenant. Mr Skidmore died in 1972 in Cardiff.

\textsuperscript{13} Staffordshire Record Office, D1230/BOX16/4.
\textsuperscript{14} Staffordshire Record Office, D1230/BOX89/4.
\textsuperscript{15} Wolverhampton City Archives.
ii.? A child who did not survive.

ix. David, born 1864Q1, baptised 31 January 1864 at All Saints’, Sedgley. He married, at St James’, Handsworth on 3 June 1893 Elizabeth Ann Townsend Fellows, widow of John Green. She was born about 1860, daughter of grocer William Fellows of Ward Street, Bilston, and his wife Jane. I have not found this couple later.

646. x. JOSEPH RICHARD, born in Walbrook, Coseley in 1867Q1. He, with his brother Benjamin, attended Weston School, The Grove, Weston, Somerset, where they are found at the time of the 1881 census. He married Mary Ann Davies (born about 1866 in Lampeter, Cardiganshire, daughter of Evan Davies) in 1885Q1 in Newport, Monmouthshire.

Their first two children were born in Bilston and Princes End. Around 1890 they moved to Bullo, Newnham, Gloucestershire, where Mr Skidmore was a moulder. He became a railway inspector whose work took him to Oxford and, by 1901, to Cardiff, where they lived in Clive Road, Canton. He died in 1952 aged 85.

Children of Joseph and Mary Ann (Davies) Skidmore

i. Ethel Sarah Elizabeth, born 1886Q2 in Bilston. She married Henry John Carter, a police constable for Cardiff City Council (born about 1879 in Somerset) in 1904Q4 in Cardiff. Children, as known - Henry, Gwynneth, Marjorie.

ii. JOHN EVAN, born 1888Q4 in Princes End. He married Alice B. Horsell in Cardiff in 1912Q2.

Children of John Evan and Alice B. (Horsell) Skidmore, born in Cardiff

i. Phyllis M., born 1913Q2.


iii.-v. 2 further daughters & a son.

iii. Alice Alberta, born 1891Q2 in Bullo Pill, Gloucestershire. She married Ralph S. Taylor in Cardiff in 1914Q1.


v. Blanche Beith, born 1896Q2 in Cardiff. She married Arthur G. Scholes in 1919 and had a daughter and a son. She died in 1987.

vi. Stella, born 1899Q1 in Cardiff. She married in 1927 and had a daughter and a son. She died in 1968.

vii. Ralph George, born 1901Q2. He married Bertha J. G. Torgussen in 1929; no children are known to this marriage. Mr Skidmore died in 1961.

2 children who did not survive.

xi. Benjamin, born 1868Q1. He went to school in Weston, Somerset, along with his elder brother Joseph. He was a butcher in 1901, living with his sister Mary Ann. He was living by 1911 with his wife of five years, Mary Maria ____.

335. ii. WILLIAM, born in Brierley hamlet, Coseley, and baptised at All Saints’, Sedgley on 9 October 1825. He was involved in the administration of transporting along the region’s canals the coal from the collieries owned by his family. He married Elizabeth Whitehouse (born about 1829 in Tipton, daughter of William Whitehouse), on 24 July 1849 at St Giles’, Rowley Regis, and they lived at the time of the 1851 census in Tividale, where William was a colliery agent. Their son Joseph when he emigrated said that he was a Methodist and it is likely that William’s family worshipped at the New Connexion Chapel near their home.

In 1861 they were living in the Wonder Hotel, Dudley Road, in Tividale - clearly to be seen on the edge of the 1902 Ordnance Survey map of Greets Green (its location opposite modern-day Hospital Lane). The Birmingham Canal ran east-west just to the north of Dudley Road, leading north-westwards to the substantial wharfs at Deepfields in Coseley where William’s family had collieries. The canal was intersected by the Netherton Tunnel branch north-south, with numerous wharfs and surrounding pits within a short distance of William's home.
The Sutherland colliery, leased from the Duke of Sutherland, was opened by Messrs. Wagstaff and Skidmore, in 1842. The coal was ten yards thick, and the depth 200 yards\(^{16}\). The following newspaper cutting described a mining disaster which occurred in August 1845\(^{17}\).

The area of Tividale in which William Skidmore lived in 1851 is described as follows (I have suggested locations using the 1902 Ordnance Survey maps of Greets Green and Brades Village). The 1851 census describes Enumeration District 18, Folios 28-53 as

‘All that part of the Parish of Rowley Regis commencing at the Why Not Public House [perhaps the inn at the junction of Dudley Road with Britannia Street] taking the houses on both sides of the road including the houses in [Gilbert’s bridge crosses the canal in Britannia Road] and William Weale’s cottage then to the Farmhouse on Dixon’s Estate also a house in the Foundry Yard and William Mallin’s Building then down the New Road leading to J.D. Jackson’s Foundry including a house at Skidmore’s Wharf thence taking the houses on both sides the road leading to the New Connexion Chapel including the houses in Skidmore’s and Caddick’s Collieries then along the Turnpike Road to the Peartree Inn then to E. Purshouses Farm and a cottage occupied by Thomas Pickering including the two houses on the canal side near Giles’s Iron Works then to a house at the bottom of Narrow Lane [Gypsy Lane, now called Lower City Road] including the houses in Jesson’s colliery then to L. Coxe’s house then to the City and Lye Cross Farm House including 4 cottages on and near that Estate’.

Some time after the birth of Joseph in 1861 William and Elizabeth moved to West Bromwich, where they lived in Wood Lane and later Dartmouth Street, William’s occupation given as boat steerer or carrier. Their daughter Olivia married a hairdresser and it seems William might have turned in his later years to this trade, since at the time of the 1891 census, when he and his wife (called Betsy) lived with Olivia’s family in north Wales, he is described as a retired hairdresser.

Mr Skidmore died at 61 High Street, Rhyl, Denbighshire on 3 May 1897 aged 70. He left a will naming his wife Elizabeth as executor. She died at the same address on 4 March 1901, aged 67, and named her widowed daughter Rachel Whitehouse as her executor.

**The children of William and Elizabeth (Whitehouse) Skidmore, born in Tividale**,

i. Rachel, born in 1851 in Tipton and baptised at St Martin’s there on 10 August, daughter of William Skidmore, an agent of Burnt Tree. She married in 1872Q4 at Holy Trinity, West Bromwich, Thomas Whitehouse (who died in the mid-1870s) and lived in her widowhood with her daughters Jane and Victoria Whitehouse in the home of her parents, later with her married daughter Jennie Edwards in St Asaph, Flintshire.

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\(^{17}\) The Bristol Mercury (Bristol, England), Saturday, August 23, 1845; Issue 2892.
ii. Elizabeth, baptised 12 June 1853 at Rowley, perhaps registered in 1853Q1 as Eliza. She married Joseph Vaughan in 1874Q4 at St James', West Bromwich.

iii. William, born 1854Q1. Like his father, he was a carrier on the canals. He died on 4 September 1885 aged 30 at the Union Workhouse, Hallam Street, West Bromwich, leaving a will (not seen) which named his father William Skidmore, a boat steerer, as his executor.

iv. Mary Jane, born 1855Q3. She married John William Mulliner at St James', West Bromwich in 1877Q2.

v. John, born 24 January 1857. He was assistant to chemist and druggist Charles A. Newby of 23 High Street, Leamington Priors, Warwickshire, in 1881.

vi. Olivia, born 1858Q4. She married Frederick Heber Holman, a hairdresser, on 11 September 1881 at Christ Church, West Bromwich. He was born in 1858Q4 in Liverpool, son of Heber Holman, a hairdresser who moved from Liverpool to Rhyl around 1860, and his wife Ann. Her parents by 1891 were sharing their home in the High Street, Rhyl, Flintshire. Frederick Holman died in 1932 aged 73, his wife in 1943 aged 85.

vii. Victoria, born 1860Q2. She died in 1869Q4 aged 9.

647. viii. **JOSEPH HARRIS**, born 1861Q2 in Rowley Regis. A carrier with his father and brother William. He was an assisted migrant who arrived in Sydney on 13 April 1886 aboard the SS Aberdeen. The Agents' Lists of Assisted Migrants, found in the State Records of New South Wales, also record his religion as Methodist. He married Alice Esther de la Mare in Victoria, Australia.

**Children of Joseph Harris and Alice Esther (de la Mare) Skidmore, born in Melbourne,**


ii. Harold Francis, born 1891. Pte Skidmore enlisted on 28 June 1915 and embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAT Makarini on 15 September 1915. He was killed in action on 18 September 1918 in France.

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iii. Rachel Harris, baptised 3 August 1828. She was presumably the Rachel Skidmore in the home of her uncle John Skidmore at the time of the 1841 census. She married Joseph Harris, a proprietor of coal mines (born about 1824 in Bilston) in 1847Q3. They were living by the time of the 1851 census in Torquay, Devon but Rachel died soon after at the age of 23 and was buried on 5 April 1852 at St Mary Magdalen, Wyken, Warwickshire.

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**Footnote**

18 Item held by the Australian War Memorial, Australia: Victoria, Melbourne, Broadmeadows. DA10109.
We now return to the fifth son of John Skidmore [93] by his wife Nancy Hammonds, 179. **ENOCH VII SKIDMORE**, born about 1810 in Princes End, Sedgley, was in his thirties a coal master at Groveland Colliery, Rowley Regis. At the time of the 1841 census he was a patient in the Staffordshire General Lunatic Asylum in Stafford. He appears to have made a good recovery, going on to marry and raise a family, before his death in 1853. He married Frances Perrins at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 25 April 1848. She was baptised on 31 December 1816 at Upton Warren, daughter of farmer Thomas Perrins and his wife Elizabeth. The marriage was witnessed by David Skidmore, Enoch’s brother, and by Martha Goldsberry (perhaps the Martha Skidmore living with Enoch’s mother Nancy Skidmore in 1841). Martin Skidmore, a descendant of George Jones Skidmore, has a remembrance card for William Perrins of Cooksey (apparently Frances’ brother) who died aged 78 on 14 April 1899 and is buried with his parents in Upton Warren.

Enoch Skidmore’s partnership with Ezekiel Pershouse was dissolved in 1847. Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Ezekiel Pershouse and Enoch Skidmore, as Miners and Farmers, at Groveland Colliery, in the parish of Rowley, was this day dissolved by mutual consent: As witness our hands this 6th day of February 1847. Ezekiel Pershouse his mark, Enoch Skidmore.

Ezekiel Pershouse, miner and publican at Dudley Port, Tipton married firstly Ann _____ and secondly Mrs Mary Jones (born in Llansylen, Denbighshire) in 1846.

When his daughter Martha was baptised early in 1850, Enoch Skidmore was still a miner living in Princes End but by the time of the 1851 census had become an inholder and a hay and corn dealer at Windmill End in Rowley Regis. He died on 1 May 1853, only six days after the birth of his son John, leaving a will dated 29 April 1853. Probate was granted at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in January 1854 to Edward Perrins, and double probate granted to Frances Skidmore of Wednesbury, his widow, on 30 January 1875. He left all his real and personal estate (including horses, carts and carriages) in trust with his brother David Skidmore, his brother-in-law Edward Perrins and his wife Frances Skidmore, to allow his wife to remain in their home and premises, for the education of his children, the money to be divided equally amongst his children at 21. The will was witnessed by Bart. Grayston of Rowley Regis accountant and Mary Darby of Windmill End.

Mrs Skidmore married secondly George Jones in 1854Q2 and had two sons born in Netherton, Dudley. She was widowed by the time of the 1861 census, when she was a greengrocer, living with her sons George and William Jones in Union Street, Wednesbury. At some point in the 1860s Mrs Jones and her sons assumed the name Skidmore, which they retained. The death of Frances Skidmore was registered at West Bromwich in 1878Q1, when she was said to be 60.

The children of Enoch and Frances (Perrins) Skidmore, baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley,

i. Martha, born in Sedgley, baptised 17 January 1850. Her death was presumably that registered at West Bromwich in 1857Q1.

ii. Rachel, born Windmill End and baptised 10 October 1852 at Rowley. In the 1861 census, she is probably the 8 year old child at Green Hill House boarding school in Long Lane, Halesowen (run by Thomas and Emmeline Harcourt). In 1871 she was living at Spring Vale House, Spring Head, Wednesbury with her mother’s sister Sarah and Sarah’s husband Joseph Whitehouse, auctioneer. Rachel married Samuel Renshaw, manager of the Turks Heads Hotel in Lower High Street, Wednesbury, (born about 1852 in Handsworth, Yorkshire) in 1874Q3 at All Saints’, West Bromwich. Mr Renshaw later became a house agent and they moved to Walsall. Rachel Renshaw died in 1910Q1 aged 57.

Children, as known - Catherine A., William H. Jos., Ernest Samuel.

Children of Frances (Perrins) Skidmore by her second husband George Jones,

335a. i. **GEORGE JONES alias GEORGE JONES SKIDMORE**, [was 506.] son of George and Frances Jones, was born in Netherton, perhaps on 20 November 1854 and baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley on 17 December19. George Jones, son of George Jones, married Sarah Elizabeth Liddiard (born 1858Q3, daughter of John Liddiard) on 31 December 187620. They were living (called Jones) at the time of

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19 The IGI gives a date of death the following year, on 7 November 1855, which needs to be checked - there might have been two couples called George and Frances Jones.

20 I am grateful to John Selway for information on the descendants of the brother of Sarah Elizabeth, Stephen John Liddiard who married Jane Elizabeth Disturnal. I am grateful to Martin Skidmore for information on descendants of his grandfather George Jones Skidmore.
the 1881 census at the back of 72 & 73 Lower High Street in Wednesbury. He was then a machine fitter. By 1891, when he was a general blacksmith, they lived at 139 Oxford Street, Wednesbury. He later became an employer in Walsall, making buckle tongs and items from iron at the Windmill Engineering Works. His sons worked as machinists with their father, his daughters in his warehouse.

George was a lover of sport. He joined Wednesbury Cricket Club in 1873, in the second year of its existence. He was made captain in 1897 and was still playing in 1911. His son joined the club in 1894, and father and son shared a stand of 103 together in 1909, against Harborne Somerville. He was a co-founder of Wednesbury Old Athletic Football Club in 1875. W.O.A. were the first winners of the Birmingham Senior Cup in 1877 (then a prestigious trophy) and again in 1879 after being semi-finalists in 1878. George Skidmore was the person who fenced W.O.A.’s first ground at Wood Green, and erected the goal-posts. He played for W.O.A. (also known parochially as the 'Owd 'Uns!) for a few years and was a member of the 1877 Cup-winning side\(^{21}\). He was the inventor of the single light-shade over the billiard table. Although electric billiard lighting was a tremendous improvement over oil lamps, the individual circular or square shades had the great disadvantage of throwing their own shape in the form of shadows on the surface of the billiard table, and so during the 1930s, many 'non shadow' shades were developed, one of the first being the 'Skidmore' shade at Thrustons Match Hall, Leicester Square, London\(^{22}\).

Mrs Elizabeth Skidmore died aged 76 on 27 April 1935. George Jones Skidmore died on 20 May 1941 aged 86, buried in Wood Green Cemetery, Wednesbury.

**Children of George and Sarah Elizabeth (Liddiard) JONES, later called Skidmore, born in Wednesbury**

*All births registered at West Bromwich with the surname Jones; there were 13 children, of whom ten were living in 1911.*

i. Elizabeth Frances Jones, born 1877Q4 (died 1969). Elizabeth Frances J. Skidmore married Jeremiah Whitehouse on 25 October 1913 and lived at 14 Windmill Street, Walsall. Gunner Jerry Whitehouse, who worked for D. Power & Sons, Brook Street, was killed in action at Cambrai on Boxing Day 1917\(^{23}\). A daughter Lily.

ii. Nora Jones, born 1879Q4. She is presumably the 4-year old Nora Jones who died in 1883Q3.

648. iii. **GEORGE JONES**, born around September 1880. He and his brothers John and Henry worked at their father’s buckle tongue making business. He appears to be the George J. Skidmore who married Clara Maddox in 1911Q4 in Walsall registration district.

**Children of George Jones and Clara (Maddox) Skidmore,**

i. Doris E., born 1912Q3.

ii. George R., born 1913Q4.

iii. Dennis A., born 1915Q3.


**The daughter of Stephen John and Louisa E. (Fazackerley) Skidmore,**

i. Mabel Jones Skidmore in 1916. She married Sidney Ernest Lacey in 1951 and died in 1955 a few days after giving birth to their son Nicholas.

v. Henry Jones, born 25 April 1885 at 13 Elwell Street.

vi. Edith Jones, born 1887.


viii. William Jones, born 1891Q1. Not found in the census of 1901.

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\(^{22}\) www.normanclare.co.uk. Billiard and Snooker Heritage Collection, Billiard Table Lighting, first published May/ June 1983.

\(^{23}\) Walsall Observer, 19 January 1918.
and born in Walsall,

viii. Ida Jones, born about 1895, perhaps Ida Gwendolen E. Jones, born 1896Q2.
ix. Frank Jones, born 1896Q4 or 1897Q2.
x. Lily Jones, born perhaps 1898Q4.
xi. Frederick Jones, born 8 June 1900.

ii. William Jones alias William Skidmore, a coach spring maker born about 1856 in Netherton. In 1871 he was living with his mother Frances Skidmore in Wednesbury. After the death of his mother in 1878 he then lodged for a number of years with the family of widow Betsy Reynolds at Camp Street in Wednesbury.

94. JAMES\textsuperscript{6} SKIDMORE, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 22 June 1770. We have no indication of his profession but other men in this part of the family were coal miners. It is possible that, after the death of Peter Skidmore in 1785, his brother William Skidmore \textsuperscript{52} undertook to watch after Peter's younger sons, James and Thomas, who seem to have moved into Dudley at about the same time as their uncle William.

James Skidmore married Sarah Mansell (perhaps daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Cox) Mansell, baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 14 November 1773) at St Thomas', Dudley on 4 or 13 March 1793. A witness was William Mansell. Their first child was baptised in 1791 in Brierley Hill, but James then moved to Dudley. There is adequate evidence to suggest that a further son Benjamin was born to this couple about 1803, though later censuses give his birthplace as Princes End. Sarah is perhaps the lady who died on 30 December 1811 and was amongst those removed to the new cemetery when St Thomas' churchyard closed. James Skidmore died at the age of 49 and was buried at St Thomas', Dudley on 12 March 1820.

The children of James and Sarah (Mansell) Skidmore, baptised and buried in Dudley,

i. David, baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 8 October 1791, buried 20 June 1802.
ii. James, baptised 26 October 1794, buried 16 September 1804.
iii. Peter, buried 24 July 1796.
v. [perhaps] Peter, born about 1801, buried 2 August 1818 aged 17.
vi. [probably] BENJAMIN\textsuperscript{7}, coal miner of Dudley, is known from his marriage certificate to be the son of a James Skidmore. Censuses suggest he was born around 1804 in Princes End, Sedgley. This points to his being the son of James [94], though it remains a possibility that he was a son of James Skidmore, son of Ephraim [58]. Since Ephraim's family remained in Wednesbury and West Bromwich\textsuperscript{24}, and since Benjamin called his son Peter, I favour his being the son of James [94].

Benjamin married twice. He was married to his first wife Elizabeth Round at St Thomas', Dudley on 3 March 1828. In the 1841 census her age was recorded as 40 and she said at the time of the 1851 census that she was born at Lye Waste around 1800. It is likely, therefore, that she was baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford. When she died in 1851 her age was recorded as 46 but this can safely be assumed to be an error. She was almost certainly the daughter of Joseph and Phoebe (Welch) Round, baptised on 31 July 1801 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. Her presumed sister Mary (who witnessed her marriage) was living with Joseph Round, nailer, and Phoebe his wife in 1841 in Flood Street, Dudley. Mary was then the widow of Jeremiah [214].

Benjamin and Elizabeth Skidmore lived in Price Street, Dudley, in 1841, with their son Peter, in the home of nailer's wife or widow Ann Rolason, her two sons, and John Hudd, a coal miner aged 44. They were in Martin Hill Street in Dudley by 1851, with their son Peter, and also Isaiah Skidmore - an orphan and the son of Jeremiah [214] and Mary (Round, her presumed sister), born 13 December 1837. Elizabeth Skidmore died on 3 November 1851 after being admitted to the Workhouse with dysentery. She was buried at St Thomas', Dudley on 3 November 1851 aged 46.

Benjamin married secondly Mrs Ann Rebecca Turner on 14 March 1853 at St Andrew's, Netherton. She was baptised at St Thomas', Dudley on 26 August 1821, daughter of William and Nancy Birchell, and married firstly miner Henry Turner (died 1844Q1) in 1838Q4. They moved across the High Street to the Old Dock area of the town, probably to Cross Street where they are found in the

\textsuperscript{24} See Skidmore Gunsmiths of Wednesbury and West Bromwich by Linda Moffatt at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.
1861 census. Benjamin's job at the pit is specified as a banksman in 1854. He died on 22 January 1864 in Greystone Street, Dudley.

Hannah Rebecca Skidmore married thirdly ironworks labourer John Barnbrook on 10 September 1865 at St James', Lower Gornal and lived in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill and later St Helen's, Lancashire.

The child of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Round) Skidmore, baptised at St Thomas', Dudley, [perhaps with others]

336.  
i.  **PETER**, baptised 18 June 1837, OF WHOM MORE LATER.

The children of Benjamin and Ann Rebecca (Birchell) Skidmore,

ii.  Eliza, born 23 or 24 December 1852, baptised on 12 May 1859. She married Joseph Bullock, an iron puddler (born about 1844 in Brierley Hill) at St James', Lower Gornal in 1869Q3 and lived for a time in Stour Hill, Quarry Bank with William and Eliza Barnbrook. They later ran a registered lodging house in Flood Street, Dudley. They separated and Eliza Bullock lived in the home of their daughter Ellen and her husband John Swift in Salop Street, Dudley. Joseph Bullock died in 1903 aged 58.

iii. Nancy, born 17 May (baptised 24 July) 1854. Buried at St Thomas', Dudley 20 February 1858 aged 3 years 9 months.

337.  
iv.  **BENJAMIN**, born 29 August 1856 and baptised there on 19 October. At the age of 14 he was an ironworks labourer in Brierley Hill, presumably with his stepfather John Barnbrook. He moved north, where John Barnbrook found work as a glassworks labourer and Benjamin as a coal miner in Tyldesley, Lancashire. He married a local girl Mary Holland (born about 1863, who appears to be a daughter of Joseph Holland, coal miner of Parr, Lancashire, and his wife Margaret), in 1883Q1 in Prescot registration district. They seem to have spent some time in St Helens where their daughter Mary was born, but to have then settled in Tyldesley. At the time of the 1891 census, at the back of their home at 1 Factory Yard, Tyldesley, lived widow Mrs Jane Holland, a cotton operative who was born in Tyldesley around 1826, widow of Aaron Holland. By 1901 the family had settled at 18 Weston Street. Benjamin Skidmore died in 1931 aged 74, his wife in 1932 aged 68.

The children of Benjamin and Mary (Holland) Skidmore, born in Tyldesley, baptised at St George's,

i.  Mary Ann, born in St Helens, Lancashire, in 1884Q2 and baptised with her sister Hannah. A piecer in the cotton spinning trade in 1901. She married Simon Heald in 1907Q1 at Kingleigh Methodist Church.

ii.  Hannah Rebecca, baptised 5 August 1886. A scavenger in the cotton mill in 1901. She married James Knowles in 1907Q1 at St George's, Tyldesley.

iii.  Eliza, born 1889Q3. She married Joseph Pendlebury in 1909Q3 at Kingleigh Methodist Church.

iv.  Florrie Emma, born 1891Q4, died 1899Q2 aged 7.

v.  Alice, born 1894Q2. She married Harold Pearson in 1914Q3.

vi.  Benjamin, born 1897Q4, died 1898Q4, aged 1.

635.  
ii.  **ENOCH**, born 1901Q1. He married Isabella Felton in 1921 and had, as known, two sons and two daughters.


ix.  Florrie, born 1909Q2.

v.  Enoch, born 13 February (baptised 4 March) 1859. He died aged 15 in 1874Q4.

vi.  Mary Jane, born on 17 or 21 June 1861, apparently baptised twice, as Mary on 2 July 1861 and as Mary Jane on 21 July 1861. Died 1862Q2.

The eldest son of Benjamin Skidmore by his first wife Elizabeth (Round),

336.  **PETER SKIDMORE**, coal miner of Dudley and Pensnett, was baptised at St Thomas', Dudley on 18 June 1837. He spent his early years in the Kates Hill area of Dudley, moving to the Old Dock when his father married for a second time in 1853. Peter married Ellen Rodway of Dudley (born about 1842 in Kingswinford, daughter of Thomas Rodway, miner and Hannah) on 3 October 1859 at St Andrew's, Netherton. The witnesses were John Flint and Hannah Rodway.
They began their married life in the Dock area of Dudley and were in Angel Street and Holland Street there until the mid-1870s. Between 1875 and 1878 Peter and Ellen moved to 92 Church Street in Pensnett, where he continued as a miner, probably in one of the pits belonging to Himley Colliery shown in the 1901 Ordnance Survey map of Brockmoor and Bromley on land just to the south of Pensnett. In the early 1880s they moved north to Jump, a mining village near Barnsley in South Yorkshire, where they remained. Their home in 1891 was 81 Sunny Bank, where Peter died that year aged 53.

Ellen Skidmore married secondly William Osler, a colliery screener (born about 1841 in Westwold, Norfolk) in 1894Q2 and they were living with her son John Skidmore at the time of the 1901 census in Cross Lane, Royston. Mrs Osler died in 1915 aged 75.

The children of Peter and Ellen (Rodway) Skidmore, born in Dudley and baptised at St Thomas,

i. **THOMAS** was 566.; born on 18 March 1863 in the New Dock area of Dudley and baptised on 5 April of that year. In the 1870s the pits of the Black Country north of the Dudley ridge were being abandoned as a result of flooding of the workings. In contrast, the South Yorkshire coalfield was expanding and around 1880 Thomas Skidmore and his family moved to Jump, a mining village near Barnsley (part of Wombwell Urban District).

He married Mary Jane Clegg Horsfield on 25 March 1883 at Wombwell parish church. She was born Mary Jane Horsfield on 16 April 1864 at 15 Greek Street, Chorlton upon Medlock, Lancashire, daughter of William Horsfield, a journeyman ironmoulder, and Sophia (Keighley). Mary Jane's mother presumably remarried since at the time of her marriage to Thomas Skidmore she used the name Mary Jane Clegg Horsfield, daughter of Joseph Clegg, miner. Before her marriage she was a general domestic servant at 23 Shambles Street, Barnsley, with the family of Frederick Clark, pork butcher.

At the time of the 1891 census Thomas and Mary Jane were living near to Thomas' father in Sunny Bank, Jump and had moved by 1901 to 124 Church Street, Jump (perhaps the same house since one of these roads is a continuation of the other). They later moved a further 15 miles north to Pontefract where Mr Skidmore began work at the Prince of Wales colliery and where he was to continue to work for the rest of his life. He died on 29 August 1940 aged 77, his widow on 26 January 1942 aged 78, in Pontefract.

The children of Thomas and Mary Jane Clegg (Horsfield) Skidmore, born in Jump,

i. Benjamin, born 1884Q1. He died at the age of 19 in 1903Q3.

ii. **THOMAS ERNEST** was 566.; born 1886Q4. He married Hannah Major (born 1885Q1 in Jump) in 1910Q4 and was living at the time of the 1911 census in the home in Pontefract of his wife's parents, John Major, a coal miner, and his wife Alice.

iii. **HERBERT CORNELIUS** was 566.; born 1890Q4. He married Edith Nicholson in 1912Q2.

iv. **ARTHUR** was 566.; born 6 March 1894. He married Charlotte B. Withington in 1915Q4 in Pontefract.

v. **LAWRENCE PETER** was 566.; born 27 August 1897 in Wombwell. He married Emily Skidmore (born 1895Q2 in Pontefract, daughter of John and Martha Elizabeth (Beever) Skidmore) on 25 December 1920. Her father John Skidmore was born in Doncaster on 4 May 1851, son of George and Sarah (Flintham) Skidmore. His family were farmers from Torworth in Nottinghamshire (pronounced Torreth) and before that Gamston in Nottinghamshire. Her mother Martha was born in Snaith, a
farming village about thirteen miles to the east of Pontefract, daughter of John and Sarah (Crosby) Beevers.
Lawrence Peter like all his brothers and their father Thomas, was a miner who worked at the Prince of Wales colliery in Pontefract, Yorkshire. He died in 1965, his widow in 1979.

Lawrence Peter and Emily Skidmore, with son Eric

Children, born in Pontefract,

i. **ERIC**, a blacksmith at the Prince of Wales colliery. He married Margaret and had sons David Michael and John Charles.

ii. **PETER**, married Ann. Two sons Paul Lawrence and Mark Leslie. Peter taught History at Keynsham Grammar School near Bristol, and then at Rotherham Grammar School in South Yorkshire, before moving to Brierley Hill Grammar School in 1965. After retiring, Peter devoted much time to local history research, especially his Black Country roots, and wrote on a variety of topics concerning the region. In 2003 The Black Country Society published *The Civic Heraldry of the Black Country* written by Peter and he was heavily involved in the preparation of a history of Wollaston.

vi. Lilian May, born 1900Q3, married Joseph.


viii. Alice, born 1906Q4 in Pontefract. She married Norman Tankard in 1927.

651. ii. **PETER** [was 567.], born 1 August 1865 in the Dock area of Dudley. A coal miner, he married Emily Davies (born in Dudley) in 1887Q2, probably in Hoyland, Yorkshire. In 1887 they were living in Ryecroft Place in Hoyland but had moved by 1889 to Haighs Road, Platts Common, where Beatrice was born. At the time of the 1901 census they were resident at 56 Church Street, Jump and later moved to Prince of Wales Terrace in Pontefract. Peter Skidmore died in 1953 aged 87.

The children of Peter and Emily (Davies) Skidmore, born in Hoyland,

i. **EDWARD PETER**, born 15 October 1887. I am grateful to Helga Fox for information on his wife. Nellie Greenfield married Walter Tomlinson on 25 July 1903 and they had three children, Ernest, George Dobson and Cyril. Walter Tomlinson died in Ackton Hall Colliery in 1908 and she married secondly Edward Peter Skidmore in 1909Q1. He was a coal miner before his war service as a Private in the Royal Marine Light Infantry. He died on 16 September 1915 of enteric fever aboard Hospital Ship *Aquitania* at Mudros and was buried at sea. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial in Plymouth, Devon. Mrs Nellie Skidmore married thirdly Richard Kirk and had six children, Frank, Jack, Nell, Richard, Leslie and Nora.

Children of Edward Peter and Nellie (Greenfield) Skidmore,

i. Ethel, born 1909Q3.

ii. Edward, born 1911Q1. He died at 1 year old.

iii. Wilfred, born 1912Q4.

iv. Doris May, born 1914Q2.

ii. Beatrice Maud, born 1889Q4 in Platts Common. She married in 1909Q3 in Pontefract, Samuel Seabury, a coal miner (born 1887Q2 in Featherstone,
Yorkshire) and was living by the time of the 1911 census at 14 Lengs Yard, Newgate, Pontefract.

v. Elsie, born 1897Q1.
vi. Ruth, born 1899Q2 in Jump.
viii. David Lawrence, born 1904Q1.
ix. Harold, born 1905Q3.

A child who did not survive.

652. iii. ISAIAH, coal miner of Wombwell, Yorkshire, was born in Angel Street in Dudley on 8 September 1867 and baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley on 29 September of that year. In 1890Q3 he married Sarah Jones (born about 1874 in Dudley) and they were living in 1891 at 96 Church Street in Jump. He is found with his wife and children living at 10 Princess Street, Pontefract, at the time of the 1901 census.

Isaiah moved his family to Nottinghamshire, where he became a butty coal miner. Their home in 1911 was at 40 Welbeck Street, Creswell. Isaiah and Sarah Skidmore appear to have died in Dover, in 1953 and 1957 respectively.

The children of Isaiah and Sarah (Jones) Skidmore, born in Jump.

i. Willie, born 1891Q3 in Jump. A coal miner.


iii. Lily, born 1900Q1 in Barnsley.


v. Lloyd, born 1909Q3 in Creswell.

vi. Mary Ann, born 1870Q1. She appears to be the child whose death was registered at Dudley in 1871Q4, aged 2.

v. May Theodosia, born 5 June 1872 at 3 Angel Street. She married Thomas Evans, a cokeman (born about 1872 in Dudley) in 1895Q3 and had three daughters and a son. Their home in 1901 was in Worsborough, Yorkshire.

vi. Mary Jane, born 11 March 1875 at 20 Holland Street. She married Thomas Robert Bridgewater, an engine fitter (born about 1870 in Kingswinford, son of Thomas, a railway engine driver from Dudley, and Mary Ann Bridgewater) on 8 October 1894. They were living in 1901 in Monckton, Havercroft, Yorkshire. Mary Jane Bridgewater died in 1938 aged 63, her husband in 1940 aged 70.

Five sons and four daughters.

vii. John Henry, born 6 December 1877 at Church Street, Pensnett. A coal miner, he was living in 1901 with his mother and stepfather in Royston.

The fourth son of Peter [50] and Priscilla (Shaw) Skidmore,

95. THOMAS6 SKIDMORE, furnaceman of Springs Mire, Dudley, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 21 December 1772. He married, but the name of his wife is not presently known. He had died by the time of his son Samuel’s marriage in 1839.

The son of Thomas Skidmore, Perhaps with others,

182. i. SAMUEL7, coal miner of Dudley, is known from his obituary in the Wilkes Barre Record to have been born in 1818 or 1819. He was a minor (under 21) when he married on 25 December 1839 at St Thomas’, Dudley. His marriage certificate tells us he was a son of Thomas Skidmore deceased, a furnaceman. Samuel lived in Springs Mire at the time of his marriage to Susannah Lane. She was baptised on 21 May 1820 at St Thomas’, Dudley, daughter of Thomas Lane, a miner, and his wife Ann (Hannah Turner). Joseph Smith and Ann Giles were witnesses. Samuel and Susannah lived in the New Dock and later in St James’s Terrace. Their son James went to America in 1861, followed in 1863 by his father, and in 1865 by the rest
of the family (the ship’s manifest records Susan 46, Esther 11, George 7, Cornelius 6). They settled in Tuscarora, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, moving about eight years later to Mill Creek, now Hudson, Luzerne County where he secured employment as a gangway man in the old Mill Creek Colliery, operated at that time by the Union Coal Company. Subsequently he invested in real estate in what is now Miner’s Mills and found employment in the Pine Ridge mine and later the Waddell Colliery. (Miner’s Mills and Hudson are now suburbs of Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania). He retired around 1893 and died at the age of 79 on 22 December 1897 at his home in Miner’s Mills. His first wife died at Miner’s Mills around 1885 aged 64 and he married secondly a Mrs Annie Williams (born in February 1830 in England), who survived him and was living alone in 1900. She is buried in the City Cemetery in Wilkes Barre and was survived by Frederick and William of Wales - sons of her first marriage - and by James, George and Cornelius W. Skidmore.

The children of Samuel and Susannah (Lane) Skidmore, baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley,

There were 12 children of this marriage.26

i. William, born 7 April (baptised 28 June) 1840. Died aged 3 years 8 months and buried at St Thomas’, Dudley on 6 December 1843.

337a. ii. JAMES JOHN9, born on 1 March 1842 and baptised James at St Thomas’, Dudley on 26 February 1843. He went in 1861 to America and was joined a few years later by the rest of his family. He became a miner in Miner’s Mills, Pennsylvania, and later in Illinois. He married Sarah Jane Cox (born 5 April 1848 in Brierley Hill, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Cox). Mr Skidmore and his wider family attended the Primitive Methodist Church in Plains Township and they are buried in the Trucksville Cemetery in Wilkes Barre.

Children of James John and Sarah Jane Skidmore,

654. i. THOMAS BENJAMIN9, [was 568a.] born 5 September 1868 in Plains Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. He married Alice Marie Reynolds (born 14 June 1869 in England, died 7 June 1923) on 24 December 1889. Mr Skidmore died on 25 December 1843 in Cadiz, Ohio.

Children of Thomas and Alice Marie (Reynolds) Skidmore,


ii. Christina, born April 1894.

iii. Thirze Mae, born July 1896.


ii. Sarah Jane, born 11 November 1870 in Pennsylvania. She married Lewis Thomas (born December 1861 in Wales, died 1932) on 31 December 1889. They had nine children. She died in 1949 and is buried in Melrose Cemetery, Bridgeville.

iii. Benjamin, born 3 November 1872, died 18 July 1873.

iv. Elizabeth Ann, born 25 October 1874 in Will County, Braidwood, Illinois. She married Richard Davis (born in England) in 1892. I am grateful to their great grandson Jeffrey Davis for providing information on the descendants of Samuel [182] in the US.

v. Emanuel, born and died on 16 August 1876.


655. viii. GEORGE9, [was 568b.] born 16 September 1881. He married about 1907 Louise (?Halen, born about 1889 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania), known as Lula. They were living at the time of the 1910 census at 1906 Tustin Street, Pittsburgh. His sons were adopted at ages 11 and 12 by George’s brother Cornelius and his daughter put in an orphanage. The adopted Wilbert left home and was never traced.

Children, born in Dravosburg, Pennsylvania,

i. JAMES RICHARD GEORGE\textsuperscript{10}, born 21 March 1908, died 1 May 1979. Married Elizabeth. Children James W., Beverly and Richard T.


iii. Jane, married Frank.

ix. James John, born 11 September 1883. He married Mrs Annie Reynolds (born 1880 in England) in 1908. He died on 24 February 1912 and is buried in Richland Cemetery.

656. x. CORNELIUS WILLIAM\textsuperscript{9}, born in Braidwood, Will County, Illinois on 5 March 1885. He married Mary Marie Colussy (born 30 November 1891 in Romania, died 7 February 1978) on 18 July 1908. Cornelius died on 18 October 1974 and is buried with his wife in Melrose Cemetery, Bridgeville.

Children of William and Mary Marie (Colussy) Skidmore,


ii. Evelyn Jane, born 9 September 1911 in Treveskyn, died 7 November 1983. She married Thomas and both are buried in Jefferson Memorial Park, Pittsburgh.


iv. [perhaps] Samuel, of Dudley, buried there on 26 November 1847, aged 6 months.

v. Emanuel, born 1848Q3. Resident in Eve Hill when he died aged 16, buried 2 November 1864 at St Thomas', Dudley.

338. vi. EPHRAIM\textsuperscript{8}, born 17 January 1851 and baptised on 18 June at St Thomas', Dudley. He became a coal miner in the Waddell Mine, Miner's Mills, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, where he was living in 1880 with his wife Mary Ann ______ (born about 1855 in Wales) and his two daughters Isabella aged 1 and one-month old Harriett. Ephraim Skidmore died on 19 February 1909 in Miner's Mills aged 56, survived by his step-mother Anna and brothers George, William and James. His widow is found in 1920 at 153 Abbott in Miner's Mills.

Living near to Ephraim in 1880, and apparently not part of this family, was Thomas Skidmore, born in England about 1851, with his wife Sarah, born about 1844 in Pennsylvania, and Sadie H. Bower his step-daughter. A second Ephraim Skidmore (born January 1853 in England) appears in the 1900 Pennsylvania census, servant to John Stout on Vine Street, Berwick, Cambria County.

Children of Ephraim and Mary Ann Skidmore, born in Pennsylvania,


ii. Isabella, born in 1878. She died before 1900.

iii. Harriett, born late in 1879. She married Edward W. Johnson (born about 1855 in Wales) and had a daughter Myrtle Johnson around 1914.

iv. Josie, born February 1884. She died before 1911.

v. Agnes, born March 1886.

vi. Emanuel, known as Manne, born March 1887. He married but his wife’s name is presently unknown. He died on 28 February 1911 aged 22.

vii. Raymond, born September 1892.

viii. Carrie, born 1895.

ix. John, born February 1898.

vii. Peter, registered 1853Q1. Died aged 3 weeks, buried 9 Jan 1853.

339. viii. GEORGE\textsuperscript{8}, born 4 July 1855. He emigrated in 1881, arriving via New York on 26
August. He was, like his brother Ephraim [338], living in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, in Plains Township at the times of the 1900 and 1910 censuses. He married Alice Moore (born March 1860 in Pennsylvania) and was fire-boss in the Mill Creek Colliery, Plains. He died at the age of 55 on 27 October 1914 in Miner's Mills.

One known child of George and Alice (Moore) Skidmore,

i. Isabell May, born December 1880. She perhaps married Ambrose Griffith. A son George and daughters Alice, Isabel, Ruth and Caroline.

340. ix. WILLIAM⁸, whose birth registration has not been found. He was aged 4 at the time of the 1861 census.

He married Margie _____ (born 1858) and lived in Miner's Mills where he was fire-boss.

A daughter of William and Margie Skidmore,

i. Beatrice, born 1886. She married Henry Miller and had five daughters and a son.

x. Dinah, born 1860Q2. She died in 1861Q2 and was buried at St Thomas', Dudley on 7 June.

xi. Cornelius William, born about 1862. In 1892 he and a Samuel Skidmore (presumably his brother), both labourers, were living on Union near the Mocktown Road. There is another (perhaps the same) Samuel Skidmore living in 1892 on Mock 'near the D. & H. RR'.

xii. Samuel.

The second son of John Skidmore [51] by his wife Elizabeth:

96. DAVID⁶ SKIDMORE, born about 1789 in Deepfields. 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 Folk²⁷ 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.

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 at St Leonard's, Bilston,

i. John, baptised 4 December 1823. He had presumably died before 1841 since he does not appear in the census of that year or later.

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 Ann) on 9 March 1852 at All Saints', 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.

²⁷ 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.
96a. WILLIAM⁶ SKIDMORE, [was 267.] furnaceman, was dead by 1841 when his daughter married at St Thomas', Dudley. It is possible he is the son of William [52] and Mary (Taylor) Skidmore.  

A daughter of William Skidmore,  
i. Ann, born about 1821 and, according to most censuses, in Rowley Regis but possibly Dudley. She married James Dunn, a miner and later a horse nail maker of Blackberry Town, Rowley (born about 1818 in Rowley, son of Joseph Dunn, nailer) on 28 February 1841 at St Thomas', Dudley. Both were said to be of Sprink House, Rowley Regis, at the time they were married. A witness was Adam Dunn (baptised 16 September 1821 at St Thomas', Dudley, son of Joseph and Sarah Dunn and apparently the groom's brother). Ann Dunn is found in 1881 a widow in Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, with sons Timothy and Edwin, and in the same street as Adam Dunn & family. Mrs Dunn is perhaps the lady of her name whose death at the age of 63 was registered at Dudley in 1883Q1.  

97. PETER⁶ SKIDMORE, baptised on 26 September 1790 at St Thomas', Dudley. He was born at about the time his parents moved to the Springs Mire area of Dudley. He married Mary Smithyman (born in Wordsley and baptised at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 25 December 1786, daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Bent) Smithyman) on 21 August 1808 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. The witnesses were Sarah Smithyman, presumably Mary's sister, and Ezekiel Elwell. Peter was a collier, known to have been at Blowers Green in Dudley between 1815-18, in Springs Mire in 1820 and 1823 and Holly Hall in 1823.  

Peter died less than two weeks after the birth of his son James and was buried at St Thomas', Dudley on 11 June 1829, aged 40. By 1841 his widow lived next to the tollhouse in that part of the road between Queens Cross and Spring Mire called the Turnpike (going out of Dudley towards Kingswinford). Also living in the house were Mary's son Peter Skidmore and Thomas Wilkes aged 60, the father of Celia Wilkes, Mary's daughter-in-law. At this time Mary's other two surviving sons lived close by - John in Pensnett and Thomas in Queens Cross.  

By 1851 Mary’s son Peter Skidmore had married Jane Jenkins and set up home in the High Street in Dudley. Mary, described as a pauper widow, was with her son John in Queens Cross and later lived with the family of her son Thomas. She died in 1874Q4 aged 87.  

The children of Peter and Mary (Smithyman) Skidmore, baptisms and burials at St Thomas', Dudley,  
i. Mary Ann, baptised 18 June 1809. Buried 16 November 1809.  
183. ii. JOHN⁷, baptised on 19 August 1810, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.  
iii. William, baptised 6 July 1813. Buried 8 June 1823, aged 11 of Holly Hall.  
iv. Sarah, baptised 29 January 1815. Buried 8 March 1815 aged 2 months.  
184. v. THOMAS⁷, baptised 4 February 1816, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.  
vi. Mary, baptised 9 August 1818.  
185. vii. PETER⁷, born 23 December 1820, TO WHOM WE WILL RETURN.  
viii. Elizabeth, baptised 6 July 1823. Buried 2 May 1824, aged 10 months.  
ix. James, baptised 31 May 1829. Buried 17 August 1831 aged 2 years 3 months.
183. **JOHN 7 SKIDMORE**, probably born in the Blowers Green area of Dudley and baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley on 19 August 1810. A moulder of Pensnett and Dudley, he married Mary Ann Skidmore, a spinster, on 28 October 1833 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. The witnesses were William Smith and Hannah Higgs, a couple who married later that year on December 8 at All Saints’, Sedgley. Mary Ann Skidmore is known from censuses to have been born about 1814 in Amblecote or Lye and was presumably the daughter of Charles Skidmore [113] and his wife Esther Cartwright, baptised 2 January 1814 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. See *The Skidmore Family of Stamford House, Amblecote, Staffordshire, and their Descendants 1780-1915* by this author at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com. John and Mary Skidmore were living in 1841 in Pensnett and sharing their household with Zachariah and Elizabeth Whitehouse. By the time of the 1851 census they were at 69 Queens Cross with John’s widowed mother Mary, and were in the Springs Mire area of Dudley by 1861. John died in 1877Q4 aged 67. Mrs Skidmore then lived with her daughter Emma’s family at 17 Angel Street. She is probably the Mary Ann Skidmore, said to be 80 years of age, who died in 1893Q1.

**The children of John and Mary Ann (Skidmore) Skidmore, born in Dudley,**

i. Elizabeth, born 1837, died 23 December 1842, buried as Betsy at St Thomas’, Dudley.

ii. **CHARLES 8**, born 1839Q3, probably in Pensnett. He was raised in Queens Cross and became a moulder in brass. He married Sarah Ann Thomas (born about 1844 in Dudley, probably daughter of anvil maker Benjamin Thomas of Dock Lane and his wife Sarah) in 1860Q3 and they lived in the Dock area of Dudley. Like his younger brother Albert he moved in the 1880s to Farringdon Street, Leicester, where they were both labourers in an iron foundry at the time of the 1901 census. Charles died in 1905Q1 aged 65.

**The children of Charles and Sarah Ann (Thomas) Skidmore, baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley,**

i. Alice Thomas, born around March 1860. Died aged 15 months and was buried at St Thomas’, Dudley on 11 September 1861.

ii. Emma Jane, born 19 December 1861, baptised 12 January 1862. A dressmaker. She is perhaps the lady with her name who married in 1886Q4 in the Billesdon registration district of Leicestershire.

iii. John, born 13 July (baptised 25 December) 1863. A moulder in 1881. He was living by the time of the 1901 census with the family of his sister Edith Ella Johns, where he found work as an agricultural labourer in Shepshed, Leicestershire. Still single in 1911 he was boarding in Alfreton, together with his widowed cousin John, son of Thomas [184] - both pit banksmen.


v. Albert, born 23 February 1867 and baptised with Charles. He died in 1874Q2.

vi. **WILLIAM 9**, [was 569] born 1868Q4. He spent some time in Somercotes, Derbyshire, where he and his Skidmore cousins were foundry labourers. With his brother James he then moved to Leicester, where they worked in the shoe trade. He appears to be the William Henry Skidmore who married Ada Eaton in 1895Q4 (apparently Jane Ada Eaton, born in Leicester in 1875Q2) and was living with his wife and baby daughter at 93 Olson Street at the time of the 1901 census. Charles died in 1905Q1 aged 65.

**A child of William and Jane Ada (Eaton) Skidmore, born in Leicester,**

i. Doris Myra, one month old at the time of the April 1901 census. 2 children who did not survive.

ii. Charles, born 1870Q3. He enlisted in the Worcestershire Regiment on 25 September 1890 and served in the 2nd Boer War of 1899-1902. He was discharged on medical grounds in 1902. He described himself as a ‘shoelaster’ when he left England in 1906, sailing from Liverpool aboard the *Dorset*, bound for Auckland. He was a bootmaker at 46 Courtney Place, Wellington in 1911. He married Sarah Ann Peacock in 1916. She was
11. Skidmore Families of Deepfields, Coseley and the town of Dudley

Born in 1877 in Taranaki, New Zealand, daughter of John Peacock and his wife Sarah Ann (Newbold). Wise’s New Zealand Post Office Directory for 1916 lists Charles Skidmore in Heretaunga Street, Hastings [right side from Maraekakaho Road, No.900, the house before the Quarry Road intersection]. Sarah Ann Skidmore died in 1947 in New Zealand aged 82. Charles Skidmore returned to Britain the following year, at the age of 78, arriving in London on 17 December 1948 and heading for 78 Mornington Street, Leicester. This house had been occupied by the family since 1901. Charles Skidmore died in Leicestershire in 1960 aged 90.

659. viii. James [was 570] baptised 4 April 1872. He is found in Leicester at the time of the 1901 census with his wife and two children, running a boot and shoe dealership from their home in Charnwood Street. He married Ada (Sheppard?, born in Shoby, Leicester 1870 Q2) in 1898Q4.

Children of James and Ada Skidmore, born in Leicester,

i. Lucy, born 1899Q4.
ii. Charles Cecil, born 1901Q1. He died aged 5 in 1906Q1.
iii. James Henry, born 1902Q2.
iv. Alan, born 1903Q3.
v. William, born 1907Q1.

baptised at St Luke’s, Dudley,

ix. Sarah Elizabeth, born 15 February (baptised 12 March) 1874. Lizzie Skidmore married Charles Rowland, a shoe machinist (born about 1872 in Derby) in 1896Q1. They were living in 1901 next to the home of her father in Mornington Street, Leicester, later moving to 19 Edwyn Street. Children, as known - Charles, Doris M., William, Annie Maud, Leonard, Norman E.

x. Myra, baptised 4 May 1876. A shoe fitter and machinist in Leicester, she married Samuel Hill, a shoe finisher, in 1901Q2. They lived at Marston Cottages, Marston Street, Leicester. Myra Hill died in Leicester in 1961 aged 86. Children, as known - Ernest William, Thomas Samuel, Bert Lawrence and Florence Rose.

xi. Edith Ella, baptised 28 August 1878. She married Arthur George Johnson, a foreman in the shoe trade (born about 1878 in Houghton on the Hill, Leicestershire) in 1901Q2. They lived in Springfield Road, Shepshed. Edith Ella Johnson died in 1942 aged 64. Children, as known - Ella May, Muriel, Gertrude, Lucy, Jennie, Roland, Alec, perhaps others.

xii. Lucy Matilda, baptised 8 February 1882. She died in Leicester in 1898Q3 aged 16.

342. iii. John, moulder of Dudley and later coal miner of Masbrough, Rotherham, West Yorkshire, was born in June 1841. He married Mary Ann Moore (born about 1845 in Dudley) in 1866Q1 at St Mark’s, Pensnett. They spent some time in Pelsall, Staffordshire, where Elizabeth was born early in 1868. After returning briefly to Queens Cross, Dudley they moved at some time before the census of 1871 north to Masbrough and were living at 34 Charles Street at census time at the beginning of April. They returned once more to Dudley, where Emma was baptised in October 1872, at which time John was a moulder of 110 Queens Cross. By 1881 they were once more back in Rotherham, living at no. 2 Court, 5 Masbrough Street and at this time John was mining in one of the nearby collieries. He was by 1891 a general labourer, living with his family in St Ann’s Road, Rotherham, where they were to live until at least 1901 before moving to 47 Nottingham Street. John Skidmore died in Rotherham aged 73 or 74 and was buried at Moorgate Cemetery on 14 March 1916. His wife died in 1917Q1 aged 71.

The children of John and Mary Ann (Moore) Skidmore,

i. Mary Ann, born 19 (baptised 21) December 1866 at St Thomas’, Dudley and died in 1867Q2.
ii. Elizabeth, born 1868Q1 in Pelsall. She appears to be the 23-year old lady working at the time of the 1891 census as a general servant in the Victoria Hotel, Cavendish.

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Street, Keighley, Yorkshire. She married Colin Guest, a coal miner (born 1870 in Rawmarsh, son of Thomas Guest, coal miner, and his wife Ann) in 1894Q2 in Rotherham district and they were living by 1901 at Green Lane, Rawmarsh. Children, as known (of seven) - Mary Ann, Colin and Harry.

iii. Emma, born 1870Q2 in Queens Cross, Dudley, baptised at St Luke's on 16 October 1872. She is perhaps the 21-year old servant at 1 Chapel Walk, Masbrough at the time of the 1891 census who gave her birthplace as Bromwich, Staffordshire. She probably married Fred Fish, steel works labourer (born 1868Q1 in Crowle, Lincolnshire, son of James Fish, glasshouse labourer, and his wife Hannah) in 1894Q3. They lived in Mills Moor Lane, Rotherham. One surviving child, Maud.

iv. Mary Jane, born 1872Q2 in Masbrough. She was working in Rotherham Hospital in 1891. She perhaps married James Birch, a wood sawyer (born 1873Q4 in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, son of John Birch, sawyer, and his wife Emma) on 31 October 1897 at St Stephen's, Eastwood, Rotherham. Children, as known, Harold, James, Cyril and Phyllis.

v. May, born 1876Q1 in Kimberworth. She married George Henry Denton, a coal miner (born 1873Q3 in Darnall, son of Joseph Denton and his wife Sabina) in 1896Q4 in Rotherham. They were living in 1901 at 39 Mill Street, Greasbrough. Mr and Mrs Denton later kept a shop in Masbro Street, Rotherham. Children, as known - Harry, Albert and George Edward, all born in Greasbrough.

vi. John Charles, born 1877Q4 in Rotherham. A coal mine labourer underground in 1901. He appears to be the John Skidmore aged 27 whose death was registered in Rotherham in 1905Q2.

vii. Charlotte Ann, born 1880Q4. She was living in 1891 in the village of Concrete near Rotherham in the home of her uncle, perhaps more likely her great-uncle Charles Ray, a retired coal miner (born about 1828 in Woodside) and aunt Charlotte Ray (born about 1829 in Woodside) and their son Joseph Ray (born about 1867 in Dudley). She married George Fred Wilson, a coal miner (born 1881Q1 in Greasbrough, son of Isaac Wilson, coal miner, and his wife Mary) in 1900Q4 and they were living at the time of the census in 1901 at 29 New Street, Greasbrough and later 1 Charles Street, Rotherham. Children, as known - Ernest D., Elise, Arthur, Percy, Emily, Edith, Florence M. and John.

viii. Enoch, born 18 May 1882 in Kimberworth. A coal mine inclineman in 1901. At the age of 31 he emigrated to Canada in 1913 and enlisted for the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force at Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada on 7 April 1915. He was then single and a farmer and did not name a next of kin. His first marriage has not been found. A widower and a pipe fitter, he married Thomasina Melville in 1925 in Elgin, Ontario and this marriage confirms that he was the son of John and not his cousin the son of Albert.

ix. George, born 1884Q1 in Rotherham. A general labourer and single in 1911.

x. Maud, born 1886Q2 in Wombwell. She died aged 8 and was buried on 25 July 1894 at Moorgate Cemetery, Rotherham.

343. iv. ALBERT8, born 1845 in Pensnett or Queens Cross. He married in 1867Q4 Mary Ann Thomas who was born about 1848 in Dudley and apparently a sister of Sarah Ann who married Albert's brother Charles - daughter of anvil maker Benjamin Thomas of Dock Lane and his wife Sarah. It seems Albert was a coal miner who for a period in the 1870s spent time as a brass founder. Like others of his family he lived in Westley Street, Dudley, but moved in the late 1870s to Grimesthorpe near Sheffield, Yorkshire, where he returned to mining. He and his family were living in 1881 at 37 Moss Street there, but returned shortly afterwards to Dudley and were in Angel Street by 1882 and Westley Street by 1884.

It seems Albert and his brother Charles moved in the mid-1880s to Leicester to find work. He was an iron founder's labourer and lived at 68 Mornington Street. His sons Enoch and Alfred (seemingly recorded in error in the census as Albert) found work in Leicester's shoe trade and so did his nephews William and James, sons of Charles [341].

The children of Albert and Mary Ann (Thomas) Skidmore, baptised at St Luke's, Dudley,

i. Fanny, born 25 February 1868 in Dudley (baptised 20 April at St Thomas'). Her father is recorded in the St Thomas' baptism register in error as Alfred. She
married Harry John A. Usher, a shoe finisher (born 1868Q1 in Ipswich, Suffolk, son of John Usher, boot and shoe clicker, and his wife Eliza) in 1890Q3. They lived in Beatrice Road, New Found Pool, Leicestershire and later Baggrave Street, Leicester. Harry Usher died in 1918 aged 50, his wife in 1923 aged 55.

Children, as known - Harry Ernest, Albert, Lily, Harold, Gladys.

ii. Alice, born 26 June 1871 (baptised 14 July). She married William Hartopp, a shoe clicker (born about 1870 in Leicester, perhaps the son of Amos and Sarah Hartopp) in 1891Q3. They lived at 84 Duxbury Road, Leicester. Children, as known - Doris Ida, Ernest, Alfred, Frederick, Evelyn Marion.

iii. Henry, born 9 February (baptised 26 February) 1874. Died in Dudley on 28 March 1877 aged 3, buried at St Thomas'.


v. Benjamin, born 1879Q2 in Brightside Bierlow district. He died in the Sheffield area shortly after the census of 1881.


vii. Sarah Elizabeth, born in Dudley and baptised 10 September 1884. She died in 1890Q2 in Leicester aged 5.

born in Leicester,

661. viii. GEORGE EDWIN8, born 1887Q2. A lasting machine operator in the boot trade. He married Beatrice A. Salmon in 1911Q4. He died in 1934 in Leicester, aged 47.

Children of George Edwin and Beatrice A. (Salmon) Skidmore,

i. Winifred E., born 1912Q2.

ii. Constance G., born 1913Q3.


iv-vii. 3 further daughters and a son.

ix. Maud, born 1890Q4. She was working in a wholesale tailoring factory in 1911.

x. Edith, born 1892Q4. A packer in the hosiery trade in 1911.

v. Celia, born 1848Q4. She married William Stamp on 2 December 1867 at St Edmund’s, Dudley. I have yet to find them in UK censuses.

vi. Thomas, born 1851Q3, coal miner and later a Corporation labourer of Crown Street, Dudley. He married Ann Fudge (born about 1850 in Bristol) in 1880Q2. By the time of the 1901 census they had adopted Thomas Parkes (born about 1878) and Mary Jane Parkes (born about 1882, both in Dudley). Thomas Skidmore’s death was perhaps that registered at Dudley in 1920, aged 68. Ann his wife died in 1928 aged 78.

vii. Emma, born 1854Q1. She married Richard Bristow, a forge labourer (born 1853Q1 in Woodside, Dudley) in 1873Q4 and they lived in the Dock area of Dudley. Mr Bristow died in 1909Q4 aged 55. Children, as known - Mary Ann, Samuel, Thomas A.

344. vii. JOSEPH6, born 1 March 1856. A limestone ore miner of Dudley, he married Jane Cooper (born about 1856 in Dudley, daughter of Samuel Cooper, shoemaker, and his wife Esther) on 3 October 1875 at Lower Gornal Church. Benjamin Street and Amelia Street were witnesses. In 1881 Joseph and Jane and their daughter Florence were living in her father’s home in Lawley Street in Dudley. The baptismal register of St Luke’s reveals the family had various addresses; Dock Lane (1875), Lawley Street (1879 to 1889), 22 Holland Street (1891,92) and 1 Himley Street (1901). Joseph Skidmore died on 23 July 1933.

Children of Joseph and Jane (Cooper) Skidmore, baptised at St Luke’s,


ii. Josiah, baptised 26 September 1877. Died 3 November 1879, buried at St Thomas’.

iii. Florence, baptised 28 December 1879. She married Edgar Steventon, a moulder of 1 Himley Street (born 1879Q1 in Tipton, son of Edward Steventon of Park Lane, Tipton, puddler, and Julia) on 30 January 1899 at St James’, Dudley. George Green, presumably her brother-in-law, and Mary Ann Whitchurch were the witnesses. Edgar and Florence were living at 8 Boscobel Street, Tipton in 1901 and 188 Dudley Port, Tipton by 1911. Edgar Steventon died in 1952 aged 73.

Children, as known - Florence Gertrude, Nellie, Herbert, Joseph Edward, Olive May, 3 further sons.
iv. Esther, born 1882Q2. She married George Green, a puddler (born about 1881 in Tipton) in 1900Q4 and they lived at Burnt Tree, Tipton. They later ran the Oddfellows Arms. Children, as known - Fred, George, Elsie, Benjamin, Esther, Cathline, perhaps 3 further sons and a daughter.

662. v. WALTER9, [was 570a.] born 4 January 1885 at 4a Lawley Street, Dudley. He married Mary Elizabeth Colbourne in 1917 at St Thomas', Dudley and they had eight children, including Samuel the father of Ronald Skidmore who kindly supplied information on Walter's family.

vi. Joseph Thomas, born 1887Q3 and baptised 3 August. A stoker in the fire iron trade. At the time that the 1911 census was taken, he was listed with the Overseas Military, serving in the Transvaal with the 15th The King's Hussars at Potchefstroom. Private Skidmore continued with the same battalion during WW130. He died in 1966.

664. vii. EDWIN9, [was 570b.] born 25 November 1889. Registered as Edward but baptised as Edwin on 11 December 1889 at St Luke's, Dudley, and so called thereafter. He joined the Worcestershire Regiment on 1 January 1909 at Dudley and at the time that the 1911 census was taken, he was serving in the 3rd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment, at Shaft Barracks Western Heights, Dover, Kent. His Army Service Records recorded in 1913 that 'Has passed through a course in M.I. duties; has been employed as a groom for about 18 months; was for about 8 months on the regimental police and for about 6 months employed on transport duties. A very good willing man, thoroughly honest & trustworthy & reliable'. He was posted to Egypt in January 1913, returning home in October 1914 for three weeks before going to France. He remained in France until May 1919. He married Sarah Heath in 1921 and had one son. Mr Skidmore died on 21 March 1972.


x. Emma, born 1898Q1.

xi. Sidney, born 1901Q2, after the census of 31 March, and baptised 6 June. He died in 1903Q2 aged 2.

The second surviving son of Peter and Mary (Smithyman) Skidmore,

184. THOMAS7 SKIDMORE, baptised 4 February 1816. A moulder of Queens Cross, Dudley, he married Celia Wilkes at All Saints', Sedgley on 19 March 1838. A witness was Samuel Boswell. Celia was baptised on 7 September 1817 in Chatham, Kent, a daughter of Thomas Wilkes, a dresser of castings, and Mary his wife. Thomas Wilkes is known from the 1841 census to have been born between 1776 and 1781. Unfortunately, this census does not tell us precisely where people were born – all we know is that he was not born in Worcestershire. It is possible he came from a family of Wilkes in the Chatham area, or perhaps he left the Black Country to work for a time at the Naval Dockyard in Chatham, where his skills with iron would have been used at this time of warfare for Britain. His daughters Eliza Wilkes, Celia Wilkes and Caroline Betsy Wilkes were born in Chatham between 1814 and 1821. At the same time in Chatham lived James and Mary Skidmore whose daughter Sarah was baptised there on 2 April 1819 (this family otherwise unknown).

In 1841 Susannah Jones aged 75, so far unidentified, lived with Tom and Celia's family. Tom and Celia were living in Angel Street at the time of the 1861 census, but by 1871 had moved to 120 Queens Cross. This was to be the home of their son Joe, grandson Jack, and Jack's widow and children until the time of the slum clearances of the mid-1930s. My father John Stuart (Jack) Skidmore was born there in 1920.

Tom Skidmore died in 1891Q1 aged 76 and Mrs Skidmore lived until her death with the family of her son Joseph. She died in 1903Q3 aged 86.

30 British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920 [database on-line].
The children of Thomas and Celia (Wilkes) Skidmore, born and baptised in Dudley,

1. Thomas, born 1838Q3. He was a coal miner from at least the age of 12 and did not marry. I have been unable to find this man in the censuses of 1861 and 1871. He worked for a time in Dudley and later lived and worked with his brother John in Somercotes. He died in 1894Q4 aged 56.

2. Betsy, born 1840Q2. She went as servant with the family of Dudley-born iron founder Elijah Hurst to Maindee, Christchurch, Monmouthshire but returned to Dudley by 1871, where she was cook to the Jobson brothers, engineers of 196 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley. She married Henry Brearley, a drayman (born in Ashby, Leicestershire) in 1887Q1 at St Mark’s, Pensnett and was living at 75 Hall Street, Dudley in 1891. Mr Brearley died in 1898Q2 and by the time of the 1901 census his wife was an office caretaker, living with her brother Joseph’s daughter Celia at 199, Wolverhampton Street. Betsy Brearley died in 1916Q3 aged 76.

3. Caroline, born 1842Q4. She married William Jones, a coal miner (born about 1844 in Dudley, son of William Jones) on 3 November 1862 at All Saints’, Sedgley and lived in Angel Street, Dudley. Caroline Jones’ death was presumably that registered at Dudley in 1914Q1, aged 71.

4. James, born 27 February 1845 at Queens Cross. Two men called James Skidmore of the right age and born in Dudley appear in the census for county Durham in 1871, the first lodging in Albert Mews, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire, the other at the Green Dragon Inn, Stockton, Durham - both single and both iron moulders. One of these is presumably the son of Thomas and Celia Skidmore.

In 1891 a James Skidmore aged 44 (and said to have been born in Stafford) appears in the village of Somercotes, Alfreton, Derbyshire. He was married to Mary _______ (born about 1852 in Alfreton), sister of Henry Lycett, coal miner, who lived with them. James was a pipe moulder at this time, yet appears to be the coal mine labourer living in 1901 in Somercotes Hill (next to the family of Samuel Lycett), and married to Hannah _______ (born about 1840 in Greasley, Nottinghamshire, died 1907Q2 aged 67). Since Thomas and John the sons of Thomas and Celia Skidmore also lived in Somercotes it seems safe to assume that this James Skidmore was their brother but it would be helpful to see his marriage certificates to confirm this. He died in 1904 aged 59.

5. Susan, born 1847Q3. She married John Hickman, coal miner (born about 1843, son of Benjamin Hickman, nailer), at St Thomas’, Dudley on 17 September 1871. Witnesses were Elizabeth Morris and Jesse Taylor. John and Susan were living in 1881 at 31 Stourbridge Road, Hart’s Hill, Dudley, next to the Reindeer Inn. She died in 1890Q1 aged only 42.

In 1881 Joe and Sarah were living at 120 Queens Cross with his parents, his brother Tom and his widowed uncle Peter Skidmore. Joe Skidmore was an iron moulder at the Netherton Ironworks of M & W Grazebrook. He helped to make the cast iron pipes used to carry the first water from Wales to Birmingham. He became nearly blind in old age and continued to live with his son Jack at 120 Queens Cross until his death. He died in Burton Road Hospital, Dudley, in 1934 aged 83. Mrs Skidmore died in 1922Q4 aged 77.

The children of Joseph and Sarah (Barnsley) Skidmore, born in Dudley, baptised at St Luke’s,

1. Betsy, born 1876Q4, baptised 27 November 1878. She was a domestic servant in 1891 to grocer Simeon Greenfield on Dudley High Street. She married Charles Frederick Morgan, a safe maker (born about 1877 in Dudley) in 1899Q3 at St Luke’s, Dudley. They lived in Beacon Street, Wolverhampton, where, by 1911, Betsy Morgan was a shopkeeper. Charles Morgan died in Wolverhampton in 1937 aged 61.

Daughters Doris Mary and Phyllis Irene.

2. Susan, born 1878Q4 and baptised with her sister Betsy. She was living in 1901 with her widowed aunt Betsy Brearley in Dudley and was by 1911 servant to the family of iron merchant Henry Bridgewater at Springfield House, Tansley Hill Road,
Dudley. Susan later worked at the Sunbeam factory and then ran a small grocer’s shop in Willenhall. She did not marry and died in 1967.

648. iii. THOMAS, born at 120 Queens Cross, Dudley, on 20 April 1880. He was working as a colliery labourer in Somercotes, Derbyshire at the time of the 1901 census and living in the home of his uncle John Skidmore. Tom later worked as a platelayer on the railway at Wolverhampton for about forty years. After the blitz in the early years of World War II he worked at New Street Station in Birmingham. He married firstly Alice Edwards (born about 1880 in Wolverhampton) in 1908 and lived at 2 Foxes Lane, Wolverhampton. Alice Skidmore died in 1915 aged 35 and Tom married secondly Margaret Bixley, who died in 1943. Tom Skidmore died in Luton in 1947 aged 67.

A son of Thomas and Alice (Edwards) Skidmore,

i. Thomas Wilfred, born 27 June 1909 in Wolverhampton. He married and lived in Luton and was in the motor trade. Wilf and his wife were cycling enthusiasts and toured Europe. He died in Cheshire in 1994 aged 84.

ii. [perhaps] Jeffery, born 1913, died 1914.

iv. James, born July 1883, baptised 18 July 1883. A brass caster in 1901. He was a keen footballer and played for the Shavers End team in Dudley. He served as a gunner in D Battery 100th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery in World War I and died on 30 March 1917 in Saronika after falling and being crushed by a gun carriage. He is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave in Karasouli, Greece.

649. v. JOHN, born on 8 October 1885 at 120 Queens Cross, Dudley, and baptised at St Luke’s on 4 November of that year. He was admitted to St Thomas’s Infant School, King Street on 13 January 1890 and withdrawn on 1 March 1891. No further information regarding his schooling is presently known to me. He was an iron moulder in 1901 and later a riveter in the manufacture of boilers, at John Thompson’s in Pear Tree Lane in Dudley (formerly the Windmill Works, shown on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map of western Dudley). He married Vivian Kathleen Groves (born 27 December 1892) on 28 January 1917 at St Luke’s. Her family were from Milton-under-Wychwood in Oxfordshire. Her father John Groves was a stonemason by trade, from a long line of masons in Milton. He left for Canada in the early 1900s and did not return to the UK. Viv moved with her mother Miriam Frances, her maternal aunts and brothers and sisters, to Dudley, settling in St Luke’s Terrace in the Dock area of the town. Jack Skidmore lost his job in the General Strike of 1926 and was not able to obtain work again. In the 1930s their ‘2-up 2-down’ house, along with many others in the Dock, was demolished and the family rehoused in a six-bedroom house, 150 Hillside Road, on the newly-built Wren’s Nest estate in Dudley and backing on to what is now the famous Wren’s Nest nature reserve. He died of peritonitis in 1939Q1 aged 53, his wife on 14 December 1948.

John and Vivian Kathleen (Groves) Skidmore
The children of John and Vivian Kathleen (Groves) Skidmore, born in Dudley and baptised at St Luke’s,

i. Susan Winifred, born 12 January 1918. A school secretary in Wolverhampton, Miss Skidmore spent her retirement in Ashenhurst Road in Dudley. She died in December 2002.

ii. **JOHN STUART**, born 21 January 1920. He was educated at St Thomas’ School and then the Intermediate School (later called the Sir Gilbert Caughton) and attended the Christadelphian Chapel at the top of Bath Hill in Dudley. He began his working life at 14 as an iron moulder, firstly at the Revo in Tipton, later at Shentons in Great Bridge. After suffering a back injury he became a factory storekeeper at Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds in Tipton Road, Dudley. He married Irene. Children Linda and Kathleen. My father died in October 2010, my mother in September 2015.

iii. Vivien Maud, born 1922, died December 2001. She married Frank and had three children, Christine, Joan and Robert.


vi. **FREDERICK THOMAS**. He married Jean. After serving in the RAF in World War II, Fred worked as an aeronautical engineer in Cambridge and he and his wife now live there in their retirement. Children David Mark and Elaine.

vii. Gerald Albert, born 1931, died 1989. He lived for many years in London, where he was a concierge.


ix. Janet. She married George, a garage mechanic. Janet now lives in Cannock and has two daughters, Janice and Karen.

vii. Mary Ann, born 12 April (baptised 8 May) 1853. She was a general servant in a pub close to her home in Queen’s Cross in 1871. She married Francis Forward, a labourer and coal miner, at St James’, Dudley in 1873Q1. Although the marriage index gives his name as Forward, he appears to have been born about 1854 in Dudley, son of Francis Ford, originally of Bourne Heath, Worcestershire, and his wife Sarah) and was known with the surname Ford. Francis and Mary Ann lived at 4 Prince Street, Baptist End, Dudley and later to nearby 11 Round Street, Netherton. Mary Ann Ford died in 1922 aged 68, her husband in 1931 aged 78.

Children, as known - Francis, Thomas, Annie, James, Minnie, Polly.

viii. John, born 1855Q3. A coalpit labourer, he married Phoebe Nicklin (perhaps born 1852Q1 in Dudley, daughter of Benjamin and Phoebe Nicklin of Wellington Road, Dudley) in 1876Q3 at All Saints’, Sedgley and went to live by 1881 in Somercotes, Derbyshire. Phoebe Skidmore died in 1907Q2 aged 50.

Children, as known - Susan, Sarah A., Celia, Edward W., Thomas.
185. **PETER² SKIDMORE**, born 23 December 1820 in Springs Mire, Dudley, and baptised at St Thomas’s, Dudley on 6 July 1823. He married Jane Jenkins (born about 1823 in Dudley, daughter of David Jenkins, glass cutter of Netherton) on 3 February 1846 at St Andrew’s, Netherton. The witnesses were James Mackay and Elizabeth Mackay. Peter was a moulder in iron and later in brass and lived with his family in the High Street in Dudley.

Jane Skidmore died in 1870Q2 aged 50 and Peter’s family lived for a time in Oxford Street, Dudley. By 1881 his eldest son Thomas was married and living with his family in Birmingham, and caring for his youngest brother Harry. Son Joseph was in Tipton, Peter was in lodgings in Dudley, David might already have emigrated, and Mary Ann was married. Mr Skidmore lived in the home of his brother Tom [184] until his death in 1898Q3, said to be aged 76.

The children of Peter and Jane (Jenkins) Skidmore, born and baptised in Dudley,

346. i. **THOMAS⁸**, born on 19 February 1846 (baptised 1 April at St Thomas’s, Dudley. He was a house painter who married Fanny Morgan (born 1845Q4 in Gloucester, daughter of Edwin Hacket, bootmaker of Gloucester, Northampton and Dudley, and his wife Mary Ann) in 1868Q3 in the Dudley registration district. They lived after their marriage in Hacket Street, Great Bridge, then spent some time in Wednesbury in the late 1870s before settling in Bell Barn Road in Birmingham (present-day Edgbaston area of the city). Thomas raised his youngest brother Harry, a wheelwright’s labourer.

It seems Mrs Skidmore and her husband separated before 1901, at which time he lived still in Birmingham, though he is said to have later gone to live in Cumbria. Fanny Skidmore began a dressmaking business from her home in Bell Barn Road and later lived with her daughter Laura Wilkins in Bournbrook. She died in 1933 in Birmingham, aged 88.

**The children of Thomas and Fanny (Morgan) Skidmore,**

i. **Edward James**, born 1870Q3.

ii. **Laura**, born 1876Q2 in Great Bridge. A baby’s milliner before her marriage in 1898Q4 to Edgar Ernest Wilkins, a motor engineer. They lived at 4 Arley Road, Bournbrook.


vi. **Nellie**, born 1880Q3 in Birmingham. An upholstress in 1901, she was, by 1911, a servant to Mr and Mrs Philip Baker of Hodge Hill House, Castle Bromwich. She married James Docker in 1911Q2. A son Ernest, born 1911, and 5 daughters.

668. iii. **EDWIN⁹**, born 1874Q3 in Great Bridge. A plumber, he married Amelia Charlotte Crabbe in Aston in 1901Q3. They were living by 1911 at 76 Knowle Road, Sparkhill [Birmingham].

Children of Edwin and Amelia Charlotte (Crabbe) Skidmore,

i. **Edwin James**, born 1903Q3.

ii. **Norah**, born 1907Q1.

iv. **Laura**, born 1876Q2 in Great Bridge. A baby’s milliner before her marriage in 1898Q4 to Edgar Ernest Wilkins, a motor engineer. They lived at 4 Arley Road, Bournbrook.

vi. **Nellie**, born 1880Q3 in Birmingham. An upholstress in 1901, she was, by 1911, a servant to Mr and Mrs Philip Baker of Hodge Hill House, Castle Bromwich. She married James Docker in 1911Q2. A son Ernest, born 1911, and 5 daughters.

669. vii. **ALBERT⁹**, born in Edgbaston, Birmingham in 1882Q2. A house painter for the building trade, he married May Coldicott (born 1887Q1 in Alcester, Warwickshire) in 1906Q2. They lived in White Road, Sparkhill.

Children of Albert and May (Coldicott) Skidmore,

i. **Albert Owen**, born 1906Q4 in Small Heath.


iii. **Violet Abigail F.**, born 1910Q4 in White Road, Sparkhill.


vi. **May L.**, born 1918Q3.
347. ii. **JOSEPH**⁹, born in Dudley in 1847Q3. He married Eliza Fomes (born 1851Q1 in Dudley, daughter of John Fomes, anvil maker) in 1871Q4 at St Andrew’s, Netherton, and they lived in Greystone Passage, off the Upper High Street in Dudley, until at least 1873. Some time before 1877 they moved to Tipton and were living at 35 Horseley Road in 1881. Joseph had switched from casting in brass, his trade in Dudley, to being an iron moulder. They moved back to Dudley in 1883 and lived in London Terrace. By 1911 Joseph was retired and the family lived in Stourbridge Road, Hart’s Hill, Dudley. One of his daughters is said to have married a Mr Hand and gone to live in Birmingham, but this family lore appears to refer to Joseph’s niece Rose Skidmore, daughter of Thomas.

**The children of Joseph and Eliza (Fomes) Skidmore, born in Dudley.**

There was another child who did not survive.

i. Elizabeth, born 27 June (baptised 14 July at St Luke’s) 1872. She and her sister Agnes transferred from the Tipton Board School to Hart’s Hill School on 13 August 1883. Miss Skidmore suffered from a severe hearing impairment. She was unmarried at the time of the 1911 census.

670. ii. **JOSEPH**⁹, born 4 September 1873. He was apparently baptised twice that year, on 13 September at St Thomas’ and on 7 November at St Luke’s. A blacksmith, he married Alice Louisa Gardener (born 1876Q3 in Brierley Hill, daughter of James Gardener, a brick setter, and his wife Mary Elizabeth) in 1898Q3. They were living in 1901 at 7 Chapel Street but, by 1911, had moved to 50 Garratt Street, Hart’s Hill, Dudley, where Mr Skidmore worked in the gate and hurdle works. Joseph Skidmore’s death was perhaps that registered at Rowley Regis in 1947, aged 73. Alice Skidmore died in 1953 aged 77.

**Children of Joseph and Alice Louisa (Gardener) Skidmore, born in Hart’s Hill,**

i. Dora, born 1898Q4.

ii. Hilda, born late in 1900.

iii?. A child who did not survive to 1911.

iv?. Annie, born 1906Q2.

v?. Alice, born 1912Q1.

**born in Great Bridge, Tipton,**

iii. Agnes, born 1877Q2. A fitter in the manufacture of boots in 1901. She married George Thomas Clark, a hurdle rivetter (born 1875Q3 in Hart’s Hill, son of John Clark) at St Luke’s on 30 June 1901. They lived at 6 Vine Street, Hart’s Hill. Children, as known - George Harold, Edna, ?Jack.


671. v. **DAVID**⁹, born 1880Q1. A blacksmith’s striker in the ironworks and, by 1911, a ‘tramway motorman’. He married Phoebe Ameson (born about 1884, daughter of William Ameson) at Luke’s on 29 October 1905. They lived in Chapel Street, Hart’s Hill.

**Children of David and Phoebe (Ameson) Skidmore,**

i. **SYDNEY**¹⁰, born 16 May 1906. He married in 1929 and had three sons.

ii. Doris, born 1908Q1.

iii. A child who did not survive to 1911.

iv. Margaret, born 1912Q3.


vi-ix. 3 further daughters and a son.

vi. Alice, born 1 October 1882. Educated at Hart’s Hill School, she became a general domestic servant to the family of Edward C. Theedam, ironmonger and electrical engineer, at 32 Russell Street, Dudley. She married Joseph Mills, a plater (born in Pensnett) in 1906Q4 at St James’, Dudley.

**born in Hart’s Hill,**

vii. Ada, born November 1884. She attended Hart’s Hill School and became a housemaid in Wellington Road in 1901. She married John Palmer, an engineer’s fitter, in 1909Q3 and they were living in 1911 in Stourbridge Road, Hart’s Hill.
viii. Dora, born 1891Q4. An assistant in a drapery department in 1911. She married Frederick G. Harrington in 1916Q4 at St Augustine's, Holly Hall, Dudley.

iii. Mary Ann, baptised 30 July 1849, sometimes called Annie. She married George Cartwright, a sheet iron worker (born 1850Q4 in Kidderminster, Worcestershire, son of William Cartwright, shoemaker), on 3 December 1871 at St Thomas', Dudley. Hannah Merry and Alfred Cartwright were witnesses. Mr Cartwright's work took them for a few years to Widnes, Lancashire, then to West Bromwich, Staffordshire and, by 1901, to Ecclesall, Sheffield, Yorkshire. At the time of the 1901 census Mary Ann was a patient in the District Fever Hospital in Sheffield but clearly recovered and was living with her family at 4 Derby Place, Sheffield in 1911. Mary Ann Cartwright died in 1922 aged 72, her husband in 1929 aged 78. Children, as known (of 13 births) - John, Eliza, Ellen, Thomas, George, Mary A., Fanny, Harry, Peter.


v. Elizabeth, born 17 December 1853, baptised 1 February 1854. Not found in the census of 1861 or later.

vi. DAVID, born on 1 December 1857 and baptised on 25 December of that year at St Thomas', Dudley. I have not found him in the 1881 British census and he could have already emigrated to Australia. He married Alice Winter and was at first an iron moulder of Noone Street, Clifton Hill. By the time he made his will on 28 March 1894 he was a 'trade instructor' of 4 Power Avenue, Hawthorne, Victoria. The family remained at this address until at least 1924. Witnesses to Mr Skidmore's will were Henry Rowe and Robert Winter. He died on 12 August 1924 and probate was granted to his wife.

Children of David and Alice (Winter) Skidmore, born in Clifton Hill, Melbourne, Victoria31, i. Alfred, born 1890. A civil servant, he joined up on 17 January 1916. His army records show that he was 5ft 3in tall, with a fresh complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. He was a Methodist by religious persuasion. On 14 February he was transferred to the Signal School at Broad Meadow, Melbourne. He embarked on the Ascanius on 27 May 1916 with the 3rd Divisional Signal Company of the Australian Engineers, proceeding from Southampton to France late in November.

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31 Australian Birth Index 1788-1922.
Alfred was appointed Lance Corporal in the field in France on 17 April 1917. He became ill and was admitted to hospital in France in June 1917, thence to the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital, Northfield, Birmingham, England where he died on 11 October 1917 of a kidney abscess. His coffin was taken to the home of his uncle Joseph Skidmore at 26 Grange Road, Dudley and he was buried in St James' churchyard in Dudley (Grave No. 14, Row I). The following relatives were present at his funeral - Peter Skidmore (uncle), Joseph Skidmore (uncle), Joseph Skidmore (cousin), David Skidmore (cousin), George Clark (cousin Agnes' husband), John Palmer (cousin Ada's husband), Frederick Harrington (cousin Dora's husband), Joseph Mills (cousin Alice's husband). An oak cross was to be erected by the Australian Imperial Force but this was presumably replaced by the gravestone shown here.

ii. Ruth, born 1893.
iii. Hetta, born 1895.

349. vii. PETER, born on 1 July (baptised 21 July) 1861 at 57 High Street, Dudley. His mother died when he was nine years old. By 1881 Peter was a brass polisher boarding at 97 Dock Lane, Dudley, with Mrs Maria Bryan. He married Clara Fulwood, a teacher (born about 1865 in Dudley, daughter of Joseph Fullwood, a fitter, and his wife Elizabeth, of Ludgate Street, Dudley) on 1 December 1889 at St Luke’s. In the early years of their marriage they lived in Vicarage Prospect, Dudley, where Peter was a brass moulder. By 1894 they had moved to Russell Street (which adjoins Vicarage Prospect), where they remained until at least 1911. Peter had become a clerk and by 1899 a manager of a brass bedstead works. I know of three fender factories in the immediate vicinity. The Wellington Works was a bedstead and fender factory in Dock Lane. Also shown on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map of western Dudley was the smaller Victoria Works, a fender factory at the back of Grange Park. Thirdly, there was the Dudley Bucket and Fender Co-operative in Charlotte Street.

Dudley Bucket and Fender Co-operative, Charlotte Street, 1901.
Origin of this photograph unfortunately mislaid, but taken from what appears to be a trades catalogue.

In 1915, Birmingham Corporation was to provide suitable accommodation for up to 3,000 wounded soldiers, and as a result both Rubery Hill and Hollymoor Asylums were converted at a cost of approximately £25,000 to hospitals suitable for the treatment of wounded soldiers. Rubery Hill became the 1st Birmingham War Hospital, with Hollymoor being part of 2nd Birmingham War Hospital. Hollymoor was originally intended to accommodate 640 patients but as the need for more beds increased, all available space was used including the use of tents in the grounds and was able to accommodate up to 940 men. It received its first casualties on 8th July 1915, and on occasions up to 800 wounded could be received in one week. In the later stages of the war Hollymoor was converted into a specialist orthopaedic hospital. It closed as a military surgical hospital on 1st March 1920 having treated 21,280 casualties. It was then converted to a Ministry of Pensions War Hospital, dealing with the care and rehabilitation of ex-soldiers. It was handed back to the city in 1922, and reopened as a mental hospital.
The children of Peter and Clara (Fulwood) Skidmore, baptised at St Luke’s, Dudley,

i. Dora, born 1 January (baptised 1 February) 1891. A music teacher, Miss Skidmore provided the information on this branch of the family. She died at Priory Road, Dudley, on 17 April 1983.

ii. May, born 23 August (baptised 18 September) 1892. She died in 1896Q2 aged 3.

iii. Howard, born 4 April (baptised 29 April) 1894. He married late in life and had no children.

iv. Bertram Clifford, baptised 7 May 1899. Died at a few months old.

349a. viii. HENRY⁸, born 1864Q1 in Dudley. After the death of his mother in 1870 he lived in the home of his elder brother Thomas in Birmingham, where Henry was a wheelwright’s labourer. He moved in the 1880s to Cumberland, where he became a steel worker and married there Rhoda Ann Howell in 1890Q4. She was born 1869Q1 in Darlaston, the daughter of Elijah and Mary Howell of Wednesbury, found living in Dronfield, Derbyshire in 1881. Henry and Rhoda Skidmore lived at first in Overend, Hensington and later in Workington. He died in 1941 aged 77, his wife in 1947 aged 77.

The son of Henry and Rhoda Ann (Howells) Skidmore,

i. David, born 1892Q1 in Workington. Nothing known after 1911.

98. CORNELIUS⁶ SKIDMORE (known as Naley), born 14 December 1803, probably in the Springs Mire area of Dudley. He was baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley at the age of five, on the same day that his elder brother Peter baptised his first child, 18 June 1809. He married firstly Susannah Smith (perhaps baptised 29 December 1805 at St Thomas’, Dudley, daughter of Henry and Sarah Smith) at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 5 March 1826. Daniel Page was a witness. They lived in Springs Mire until at least 1841. Susannah Skidmore died at the age of 40 on 20 April 1846 and was buried in Dudley.

Cornelius married secondly Mrs Maria Jukes (born about 1817 in Gornal, daughter of John Marsh), widow of Benjamin Foxhall Jukes whom she married on 6 March 1836 at All Saints’, Sedgley. Cornelius and Mrs Jukes were married on 3 August 1851 at All Saints’, Sedgley. At the time of the census earlier that year they were at 91, New Dock with four children of Cornelius’ first marriage and six of Maria’s children - Jane Jukes 15 (baptised with Ann Maria and another sister Mary on 1 November 1846 at St James, Dudley), Thomas 13, Benjamin 10, Ann Maria 7, John 5 and Elizabeth 2.

Cornelius had given up coal mining some time between 1841 and 1851 and become a furnace labourer and then an iron moulder. They spent some time at St James’ Terrace and then at London Fields before returning to the Dock. Cornelius was described in the census of 1881 as an ‘invalid’ and died in 1883Q4 - though the recorded age of 82 appears to be wrong. Maria Skidmore survived her husband and was living next to her son Methuselah in 1901. She died in 1906Q1 aged 91.

The children of Cornelius and Susannah (Smith) Skidmore, baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley,

i. William, baptised 20 January 1828. A miner, he died at the age of 21 on 4 August 1849 and was buried in Dudley.

ii. Mary, born 25 June 1830 and baptised 30 March 1834. She married John Jones, collier of Bromley, at Holy Trinity, Wordsley on 8 November 1846. He was born on 10 June 1826 in Coalport, Shropshire (baptised 16 July at Madeley), son of Thomas Jones, collier, and his wife Sarah Mason). The witnesses were John Baggott and Ruth Baggott. In 1856 John and Mary’s family lived in Salop Street, Dudley. At some time in 1869 or 1870 they left Dudley and emigrated with their eight surviving children to Homestead, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She died there on 11 January 1899. Her husband survived her and died on 17 August 1903.
186. iii. **CORNELIUS**\(^7\), born 29 January 1833, OF WHOM MORE LATER.

187. iv. **PETER**\(^7\), born 7 June 1835, OF WHOM MORE LATER.


vi. Hannah, born 1839Q2. Died aged 6 years 6 months, buried on 2 January 1846 in Dudley.

188. vii. **REUBEN**\(^7\), born 1844Q1, OF WHOM MORE LATER.

The children of Cornelius and Maria (Marsh) Skidmore,

189. ix. **WILLIAM**\(^7\), born 17 October 1851, TO WHOM WE SHALL RETURN.

x. [probably] Methuselah, born 1853Q3, died aged 3 and was buried at St James', Dudley on 26 February 1857.

190. xi **METHUSELAH**\(^7\), born in 1857Q4, TO WHOM WE SHALL RETURN.

xii. Susannah, born 1860Q1. She married George Bullas, a horse nail maker and later a limestone labourer (born 1859Q4 in Dudley, son of James Bullas, nailmaker of Badgers Square, and his wife Susannah), in 1880Q4 at St James', Dudley. Their home from at least the time of the 1901 census was 8 Nith Place, Dudley. George Bullas died in 1933 aged 73, his wife in 1937 aged 77. 13 children - Thomas E., Louisa, Cornelius, George, Francis, Charles Edward, Arthur, Ann, James, Frederick, Leonard, Gilbert, Methuselah.

191. xiii. **SAMUEL**\(^7\), born in 1863Q2, TO WHOM WE SHALL RETURN.

xiv. Jane, born 1867Q4. She died in 1872 aged 4 and was buried at St James', Dudley on 24 March.

The second son of Cornelius Skidmore [98],

186. **CORNELIUS**\(^7\) **SKIDMORE**, born on 29 January 1833 and baptised at St Thomas', Dudley on 10 January 1836. He married firstly Jane Ju
dkes (born about 1835, daughter of Benjamin Jukes, probably the nailer of the Dock whose wife was Ann) on 25 December 1853 at All Saints', Sedgley. Sight of this marriage is needed to confirm the name of her father. Jane Skidmore's death was probably that registered at Dudley in 1861Q4.
Cornelius married secondly Ann Ferrington (baptised 12 July 1833 in Claverley, Shropshire, daughter of William Ferrington, farmer, and Mary (Felton)) at St Thomas', Dudley on 30 November 1863. The witnesses were John Felton Ferrington, her brother, and Rebecca Ferrington. Cornelius (known as Wiley) was a miner living at Shavers End, Dudley until at least 1863 but by the time of the 1871 census the family were in Foundry Road, Tipton and a year later, at the time of Ann Skidmore's death on 6 December 1872, in Earl Street in the Walbrook area of Coseley. Administration of her estate was granted to her husband on 3 April 1883 at Lichfield.

Mr Skidmore married thirdly Mrs Ann Whitehouse on 9 September 1874 at St John's, Tipton. Eliza Ann Jenkins was born in 1828 in Stourport, Worcestershire, daughter of John Jenks, a labourer. She was the widow of coal miner John Whitehouse. Cornelius and Eliza Skidmore were living at Earl Top in Brierley, Coseley at the time of the 1881 census with three sons of Eliza by her previous marriage (born in Princes End, Coseley) and Cornelius' daughter Mary Skidmore. By 1891 the children had left home and Cornelius and Eliza lived until at least 1901 (when he was still a loader in a coal mine) in Southall Lane, a private road between Earl Street and Walbrook Street in Coseley. He died in 1903Q4 and his widow married thirdly in 1907 John Southall.

The children of Peter and Emma (Liddall) Skidmore, born in Dudley

1. PETER, born 1855Q1. Apparently called Ephraim in the 1861 census and aged 8. A coal miner, he was raised in Dudley and Coseley. He married Emma Liddall on 27 December at Chesterfield, Derbyshire. She was born about 1857 in Dudley, daughter of John Liddell of St James’ Terrace, Dudley. The births of their first two children were registered in Chesterfield, though later censuses state that they were born in Dudley. When John was baptised in Dudley in 1877 the family’s address was given as the Bull Ring (perhaps that part of Dudley so called which lay between Springs Mire and Scotts Green). The birthplace of the first five children in given in the 1891 census as Whittington Moor, Derbyshire.

At the time of the 1881 census, the whole family were visitors at the home in Ferryhill, County Durham, of coal miner William Charles and his wife Emma (both born in Dudley - no obvious family connection), but settled around 1888 in Chell, Staffordshire. Peter and Emma Skidmore both died in 1926.

The children of Peter and Emma (Liddall) Skidmore, born in Whittington Moor, Derbyshire

i. Catherine, born 18 March 1876 in Chesterfield and baptised on 16 April 1876 at Newbold and Dunston, Derbyshire. She married Samuel Insley, a railway goods clerk (born about 1877 in Redditch, Worcestershire, son of David Insley, an alkali worker, and his wife Elizabeth) in 1899Q3 at St James, Newchapel, Staffordshire. They were living in 1901 at 65 Solvay Road in Winnington, Cheshire. Catherine Insley died in 1938 aged 62.

ii. JOHN, born in Dudley and baptised at St Luke’s there on 10 October 1877. His birth was registered in Chesterfield. A colliery lamp cleaner in Chell, he married Agnes Mary Hughes, a pottery decorator (born about 1884 in Dudley) in 1909Q2 at Christ Church, Tunstall. They were living in 1911 at 77 Bond Street, Tunstall.

Children of John and Agnes Mary (Hughes) Skidmore

i. Hilda, born and died in 1911Q1.

ii. Gertrude M., born 1912Q3.

iii. William, born 1879Q4 in Chesterfield. He was a teacher in an elementary school in Chell and worked for the Derbyshire County Council. He emigrated in 1913, arriving (via Boston) on 26 June and headed for Saskatchewan. He enlisted on 22 June 1917 at Winnipeg for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. He was then a School Principal in Macgregor, Manitoba. He named as next of kin his father Peter of 10 Vine Street, Hanley, Stoke on Trent. William was of a dark complexion with brown eyes and black hair and was 5ft 6ins tall. He gave his age as 32 and his date of birth as 30 October 1884. Nothing known after this date.

iv. Amy Jane, born 1884Q3 in Barrow's Hill/ Staveley, Derbyshire. A pottery decorator, she was living at the time of the 1911 census with her brother John, whose wife had recently lost their first child. Miss Skidmore died in 1972 aged 88.

v. Annie, born 1886Q4 in Tunstall. A lithographer in an earthenware factory. She married George Wood, a brickmaker (born about 1885 in Burslem) at Christ Church, Tunstall in 1907Q2 and was living with her husband and daughter Amy at 84 Sun Street, Tunstall in 1911.
born in Chell.

674. vi. JOSEPH HENRY\(^9\), born 1889Q1. A weighing machine operator at a colliery. He married Edith Guest in 1914Q2 at Christ Church, Tunstall and had, as known, one son.

vii. Elizabeth, born 1891Q1. An earthenware decorator, she married Joseph C. Mansell at Christ Church, Tunstall in 1917.

viii. Samuel, born 1892Q1. A lamp cleaner at a colliery.


x. Lily, born 1896Q3. She was working for a dressmaker at the age of 14.

xi. Arthur Liddell, born 1899Q1. He worked as a hairdresser for H. Hayward, 22 Market Place, Burslem\(^{33}\). Arthur joined the 53rd Young Soldier Battalion of the Leicester Regiment (A basic recruit training unit based at Rugeley Camp\(^{34}\)) on 22 February 1917, when the heart disease from which he had suffered since the age of five was noted. He was admitted to the military hospital at Rugeley Camp from November 1917 to March 1918, followed by five months in the military heart hospital in Colchester. He was placed on light duties from June to October 1918 before being admitted to hospital. Private Skidmore was discharged as physically unfit three days after the armistice.

He is perhaps the Arthur L. Skidmore who married in 1926 in the Stoke on Trent registration district.

ii. Ruth, born about 1855. She is not found after the census of 1861 and presumably died before 1871, her name not registered as Ruth.

iii. Hannah Jane (sometimes called Ann or Annie Jane), born 1857Q2. In 1891 she was a washerwoman living in central Birmingham with her widowed sister Mary Hodge, with infants Annie Hodge aged 8 months and Annie Crowley aged 1 month (perhaps Annie Jane’s daughter). By the time of the 1901 census Annie had obtained the position of housekeeper to the Baldwin family in Mountford Street, Great, Yardley.

Annie Jane Skidmore married Alfred Coleman in Birmingham in 1903Q2. He ran a boot repair business from their home at 193 Irving Street, Birmingham.

A presumed child of Hannah Jane Skidmore,

i. Annie, born early in 1891 and called Annie Crowley at census time one month after her birth. Nothing further known.


The children of Cornelius and Ann (Ferrington) Skidmore,

v. Mary, born 1865Q2 in Coseley. She married, as Mary Ann Skidmore, George John Hodge in Birmingham in 1883Q2. He died aged 37 in 1888 and Mary had a daughter Annie in the autumn of 1890. She was living in 1891 with Annie in the home of her sister Hannah Jane in Birmingham. In 1891Q4 Mary Ann Hodge married William Wilkes, a railway worker(born in Birmingham around 1851). They lived in Great Charles Street in Birmingham.

Children, as known - John C. Wilkes, Marion Wilkes.

A child of Mary Skidmore,

i. Annie, born, born 1890Q3, called Annie Hodge in the census of 1891 and Annie Skidmore in 1901.

vi. Jane, born in Coseley and baptised 15 September 1867 at St John’s, Tipton. She was living in 1881 with her uncle and aunt George and Elizabeth (Ferrington) Carter in Draycott, Claverley, Shropshire. She was a housemaid in Seisdon, Staffordshire in 1891 and, by 1911, was sharing a home at 18 Pool Street, Wolverhampton with another lady in service - Miss Catherine Wellings (born in Claverley about 1835).

vii. Cornelius, born 1870Q3 in Tipton. He died in 1872Q1 aged 1.

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\(^{33}\) Army Pension Records.

\(^{34}\) In the autumn of 1914, only months after the start of the First World War, construction of two large camps began on Cannock Chase. Brocton Camp and Rugeley Camp were constructed with the permission of Lord Lichfield, on whose estate they were being built. When completed, they held up to 40,000 men at one time and probably trained upwards of 500,000 men. A hospital serving both camps was established at Brindley Heath in 1916. Its twelve wards had a total of one thousand beds and served the camps for the remainder of the war, as well as housing convalescing soldiers from France. http://www.staffspasttrack.org.uk and http://www.staffordshiregreatwar.com.
187. PETER² SKIDMORE, born in the Springs Mire area of Dudley on 7 June 1835 and baptised at St Thomas', Dudley on 15 April 1838. He married Sarah Venables Davies (baptised 14 May 1837 at St Thomas', Dudley, daughter of James Davies, a fire iron maker and Sarah (Venables)) in 1856Q4 at St Mark's, Pensnett and they were living in Abberley Street in Dudley in 1858, when Peter's occupation was given as a fitter [of machinery parts]. He was later a whitesmith with various addresses in the Dock area of Dudley (Albert Street in 1868, Charlotte Street in 1861, 26 Lawley Street in 1873). By 1881, when he gave his age at census time as 53, the family were at 31 Walters Row. Mrs Skidmore died aged 54 in 1892Q4. Peter Skidmore married secondly Unity Ann Browning (baptised 2 May 1841 at St Mary's, Portsea, Hampshire, daughter of John and Ann Browning and the widow of Thomas Wain) on 16 September 1894 at St Luke's. Mrs Wain was living on her own means in Manchester at the time of the 1891 census. She was the mother of Emma Wain, who married Peter's son Reuben. Unity Ann Skidmore died in 1902Q2 aged 66. At the time of the 1901 census, Peter was an iron pipe dresser living at 24 Crown Street. He died on 12 October 1910 aged 75, at 12 The Minories in Dudley. His daughter-in-law Mrs A. Skidmore was present at the death.

The children of Peter and Sarah Venables (Davies) Skidmore, born in Dudley, 351. i. WILLIAM ABSALOM³, born 26 December 1857 and baptised at St Thomas' on 21 February 1858. A foundry castings dresser of Wednesbury, he married Rose Alice Lacy (born 1862Q3 in Belbroughton, Worcestershire, daughter of Thomas and Roseanne Lacy) in 1883Q4 at St James', Dudley. They lived in Chapel Street, Wednesbury. William Skidmore died in 1926 aged 68, his wife in 1938 aged 77.

Children of William Absalom and Rose Alice (Lacy) Skidmore, born in Wednesbury, 676. ii. WILLIAM HENRY⁴, born 1877Q3. A driller of iron sheets. He married Edith Rose Bufton (born 1887Q3, daughter of John Bufton, a carter in the steel works, and his wife Emma) in 1910Q3 at St Bartholomew’s, Wednesbury. They were living in 1911 with Edith's parents at 12 Hobbins Street, Wednesbury.


iii. Rose Alice, born 1890Q2. A tailoress at the time of the 1911 census, she married later that year, at St Bartholomew’s, Wednesbury, Samuel H. Hitch. A daughter Rose L. and a son Samuel H.


vi. Lizzie, born 1896Q4.

352. ii. JAMES⁵, born 14 April 1859 and baptised at St Luke’s, Dudley, on 29 June 1873. A fender polisher of Dudley, he married firstly Jane Williams in 1881Q2 at St Mark's, Pensnett and lived with his family in Charlotte Street, Dudley in the 1880s. Jane Skidmore died in 1900Q1. James married his second wife Mrs Elizabeth Colley (born about 1865 in Bilston) in 1900Q2 at St Andrew’s, Netherton and they were living in 1901 at 3 Pleasant Place, Dudley with a household of thirteen, including James' brother Jack Skidmore and five children from Mrs Skidmore's previous marriage to Thomas Colley. By 1911 the family had moved to 11 Vauxhall Street.

The children of James and Jane (Williams) Skidmore, born in Dudley and baptised at St Luke's, 678. i. PETER⁶, [was 572a.] baptised 15 August 1883. A polisher and pipe dresser of 99 Queens Cross, Dudley, he married Amelia Elizabeth Colley in 1902Q4 at St Thomas', Dudley. Their home in 1913 was 31 Swan Street.

The children of Peter and Amelia Elizabeth (Colley) Skidmore, baptised at St Luke's, 2. i. Igal Andrew, born 31 October (baptised 20 November) 1904. He transferred from the Blue Coat School to Parson's Charity Mixed School with Edith's parents at 12 Hobbins Street, Wednesbury.
School in 1913.
   ii. James Horace, baptised 2 June 1907.
   iii. Edith May, baptised 17 March 1909.

   iii. James, baptised 21 August 1889. A brass polisher at the bedstead works of W. Adshead in King Street, Dudley. He enlisted on 22 March 1911 at Dudley and joined the 7th Bn Worcestershire Regiment. He attended training sessions in Conway, Salisbury and Swanage before the outbreak of war in 1914. He served in France from March 1915, suffering from pleurisy in May 1915. He returned home pending discharge in March 1916 and was finally discharged on 21 March 1919. James Skidmore died in 1941 aged 52.


The children of James and Elizabeth Skidmore, born in Dudley and baptised at St Luke’s,

   vii. Simeon, born about 1906.

353. iii. SIMEON8, born 28 March 1861 and baptised at St Luke’s, Dudley, on 29 June 1873. He married Prudence Williams (born in Dudley about 1873, daughter of Phoebe Williams, perhaps by her husband Joseph Bennett in 1893Q2 at St Thomas’, Dudley and they were living in Westley Street, Dudley in 1897 when their child Ephraim was born. Initially a whitesmith, he was in 1901 (when they were boarding in Westley Street with Joseph and Sarah E. Horton) a labourer in a stone quarry.

Prudence Skidmore worked as a painter in the bedstead factory. She died in 1926 in Dudley, aged 52, her husband in 1930 aged 69.

The son of Simeon and Prudence (Williams) Skidmore35,

   i. Ephraim William Henry, born on 11 April 1897 and baptised 2 May at St Luke’s, Dudley. He was a Sergeant in the 2nd/7th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment during World War I. He died on 12 September 1917 and is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium.

354. iv. JOSEPH6, born 1 January 1866 and baptised 21 January at St Thomas’, Dudley. A pipe and iron dresser of Dudley, he married Eliza Jane Cole (daughter of John Cole, a vice maker, and his wife Martha) in 1887Q3 at St James’, Dudley and lived for a time in Wednesbury, and in Vauxhall Street and later Greystone Street in Dudley.

Children of Joseph and Eliza Jane (Cole) Skidmore, born in Dudley and baptised at St Luke’s, Eliza Skidmore recorded in the 1911 census that she had had 11 children, of whom 6 were then living.

   i. Simeon, born about 1887, died 1895Q4.
   ii. Rose, born 1888Q3 in Wednesbury. She married Francis Bradley in 1907Q3 at St James’, Dudley. They were living in 1911 at 26a Graveyard Road, Lower Gornal, near Dudley, when Mr Bradley said he was a coal miner, braker for Chain Hill. Children, as known - Hilda May, Rachel.
   iii. Joseph, born 5 September 1890 at 91 Vauxhall Street, Dudley. On 1 March 1899 Joseph Skidmore son of Joseph of Kitches[?] Bank transferred from the Infant to the Junior Department of the Park School in Dudley. He left the school on 26 July 1904 and a note in the school log book says 'hop picking'. An iron foundry dresser, he was perhaps one of the two Joseph Skidmores who married in 1913 and 1919 in Dudley.
   v. Sarah, born 1898Q3 and baptised 11 September, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Skidmore.
   vi. Martha, born 1901Q3.

35 The son Arthur born about 1896 reported in my book of 2004 was an error. Both Simeon Skidmore and his wife Prudence reported independently that they had had only one child.
55. v. **EPHRAIM**⁶, born 11 May 1868 and baptised at St Thomas’ on 24 May of that year. He married Elizabeth Golden (born about 1876 in Dudley, daughter of Thomas Golden, a coal miner of Angel Street, and his wife Mary Ann) in 1898Q2 at St James’, Dudley. They lived at 20 Albert Street, Dudley and Ephraim was variously described in censuses and baptism registers as a labourer, a gem worker and a cast iron dresser.

On 23 March 1887 at Preston, Lancashire, he joined the Royal Artillery, described as a driver. He was in India from October 1890 until January 1897. He returned home but was recalled in January 1900 to serve in South Africa until his discharge from the army in 1902.⁶

In October 1906 Ephraim made his first visit to America, travelling alone on the ship Cedric via New York City, on the way to his friend Thomas Golding (perhaps his wife’s brother) in Kewana, Henry County, Illinois. Ephraim is listed as being 5 feet 6 inches tall, of fair complexion with brown hair and grey eyes.

Ephraim Skidmore died in 1925Q4 aged 57.

**The children of Ephraim and Elizabeth (Golden) Skidmore, born in Dudley and baptised at St Luke’s,**

i. Mary Elizabeth, baptised 3 July 1898.
ii. Beatrice, born 15 October (baptised 6 December) 1899. She was admitted on 23 December 1908 to St Thomas Cartwright’s Charity School. She married in 1922.
vi. Alice, baptised 2 May 1909. She married in 1930.
vii. Harold, baptised 19 October 1913, registered with his mother’s surname given as Golding.

vi. Sarah Jane, baptised 30 December 1870 at St Luke’s. She married Samuel Taylor, an anvil maker (born about 1870 in Dudley) in 1892Q1 at St James’, Dudley and moved with him to South Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham in the mid-1890s.

Children, as known: Samuel, Alice Maud, Mary Ellen, Elizabeth, Minnie, Beatrice, Sarah Ann.

55a. vii. **REUBEN**⁶, born 1873Q3 and baptised on 29 June at St Luke’s with his brothers James and Simeon. An iron worker, he married Emma Wain (born about 1873 in Dudley, daughter of William and Unity Ann Wain) at St Luke’s on 14 October 1900. They were living with his parents in 1901 but moved to 58 Pitt Street, Eckington, Derbyshire before 1911. Reuben, like his brother John who lived nearby, was a filler of coke ovens at a colliery. Reuben Skidmore died in 1953 aged 79.

The child of Reuben and Emma (Wain) Skidmore,

i. Name presently not known, this child had died before the 1911 census was taken.

55b. viii. **CORNELIUS**⁶, born 1876Q2. Like his father, a dresser of castings in 1901. He married Annie Morris in 1905Q4 at St Thomas’, Dudley and was living in 1911 at 12 The Minories, Flood Street, Dudley. He was a stationary locomotive driver for Cockraine Co.

**Children of Cornelius and Annie (Morris) Skidmore,**

i. John Henry, born 1907Q3.
ii. Florrie, born around November 1910 but apparently registered as Florence M. Skidmore in 1911Q1.
iii. Edith L., born 1913Q2.
iv. Samuel, born 1915Q1, probably died that same quarter.

perhaps twin to

356. ix. **JOHN HENRY**⁶, born in Dudley in 1879Q1. Known as Jack, he was a general labourer who married Minnie Price (born 1885Q2 in Dudley, daughter of Reuben Price, a boiler maker, and his wife Elizabeth) at St James’, Dudley in 1906Q4. They lived at 12 Charlotte Street, Dudley before moving in 1911 to Eckington, Derbyshire, where Mr Skidmore worked at a colliery filling the coke ovens.

**Children of John Henry and Minnie (Price) Skidmore,**

i. Elsie May, born in 1907Q3 and baptised 4 September 1907 at St Luke’s.

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⁶ British Army Service Records 1760-1915.
ii. Mary Elizabeth, born 1909Q3 in Dudley.


x. Mary, born 1881Q1. She was a slate polisher, living at her sister Sarah Jane's home in 1901.

The fourth son of Cornelius Skidmore [98],

188. REUBEN7 SKIDMORE, born in Dudley in 1844Q1. An iron dresser of Dudley, Worcestershire, later North Ormesby, Yorkshire and Stockton on Tees, Durham. He was lodging at the time of the 1871 census in North Ormesby along with other ironworkers from the Black Country. A little later that year he married Eliza Bates (called Selina in the 1881 census, born in Dudley about 1850). Their children were born in North Ormesby and the family were at 32 Morris Street there in 1881. By 1891 they had moved to Stockton on Tees, Durham. Reuben Skidmore died in 1913 aged 68.

The children of Reuben and Eliza (Bates) Skidmore, born in North Ormesby, births registered in Guisborough,

i. Mary, died at 3 weeks, buried from Holy Trinity, North Ormesby, on 28 June 1871.

ii. Alice, born 1873Q4. A teamaid at the time of the 1891 census at the County Hotel, Old Elvet, Durham and a servant in 1901 to ship owner Arthur Gladstone in Stockton. Alice Skidmore married William Naisbitt in 1902Q1 and lived in 1911 at 8 Albany Road, Norton, Stockton on Tees.

Children, as known - Alice Irene, Edith Isabel, Charles Norman.

iii. Annie (Ann), born 1876Q2. Living in 1891 but not yet found later.

births registered in Middlesbrough,

iv. George Henry, born 1877Q3. An iron dresser, he married Harriet Owen (born about 1875 in Bilston, Staffordshire) in 1908Q3 and they were living by the time of the 1911 census at 1 Richmond Street, Stockton on Tees. No children are known to this marriage.

357. v. FREDERICK4, born 1880Q1. An iron dresser, he married Mary Gallagher in 1907Q3. Frederick Skidmore died in 1936 aged 56.

Children of Frederick and Mary (Gallagher) Skidmore,

686. i. REUBEN JOSEPH9, born 1909Q4.

ii. Cecilia C., born 1911Q4.


vi. Ellen, born 1882Q4, known as Nellie. She was a housemaid in Ilkley, Yorkshire, in 1901 and married Robert Raine in 1904Q4 in Stockton.

vii. [probably] Elizabeth, born 1884Q2 and buried from Holy Trinity, North Ormesby on 11 May 1884.

viii. Lottie, born 1885Q2. A housemaid to retired schoolmistress Elizabeth Ascough in Albert Road, Eaglescliffe, Durham, in 1901. She married John Roland Reay in 1908Q2 and was living in 1911 at 83 Camden Street, Stockton-on-Tees.

357a. x. REUBEN8, born 1887Q3. An iron dresser, living with his parents in 1901. He married Jane Burn in 1914Q4 and had, as known, as son.

xi. [probably] Eliza, an infant buried North Ormesby, on 13 May 1889.

The fifth son of Cornelius Skidmore [98],

189. WILLIAM7 SKIDMORE, born 17 October 1851 in the Dock area of Dudley. An iron moulder of Dudley and later of Stratford, Ontario, Canada. He married Mary Hannah Carter at All Saints', Sedgley on 16 August 1873. She was born on 23 February 1849 in Mickleton, Gloucestershire, daughter of Thomas Carter, labourer, and Susannah (Smith). At the time of their marriage they were both said to live in Upper Gornal, where Mary was in service locally. Ann Carter was a witness at the marriage. Family lore has it that at one time Mary Hannah was badly in need of shoes and had stuffed the soles of her existing pair to get by until next pay day. On her way to the shoe shop with her monthly pay she spied a pair of earrings in a shop window, bought them and wore her patched boots for another month.
In 1881 William was a fender moulder and the family were in Corser Street, on the other side of the Himley Road towards Gornal. He most probably worked at this time at the London Fields Works at the end of Corser Street. This is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of Gornal as a factory making fenders and fire irons. By 1891 the family was in Oakham, Rowley Regis but by 1901 had moved to 6b Graveyard Road, Lower Gornal. Included in their household was their infant grandson Frank Silverman.

At the time that their daughter Alice transferred to St Thomas’s School, Dudley in 1902 they were living at 110 Upper High Street, Dudley. They emigrated to Stratford, Ontario, in 1904 and in partnership with his son Will Skidmore he built a small iron and brass foundry on Pine Street. Castings for the city Board of Works, such as street gratings, etc., formed a part of the work and there was a constant demand for special castings by manufacturers and private people. Business was good and during the first part of World War I he built a red brick cottage on Cedar Street which still stands. Their granddaughter Ida (second daughter of Alf and Ida Cox) and her husband Art bought this cottage and lived there for many years.

In later life William was a short thick-waisted man with an iron-grey moustache, and he regularly smoked a pipe. After his wife’s death on 8 August 1927 he went to live with his son Ben, where he remained until his death in 1932. The foundry was then sold to a Mr Hastings. William and Mary Skidmore are buried in Avondale Cemetery in Stratford.

The children of William and Mary Hannah (Carter) Skidmore, born in Dudley,

i. Mary Annie, born 7 March 1874. She worked in a tailoring shop owned by Harris and Esther Silverman from Germany. She and one of the sons of the family, Myer (born about 1874 in East Central London as were his brothers and sisters), ran away and were married in Wolverhampton registration district in 1900Q2 (though the online GRO index gives his wife’s name as Leah Skidmore and this requires checking). After having two children Mary converted to the Jewish faith and they were then remarried in the Synagogue, she in a heavy cream satin wedding dress made by her husband’s family. When the dress became unfashionable, she removed its thousands of tiny seed pearls and made them into long strands for her four sisters. Annie had a house maid and a nanny for her children and was able to help her parents financially. In due course, she had two more children. Annie and Myer went to Canada with Annie’s parents, where Myer opened a tailoring shop on Ontario Street in Stratford, Ontario. Later, they went to Oakland just outside San Francisco with their four children. Myer and Annie lived into their eighties. Their children settled in Victoria, British Columbia.

ii. WILLIAM THOMAS8, born in Dudley on 28 November 1875. He was an iron moulder, boarding at the time of the 1901 census with a family in Queens Road, Burnham, Essex. This man’s birthplace was recorded as Katerhill, Worcestershire, presumably Kates Hill in Dudley. He moved with his parents to Stratford, Ontario, in 1904 and married Ada Perrett on 18 May 1911. On 31 March 1916, at the time he enlisted for the 2nd Field Troop, Canadian Engineers, Overseas Expeditionary Force, they were living at 1804 Lincoln Avenue, Winnipeg. They later built a white frame house on Pine Street, Stratford, Ontario, beside the foundry he set up and ran with his father. (This house was later pulled down when the foundry was enlarged). Will and Ada moved away from Stratford when the foundry was sold in the early 1930s. He died on 26 December 1939 aged 64.

The child of William Thomas and Ada (Perrett) Skidmore,

i. Grace.

iii. Jane, died in 1877.

iv. ARTHUR8, born on 1 July 1878 in Dudley. He married Ada Louisa Lloyd on 27 January 1901 at St Luke’s, Dudley. She was born about 1878 in Dudley and raised in Salop Street there, daughter of George Lloyd, bricklayer and his wife Rhoda. Arthur and Ada lived in 1901 at 19 Coopers Bank Road in Sedgley, where he was a caster of bedsteads. They later went to Stratford, Ontario with most of the rest of his family. The economy of Stratford was built on the Canadian National Railways, and Arthur was Head Engineer of the huge repair shops associated with this. He was a Labour Leader in Ontario and spent time in jail in 1918 for being a member of the Social Democratic Party (a forerunner of the present New Democratic Party). After the ban on party membership was lifted new charges were brought of being in possession of seditious literature. He was backed by the Trade and Labour Council and released in December 1918. Arthur Skidmore died on 9 April 1943 aged 64.
I am grateful to Leanne Newton for this photograph which appeared in the Toronto Star on 27 Dec 1918, with a story about Arthur's imprisonment which lead to the threat of a Provincial Strike. He was arrested for having 2 copies of Canadian Forward in his possession. Arthur Skidmore Snr Ada (Lloyd) Skidmore Arthur G. W. Skidmore Junior Reginald R. E. Skidmore D. Maysie Skidmore Albert T. W. Skidmore The baby is James M. Skidmore.

The children of Arthur and Ada Louisa (Lloyd) Skidmore,
   ii. REGINALD RUPERT EDWARD, born 28 August 1905.
   iii. Maisie, born 1910.
   iv. Albert, born 1911.
   v. James, born 1915.
   vi. Susannah Helen, born 2 October 1879. A tailoress in 1901, perhaps working for the Silvermans. She married her first cousin Fred Skidmore, son of Methuselah [190], in around 1906 in Ontario.

The children of Benjamin and Eleanor (Hobson) Skidmore,
   vii. Ada May, born and died in 1882Q2.
   viii. Flora, born and died 1883Q3.
   ix. Gertrude, born 1884Q3, died 1884Q4.
   x. Mabel Elsie, born 29 April 1887. She married Henry Eade on 23 November 1907 and they had
one child Ida. Mabel Eade died of influenza on 31 January 1919.

Ida Maria, born 26 March 1888. She married Alfred Cox (died May 1962) on 16 November 1908 at St Thomas’, Ontario. She received the family Bible from her father and it is now in the possession of her granddaughter Jo-Ann of Ontario. Alf and Ida’s youngest daughter Zena (mother of Jo-Ann) kindly supplied information on the family of William and Mary Hannah Skidmore in Canada. Ida Cox died on 4 March 1959.


The children of David Roland and Celina (Ward) Skidmore,
  ii. Mary Margaret, born 1918.
  v. Joan Geraldine.

Alice Ella, born 15 December 1894. She transferred from St James’ School to St Thomas’s Girls’ Primary School in Dudley on 1 September 1902 and remained there until 31 July 1903. She married Dennis Richard Eade on 16 October 1915. Dick and Alice left Stratford for British Columbia in 1930 and settled in Vancouver, where he was a machinist. They had three children.

  iv. Frank Clifford, born and died 1896Q2.
191. **SAMUEL** SKIDMORE, born in 1863Q2 in the Dock area Dudley. A fender moulder of Dudley, he married Sarah Ann Shaw (born about 1859 in Dudley) in 1886Q4 at St John's, Dudley. They were living in Crown Street, Dudley at the time of the birth of their first two children but had moved by the time of the 1891 census to Shepherd Street, Stockton on Tees, Durham (his brother Reuben was living there too). However, this was to be a short stay because at the end of September 1891, when John Victor was baptised, they were back in Dudley and living in Queens Cross. When Albert William moved to Park Boys School in 1903 their home was at 5 Upper High Street.

Sarah Ann Skidmore died in Dudley in 1920 aged 62.

**The children of Samuel and Sarah Ann (Shaw) Skidmore, baptised at St Luke's**, 

i. Victor John, born 1887Q2, baptised 20 June 1888. He died in 1890Q3 aged 3.

ii. Lily Maria (known as Lil), born 1889Q1 in Dudley, baptised 6 January 1889. She married Frank Mallin, a carpenter in the building trade (born about 1886 in Oakham, Rowley Regis, son of John Mallin) on 21 November 1909 at St Luke's, and they were living at the time of the 1911 census at Portway, Oakham. Children, as known - Frank and Nellie.

iii. **VICTOR JOHN**, born on 10 September 1891. He was baptised John Victor at St Luke's, Dudley, on 30 September of that year, but was known as Victor John. On 1 March 1899 Victor Skidmore son of Samuel of 5 Queens Cross transferred from the Infant Department of St Thomas' School to the Junior Department of the Park School in Dudley. He left the school on 30 June 1905, 'to St Thomas's' according to a note in the Park School log book. A train conductor, he married Blanche Elizabeth and lived at 42 Vauxhall Street, Dudley, in the early 1920s. Children Stanley Victor (1924-33), Marjorie and Leslie.

363a. iv. **PERCY HAROLD**, born 7 October 1892 and baptised 16 November at St Luke's. An iron dresser in the fender foundry, he married Martha in 1918. They had six children and moved at the time of the slum clearances of the Dock area of Dudley in the 1930s to lived in Laurel Road on the Priory Estate, where Mr Skidmore died in 1950, his wife in 1964. I am grateful to grandson Michael Skidmore for this information.


A child of Albert William and Lilian May (Philpot) Skidmore, **With others who did not survive**, 

i. Eric. Mr Skidmore lives in Wombourne.

The children of Albert William and Doris (Steadman) Skidmore, 

iv. Rita. Mother of Mrs Maria Boucker (who kindly supplied information on this family).

v. Terence.


vii. Irene Christine.

viii. Joyce.

vi. Florrie Elizabeth, born 6 August (baptised 2 September) 1896. Died 1897Q2.


viii. Frederick, baptised 20 February 1901. Died 1901Q3.

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37 He did not, as speculated in my book of 2004, emigrate to Canada.
In these days of wireless we have no conception of the terrible anxiety people went through in the old days when anything happened to one of the sailing ships. Months and months elapsed before anything was known, and in the interval the relations and friends of those on board went through agonies. A typical case in point where nothing was heard of a ship for about ten months, occurred in 1875-76, when the Strathmore went missing. People had time to almost forget her when a small band of survivors was landed in England, and the tragic story was told.

The Strathmore, Captain Alex. Macdonald, left London on April 17, 1875, for Dunedin with a total of 88 people, including 38 of a crew. In June, when the ship was in the Southern Ocean, the weather was very foggy, and the captain set a course that he thought would take him south of the Crozets. Suddenly at half-past four in the morning on July 1, the ship drove right on a rocky coast, which afterwards proved to be one of the Crozets. Fortunately she ran between two rocks, which held up the fore-end for some time, the stern being under water practically immediately after she struck. There was naturally a poignant scene in the darkness, and Captain Macdonald called out: "Good-bye; it's all over. Save yourselves by the boats at once."

By daylight the whole of the vessel was under water with the exception of the forecastle head. Some of the unfortunate people found a doubtful shelter on top of the deckhouse, and others clambered up the fore-rigging. It was fortunate the ship did hang on to the rocks, even in this precarious position, otherwise the death roll would have been longer than it was.

Captain Macdonald and the first mate were early washed over-board and drowned, and 37 others of the unfortunate people also lost their lives. The second officer, Mr. Peters, who will be remembered in later years in command of the Helen Denny and other vessels that traded to New Zealand, succeeded, with the assistance of others, in getting the gig and the dinghy off the deckhouse and safely launched, and in these as many as could be carried made for the land. It was fortunate the ship did hang on to the rocks, even in this precarious position, otherwise the death roll would have been longer than it was.

At daylight the gig returned and eventually all the survivors, forty-nine in number, were got ashore. They had a few blankets and some sailor clothing, but nothing adequate, and many of the people suffered from frost-bite, one man dying. That night the remains of the Strathmore canted over and sank out of sight.

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The weather was bitterly cold, and one of the survivors died from exhaustion the first day ashore. For the two first nights the people had no shelter whatever, but by the third night they had rigged up a lean-to, made with stones and turf, which held the whole of the party, now numbering forty-eight. Subsequently other shelters were rigged up, and the little community was divided into six messes, each doing its own cooking.

There was only one lady on board the Strathmore, a Mrs. Wordsworth, who was accompanied by her son, both being saved. For these two a separate shelter was made some distance from the others. Mrs. Wordsworth when taken into the boat had on only a nightdress and petticoat. She was treated with special care and attention. Her son gave a graphic account of their life on the island. "The first night," he said, "my mother had a few planks to lie upon, but her legs were nearly broken by the number of people crowding in under the canvas. The two following nights we slept in a sort of open cave, and though covered with frost and with icicles hanging over our heads, we preferred it to our experience of the first night. After this we had a little shanty of our own.

"The food we chiefly lived on was albatross, of which the young gave more eating than the old, being larger and heavier. Another bird we used was one which we at first thought was a 'mollyhawk,' but we afterwards discovered they were what the sailors call 'stink-pots.' They were very large birds with strong beaks. I remember getting a bite from one which hurt through a Wellington boot, trousers, and drawers. We caught these birds by chasing them into rough places, where they found it difficult to rise, and we then killed them with clubs. Our favourite vegetable was a sort of moss with long spreading roots, and we were often so hungry that we ate dirt and all. Owing to the season of the year the nights were very long, fifteen hours, which we tried to pass in sleep. Our dreams were generally of food in some shape, but there was always a feeling in the background that spoiled these dream feasts.

"When my mother got ashore she was wet through, starving, and cold. One of the sailors took the shirt off his back and gave it to her; and she also had a pair of men's trousers, a pair of men's drawers, a pair of stockings, an overcoat, and other odds and ends, all given her by the sailors. The coarse, rank flesh of the seabirds disagreed with her, and she suffered much from low fever and a dreadful bowel complaint. She was reduced to a perfect skeleton, and was so weak that I had to turn her over in the night when she wanted a change of position. Although she had been very subject to rheumatism she was never troubled with it while on the island, in spite of her great privations. Our clothes were seldom quite dry, and we often had to lie down in absolute slush, with the rain beating on our faces, but none of us took cold, owing, I suppose, to the ammonia in the guano-covered soil.

"Nearly all of us suffered from diarrhoea, and similar trouble, and the wine and spirits were invaluable. A small salt cellar of wine, or spirits and water, was served out nightly until finished, except a bottle of wine and a bottle of rum, which were buried for the use of the sick.

"Two dishes I prepared for my mother were brains of birds, fried, and the heart and liver minced with moss. We had no salt, and flavoured our dishes with gunpowder and sea water.

"When the wood we had collected for firewood was all finished, except a few sticks we kept for the purpose of cleaning the birds we used for food, we tried to keep the fire going with turf, but it merely smouldered slowly. Luckily someone threw a skin on the fire one day, and we were surprised and delighted to find that it burned readily. That, of course, solved the fuel problem. To save our matches we kept a sort of lamp going, feeding it with oil made from the fat we scraped off the bird skins.

"We seldom could clean ourselves, the dirt being too fast on to permit of cold water taking it off. However, we had a method of cleaning our faces by rubbing them with the bird skins, afterwards rubbing them with the feathers.

"At one time we were very hard up for food, having only two birds left. We were very weak and low-spirited. One day some of the party went to the other side of the island where we were wrecked, and there they saw a number of large mud-nests, with a great lot page 108 of beautiful white birds, 'mollyhawks.' They were so tame that they flocked down at our feet. We killed about a hundred, and had such a feast off the tails! The appendage was cut off close to the back, the long feathers pulled out, and the tail being grilled for a time in the fire, was considered a great delicacy. Another real delicacy came at this time—the mutton birds and birds of a similar
kind. Later on we got some eggs."

Mrs. Wordsworth and her son afterwards resided for some years in England, and later came out to Taranaki to live.

It is interesting to know that there are several of Mrs. Wordsworth's descendants in New Zealand. Two of the daughters of her son, Mr. Charles Francis Wordsworth, who wrote the account from which the above extracts are taken, are living in Auckland, two more live in Taranaki, and a son is in the British consulate in Hankow.

It was weary work waiting and waiting for a ship, and some of the poor people doubted whether they would ever be rescued. All the party took turns in watching the signals that were arranged as soon as the shelters were up. A mast was set up on the highest rock on the island, and a blanket hoisted as a signal of distress. During their weary watch the people on the islands had the agony of seeing four vessels pass, but none of them took any notice of the signals, though one of them was within two miles of the island and must certainly have seen that there was someone ashore.

This supposition was afterwards found to be correct. Some of the passengers by a vessel called the White Eagle, upon arrival at Auckland, declared that they saw signals on the island when passing, and that they reported the matter to the ship's officers, who, however, "pooh-poohed" the idea.

The signals were also seen by another vessel, but this was not known to the watchers, so they were saved that much disappointment. Mr. Henry A. King, who now lives at 122, Fox Street, Gisborne, was a passenger by the barque Helen Denny, which left London in June, 1875, bound for Napier. The night after they were due to pass to the south of the Crozets the mate said he was sure he had seen a fire on the islands during the night. When Mr. King suggested that possibly there had been a wreck and there were some survivors on the shore, the mate said: "Oh, no; whalers often go there." When the Helen Denny reached Napier the people ashore asked if anything had been seen of the Strathmore, then long overdue. Mr. King never associated the lights seen by the mate with the missing vessel, but months afterwards, when he heard the story of the wreck, he knew it must have been the fires lit by the Strathmore's survivors.

By December the number of people on the island was reduced to 44, and there were no further deaths.

January, 1876, was more than half gone, and still there was no sign of rescue, "until, on the 21st of that month, an American whaler noticed the signals and stood in for the island. The survivors could hardly speak for joy when they saw her lower two boats, and their feelings can be imagined when they realised that at last rescue was at hand. The whaler proved to be the Young Phoenix, and her captain agreed to take the forty-four castaways off the island. It was then getting dark, and after Mrs. Wordsworth and her son and one or two had been taken off, and some bread and pork sent ashore; the whaler stood off, promising to come back for the rest the next morning.

Next day, as early as possible, the rest of the survivors were taken off. Before they left the desolate island where they had spent six weary months, they made crosses which they set up over the graves of their companions who had died, and they also buried an account of the wreck and their hardships.

On board the Young Phoenix the rescued people were treated with the greatest kindness. Hot baths and clean clothes were luxuries they greatly appreciated, and the men experienced the pleasure of a good smoke after having been without tobacco for the whole six months.

As the Young Phoenix was too crowded, the captain transferred twenty of the Strathmore's people to a vessel called the Sierra Morena, which was fallen in with on January 26. The Young Phoenix was bound for Mauritius, to which place she carried her contingent of the saved people, and the Sierra Morena, which was bound for Karachi, India, landed her batch at Point de Galle, Ceylon, as she feared running short of provisions and water. These passengers were later landed at Southampton early in April.

News travelled slowly in those days, and it was not until March, 1876, that word reached London of the fate of the Strathmore.
Thanks to the kindness of Sergeant W. Cooper, of Hamilton, I am able to give a list of the people on board the Strathmore, showing those drowned and those who were saved. Sergeant Cooper received the list from Mrs. Peters, of Arbeath, Scotland, relic of Captain T. B. Peters, who was second mate of the Strathmore when she was wrecked. Mr. Peters later came to New Zealand in command of the Stracathro, when she visited Auckland in 1881. He died later in America. The survivors were:


Those drowned were:

**Passengers.**—Mrs. Walker, Miss Henderson, Percy Joslin, Mr. Riddell, Mrs. Riddell, Mr. Mabille, Mrs. Mabille, Mr. Blair, H. C. Sinnock, Mr. E. Goodrich, Mrs. Goodrich, and family of eight, Mr. Silk, Miss Silk, B. W. Bell, H. Dallen, J. Moore, M. Johnson, J. C. Ridge, F. Chilton, J. Dagnam, H. Lewis.

**Crew.**—Captain Macdonald, William Ramsay (first mate), Peter Jansen, H. Fellows, M. McLean, R. Williss, P. Cogan, J. O. Backstrom, and E. May. There was also a passenger whose name was unknown, but he had been a sergeant in the army.

Mr. Alfred Walker died in Auckland on June 30, 1926, aged 84 years. For many years he was a well-known sharebroker. He was an enthusiastic bowler, being a member of the Carlton Club.

Mr. David Wilson is, we believe, the only survivor of the Strathmore. He is the town clerk at Ormondville, Hawke's Bay. Mr. David Wilson and Mr. Robert Aitkenhead Wilson were sons of Captain Wilson, who commanded the Warrior Queen for several voyages to New Zealand. Mr. R. A. Wilson was a passenger, and Mr. David Wilson an apprentice on the Strathmore. Mr. R. A. Wilson died in Auckland on February 18, 1914. He was for many years manager of Ross and Glendining. He is survived by four sons, Mr. Frank A. Wilson, solicitor, Tauranga; Mr. C. Douglas Wilson, public accountant, Napier; Mr. A. Wilson, town clerk, Otaki; and Mr. R. G. Wilson, architect, Napier. Mr. William Wilson, passenger, and Mr. A. Wilson, one of the crew, belonged to another family.