

File 13 of 21 files on descendants out of Kingswinford, Staffordshire.

SKIDMORE COLLIERS AND INNKEEPERS OF AMBLECOTE, STAFFORDSHIRE, AND POTMAKERS OF STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE, 1750-1910

Minor amendments were last made to this account by Linda Moffatt on 10 December 2018.

by Linda Moffatt ©2013

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

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Suggested citation

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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.

The Skidmore families described here are descendants of the eldest son of Benjamin Skidmore [27]¹,
Obadiah Skidmore [55] 1742-1793.

Obadiah Skidmore was a collier of Withymoor, Kingswinford parish, which is the area occupied by the modern housing area of that name south of Delph Road, built on the previous Plants Hollow and Gayfields Collieries.

Three of the sons of Obadiah Skidmore [55] had offspring.
The descendants of the elder two sons are described here:

George Skidmore [106]
Francis Skidmore [107].

For the descendants of Obadiah's youngest son, Frederick Skidmore [108],
see *Skidmore Furnacemen of Brierley Hill, Staffordshire*, by Linda Moffatt².

This account describes moves from Brierley Hill to:

Stourbridge	1840s	→ Napier, New Zealand 1887-88
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs	1860s	→ Buenos Aires
Tutbury, Staffs	1860s	→ Derby 1890s
Manchester	1900s	

106. GEORGE⁶ SKIDMORE, son of Obadiah [55] and Rebecca (Shaw) Skidmore, was baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 23 April 1769. He was a butty collier of Amblecote. Butties, otherwise known as chartermasters or gaffers, were employed to negotiate contract work in coal mines. They were the middlemen who recruited the miners to work the pit. We must trust that Mr Skidmore did not conform to the reputation of butties at the time. Boyd, in his book on pitmen³ describes this 'pernicious system' operating in Staffordshire at the end of the eighteenth century. He considered that the butties 'exercised a tyranny over their men far surpassing the oppression of the colliery proprietors'. When the strikes occurred in Staffordshire in 1816, they were directed not against the owners of the collieries, but against the intermediary chartermasters⁴. Boyd describes in detail the charter system and the practices by which the working collier was tied to his employer.

George married Mary Hill at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 10 May 1789, witnessed by Jane Mannerlin. Mary's burial in 1833 gives her age as 64 but the Hills were a numerous family in the area and it has not been possible to name Mary's parents with any certainty. Two girls were baptised Mary Hill in the year 1768 at St Mary's, Oldswinford - the daughter of Thomas and Frances Hill on May 15 and the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Hill on December 25.

Two men called George Skidmore are found in William Fowler's survey of Kingswinford in 1822⁵. One was occupier of a house and garden on the north side of Lower Brettell Lane (plot 299d), opposite Dennis Park. Since George's brother Frederick lived in the same area, it seems likely that this was George and Mary's house. The other George Skidmore had a stable and land in Plot 1472, which I have not yet located on Fowler's plan. George and Mary Skidmore's son Richard stated in the 1851 census that he was born in the Withymoor area of Amblecote in 1791, and Mary Skidmore died there in 1833. George's son Caleb was apprenticed as a glass cutter at Ruffords. Caleb Skidmore received his education at Old Swinford Hospital School and it is possible

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 www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.

³ Boyd, R.N., *Coal Pits and Pitmen*, Whittaker 1892.

⁴ Ashton, T.S., *The Coal Miners of the 18th Century*, in Economic Journal, Economic History Supplement, no. iii, 1928.

⁵ See Appendix 2 of *Skidmore Families of the Black Country, the first five generations* by Linda Moffatt at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.

other of George's sons went there.

George's will (proved at Worcester on 21 August 1834) was made on 1 October 1830, three years before his wife's death. It stipulates that his wife receive his house and furniture and the rents from his lands and buildings. After his wife's death (which, in fact, occurred before his) the trustees were to sell his estate and divide the receipts of the trust fund equally between his nine surviving children. Mary Skidmore died on 8 May 1833 aged 64. The executors and trustees of George's will were his son Richard Skidmore, miner of Brierley Hill, and John Barnbrook, potter of the same place (and husband of George's sister Esther). George Skidmore died less than a year after his wife, on 20 February 1834 aged 64 (buried as George Shaw Skidmore on 23 February).

The children of George and Mary (Hill) Skidmore, baptisms and burials at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

- i. Mary, baptised 27 September 1789. She died, unmarried, on 28 October 1840 (buried 1 November) aged 51 of Withymoor, and is commemorated on the same stone in Oldswinford churchyard as her parents, her brother Francis, sister Diana and brother Joshua and his wife Eliza.
- 207. ii. **RICHARD**⁷, born 4 April 1791, **OF WHOM MORE TO FOLLOW.**
- 208. iii. **GEORGE**⁷, baptised 19 May 1793, **OF WHOM MORE TO FOLLOW.**
- iv. Obadiah, baptised 15 March 1795. Buried 21 April 1800 aged 5.
- v. Francis, baptised 11 March 1797. He was to receive 'support, clothing and maintenance' under the terms of his father's will and was probably cared for after his mother's death by his sister Mary who was to survive her brother by only five months. He died on 5 May 1840 (buried 10 May) aged 43 of Withymoor.
- 209. vi. **ELIJAH**⁷, baptised 21 July 1799. He married Esther Moor (baptised Hester on 15 December 1799 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill, daughter of James and Ann Moore) at All Saints', Sedgley on 9 December 1821 with Stephen Cox acting as one of the witnesses. Although the marriage register gives her name as Hester Moor, she is always thereafter found in documents as Esther. They lived in Withymoor in the early years of their marriage, seemingly moving to Brockmoor around 1823-24.

Elijah died one month before his father George, aged only 34 and was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 14 January 1834. His widow Esther is found at Brockmoor Green in the 1841 census in the area described thus

'all the road from Beddulls near Hollen [Holland] Road near foundry and houses right hand side from there to Anchor and from thence to Plants bottom Gorsy Bank, Brockmoor Green and Rd. to Brockmoor Bridge comprising houses in Rand's Timber Yard'.

Beddulls might refer to the croft occupied in 1822 by Widow Beddall on the corner of Brockmoor High Street and the Pensnett Road, at Gorstybank.

Esther's household, which included her widowed brother John Moore, a coal miner, were still in Brockmoor Green in 1851. Philip Skidmore was part of the 1851 household; he was born about 1832 and is said to be her grandson, though this is not possible. Her 3 month-old granddaughter Eliza Skidmore was presumably the daughter of Mary Ann or Phoebe – this child is not found in the 1861 census. Esther was no longer of independent means and had taken work as a housekeeper. By 1861 she was living in Commonsides, perhaps in the same house previously described as being in Brockmoor Green, with her brother, her son Caleb and the family of her married daughter Mary Ann Dunn. It appears that Esther Skidmore either fell on hard times, or suffered illness, because she was in the workhouse in 1871. She died aged 75 in 1875Q1.

The children of Elijah and Esther (Moor) Skidmore, born in Brockmoor and baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill (burials at St Mary's, Oldswinford),

- i. [perhaps] George, an infant of Amblecote buried on 4 April 1822.
- ii. Eli, baptised 22 June 1823 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He died an infant in Withymoor and was buried on 16 December of that same year.
- iii. Charles, baptised 31 October 1824. He died aged 1 and was buried on 14 May 1826.
- iv. Mary Ann, baptised 30 March 1827. She married Samuel Dunn, an ironstone and later coal miner (born in Brockmoor and baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill 13 June 1830, son of William and Mary Dunn) in 1851Q2 at St Edmund's, Dudley. Before their marriage and at the time of the 1851 census, Samuel was living with the family of his brother Noah Dunn in Back Lane, Brockmoor. In 1861 Samuel and Mary Ann were in her mother's house in Commonsides but moved later to Sun Street, Brockmoor. Mrs Dunn died at the age of 56 in 1883Q4, her husband in

- 1892Q2 aged 62.
- v. Phoebe, baptised 14 May 1829. She married George Webb, sawyer of Rocks Hill (born about 1829 in Presteign, Radnorshire, son of John Webb, field carpenter, and Ann) on 19 December 1853 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. Samuel and Mary Ann Dunn, her sister and brother-in-law, were witnesses. George Webb came to Brierley Hill from Radnor, Wales with his family around 1850. Phoebe Webb died in 1860Q1 and her husband returned to the home of his parents in Rock Street, Brierley Hill; their daughter Harriet Webb was born about 1856 and was living with her grandmother Esther Skidmore in 1861. Mr Webb married secondly Lydia _____ and went to live in Upper Park Lane, Tipton.
- A son,
- i. Elijah, registered with the surname Skidmore, born in Brockmoor on 10 January 1851. (Apparently called Esther Skidmore's 3-month-old *granddaughter Eliza* in error in the 1851 census). He is not found with his grandmother in 1861 and is *perhaps* the Elijah Webb aged 7 whose death was registered at Stourbridge in 1858.
- vi. Caleb, baptised 29 June 1832. He was an iron puddler, unmarried in 1861. He went to seek work in Stockton on Tees, Durham, where he was lodging at the time of the 1871 census. I have yet to find him in the British census of 1881 or later.
- vii. Sabina, baptised 16 March 1834. She died aged 5 and was buried on 25 August 1839.
- vii. Sabina, baptised 20 September 1801. She married Joseph Perry on 30 July 1826 at Dudley. The marriage was witnessed by her sister Diana Skidmore, and by Richard Rudge.
- viii. Diana, baptised 26 February 1804, died 14 June 1830 aged 26 of the Hamlet.
210. ix. **OBADIAH**⁷, baptised 23 October 1806, **TO WHOM WE WILL RETURN**.
- x. Daniel, baptised 9 December 1808 and buried two days later.
211. xi. **CALEB**⁷, born in Amblecote and baptised on 7 January 1810. He received his education at Old Swinford Hospital School. The school's admissions book shows that Caleb Skidmore of Oldswinford entered on 20 October 1819 aged nine-and-a-half and was considered an 'orderly pupil'. On 13 April 1824, at the age of 14, he was apprenticed to Francis and Philip Rufford and Company, glass manufacturers of Oldswinford⁶.
He was living in 1841 (when his age was recorded in error as 45) next to the family of his brother Joshua in Withymoor. It is likely he spent some time in Birmingham since he is described as a glass cutter of Newhall Street at the time of his marriage on 9 November 1845 at St Philip's, Birmingham. His wife was Ann Allchurch, who was born in Lye and baptised on 20 October 1811 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, the daughter of Thomas Allchurch, a miner, and his first wife Mary Mobberley. (Thomas Allchurch's second marriage, to Sarah Mebury in 1820 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, was witnessed by a Margaret Skidmore). At the time of the 1841 census Ann and her sister Esther were living at Hay Green with Ann Stanley, who was a publican.
Caleb Skidmore was appointed executor of his brother George's will in 1846. He was a maltster and retail brewer, licensee of the *Cottage of Content* in Amblecote Lane, Withymoor, from 1850 until the time of his death on 2 May 1869 at the age of 59. This pub is said to have been operated by the Skidmore family throughout the 19th century, the building being owned by the Earl of Stamford and, along with much property and land in Amblecote Bank, was in the possession of the residents of Enville Hall⁷. A stone to the memory of Caleb and his wife can be found in Oldswinford churchyard. He left a will (not seen) proved at Lichfield. His widow remained with her daughter's family in Withymoor until at least 1881. She died at Holly Hall on 5 March 1894, leaving a will (not seen) proved at Lichfield on 22 September 1894.
- The daughter of Caleb and Ann (Allchurch) Skidmore,**
- i. Mary Ann, born on 24 September 1846 in Withymoor and baptised on 15 November at St Mary's, Oldswinford. She married John Henry Mobberley of Stourbridge on 7 October 1872 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He was the nephew of her grandmother Mary Mobberley, and son of Richard Mobberley, brickworks

⁶ Oldswinford Hospital Admissions Book, no.1512.

⁷ Licensees of the Cottage of Content, 1850 - 1869 Caleb Skidmore.
<http://www.midlandspubs.co.uk/staffordshire/amblecote.htm>

manager of Stambermill, and Eliza (Hatton), baptised 31 January 1847 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He was an ironmonger and seed merchant and lived with his wife and eight children in Withymoor in the home of Mary Ann's mother. Their address in the 1901 census is specified as Vicarage Road, Amblecote. Mrs Mobberley died in 1917 aged 70, her husband in 1919 aged 72.

John Henry Mobberley is said to have become a director of George King Harrisons brickworks after the death of its manager Owen Freeman. This establishment is shown on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map of western Brierley Hill as 'Brettell Lane Fire Brick Works' and was linked to the company's other works and colliery at Nagersfield by a double-track industrial tramway, the wagons being rope-hauled up the incline to Brettell Lane⁸.

Children - Ernest Richard S., Charles William, Thomas Harry, Annie Eliza, Marion May, John Vernon, Mary Louise, Albert Edward, Percy. Their son Thomas Harry Mobberley was born 1 June 1876, died 23 January 1878 and is remembered on the same stone in Oldswinford churchyard as his Skidmore grandparents.

212. xii. **JOSHUA⁷**, baptised 30 August 1812, **TO WHOM WE WILL RETURN.**

The eldest son of George and Mary (Hill) Skidmore,

207. RICHARD⁷ SKIDMORE is known from a family Bible to have been born on 4 April 1791 (baptised on 17 April at St Mary's, Oldswinford), the son of George [106] and Mary (Hill) Skidmore. He married Jane Cope (born on 13 July 1795 in Tipton, baptised 9 August at St Thomas', Dudley, the daughter of Robert and Eleanor (Oakes) Cope) on 14 January 1821 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. The witnesses were his sister Sabina Skidmore and Timothy Oakes.

Richard was a coal miner and became a butty though in which pits is not known. He and Jane spent the first twelve or so years of their married life in Brierley Hill (I have yet to find him in Fowler's plan of 1822 of Kingswinford parish - they were perhaps still living with parents). For a brief spell between 1834 and 1836 they lived in Withymoor and it is possible that Richard took over his parents' home for a time after the deaths of his mother in 1833 and his father the following year. At the time their last child was baptised in 1838 Richard and Jane were living in Round Oak in Brierley Hill. The 1841 census finds them in Rag Man Row, Hart's Hill and Jane's mother Eleanor was with them at this time. The census describes this area as 'all the left hand side of Turnpike Road from corner Gorsty Bank to Hartshill'. This appears to be the Dudley Road and they were still there in 1851, next door to Richard's cousin Isaiah Skidmore [216]. The identity of a child Ellen Williams, born about 1841 in Wellington, Shropshire, who was visiting the home on census day, is unknown.

David Skidmore and his sister Ann, gt gt grandchildren of Richard, possess china mugs, one carrying the inscription 'Richard Skidmore 1855', another apparently a gift to Richard's son George from a brother or brother-in-law inscribed 'Presented to GS by his Affectionate Brother 1854'.

A stone to the memory of Richard Skidmore, also his wife and son Enoch, exists in Oldswinford churchyard. He died aged 68 on 16 October 1859 (buried 21 October), leaving a will (not seen), proved at Lichfield on 24 March 1860, naming as executors his sons George, chartermaster collier of Brierley Hill, and Enoch, county mining surveyor of Northwood in the parish of Stoke-on-Trent. After Richard's death his widow went to Milton in north Staffordshire, presumably to live with her son Enoch. She died there less than two years later on 27 June 1861 (buried 4 July).

The children of Richard and Jane (Cope) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

- i. Mary Ann, baptised 17 March 1822. She married Jeremiah Westwood, carpenter of Claypit Lane, West Bromwich (baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 19 March 1820, son of Jeremiah Westwood, miner, of Brockmoor in 1841, and Ann) on 11 January 1844 at Christ Church, West Bromwich. Mrs Westwood died before the time of the 1851 census.
Their son George Henry Westwood (born in Brockmoor about 1847) grew up to be a carpenter,

⁸ Boynton, J., in his commentary on the reprint of the 1901 Ordnance Survey map of Brierley Hill (West) & Brettell Lane [Alan Godfrey maps].

like his father, and lived at 6 John Street, Round Oak in 1881. George Westwood's daughter Elizabeth was born in Australia in about 1869.

392. ii. **GEORGE**⁸, born on 24 January 1824 and baptised 22 February. He grew up in Amblecote and then Hart's Hill and was a chartermaster collier. He married firstly Ann Chance at St Thomas', Dudley on 17 January 1847. She was baptised on 10 June 1821 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, the daughter of Dudley Chance, a clay miner of Amblecote Bank, and his wife Esther (Deeley). The marriage was witnessed by George's sister Harriet Skidmore and by Hannah Westwood.⁹

Dudley Chance is found later in the 1871 census, a publican and first licensee of the *Pear Tree Inn* at Amblecote Bank. A bowling green was laid there, and other amusements included skittles, marbles and cards. Mr Chance kept his beer for a couple of months to 'get it in condition', people coming from long distances to get some of 'Dudley Chance's home-brew'd'. This property can be seen on the 1903 Ordnance Survey map of Stourbridge (North) and Amblecote, west of Stamford Road and close to the home of Jeremiah [115].

It is likely that George and Ann Skidmore lived in the parish of Dudley for at least the first year or so of their marriage. By 1849 he was a mine agent (employing twenty-three men according to the 1851 census) and living in Rocks Hill in Brierley Hill. George's father's cousins Frederick [215] and George [219] were also at Rocks Hill at this time. At the time of the 1861 census George and Ann had moved to Dudley Street between Brierley Hill and Hart's Hill. It is possible that he was by this time in partnership with his uncle Obadiah [210]. Certainly, by the time Obadiah remembered George in his will of 1865 George was a butty miner and in partnership with his uncle in Fish Pit Colliery at Commonside under Lord Ward.

Ann Skidmore died on 11 (buried 16) February 1863 aged 41. She and her husband and their youngest child Louisa are remembered on a stone in Oldswinford churchyard.

George Skidmore (1824-1876)

Mary Emily (Hughes) Skidmore (1836-1904)

Photograph posted at Ancestry.com



George married secondly Mary Emily Hughes on 28 February 1865 at St Mark's, Pensnett, witnessed by James Wilkes Hughes (her father) and A.H.J. Hughes (presumably Agnes Deborah J. Hughes, her sister). Mary Emily was born on 26 September 1836 at Wombourne, the daughter of James Wilkes Hughes, licensee of the Kings Head, Commonside, and his wife Mary Cartwright (Blewitt). When George Skidmore administered the will of his brother Enoch in 1870 he was a licensed victualler of Brierley Hill. In 1871 he lived with his family in the High Street in the centre of Brierley Hill. It seems likely that this was the Bell Hotel mentioned in a newspaper cutting found in the papers of Mary Louise Skidmore, wife of Enoch Holt Skidmore [725]. Certainly there were four servants and two lodgers recorded there in the census. He appears also to have acquired the *Pear Tree Inn* from his father-in-law, which he bequeathed to his son Richard Skidmore, who in turn passed it to his three sisters.

George Skidmore, then an inspector of nuisances, signed his will in Brierley Hill on 9 December 1874 – a week before he was admitted as a private patient to St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton on 16 December 1874. He died in Northampton on 18 February 1876 aged 53. The will was proved at Lichfield on 7 April 1876 by Joshua Mantle, colliery manager of Holly Hall, one of the executors. George's widow Mary Emily became an officer in the Wordsley workhouse, where we find her acting as sick nurse in the 1881 census. It appears that

⁹ Dudley Chance's niece Annie Esther Priscilla Chance, daughter of his brother Joseph, married John Skidmore [244]. See *Skidmore Families of Stamford House, Amblecote, Staffordshire* by Linda Moffatt at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.

she moved to Bathwick, Somerset (now in the county of Avon) probably with her sister-in-law Eleanor Jane Skidmore. Eleanor Jane died at Bathwick in September 1900 and was buried in Oldswinford. Mary Emily kept a lodging house at 41 Pulteney Street in Bathwick. She died on 23 July 1904, and was buried in the churchyard at St Mary's there.

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

- i. Esther Jane, baptised 20 February 1848. She died in infancy in Dudley parish and was buried on 28 June 1848 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.
- ii. Harriet, born in Brierley Hill on 21 August (baptised 16 September) 1849. She is recorded as a visitor at the home of her grandfather Dudley Chance in 1851 and again in 1871. In 1871 she was a student painting in oils and watercolours and later specialised in landscapes. In March 1889 the *County Express* reported that she had six paintings exhibited in the Dudley Art Gallery Exhibition at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly (not to be confused with the Art Gallery in Dudley, Worcestershire). These could be the six works referred to in Christopher Wood's *Dictionary of Victorian Painters* and included 'Local Deposits', 'Traces of Decay' and 'A Sketch at Alnmouth'. One work was shown at the Royal Academy. She moved to London and in 1881 lodged at 3 Beaufort Terrace in Fulham. She was a guest at the time of the 1891 census of Justice of the Peace Alexander Brown and his wife Mary J., at Pippbrook Mansion, Reigate Road, Dorking, Surrey. By 1901 she was living at 37 Hollywood Road, Kensington and died in Kensington on 1 December 1910 at Dukes Lane Chambers. Miss Skidmore was buried on 8 December at St Mary's, Oldswinford. She left a will naming her sister Mrs Mary Ann Robinson as her executor.
- iii. Richard Chance, baptised 29 June 1851. He died aged 27 on 26 January 1879 (buried 1 February), leaving a will, proved at Lichfield in March 1879. He was innkeeper of the Pear Tree Inn in Amblecote, which he left to his three sisters. Richard is remembered on a stone in Oldswinford churchyard, together with his sister Harriet and his aunt Eleanor Jane Skidmore.
- iv. Mary Ann, born 1853Q2, baptised 10 July 1853. She lived at Pear Tree Cottage with her sister Louisa in 1881, both described as licensed victuallers. In 1880, after the death of her brother Richard, the licence of the Pear Tree Inn passed to Mary Ann Skidmore, and in 1888 to her sister Louisa¹⁰. Pear Tree Cottage (it became known as Pear Tree Inn around 1940) was located between Peter's Hill and Stambermill, part of a small cluster of cottages to the north of Bagley's Mill. The address of Pear Tree Cottage was 11 Stamford Road (named after the Earl of Stamford of Enville Hall who owned much of this area) but this thoroughfare has changed over the years, extending almost to Bouchall.
Mary Ann was married by licence on 16 September 1884 at St Mary's, Oldswinford to Joseph Robinson, an Inland Revenue Officer of Amblecote. He was born early in 1851, the son of Zachariah Robinson, a mine agent (and was lodging at Broadwaters in Wolverley, Worcestershire, at the time of the 1881 census). The marriage was witnessed by Edward Chance and by Louisa Skidmore, Mary Ann's sister. Joseph and Mary Ann Robinson moved to Kidderminster, Worcestershire and later to 407 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
Children - Mary Ann Louisa, Harriet May¹¹.
- v. Louisa, baptised 30 July 1854. She was a devoted teacher in the Sunday School attached to St Mark's Church, Stambermill. Later, she went to live at The Lea, Bewdley Hill in Kidderminster the home of her sister Mary Ann Robinson. She died there of pneumonia on 12 July 1904 and was buried on 16 July in the family vault. She is remembered on a stone in Oldswinford churchyard, along with her parents.
- vi. George Harry, born 1856Q2. He died a year later.

The children of George and Mary Emily (Hughes) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

- vii. Gertrude Emily Greaves, born in 1869Q4 and baptised 26 June 1870. She died in

¹⁰ <http://www.midlandspubs.co.uk/staffordshire/amblecote.htm>

¹¹ A biography of Harriet May Skidmore Robinson may be obtained from its author David Skidmore at d.skidmore007@btinternet.com.

739. viii. Brierley Hill on 26 April 1874, and was buried on 30 April.
- GEORGE ENOCH**⁹, born 16 January 1871 and baptised 11 May 1873. He was living in 1881 with the family of his uncle James Henry Hughes, a farmer of 50 acres, whose house lay between Pensnett Yard and Brockmoor Bridge, presumably on or near what is now Pensnett Road. This bridge can be seen on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map of Brockmoor, over the Stourbridge Canal.
- He is perhaps the G.E. Skidmore, gentleman (though said to be aged 35) who travelled to Buenos Aires in 1900.
- On 18 August 1903 at Wigan police court, Lancashire, George Enoch Skidmore, manager of the Palatine Mineral Water Company, Wigan, was fined the full penalty of £336 for being concerned in carrying 56 pounds of saccharine for which duty had not been paid¹². Skidmore refused to pay the fine and was sent to prison for six months; two weeks later the fine was paid by the prosecution's chief witness and



Skidmore was released. A short story loosely based on the case has been written by George Enoch's great grandson¹³.

He married Florence Josephine Kirby on 3 February 1906 at St Cuthbert's Catholic Church, Chorlton, Lancashire. By the time of their son's birth in 1907 they were living at 32 Gilman Street, Hanley, when Mr Skidmore's occupation was given as Manufacturing Chemist. At the time of the 1911 census their home was 52 Cavendish Road, West Didsbury, Manchester. Mr Skidmore died in 1952.

George Enoch Skidmore (1871-1952)

Photograph posted at Ancestry.com.

The son of George Enoch and Florence Josephine (Kirby) Skidmore,

- i. **GEORGE KIRBY**¹⁰, born 20 July 1907. He married on 18 September 1937 Margaret Mary Helen Kelly. He died 5 July 1989 in Esher.
- iii. Harriet, born 2 July (baptised 22 October) 1826. She is remembered on a stone in Oldswinford churchyard, together with her brother William and also Gertrude Emily Greaves Skidmore, the daughter of her brother George. Harriet died on 11 April 1847 aged 20.
- iv. Noah, born 4 December 1828, baptised 1 February 1829. He died in Amblecote aged 7 and was buried on 7 February 1836.
- v. William, born in Brierley Hill on 22 March (baptised 29 May) 1831. A roll turner, he died in Brierley Hill at the age of 22 on 19 July 1853.
- vi. Josiah, born in Brierley Hill on 12 August (baptised 29 September) 1833. He died in Withymoore aged 1 and was buried 9 September 1834.
- vii. Eleanor Jane, born 23 November 1835, baptised 14 February 1836 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. She moved for a time with her mother to north Staffordshire and, after her mother's death, returned to live with her cousin Diana Skidmore at the home of William Hawkes, seedsman, and family in High Street, Stourbridge. By 1881, Ellen was living, of independent means, at 4 Hunters Lane in Birmingham, caring for her nephew Enoch Holt Skidmore and by 1891 she was boarding at 1 Marborough Street, Bath with George Snell, gardener and family. A stone to her memory exists in Oldswinford churchyard, together with Richard and Harriet Skidmore, children of her brother George. She died in Julian Road, Bathwick, Somerset, on 4 September 1900, aged 64, leaving a will (not seen).
393. viii. **ENOCH**⁸, born 20 February 1838 and baptised 15 April of that year at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. He grew up in Dudley Road, Hart's Hill. At the time that his father made a will in 1860 Enoch was county mining surveyor, living in Northwood in the parish of Stoke-on-Trent. His wife was apparently known as Ann since the Argentinian passport of his son Enoch Holt Skidmore names his mother Ana. The birth certificate of his son George Harry names his mother as Ann Skidmore, formerly Milner. I have been unable to locate the marriage of Enoch Skidmore to Ann Milner.

¹² Nottingham Evening Post - Tuesday 18 August 1903.

¹³ Paul J. Skidmore, *Out of Love of Justice: being an account of the great saccharine scandal of 1903*, 2014. (Published privately).



A page torn from the family bible of Enoch's father Richard Skidmore (found among the papers of Enoch's daughter-in-law Mary Louise, wife of Enoch Holt Skidmore) lists the dates of birth and death of all Richard's children. Glued to this torn page is a smaller piece of printed notepaper (undated) headed 'Sandbach Colliery, Cobridge' on which the children of Enoch are written. A business card describes Enoch Skidmore as a mining engineer and surveyor at Sandbach Colliery.

Enoch Skidmore perhaps suffered illness or accident because he lived in Brierley Hill at the time of his death aged 32 on 20 September 1870. He died intestate as shown in a letter written some years later by solicitors in Brierley Hill to his son Enoch Holt Skidmore. Enoch Skidmore's half-share of the money invested by his father Richard Skidmore's trustees became divided equally on his death between Enoch's brother George Skidmore, his sister Eleanor Jane and his cousin George Henry Westwood.

Enoch Skidmore (1838-1870)

The children of Enoch and Ann (Milner) Skidmore,

740. i. **ENOCH HOLT**⁹ [was 587.]. On a piece of Sandbach Colliery notepaper his father wrote that he was born on 31 July 1864. Although no birth certificate has been found, this is also the date given in his Brazilian passport – issued by the State of Rio Grande do Sul. His father died when he was seven. By the time of the 1881 census he was employed as a railway clerk and was living with his paternal aunt Eleanor Jane Skidmore at 4 Hunters Lane in Birmingham.

He married Mary Louise Breingan on 16 October 1899 in Buenos Aires. She was born on 6 July 1878 in Norwich, Norfolk, the daughter of John Anderson Breingan and Mary Ann Franklin. When she was less than a year old she moved with her grandfather Henry Franklin, a businessman, to Buenos Aires. Mary Louise attended school in England and in her holidays returned to Buenos Aires or travelled with her grandfather visiting Italy, Spain, Switzerland, France, Turkey, Portugal, Uruguay, Africa and the Pacific Islands. She is reported to have been gregarious and to have had a love of people, in an account of her life by her faithful servant Maria Magdalena de Oliveira, who relayed information after Mary Louise's death in 1955 to Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I am grateful to David Skidmore who has done extensive research to verify the information provided by Maria Magdalena. Mary Louise is reported to have had an excellent voice. During her wide travels and being affiliated with the Church of England, she sang with choral groups giving numerous benefit concerts. It was while singing in the Church of England Choir in Buenos Aires that she met her 'first and only love' at the age of seventeen, Walter Thomas Wainwright¹⁴. It is said that when her grandfather discovered the secret courtship he 'forced her at the point of a pistol to write him a letter breaking off all relations'.

¹⁴ His occupation is consistently given as (Church) Organ Builder in official documents (Censuses and Baptismal Certificates – e.g. in 1899, 1904, 1905, 1911). The only exception is 1905 when he appears as a Wireless Telegraph Clerk when his daughter Marjorie is born in Chelmsford. We know that he installed the organ in the Anglican Church of All Saints in Quilmes, Argentina, in 1896. He married Alice Mary Coulson in Christ Church Cathedral (Falkland Islands/ Malvinas) on 22 April 1899. Her father, William, was a Treasury Clerk on the Islands. There is no direct evidence that Walter had gone to Port Stanley to work on the organ but it seems likely. The Cathedral Guide says the organ (made in Dublin) was installed in 1893.



*Above:
Enoch Skidmore at school
Right: his passport dated 1918*



Mary Louise (Breingan) Skidmore in 1922

Perhaps it was soon after this that Enoch Holt Skidmore entered into her life. His family were good friends of her grandfather. Enoch was in the commercial and shipping business with headquarters in Buenos Aires. He owned a fine sailing vessel and carried commerce between Argentina and England. Henry Franklin died in 1899, Mary Louise having promised him on his deathbed that she would marry Enoch. They were married two months later on 16 October 1899 and made their home in Buenos Aires.

Sadly, Mary Louise lost their first child, a boy. Seven years later they returned to England just before the birth of their second child Eleanor Jane. After nine months in England they returned to Brazil, settling in Pelotas near Porta Alegre.

Fifteen years after their marriage the First World War broke out. Early in 1914, while making a return voyage to England with a cargo of coal and fertiliser, Enoch's ship was torpedoed by a German submarine. She went down just off the coast of England, the whole crew with her. On board were many of Enoch's friends, the captain being an old friend of the family. The financial loss was also very great and the family never realised any reimbursement. Also, about this time the São Jerônimo Mine¹⁵, owned by Enoch, flooded and caved in (being near the ocean). This was a financial loss of over 20000 contos. (Written in the margin of the account is a note '1 conto \$20 in 1955 much more in 1919'). Enoch was almost bankrupt. He never fully recovered from these setbacks and died of a heart attack

¹⁵ Mary Louise's servant referred to this as the Saint Geranimo mine. The fact that Enoch's loss is expressed in contos (a Brazilian unit of currency) suggests that this refers to a mine in the São Jerônimo municipality in the state of Rio Grande do Sul where we know the Skidmores lived.

as he was drinking tea with his wife and daughter, on 12 January 1920.

After this, Mary Louise slowly began to go blind and in 1922 returned to England for numerous operations which were to no avail. Unable to stay on in England, she secured the help of an old family friend, Francisco de Campos Barreto, a Catholic Bishop from Campinas, to return with Eleanor to Brazil in January 1924. She studied in a Catholic College and was later baptised by the above named Bishop. In Campinas Dr Turpiniho Burnher helped Mary Louise with appropriate glasses such that she could see enough to write and, along with her daughter, to make a living as school teachers. Quite by chance she met again her first love, and she and Wainwright were married. Nine years later she was to discover that he had a wife in the United States and turned him out¹⁶. He had died before September 1936.

Her sight deteriorated further but, resourceful and independent as ever, she made her living by producing, packaging and selling perfumes and special mixtures of her own invention. She also taught English and ran a boarding house for dental students. She possessed a fine sense of humour and loved to write poetry. Her devoted servant claimed that 'Every year she wrote a poem to Sir Winston Churchill and the Queen of England'.

In June 1954 Mormon missionaries returned to Araraquara and their Elders took a room in Mary Louise's boarding house. In April 1955 she was baptised into the Mormon Church and her home was a meeting place where visiting missionaries spent happy times. She died from kidney failure after a painful illness on 21 November 1955. Her tomb is in the Catholic Araraquara cemetery.

The child of Enoch Holt and Mary Louise (Breingan) Skidmore,

- i. Eleanor Jane Louise, born 4 January 1907 in Liverpool. She returned with her parents to Brazil and was raised in Pelotas. In 1936 she married a doctor and pharmacist Francisco Nunes Brigagao (perhaps born 6 August 1865 at Campanha, Minas Gerais, Brazil, son of Jose Nunes Brigagao and Virginia Albertina Bressane). They had been married for only five years when he was murdered over some kind of election quarrel. She then lived with her mother at 669 Prudente Moraes, where she died from an infected foot on 13 November 1945.
- ii. George Harry, born, according to his birth certificate, on 14 September 1867 at Grange Street, Burslem (on 30 August 1867 according to his father's memo). He died aged 9 weeks on 31 October.

The second son of George and Mary (Hill) Skidmore,

208. GEORGE⁷ SKIDMORE, baptised on 19 May 1793 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. The Oldswinford register gives the parents as Joseph and Mary Skidmore, but this can be assumed to be a clerk's error; George is named in his father's will between Richard and Elijah, and no other children have been found at this time with parents Joseph and Mary Skidmore.

He married Sarah Parrock (born about 1798) on 31 December 1821 at St Philip's, Birmingham. Maria Payser and Joseph Parrock were witnesses. George Skidmore was a collier of Withymoor and Brierley Hill in his earlier years, later rising to chartermaster collier. In 1834 the family's address is specified as Badger Bank, a place so

¹⁶ Walter and Alice Wainwright had eight known children, born between 1904-1917. The family lived in Canada from about 1909 and moved to the USA in 1916. By the time of the 1920 US Federal Census Alice Wainwright was recorded divorced and appears as Head of Household living with 7 children (Stanley had died as an infant in Canada) and her sister Annie Coulson. In 1930 and 1940 she was still Head of Household and described as Widowed. This differs from the account of Maria Magdalena who said that Walter's first wife 'left him to marry another man in the United States'. Maria Magdalena also claims that General Jonathan W. Wainwright was the son of Walter and Alice, clearly impossible.

far unidentified. By 1839 they had moved to Hart's Hill and again between 1842 and 1845 to Holly Hall. The 1841 census describes the area in which they lived as the 'south side of road from Holly Hall to Kingswinford and road from Holly Hall to Brierley Hill'. Their eldest son Henry Skidmore was not at home and has so far not been located in this census.

George died on 30 November 1845 in Holly Hall aged 52 and was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 3 December. He left a will (proved at Worcester on 9 March 1846), to which his son Henry and his brother Caleb were executors. His wife Sarah received his house, pits, and two iron boats. She survived him by nearly two years, dying on 13 November 1847 aged 49. With their share of his legacy, sons Henry and Joseph set up in business at the Malt Shovel in Hart's Hill (also later called 94 Stourbridge Road), where they are found in 1851 with their younger siblings.

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

394. i. **HENRY⁸ SKIDMORE**, baptised 29 August 1822. He was born in Withymoor, Amblecote and raised in Brierley Hill and then Hart's Hill and Holly Hall. He is not found at home in the 1841 census. His father, who died when Henry was in his early twenties, was a chartermaster collier and left a house, pits and iron boats to his wife, the estate to be divided between his six surviving children in the event of her death (which took place only two years after that of her husband). Henry and his brother Joseph appear to have used their inheritance to set up in business as publican and maltster respectively at The Malt Shovel public house, in Hart's Hill, Dudley where they are found in the 1851 census. Also living at the Malt Shovel were Henry's uncle John Shaw, a stocktaker born about 1789, and Henry's aunt Maria Shaw born about 1791.

Henry married by licence Ann Maria Westwood on 26 May 1853 at St Thomas', Dudley. Ann Maria was baptised on 2 June 1830 in Dudley, the daughter of John Westwood, a gasometer maker, and his wife Ann (presumably Ann Wright, married 26 January 1818 at St Thomas', Dudley). There were no less than six witnesses to their wedding - E. Wright; William Henry Westwood, the bride's brother; Diana Skidmore, the groom's sister; Catherine Wright; Edward Wright; and David Skidmore, the groom's brother. It is possible that their first child was the infant Louisa Aldred Skidmore of Hart's Hill, buried 6 December 1854 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, though no baptism has been found for this child (Henry and Ann Maria are the only Skidmore family to use Kingswinford Church at this time for burials). The couple baptised their remaining three children in Dudley and in Brierley Hill, though the family members whose burials are known were buried at St Mary's, Kingswinford.

Henry and Ann Maria later separated, apparently around 1860 - Ann Maria Skidmore is always recorded as married in censuses up to 1901. She and the children lived with her brother William Henry Westwood, (a boiler and gas holder maker, born 1822 in Dudley) at Hart's Hill and later at Field Cottage, Glasshouse Hill, Stourbridge, (incidentally, retaining the same faithful cook Hannah Lloyd and housemaid Elizabeth Northwood for many years). Mrs Skidmore died at Field Cottage on 29 August 1902, aged 72, leaving a will (not seen).

I have not been able to find Henry Skidmore in British censuses between 1861 and 1891. He was certainly in Thames, Auckland, New Zealand by 1880 but the following newspaper report in 1867 suggests he was there before that date.

'AUCKLAND GOLD FIELDS. - The new gold-field at the Thames appears to be promising great things, and although the gold is obtained entirely from quartz crushing, the extraordinary richness of some of the samples seems to compensate amply for the trouble..... On Skidmore's Hill ten claims, which have only been in existence three weeks, have from two to ten tons each ready for crushing...'¹⁷

In the late 19th century Thames was one of New Zealand's largest towns, built on the pioneering industries of gold and kauri logging¹⁸.

'There was a time when no place in New Zealand was more talked of throughout the colony and beyond it, than the Thames. The cause of this was the extraordinary richness of the goldfield which was opened in 1867 and almost at once acquired a world-wide celebrity. The first claim which became famous was the Shotover,

¹⁷ Taranaki Herald, 9 November 1867.

¹⁸ <http://www.azdirect.co.nz/coromandel/attractions.asp>

owned by Messrs Hunt and Party. Some of the picked quartz from this mine yielded half its weight in gold, which was eventually counted by tons. Within three years eleven thousand miners' rights had been taken out for the field. The Golden Crown mine, the Long Drive, the Moanataiari, the Manukau and the Alburnia mines all yielded splendid returns, and the Golden Crown paid £200,000 in dividends in one year. It was, however, the Caledonia mine which scored the most brilliant success, for in twelve months it yielded fully ten tons of gold, and paid within the same period dividends amounting to £600,000.¹⁹

Henry Skidmore was one of the petitioners in 1877 to the Thames County Council concerning rates they were obliged to pay to the Waitotahi Highway District. His property had an annual rateable value of £5.10s²⁰. He was a miner living in Moanataiari Creek, Thames in 1880 and 1881, 1886 and 1890²¹. The name Skidmore [presumably Henry] appears in the Gold Returns reports in New Zealand newspapers in the 1870s.

Thames Star, 7 October 1880:

'...a number of Canadian Gully miners applying for a road to connect their mines with the Moanataiari Creek. Messrs Skidmore, Hunter and Brown... urged the claims of their locality for assistance...'

The Thames Star of 19 September 1874 reported

'Skidmore's Tribute crushed 33 tons of quartz at the Prince Alfred battery, but the result is much poorer than usual, the gold only weighing, before melting, 11 ounces 15 dwts.'

The same paper on 9 April 1877 reported:

'Coma - Skidmore and party completed their crushing from this mine at the Piako Company's small mill on Saturday for the return of 9ozs 2 dwts gold. The parcel crushed amounted to 10 tons. Latterly the shareholders have been employed opening up the old workings, and it is to be hoped that the ground may prove payable.'

Further details of the gold mining companies can be found online, from The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Auckland Provincial District], The Cyclopedia Company, Limited, 1902, Christchurch.



Henry Skidmore sailed from Lyttelton, New Zealand on 25 July 1891, at the age of 70, bound for London on the *Awara*. At the time of the British census of 1901 he appears to be the 77-year old Henry Skidmore lodging with the Vinson family at 3 Waterloo Road, Torquay, Devon. Henry Skidmore, gentleman, aged 78, died in 1901 at Melita, Torquay, naming John Harmshaw jnr, accountant, and Miss Ethel Annice Drury, his executors.

Showing the Victoria Battery, Moanataiari Creek, Thames.

Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 4-8718.

[Gold processing plants were known as batteries, as the quartz was battered into powder by massive stampers. This released the gold particles so they could be chemically recovered using cyanide].

¹⁹ The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Auckland Provincial District].

²⁰ Page 4 Advertisements Column 3, Thames Star, Volume VII, Issue 2568, 31 March 1877.

²¹ New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1880-81, 1885-86, 1890 Coromandel district.

The children of Henry and Ann Maria (Westwood) Skidmore,

- i. [perhaps] Louisa Aldred, born 1854Q4. Died an infant, buried 6 December 1854.
- ii. Cora, born 21 March 1856 and baptised 18 April at St Thomas', Dudley. She was buried on 24 August 1857 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, aged 1.
- 741. iii. **WILLIAM WESTWOOD**⁹, [was 588.] born 18 October 1857 in Hart's Hill and baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 20 August 1859. A construction engineer of Oldswinford, he was living at Field Cottage, Red Hill Road, Upper Swinford in 1871 with his grandmother Ann Westwood, his uncle William Henry Westwood, his mother Ann Maria Skidmore and his younger sister Emma. In 1881 he had become part of his uncle's business, since he describes himself as a boiler and gasholder maker. He lived at the time of the census in the home in Red Hill, Upper Swinford, of his uncle and aunt Christopher Phillips, a gardener born in Tornick, Somerset, and his wife Sarah Phillips, born in Southam, Warwickshire. On 2 August 1886 he gave notice in The Times newspaper that he wished 'henceforth to be addressed and styled in the name of William Westwood Skidmore Westwood ..'.

William W. S. Westwood married Margaret Esther Perry on 30 May 1899 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. She was born about 1876, daughter of Henry Perry of 19 Hagley Street, Stourbridge, a fire brick manufacturer employing 110 people, and his wife Phoebe. Margaret Esther S. Westwood died aged 26 and was buried at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 9 April 1902.

William Westwood's home was West Hill, Hagley Road, Stourbridge. In memory of his daughter, he left to the county in his will his house and land, as reported in a letter by his great great niece to the Black Country Bugle (10 June 1999). West Hill Clinic was built on part of the land and the house itself was made into the College of Art and Technology. There is an impressive Westwood family memorial in the churchyard of St Mary's, Kingswinford, in which Mr W.W.S. Westwood rests - he died in 1948²². The first burial in the vault was of John Westwood, born 1794 who married Ann Wright.

A child of William Westwood Skidmore and Margaret Esther (Perry) Westwood,

- i. Margaret Cema *Westwood*, baptised 17 May 1902 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. Margaret Westwood died aged 41.
- iv. Cema or Emma, born 30 July 1859 and baptised on 25 August at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. She lived with her mother in Field Cottage, Stourbridge, until her death at the age of 25. She was buried on 22 December 1884 at St Mary's, Kingswinford.
- ii. Alfred, baptised 1 May 1825. He died in Brierley Hill aged 1 and was buried at Oldswinford on 9 February 1827.
- 395. iii. **JOSEPH**⁸, baptised 29 July 1827. He was born in Brierley Hill and raised in Hart's Hill. His parents died when Joseph was in his late teens. By 1851 he was in business with his older brother Henry at The Malt Shovel public house, Hart's Hill, Dudley, where he was maltster. He married Sarah Aston (born about 1823 in Netherton, daughter of Elijah Aston, mine agent, and Mary) in 1855Q2 at St James', Dudley and at first lived in Wellington Road in that parish. By 1871 he was an agent dealing in wines and spirits, living with his wife and two children, Mary Ann and George, at the home of his widowed mother-in-law Mary Aston (born about 1788 in Dudley) at 8 Northfield Road, Netherton.

Sarah Skidmore died in Netherton on 20 December 1878 aged 55 (buried 26 December) and was survived for only a year by her husband. He died on 3 December 1879 aged 52 (buried 6 December) and the couple are remembered on the same stone as Joseph's parents in Oldswinford churchyard.

Children of Joseph and Sarah (Aston) Skidmore,

- i. Phoebe, born 1855Q2. She does not appear in the 1861 census.
- ii. Mary Ann, born 1856Q2.
- iii. George, born 1860Q2. He was an assistant school master and shared a home with his sister in Netherton until at least 1901. He married Edith Perry (born about 1890

²² Documents and correspondence relating to Mr Westwood are located at the Worcestershire Record Office, Catalogue 705:399.

- in Cradley Heath) in 1908Q4 in a civil ceremony registered at Dudley.
- iv. Sarah Ann, born 29 July 1862, baptised 24 August at St Thomas', Dudley. Not found in the 1871 census.
 - v. Edwin William, born 1862Q1.
- iv. Maria, baptised 3 January 1830. She died in Withymoor aged 2 and was buried on 19 February 1832.
 - v. [perhaps] David, buried 11 December 1836 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, aged 5 of Stourbridge.
 - vi. Diana, born in Brierley Hill and baptised on 26 February 1832. After her parents died she lived with her older brothers at the Malt Shovel in Hart's Hill. At some time between 1851 and 1861 she moved with her brother David to her own house at 12 Kidderminster Street, Wollaston. By 1871 she lived, along with her cousin Eleanor Jane and the family of her sister Sarah Ann Wilson, in the home of seedsman William Hawkes in Stourbridge High Street. She was at 19 Market Street in Stourbridge in 1881 and 1891, a licensed victualler, and was manageress of the liquor vaults there. Miss Skidmore died on 3 February 1899, aged 66, leaving a will (not seen), to which her brothers Henry and David were executors.
 - vii. [perhaps] Jane, of Holly Hall, buried at St Thomas', Dudley on 24 March 1833 aged 7 weeks.
 - viii. Sarah Ann, born at the Level, Brierley Hill and baptised on 6 July 1834. At the time of the 1861 census she was sharing 61 Hart's Hill with her sister Mary. Sarah Ann was married to Thomas Wilson on 23 September 1863 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, four days before the marriage of her brother David. Mira Stile was a witness. Thomas was a draper of Stourbridge, born about 1834 in Scotland, the son of Hugh Wilson, a farmer. Thomas and Sarah Ann had three children whilst living in Wolverhampton, then moved back to Stourbridge around 1870. This stay was only temporary since a further three children were born in Wolverhampton in the 1870s before the Wilsons returned to take over the running of the *Malt Shovel* at Hart's Hill some time after 1877. They emigrated to New Zealand, where Thomas Wilson was a storekeeper in Ohau, Wellington. Sarah Ann Skidmore died in 1902, her husband in 1928.
 - ix. Mary, born at the Level, Brierley Hill and baptised 20 November 1836. She went away to Mrs Pritchard's school in Adbaston Lane, Adbaston, Tunstall. She married Thomas Richard Southall, a banker's clerk (born 1837 in Stourbridge) on 11 January 1863 at the Independent Chapel, Stourbridge. At the time of the 1881 census they lived at 15 High Park Avenue, Wollaston, next door to her brother David. Mr Southall died on 5 March 1897, his widow on 20 March 1898 and they are buried at the Stourbridge and Upper Swinford Burial Ground. The youngest of their seven children, and the only son, Tom Southall (1877-1949) became a merchant marine officer and went to New Zealand in 1898 where he was a school master and a prominent New Zealand cricketer. My thanks to his grandson John Southall of New Zealand for this information.
Children - Mary Ann, Harriet, Beatrice, Florence, Lucy, Mabel, Thomas R.
 - x. George, born in Hart's Hill and baptised on 10 March 1839 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. He died later that year and was buried on 4 November at St Mary's, Oldswinford.
 - 396. xi. **DAVID**⁸, born 10 June 1842 in Hart's Hill and baptised on 10 July at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. David was an orphan at only five years old and was raised by his older siblings at the Malt Shovel in Hart's Hill. In 1861 he was living with his sister Diana at 12 Kidderminster Street, Wollaston. He was for many years an accountant, initially a clerk to solicitors in Stourbridge, later at a brick works.
David married Julia Walker (born about 1842 in Stourbridge, the daughter of Samuel Walker, maltster of New Street, and Sarah) on 27 September 1863 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. Samuel Walker and Ellen Walker, presumably her sister, were witnesses. By 1871 David and Julia were living in Lower East High Street, Stourbridge, with the first four of their five known children. Edith Ellen was to be born later that year. By 1881 they had moved to High Park Avenue in Wollaston. William Walker, Julia's brother, lived with them at this time and until at least 1901. They moved again during the 1890s to Eggington Villa, 89 Bridgnorth Road in Wollaston where they remained until their deaths. David Skidmore was buried in Stourbridge Cemetery on 7 September 1908 aged 66, his widow died nine months later on 16 June 1909. Mrs Skidmore left a will, naming George Skidmore, commission clerk (presumably her son), as one of her executors.
- The children of David and Julia (Walker) Skidmore,**
- i. George, born in Stourbridge and baptised on 25 September 1864 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He worked as a clerk in an ironworks in 1881 but by 1891 was a commercial traveller, calling himself in the Wollaston census of 1901 a commercial

- trader in edge tools. He married Aimee Wheeler (born about 1883 in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire) in 1910Q4. They were living at the time of the 1911 census at 59 Mere Road, Erdington, Birmingham.
- ii. Sarah, born in Stourbridge and baptised on 27 May 1866 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. She married Thomas Alfred Guest, a glass decorator or engraver of Wood Street, on 4 July 1891 at Stourbridge Unitarian Chapel. He was born in Amblecote about 1866, the son of Thomas Guest of Vine Lane, also a glass decorator, and his wife Jane). They lived for a time in the High Street, Brierley Hill, before moving to 4 Eggington Buildings, Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston.
Children - Alfred Claud, Mary Evelyn.
 - iii. Julia, born in Wollaston and baptised on 29 March 1868 at Wollaston. She married Thomas William Bridgett, a grocer journeyman of 7 Barrow Street, West Bromwich, on 31 August 1903 at Stourbridge Unitarian Chapel. He was born about 1874 and was living in 1881 in Lovatt Street, Stafford, son of Thomas C. Bridgett, builder, and Mary Ann. The witnesses were the bride's father and the groom's brother Ernest Bridgett. By 1911 they were living at 9 Trinity Street, West Bromwich, where Mr Bridgett was a grocer's assistant.
A daughter Marion.
 - iv. Samuel Harry, born in Wollaston and baptised there on 3 October 1869. A printer's machinist in 1891. Not yet found in the census of 1901.
 - v. Edith Ellen, born in Stourbridge and registered Edith Helen. She was baptised on 27 August 1871 at Wollaston. She married Richard Henry Thompson, a commercial clerk of George Street, Audnam, (born about 1868 in Oldswinford, the son of George Thompson, glassworks manager, and Maria) on 21 October 1893 at Stourbridge Unitarian Chapel. Richard became manager of a flint glass works in Birmingham, and they were living by 1911 at Milcote, Bristol Road, Selly Oak.
Children - daughters Mabyn and Edith Gwendoline.

The 5th surviving son of George and Mary (Hill) Skidmore,

210. OBADIAH⁷ SKIDMORE, baptised 23 October 1806 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He was a collier of Delph Lane. He married Emma Cooksey on 8 November 1830 at St Thomas', Dudley. Emma was born in the Delph and baptised on 13 January 1811 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill, daughter of Harden and Mary (Skidmore) Cooksey. By 1861 Obadiah had become a chartermaster collier and at the time of his death five years later was in partnership with his nephew George Skidmore in Fish Pit Colliery at Commonsides under Lord Ward. This colliery was just south of Grove Pool on the eastern side of the road from Brockmoor to Pensnett, marked as disused when the 1901 Ordnance Survey map of Brockmoor and Bromley was drawn.

Obadiah died at Rocks Hill on 1 October 1865 and was buried at Holy Trinity, Wordsley. He left a will (made before the death of his son Obadiah in November 1857) which was proved at Lichfield on 22 November 1866. At the time his will was made he had houses in Rocks Hill and at Quarry Bank.

After his death Emma became a washerwoman and her daughters worked in an earthenware factory. They moved to 38 Turners Lane nearby, where they remained until at least 1881. The first Ordnance Survey map of this area dated 1903 shows only scattered dwellings in Turners Lane. Judging by the arrangement of the 1881 census, no. 38 was at the end of Turners Lane near the Delph Bridge. Three of her grandchildren were at her home in 1881 - Mary Jane Skidmore aged 6 and Joseph David Skidmore aged 8 months, children of her daughter Sarah, also Sabina Skidmore born 1866Q1, a labourer in the earthenware pottery. Emma Skidmore died in 1884Q3.

The children of Obadiah and Emma (Cooksey) Skidmore, born in Brierley Hill and baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

- i. Diana, born at the Delph and baptised 25 September 1831. She was a dressmaker before her marriage to William Webb, an iron puddler (born about 1829 in Kingswinford parish, son of Benjamin Webb, a warehouseman) on 25 December 1852 at St Peter's, Kinver. They lived in Delph Lane, Brierley Hill before Mr Webb's death in 1862Q1. Diana Webb married widower Elijah Dunn, an ironworks labourer, in 1867Q4 and, following his death in 1869Q3 she lived at 22

Amblecote Road, Brierley Hill, where she cared for three sons from Mr Dunn's first marriage, two daughters and a son from her marriage to William Webb and a son David by her second husband. She died in 1890Q1 at the age of 58.

Children, as known - Emma, Phoebe and Enoch Webb; David Dunn.

- ii. Sabina, baptised 2 March 1834. A tailoress, she married David Cartwright, a miner of Amblecote (born about 1833, the son of Thomas Cartwright, miner), on 12 August 1855 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. The witnesses were William Webb and Diana Webb, Sabina's sister and brother-in-law. David and Sabina had a son William Cartwright in 1856 before David Cartwright left for America (where he remained). Sabina reverted to using her maiden name. She is perhaps the Sabina Cartwright whose death was registered at Stourbridge in 1865Q2.
- 396b. iii. **GEORGE SHAW**⁸, born 16 January 1836 and baptized 21 February. A coal miner, he married Gwendolyn D. Davies, who had emigrated from Wales in 1856 with her parents Daniel D. and Ann (Evans) Davies. George Shaw Skidmore emigrated in 1859 and settled in Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Gwendolyn Skidmore was born on 8 January 1847 and died on 8 March 1910. George followed on 10 November 1915 and they are buried at Odd Fellows Cemetery, Pottsville.

Children of George Shaw and Gwendolyn D. (Davies) Skidmore,

- i. Obadiah, born 7 August 1862. He died at seven days old.
- ii. Emma, born 10 November 1866 and living with her widowed father at 567 Peacock Street, Pottsville in 1910. She died unmarried on 25 July 1924.
- iii. Daniel Davis, born about 1869. He died in Fishbach, Pottsville on 27 February 1873.
- iv. Margaret, born 18 July 1875. She died at six days old.
- v. **MORGAN E.**⁸, born 20 September 1877, died 16 April 1928. He was aged 22 at the time of the 1900 census, a car loader at a mine. By 1910 he was a rigger in the steel mill. He married Estella Mae Warmkessel.

The following account was posted at findagrave.com.

Morgan E. Skidmore

A Fallen Hero

Officer Morgan E. Skidmore had been a Pottsville policeman for fourteen years. He was the only police officer in Schuylkill County known to have been killed while on duty. At the time of his death April 16, 1928. he was forty years old. He was born and raised in the Fishbach section of the city. His death certificate # 42562 lists his year of birth as 1879, but his memorial stone indicated his birth year as 1880. He was residing with his wife Estelle, aka Stella Warmkessel Skidmore, on Walnut Street and one young daughter, Doris who was approaching her third birthday.

Officer Skidmore was the son of George and Gwendolyn (Davis) Skidmore. His father had been born in England and had been a coal miner. His mother had been born in Wales and was the homemaker raising the large family. Mr. Skidmore had been appointed a policeman when Pottsville became a city. Prior to his appointment as a police officer, he had worked at the local steel mill.

Patrolman Skidmore was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a juvenile boy suspected of stealing chickens. Patrolman Skidmore had followed the boy to his home. He entered the home and the boy's mother confronted him and told him the boy was not home, when Patrolman Skidmore turned to leave, the boy appeared and shot him in the back, killing him. The boy was convicted of Patrolman Skidmore's murder. He was sent to prison, served his time, and was released.

After the murder, the city residents quickly prepared to assist the young widow of the fallen police officer, who was shot and killed in the performance of his duty. Anthony Mosolino, a prominent businessman, walked into police headquarters and handed over \$1,000 in cash that he had collected as an expression of financial sympathy for the bereaved widow and daughter. The money was wrapped in a letter addressed to the mayor, which the donors of the fund asked that it be given to the officer's family with their gratitude for his service to the community. The funeral procession held in the city was one of the largest in memory.

Years later Patrolman Skidmore's great-grandson, Steve Guers, would be on the Pottsville Police force and have the honor to place a wreath at the small memorial for Morgan Skidmore on the north side of City Hall.

Interment occurred at the Presbyterian Cemetery, Pottsville.

Children of Morgan E. and Estella Mae (Warmkessel) Skidmore,

- i. Doris Elizabeth, born 1925.
 - ii. A baby girl, born and died in 1926.
- vi. Isabella, born 27 October 1878, died 4 December 1960 at Newport News, Virginia. She married George Edwin Tregoning (1879–1936, son of William H. and Jane) on 26 June 1907 at the rectory of Trinity Episcopal Church, Pottsville. Daughters Gwendolyn Alberta (born 1908), Emily Maud (born 1910) and Edith (1915–1980).
- vii. Harriet, born 1880 and not home at the time of the 1900 census.
- viii. **JOSEPH SMITH⁹**, born 10 November 1881. On 26 April 1905 at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Pottsville, he married Florence Ebbert (born 17 September 1885 in Heigm Township, Schuylkill County, daughter of Peoris Ebbert from Germany). Joseph Skidmore worked in a packing house in Pottsville. Florence Skidmore died on 27 September 1960 in Pottsville, her husband on 1 October 1962. They are buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery.
- A daughter of Joseph Smith and Florence (Ebbert) Skidmore,**
- i. **JOSEPH PEARSON¹⁰**, born 2 February 1908, died 4 June 1989. According to a post at Ancestry.com, he married Thelma Mary Huppert (1913-2004).
- Two sons,**
- i. James Joseph, 1935-2013.
 - ii.
 - ii. Ruth, born 1914.
 - iii. Claire Marie, born 28 September 1929, died 2010.
- ix. Hiram, 1883-86.
- x. Jane, born 25 June 1885.
- xi. Gwen, born October 1886. She became a book keeper for an insurance company in Pottsville.
- iv. Mary, apparently baptised twice - and, unlike her siblings, at St Michael's, Brierley Hill - on 23 October 1838 (birth registered 1838Q4) and again on 19 May 1839. She was a school governess before her marriage on 29 November 1867 at St Mary's, Kingswinford to William Cartwright, a miner of Kingswinford parish (baptised 7 June 1835 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill, the son of Noah Cartwright, miner, and Sophia (Sedgley)). Her sister Emma Ann Simpson was a witness. William and Mary Cartwright have not been found in the British 1881 census. (Note that she is not the Mary Cartwright at 69 Delph Lane in 1881).
- v. Jane, baptised 28 February 1841. A seamstress in 1861, and later an earthenware maker. She took over her mother's home at 38 Turners Lane and was unmarried in 1901. Hers was perhaps the death registered at Stourbridge in 1909, said to be aged 64.
- A daughter,**
- i. Sabina, born 1866Q1. She married Walter MacMillan on 24 September 1883 at St James', Dudley and lived until at least 1911, a brick dresser, in her mother's home in Turners Lane. A daughter Fanny and son Guy.
- vi. David [twin to Noah], baptised 12 March 1843. A miner in 1861. He died in 1871Q3 aged 28.
- 396a. vii. **NOAH⁸**, born in Amblecote and said to be aged 36 at the time of the 1881 census and 55 in 1901, was a clay miner of Lye and Amblecote. Despite the age discrepancy in these censuses, he would appear to be the son of Obadiah [210] and Emma (Cooksey) Skidmore, baptised 12 March 1843. He married Mercy Smith (born about 1846 at The Thorns) in 1866Q4 at St Andrew's, Netherton and sight of the marriage certificate is needed to confirm the name of his father. Noah and Mercy lived in Brierley Hill when their first child Alice was born but by 1870 had moved to Lye. In the 1871 census Noah and Mercy are found at Haltons Yard in Hay Green. The couple were still in Lye in 1873 but by 1881 had moved to King William Street in Amblecote. It is possible that they moved around the time of David's birth, since although the baptism register for 1873 records they were of Lye, the couple declared that David was born in Amblecote in the 1881 census. At the time of the 1901 census Noah and Mercy were living with their son David at 42 Collis Street, Amblecote, Staffordshire. Mrs Skidmore and her daughters worked at the decoration of glass.

Mercy Skidmore died on 20 October 1910 aged 65, Noah on 11 March 1917 aged 76, and they are buried in Amblecote churchyard.

The children of Noah and Mercy (Smith) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

i. Alice Sabina, born in Brierley Hill in 1867Q2 and baptised on 25 September 1870. She married Thomas Rollason on 30 December 1893 at Holy Trinity, Amblecote. He was then a shop assistant of Amblecote, formerly a glass worker from Upper High Street (born about 1867, son of Samuel Rollason, bricklayer, and his wife Mary Ann). They lived in Shenstone Road, Birmingham. Alice Rollason died in 1934 in Birmingham aged 66.

Children, as known - Annie, Elsie.

ii. Emma, born in Lye in 1870Q3 and baptised with her older sister on 25 September 1870. She married William Henry Roome, a leather dresser of Amblecote (baptised 7 July 1867 at Belbroughton, son of John Roome, waterworks labourer, and Emma) on 12 September 1891 at Holy Trinity, Amblecote. The witnesses were Thomas Rollason, her future brother-in-law, and Isabel Hambrey. The family lived at 41 Collis Street, Amblecote. Emma Roome died in 1935 aged 64.

Children, as known - Alice, Charles, Annie, Leonard, Gladys, Mary, Madge, Harold, William H.

742. iii. **DAVID**⁹, born in Amblecote in 1873Q2 and baptised⁹ on 22 June 1873. He was a glass cutter, living in Amblecote with his parents in 1901. He married Harriet Jones (born about 1868 in Blakedown, Worcestershire) in 1907Q4 in a civil ceremony registered at Stourbridge. They moved to 32 Tew Park Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

Children of David and Harriet (Jones) Skidmore,

2 children who did not survive to 1911.

i?. Frances Mary, born 1909Q1.

viii. Emma Ann, born in the Delph and baptised 11 January 1846. She married Samuel Simpson, a boatman of Amblecote (born in Wordsley, baptised on 18 August 1844 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, son of William Simpson, boatman, and Mary) on 26 August 1866 at Holy Trinity, Amblecote. Her brother Noah and sister Mary were witnesses. Samuel and Emma lived at the Boat Inn in Buckpool, Wordsley, Samuel not only running the pub but also employing seven men on the canal boats. By 1891 they were running the Albion Inn at 38 Moor Street, Brierley Hill and their elder sons were operating the canal boats. Ann Simpson died in 1892Q1 aged 47 and her husband married secondly Mrs Johanna Hill of Brockmoor, widow of Henry Hill (publican of Stourbridge), in 1893Q3.

Children, as known - Samuel, John, Harry, George, Miriam, Arthur, Emma, Berty, Thomas.

ix. Harriet, born 1847Q2, baptised 25 July 1847. She married Richard Poole, iron moulder of Turners Lane (born about 1847, son of Richard Poole, labourer, and his wife Mary) on 14 April 1879 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill, witnessed by George C. Wheeler and Mary Ann Baker. They were living in Whimsey Road in 1881, before settling at 28 North Street, Brierley Hill. Harriet Poole died in 1920 aged 72.

Harriet Skidmore had two sons and two daughters before her marriage,

i. John, baptised 15 August 1869 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. He died an infant and was buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 14 September 1869.

ii. Diana, born in 1870Q4. Not yet found after the census of 1891.

iii. [perhaps] Joseph, born 1871Q3, died in Turners Lane aged 1 and was buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 8 January 1873.

iv. Maud Mary, born in 1874Q3. She married Timothy Hickman, a coal miner (born 1872Q2 in Brierley Hill) in 1897Q3 at Brierley Hill and lived at 27 North Street next to her mother and stepfather. Maud Hickman died in 1959 aged 84, her husband in 1962 aged 89

Children, as known (of 12, 7 surviving to 1911) - Mary Emma *Poole*, Wilfred, Joseph D., Maud, Violet, David, Jane *Hickman*.

x. Elijah, baptised 31 December 1848. He died aged 1 and was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 13 September 1850.

xi. Sarah, born in 1850Q4 and baptised 12 January 1851. She worked as a fireclay sorter before her marriage on 23 October 1882 at Holy Trinity, Wordsley, to Joseph Willis, a coal miner of

Buckpool. Sarah's brother Noah Skidmore and Mary Maria Wheeler were witnesses. Joseph was perhaps registered as Williss in 1847Q3. Sometimes he and his family were enumerated as *Willetts* (1861, 1881, 1891). Mr Willis was later manager on behalf of his mother of the Gold Cup Inn in Bank Street, Brierley Hill. Sarah *Willetts* died in 1894 aged 44.

Children - John, William, Ben,

She had a daughter and a son before her marriage, registered as Skidmore,

- i. Mary Jane, born in 1876Q3 and baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 15 February 1877. A tailoress. (Called *Willetts*).
- ii. Joseph David, born September 1880. A furnaceman in 1901, living in the home of his aunt Jane Skidmore. (Called *Willetts*).
- xii. Margaret, born 1853Q1. She died in 1853Q4.
- xiii. Obadiah, baptised 6 July 1856. He died aged 1 and was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 20 November 1857.

<p>The 7th surviving son of George and Mary (Hill) Skidmore,</p>

212. JOSHUA⁷ SKIDMORE, glass and pot crucible maker of Stourbridge, was the son of George [106] and Mary (Hill) Skidmore, born in Withymoor and baptised on 30 August 1812 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He married Eliza Harrod on 31 March 1833 at St Mary's, Handsworth. Eliza was born about 1813 in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and baptised there on 19 February 1815, daughter of John and Ann Harrod. It is worth noting that the birth certificates of some of their children record her maiden name as Harwood. A marginal note in the marriage register says 'settled here', suggesting that Joshua had moved from Withymoor to Handsworth some time before. The length of their stay in Birmingham is uncertain. The baptism register of Oldswinford says that Joshua lived in Withymoor in 1835 when their first child was baptised. Their second child Elijah was born in Birmingham in January 1836, and Joshua lived in Hill Street, Birmingham when Elijah was baptised in August of that year. Subsequent children were baptised at Holy Trinity, Amblecote or Oldswinford. The Oldswinford baptism register gives Joshua's residence in 1839 as New Street, which *could* be the New Street in central Birmingham. In 1841 the family were in Withymoor. The census of 1851 gives only Elijah's birthplace as Birmingham, though in later censuses Birmingham is the place of birth given for Diana and Jenny, born 1837 and 1842. The Birmingham connection continues with the marriage of three of Joshua's children – Esther, Mary and George - to Birmingham people. We can speculate that Joshua served his apprenticeship in Birmingham, and maintained friendships and business contacts there.

He and his sons were the only Skidmores to pursue the occupation of glass pot making, with the exception of Richard Skidmore [88a]²³ of Bristol. This was a highly-skilled trade and it is likely that Joshua was in contact with other pot makers in the country. He established his business in Stourbridge in the mid-1840s in Birmingham Street, in the area of Stourbridge known as Bedcote, adjacent to the river Stour. The house was opposite a rug factory and approached up many steps, as recalled many years later by George's grandson George Robert Joshua Skidmore. The house was demolished around 1940 for road widening. By 1871 Joshua, as well as making pots, kept the *Red Lion* at 37 Birmingham Street, where the family were still living in 1881.

Eliza Skidmore died on 22 March 1876 aged 62. Joshua lived to be 70 and died on 15 April 1883. They are included on the stone in Oldswinford churchyard to the memory of Joshua's father and mother. His will (made the day before he died and proved at Worcester on 3 August that year) left all his furniture, brewing utensils, stock in trade and effects to Thomas Richard Southall, bank cashier of High Park, Wollaston (the husband of his niece Mary, daughter of George Skidmore), and John Henry Mobberley (the husband of his niece Mary Ann, daughter of Caleb Skidmore). Joshua's nephew David Skidmore [396] witnessed the will. The rest of Joshua's estate was put in trust for his daughter Sabina Skidmore for life or until she married, when it was to be sold and the proceeds divided amongst all of his children.

The children of Joshua and Eliza (Harrod) Skidmore,

- i. Mary, baptised 29 June 1834 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. She died in Withymoor aged 1 and was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 11 June 1835.
397. ii. **ELIJAH⁸** was born during his parents' stay in Birmingham and was baptised at St Martin's there on

²³ See Descendants of the Skidmore Glassmen of Amblecote, Staffordshire 1750-1910 by Linda Moffatt at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com

1 August 1836. The family moved to Withymoore when he was a few years old, thence to Stourbridge when he was about 9. In adulthood, Joshua and his two brothers Francis and George worked with their father in his business of making clay pots for the glass works. Elijah married Ann Barratt (born about 1837 in Manchester) on 29 December 1855 at Manchester Cathedral. Three girls called Ann Barrett or Barratt were baptised at Manchester Cathedral between 1835 and 1837. The actual certificate needs to be seen to discover the name of the bride's father. Elijah and Ann Skidmore lived in Portobello Yard, Bedcott Stourbridge.

Elijah Skidmore is not recorded in the census of 1881 and was probably out of the country. His nephew George Robert Joshua Skidmore (in a letter of 1946) states that Elijah went to make the first crucible pots in Japan and was involved in the Shinagawa Glassworks project there, on the southern edge of Tokyo. George R.J. had then in his possession the signed agreement between his uncle and the Japanese government.

British engineers played a pivotal role in modernization of Japanese glassmaking in the late 19th century. After the feudal system was put to an end by the Meiji Restoration in 1868, the newly-born Japanese government pursued a rapid modernisation of the economy by adopting Western manufacturing systems in important industries. As for glassmaking, the first Western-style glass factory was formed in Shinagawa, Tokyo, in 1873 through the assistance of two British engineers, Erasmus Gower and Thomas Walton. After the plant was purchased by the government in 1876, three more engineers--Elijah Skidmore as a pot-maker, James Speed as a chief of craftsmen and Emanuel Hautman as an engraver-- were invited from England to train Japanese workers from 1877 to 1881. The hitherto technically-stagnant Japanese glassmaking industry took a leap forward with the new furnaces, machines, materials and techniques brought by these foreigners. The trainees who left the factory disseminated the acquired skills in big cities, causing Western glassmaking method to gradually replace the old Japanese one in around 1890²⁴.

In 1884 the glassworks at Shinagawa was sold by the Meiji government into private ownership. The British instructors at Shinagawa left but two of them went to a private glassworks at Osaka, Elijah Skidmore (crucible maker) and James Speed (glass craftsman and instructor). This was a flint glassworks, popularly known as "Little Shinagawa" because of the number of Shinagawa apprentices who went to work there. Skidmore travelled around Japan looking for suitable fireclay, staying for at least a year before returning to England²⁵.

On his return from Japan, Elijah lived a short distance from the site of the family business, where he became licensee of the *Old Star* at 27 Coventry Street. He died on 27 February 1886 aged 50 and was buried in Stourbridge Cemetery. He made a will shortly before his death (proved at Worcester on 16 April 1886), appointing as his trustees and executors his brother-in-law Joseph Cadwallader, John Henry Mobberley (husband of his cousin Mary Ann) and his cousin David Skidmore [396].

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

- i. Eliza, born in 1856Q3 and baptised on 21 February 1858. She was a general servant to grocer Henry Edwards' family at 149 High Street, Stourbridge, in 1871. She married Elijah Wilcox, a blacksmith (born about 1853 in Brierley Hill), probably in 1879Q2 in Birmingham registration district. They were living in Amblecote Road, Brierley Hill in 1881 with their one-year old son Elijah. They are said to have kept the *Birch Tree* public house at Amblecote Bank, a property which can be seen on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map of Stourbridge (North) and Amblecote at the junction of Vicarage Road, Amblecote Road and Stamford Road. Mrs Wilcox died in 1889Q2 aged 32, leaving four sons, Elijah, Frank, John and James.
- ii. Francis George, born 1862Q3, baptised 28 December 1862. Frank Skidmore, a 29 year old pot maker, left from Liverpool in September 1893, landing at New York and intending a 'protracted sojourn' in Ohio. Unfortunately, the name of the intended town is smudged but appears to begin with Ca- and end perhaps in -ton or -ter. Nothing further has been found of this man, though it is perhaps worth mentioning a Japanese potter called Jinichi Nakahara who, in a history written by himself stated 'I studied how to make western pottery from 1896 to 1899 under

²⁴ <http://www.historyofglass.org.uk/AIHV2003> The website for The Association for the History of Glass.

²⁵ I am indebted to Sally Haden who is investigating the British craftsmen at Shinagawa, www.hadenheritage.co.uk/Glassmaking/Shinagawa-glass-works.

"Skitomor", who is a German living in Osaka.²⁶ Given Frank's expertise and the involvement of his father with the Shinagawa glassworks, it is possible that he was the potmaker in Osaka, but as yet we have no written documentation to support this.

743. iii. **JOSHUA**⁹, baptised 5 February 1865. At the time of the British census of 1881 Joshua was a coachman, living with his family in Stourbridge, though he later helped his father run the *Old Star* at 27 Coventry Street, Stourbridge. After his father's death, Joshua Skidmore, a brewer, and a bachelor aged 22, left from London on board the *Aorangi*, of the New Zealand Shipping Company on 10 March 1887, landing at Wellington on 24 April 1887 and destined for Napier.²⁷

J. Skidmore was a member of the Albion Lodge (No.159) U.A.O.D., Napier, and was elected an officer in 1895²⁸. He married Ellen McCarthy in 1896 in New Zealand. They are listed in the Masterton electoral roll of 1896 at Eketahuna, where Joshua was a locomotive fireman (also at Princes Street, Dunedin in 1896). In 1898 he made a lucky escape when his train capsized.

'A Press Association message gives further particulars of the accident to the train near Pigeon Bush. The bridge which has given way is near Barton's woolshed, and it subsided owing to material being washed out. The engine bumped and threw the driver (McNally) clear of the engine into the water. He had a narrow escape from drowning. When the engine capsized the fireman (Skidmore) was penned in his compartment, and had to break the glass of the window and crawl out. The night was pitch dark, and it was raining in torrents. The engine is apparently not much damaged.'²⁹

In 1905-06 and again in 1911 Joshua and Ellen are listed at Waipukurau on the Waipawa electoral roll. Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory for 1910 reveals that Joshua ran the Leviathan Private Hotel in Waipukurau, as late as 1920. He appears to have been retired by 1923, since the hotel was thereafter in other hands.

Ellen Skidmore died in 1921 aged 53. Joshua Skidmore died in Waipukurau on 3 June 1933 aged 68, styled a 'gentleman' and leaving a will.

Children of Joshua and Ellen (McCarthy) Skidmore,

- i. Joshua Elijah, born 1899. Nothing further is known. Note the Joshua Elijah, listed in the New Zealand death index, who died in 1911 aged 4.
- ii. Mary Ann Eileen, born 1902.
- iii. James John, born 2 April 1905, died in 1988. He married Eileen Mary

Perhaps others - the New Zealand birth index is closed for people born more than 100 years ago.

744. iv. **JAMES JOSEPH**⁹, baptised 31 May 1868. At the age of 20 James Joseph, a butcher, left Plymouth on 4 June 1888 aboard the *Arawa* (of the Shaw Savill & Albion Company Limited), arriving at Auckland on 4 June 1888 and bound for Napier.

He was the first of the two brothers in Napier to marry, at the age of 22. His bride Ada Hayter was born on 19 January 1870 at Onehunga, Auckland, New Zealand, daughter of William and Eliza (Macey) Hayter. The marriage took place at the Baptist Church, Taradale, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand on 27 September 1890³⁰.

James Joseph and Ada were on the electoral roll for Napier in 1890, resident in Craven Street - he is described as a 'settler'. In Wise's New Zealand Post Office

²⁶ Personal communication with Yoko Masuyama, who is studying Nakahara's work.

²⁷ Otago Daily Times, 25 October 1887, Page 2, reported the arrival at Port Chalmers of the Coptic, from Plymouth, via Cape Town and Hobart. Amongst the passengers, bound for Napier, were 'Misses Skidmore (3)', so far unidentified.

²⁸ Daily Telegraph [Napier, serving Hawke's Bay], Issue 7382, 4 June 1895.

²⁹ Evening Post, 19 November 1898.

³⁰ familysearch.org

Directory for 1904 and for 1907 he is listed as a carter, living in Craven Street 'right side from Carlyle Street', the second of four houses before the intersection with Thackeray Street. By 1910 they had moved to 16 Wellesley Road, Napier, on the left side from Thackeray Street; *James* Skidmore was then a butcher and remained at this same address until his death in 1929 aged 61. Ada Skidmore was a widow when she was listed on the electoral roll in 1935, living at 68 Kennedy Road. She died in Napier on 30 August 1937 aged 67, leaving a will.

The author would be glad of information on Skidmore, Conroy & Co., mentioned in the Dailey Telegraph [Hawke's Bay] in 1900.

Children of James Joseph and Ada (Hayter) Skidmore,

- i. Annie Eliza, born 1891. She received a prize for General Proficiency at the Napier Infant School prize-giving in 1897³¹. Nothing is presently known of Miss Skidmore's life. She died unmarried in 1918 aged 27.
 - ii. Harriet, born 1892, named presumably after James' younger sister.
 - iii. James Joshua, born 1895. He was in the field artillery in World War 1 and left on one of the three troopships from Wellington on 9 October 1915 bound for Suez³². He married in 1924 and was a draper and clothier of Waipukurau. He died on 5 September 1966 aged 71, his wife on 28 June 1996 aged 93; they are buried at Waikumete Cemetery, Glen Eden³³.
 - iv. Muriel Lillian, born 1896. She married in 1927.
 - v. Lila Maud, born 1898. She died at 4 months old.
 - vi. Ada Kathleen, born 1912.
- Perhaps others - the New Zealand birth index is closed for people born more than 100 years ago.*
- v. Elijah, born 1872Q2 and baptised on 15 September of that year. He travelled to New Zealand with his older brothers, where he died in 1889 aged 17.
 - vi. Harriet, baptised 27 December 1874. She witnessed her brother James' wedding in New Zealand in 1890.
- iii. Diana, born 19 February 1837 in Birmingham and baptised at Holy Trinity, Amblecote on 28 May 1843. She was a dressmaker before her marriage on 10 May 1863 at St Thomas', Dudley to Samuel Brown, a moulder of Dudley (born about 1837 in Oldbury, son of Thomas Brown, hostler of Dennis Park, Amblecote, and his wife Sarah). Elizabeth Brown and Diana's brother Francis were witnesses. They lived for a time in Upper Ryland Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham before moving to Bellis Street there. Mrs Brown died in 1884Q3 aged 48, and it appears her husband took the children to live in Openshaw, Manchester.
Children, as known - George Samuel, Annie J., Thomas.
 - iv. Esther, born 20 January 1839 and baptised 26 May at St Mary's, Oldswinford. At the time of the



William Lerwill, husband of Esther Skidmore

1861 census she was a housemaid in a school for teenage girls, run by Mrs Sarah Jager and her sister Miss Ann Constantine, in Stratford Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

She married William Lerwill, a clock case manufacturer, (born in Silvester Street, Braunton, Devon on 12 December 1842, son of George Lerwill, carpenter, and his wife Mary (Bedford)) on 12 February 1865 at St Luke's, Balsall Heath in Birmingham. At first they lived in Gooch Street near the middle of Birmingham, where his business prospered, but by 1881 their home was at 23 Coxwell Road in Edgbaston. They remained there until at least 1891, retiring soon after to 3 Lime Grove, Handsworth, where Mrs Lerwill died on 20 May 1893.

³¹ Daily Telegraph, Issue 9048, 22 December 1897.

³² Auckland War Museum website, <http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases>.

³³ Online Cemetery Search - Auckland Council.

William Lerwill married secondly Mary Ann Lee (born about 1861 in Erdington) in 1894Q1 and died on 16 September 1931 aged 89. This information was supplied by Mrs Janet Morris (1931-2000), whose grandfather was Frank Thomas Lerwill, born 15 September 1871, son of William and Esther (Skidmore) Lerwill. I am also grateful for information on the Lerwill family to John Lerwill, a grandson of Frank Thomas Lerwill.

- v. Mary, two months old at the time of the 1841 census and baptised on 2 May of that year at St Mary's, Oldswinford. At the time of her marriage on 23 August 1863 at St Luke's, Birmingham, she lived in Pershore Road. Her husband George Lerwill was a carpenter and wood carver of Belgrave Street (born in Braunton, Devon, in 1839Q4 and brother to William Lerwill who married Mary's sister Esther). The Lerwills moved from Devon to Birmingham between the times of the 1851 and 1861 censuses. They were still in Braunton in 1852 when on 9 December the North Devon Journal reported the theft of a quantity of wood from Mr George Lerwill, carpenter, by persons unknown.

George and Mary (Skidmore) Lerwill lived at various addresses in Birmingham – Thomas Street in Kings Norton in 1866, Moseley in 1870, 29 John Street, Balsall Heath, at the time of the 1871 census, and Clifton Road in Balsall Heath in 1873. George was also a beer seller and at least for part of the 1870s occupied the Clifton pub at the junction of Ladypool Lane (now Ladypool Road) and Clifton Road in Balsall Heath. At the time of the 1881 census Mary was at 14 Glebe Street, Edgbaston (close to the home of her sister Diana Brown) with three of her children, Harry, William and Mary Lerwill. Although Mary is not recorded as a widow, George Lerwill has not yet been found in the British 1881 census. This might explain why two other of her children were with relatives in Stourbridge at this time. It is possible that he had emigrated to Australia by this date. In December 1885 Mrs Lerwell 35, together with H. Lerwell 19, Mary Lerwell 10 and W.Lerwell 17, were passengers aboard the *E.J. Spence*, landing in Victoria³⁴. Mary died in Melbourne in 1902 and George in 1929 aged 88.

Esther Lerwill (1873-1955), daughter of George and Mary (Skidmore) Lerwill, married Frederick Schofield who lived near to the Red Lion on Birmingham Road where Esther was living at the time. He and Esther later ran this pub before the family moved to Lancashire in around 1900. This information was kindly provided by their great-grandson Lee Schofield of Carrbridge in the Scottish Highlands.

- vi. Jenny, born 25 October 1842 and baptised at Holy Trinity, Amblecote on 29 March 1843. She married firstly John Welch, a blacksmith of Dudley (perhaps baptised John Fullerd Welch on 14 November 1841 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, son of Samuel Welch, blacksmith, and Phoebe), on 15 May 1864 at St Thomas', Dudley. Her brother and sister Diana and Elijah were witnesses. One child Phoebe Welch is known to have been born in 1865 and died that same year, her father John Welch in 1866Q1 aged 24.

Jenny married secondly Thomas Bridge, a glass maker (baptised 19 April 1835 at St Thomas', Dudley, son of Joseph and Isabella (Cadman) Bridge) on 31 May 1868 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. Five children were baptised in Oldswinford to 1876. Two sons of her second marriage, presumably Thomas Bridge and George Bridge, were glass makers and worked for Stuart & Sons in Wordsley. It was said by her nephew George Robert Joshua Skidmore that she loved 'dabbling in clay' and her father had a small kiln built for her at the back of the premises of their house at Bedcote. He obtained the clay from Broseley in Shropshire and the tobacco pipes Jenny delighted in making were called 'Best Broseleys'. She died in 1876Q4 aged 34 and her husband then lived with their children at Stewkins in Wordsley.

- vii. A boy, born and died in 1844Q2.

398. viii. **FRANCIS GEORGE**⁸, born on 11 August 1846 and baptised at Holy Trinity, Amblecote on 2 September of that year. Frank began his working life as a glasshouse pot maker, but it did not suit him and he turned quickly and successfully to glass engraving. He later moved to Tutbury, Staffordshire and married a local girl Jane Wright. She was born about 1845 in Tutbury, daughter of Thomas Wright, and they were married on 10 September 1866 in St Alkmund Church in Derby. The witnesses were Joseph Dudley and Annie Wright. Mr Skidmore seems to have worked for a time as a crucible maker in London (at least, around the time of the 1871 census). He and his family lived in Ludgate Street, Tutbury, in the home of Jane's father, who was licensee

³⁴ Index to Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria 1852-1923, part of an index to Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists for British, Foreign and New Zealand Ports 1852-1923.

of *The Vine Inn* opposite one of the glasshouses. John Thomas Haden Richardson (1835-1913), one of the leading glass firms in Stourbridge in the nineteenth century, established the Royal Castle Flint glassworks in Tutbury in 1871. Frank Skidmore later ran his glass engraving business from their home at 9 High Street, Tutbury. He died in 1906Q3, said to be 60 and his wife went to live with their married daughter Mary in Buxton.

The children of Francis George and Jane (Wright) Skidmore, born in Tutbury,

745. i. **JOSHUA**⁹, [was 589.] born 7 January 1867. A blacksmith of Derby, he married Rose Ellen Hardwick (born 21 October 1866 in Rolleston, Staffordshire, daughter of tailor Samuel Hardwick and his wife Elizabeth (Harrison)) on 9 May 1891 in a civil ceremony registered at Derby.

Joshua and Rose were living in the early 1890s at 95 Madeley Street in Derby, moving around 1895 to Devonshire Street and settling in 1902 at 110 City Road in Chester Green. The family worshipped at St Paul's Church. Joshua died on 17 February 1935 in Derby City Hospital and is buried in Nottingham Road Cemetery in Derby. His widow died on 9 July 1940.

The children of Joshua and Rose Ellen (Hardwick) Skidmore, born in Chester Green in the city of Derby,

i. Nellie, born 25 March 1892. She was living at the time of the 1901 census with her grandmother Elizabeth Peace, a laundress, in Rolleston, Staffordshire and, by 1911, was working in the laundry at Warter Priory, York. She married Cyril Wilfred Dean and they lived in Harrogate, Yorkshire, where they had three children.

ii. Annie Elizabeth, born 22 February 1894. Before her marriage she was a weaver at Darley Mills in Darley Abbey, across the park from her home. She married Samuel Leslie West (known as Les) on 2 August 1919 at St Paul's, Derby. He and his father worked at the large St Mary's railway goods yard in Fox Street, adjacent to their home. He was a wagon repairer, his father Elijah West a drayman. He later worked at the Carriage & Wagon in Litchurch Lane, Derby. After spending some years at 234 Village Street in Derby, across from St Giles' Church, they settled at 17 Harcourt Street, which no doubt rang to the sound of budgerigars, the breeding of which was Samuel's hobby. Annie West died there on 23 April 1978 and is buried in Nottingham Road Cemetery.

iii. **FRANCIS JOSHUA**¹⁰, born 29 November 1896, known as Frank. He married Minnie Holmes. They lived for most of their married life at 58 Shaftesbury Street in Derby. He started work at the Carriage & Wagon in Litchurch Lane, became a wagon repairer and stayed there until retirement age, when he became caretaker at the C & W Training School nearby. Here he tidied up around the apprentices and looked after the flowerbeds outside. Frank had been a keen first-aider since being in the Boy Scouts. He joined the Railway Ambulance Team and went on to many competitions with them. He dealt with countless real-life accidents, for one of which he received the L.M.S. Meritorious Certificate 'in recognition of exceptional promptitude and efficiency in rendering first-aid assistance'. He was a serving brother of the St Johns Ambulance Brigade where he won many honours. In his spare time he was a gardening enthusiast with dahlias and fuschias his speciality. In his later years he went to live with his son and family at 38 Kenilworth Road, Leamington Spa, where he died on 4 May 1971.

A son,

i. **RONALD FRANCIS**¹¹, born 1923. He married Doreen _____ and had two daughters. Ronnie served his apprenticeship with International Combustion Ltd, Sinfin Lane in Derby, in 1946 becoming assistant manager in their new factory. In 1949 he returned to the parent company to become

Development Engineer. In 1954 he became Production Manager of Herbert Morris Ltd at Loughborough, where he was later made General Works Manager and Executive Director. He moved in 1965 to Alvis Ltd of Coventry as their Works Director. He died on 20 April 1988.

- iv. Mary Jennie, born 11 March 1899. She married Leslie Oughton. In 1929 they moved to London where he worked for the railway but later returned to Derby where he worked for Rolls Royce. Les was a keen cricketer who played for St Augustine's team in Derby for many years. He was Parish Council Chairman in Breadsall for 14 years. A keen churchman he was a sidesman and served on the Parochial Church Council. His wife Mary was a lifelong member of the Women's Institute and the Mothers Union at her church. She was never happier than when on stage making people laugh, in village concerts and the like. A very quiet lady she was always busy doing for others. She died on 28 May 1979 at 124 Brookside Road, Breadsall, Derby. A daughter and a son.
- v. Sabina Rose, born 19 July 1901. Before her marriage she worked in the babywear department at Derby Co-operative Society. She married John William Graham. He lived in Swanwick and Marehay before marriage where he was a joiner. He sang at the service when All Saints' Church was made a Cathedral in about 1926. He was a keen cricketer and it is possible that a blow from a cricket ball caused the cerebral haemorrhage from which he died aged only 30. Rose and Jack lived in Havelock Street in Ripley and had two sons. She was at one time manageress of the Silvers dry cleaning company in Ripley. In later life she moved with her son and daughter-in-law to Alfreton. She died on 23 September 1993.
- vi. **VINCENT HARRY¹⁰**, born 13 June 1908. He married Eunice Haywood. Better known as Harry, he worked in mechanical engineering for most of his life. He was in a reserved occupation at British Celanese at the start of World War II and so was a member of the A.R.P. He was working at International Combustion Ltd in Sinfin Lane, Derby, when he retired in June 1973. He was a member of the Social Club and enjoyed the game of bowls. His two loves were gardening and ballroom dancing. In 1937 the family moved to Normanton where they remained. His wife died in May 1982, Harry on 20 December 1987.

Children, born in Derby,

- i. Joyce Eunice.
- ii. **DEREK¹¹**, who kindly supplied details on the family of Joshua Skidmore in Derby. He married Lorna _____. He started work on the railway in October 1952 and served a mechanical/ engineering apprenticeship until the age of 21, with the Outdoor Machinery Department of British Railways, eventually becoming Maintenance Engineer for the East Midlands. His early working life was in the glorious days of steam, when he looked after various plant such as coaling plants, ash plants, turntables, water columns and so on. As the steam era faded he dealt with more electrical equipment on stations and in offices, then repaired on-track plant such as cranes, tracklayers, ballast cleaners and tamping and lining machines. He was Ground Radar mechanic in the RAF in the late fifties. He has had a lifelong involvement in the Scouting movement, receiving the Medal of Merit and the Long Service

Award with bar from the Chief Scout. Children Martyn Philip and Elaine.

- iii. **GEORGE¹¹**, married Beryl _____. He started work at Lawtons, a radio and television repair shop, where he learned his trade. He was then a service engineer and manager of the Derby shop of the national firm Telefusion. He and his wife started their married life in Alvaston and now live in Chellaston. Daughters Karen Maria and Ruth Lisa.
 - ii. Annie Lockhart, born 1869Q2. She worked with her sister at the Saints Arms Hotel in Buxton. In 1898Q4 in Sheffield she married Vincent Percy Eadon, an auctioneer and stockbroker of Collegiate Crescent, Ecclesall (born about 1858 in Sheffield, son of John A. and Anne Eadon). Mr Eadon died in Sheffield in 1900Q4 and his widow returned to live with her parents in Tutbury by the time of the 1901 census.
 - iii. Mary Jenny, born 1872Q3. She married a member of the Derbyshire branch of the Skidmore family. She presumably met Joseph Skidmore [DBY 362] when they worked in hotels in Buxton, she as a housemaid in the Saints Arms Hotel and he as boots in the Old Hall Hotel. He was born about 1872 in Longstone, Derbyshire, son of William Skidmore [DBY 241], a carter of Buxton, and his wife Ann. Joseph and Mary Jenny married on 28 October 1896 at St John the Baptist with St Ann, Buxton. He was a licensed porter, running his business in 1911 from their home at 8 Heath Street, Buxton.
Children - Dorothy (born 1897Q4), Gladys (1900Q1), Annie Lavinia (1901Q2), Francis Henry (1904Q1), William (1909Q2).
399. ix. **GEORGE⁸**, born 5 May 1848 in Stourbridge and baptised on 14 March 1849 at Holy Trinity, Amblecote. He was raised in Birmingham Road, Stourbridge and entered his father's pot making business. He married Betsy Dingley at Edgbaston on 30 July 1871. Betsy was born on 5 September 1847 in Sparkbrook, Birmingham, the daughter of Robert Dingley, carpenter, and his wife Betsy. It is worth noting that in 1861 Betsy's family were in Thomas Street, Kings Norton, where George's sister Mary Lerwill lived about this time. George and Betsy Skidmore probably spent all their married lives in Birmingham Street in Bedcote, Stourbridge, close to the family business. Their address in 1891 was Bedcote Villa which was adjacent to the public house run by his sister Sabina and her husband. George died there and was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 11 July 1894. His widow Betsy lived on at the same address until her death on 20 September 1922. She was buried on 25 September alongside George and a stone to their memory exists in Oldswinford churchyard.

The children of George and Betsy (Dingley) Skidmore, baptised at Stambermill,

- i. George Robert Joshua, born 19 November 1877. George was a self-educated and well-educated man, who considered entering the medical profession but lack of money prevented him. He did not marry and was living at his mother's home in 1911. He is said to have been a pot maker 'par excellence' at Ruffords in Stourbridge. A letter he wrote in retirement in 1946 from Merton House, Trewitt Road, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, to Harry (perhaps Harry Gibson of Fulwell) gives an insight into the business set up by his grandfather in Stourbridge. The glasshouse pots and the crucibles were loaded into covered waggons for delivery to customers who included chiefly Richardsons of Wordsley, Stevens and Williams, Thomas Webb and Arbett, The Dennis glassworks, Doulton and Mills, L. & S. Hingley and Sons, and the Dial Glass Works. Large orders of fifty pots each went by rail to Gateshead for Messrs George Davidson. The Davidsons had been using Skidmore's pots since they set up in Gateshead. Thomas Davidson had visited Macbeth Evans glassworks in Pittsburgh and seen huge pots made there. He asked whether George Skidmore could oblige since he made 'a rattling good pot' and eventually George went to work for the Davidsons at the Teams glassworks and later the Sowerbys at Ellison glassworks, the two largest glassworks on Tyneside. He had discovered how to prevent the clay pots he made from cracking after a short time of use (which cracking, for the huge pots in which the Davidsons were interested, meant the loss of tons and tons of molten glass into the furnace and

into the recuperators via the heating chambers). His glasshouse pots were 84" long, 52' high and 38' wide, miniature glasshouses in themselves. He refused to pass on the secret of his process and it died with him. He used Stourbridge clay got from King Bros and also E. & J. Pear, Harper and Moores, and Mobberley and Perry. He retired in his early forties when the bombing of Tyneside was at its height. He clearly loved his craft and speaks of the unnecessary separation of the clay and glass industries, "so closely bound together both chemically, physically and industrially ... best Stourbridge cut crystal glass ... contains minute particles of the Glasshouse Pot chemically combined, Is not nature wonderful!!!".

- ii. Jenny, baptised 30 September 1880. She married Frederick Jones (baptised on 20 October 1872 at Rossett Church, Denbighshire, the son of William Jones) on 9 April



1899 at Stourbridge. Fred worked on the G.W.R railway and lost a leg at the age of 18 in a shunting accident. He was later a signalman and lived with his family at 108 Lyde Green in Cradley.

Two sons, Frederick George Jones (1899-1973) and William Edwin Jones (1902-93). Their younger son was father to William Rex Jones, who kindly supplied information on this family.

Jenny (Skidmore) Jones with her grandson Rex Jones, 1931

- iii. Eliza, baptised 18 May 1882. She married Albert Heathcock, a coal miner (born about 1881 in Oldswinford) at St John's, Stourbridge in 1906Q4. They were living in 1911 at 103 Birmingham Street, Stourbridge, with their daughter Bessie. A further 2 daughters and a son.
- iv. Annie, baptised 21 August 1884. She married Joseph Stevens at Stourbridge in 1904Q1. I have been unable to find them in the 1911 census but the family believe they had two girls and a boy.
- v. Richard, baptised 17 June 1886. He died on 3 May 1887 aged 11 months and is remembered on the same stone as his great grandparents George and Mary Skidmore.
- x. Ann, born 1850Q2 and baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 27 December 1857. She was housekeeper for her father at the *Red Lion*. Annie Skidmore married John Goodall (son of Richard Goodall) at St Thomas', Dudley on 4 September 1882 but I have been unable to locate this couple in later censuses.
- xi. Sabina, baptised 6 July 1851 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. She died four days later.
- xii. Sabina, born 1852Q4 and baptised with her sisters Ann and Sarah. She married John Pauley Foote, widower, a timekeeper of Lower High Street, Stourbridge (born about 1844 in Weymouth, Dorset, the son of Julius Foote, a cooper) on 8 November 1886 at St Thomas', Stourbridge. In 1891 they were running a public house (not named in the census) in Birmingham Street, Stourbridge. Esther Lerwill, a daughter of her sister Mary, lived with them at this time. Mrs Foote died in 1898Q3 aged 45, her husband early the following year aged 54.
- xiii. Sarah, born 1855Q3. She married Joseph Cadwallader, (born in Stourbridge and baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 7 October 1855, son of John and Mary Ann Cadwallader), in 1881Q1 in Birmingham. He was a joiner and, with his wife, brewer and keeper of the Park Street Tavern at 14 Kidderminster Street (apparently later called New Road), Stourbridge. It is said Joe Cadwallader was a member of Stourbridge Town Council. He was Chairman of the Stourbridge Bowling Club in 1907 when its Vice-Chairman was Percy Vivian Skidmore [443]. Joseph Cadwallader died in 1927 aged 72, his wife in 1933 aged 77. Two children - Jenny Harrod Cadwallader and Frank Skidmore Cadwallader (1885-1949). Frank Skidmore Cadwallader was a carpenter and builder who moved about 1912-13 to Katoomba, New South Wales, Australia, where he was later in partnership with Ledger, with an office in Leura. Frank S. Cadwallader is buried at Wentworth Falls, near Leura, his wife at Murwillimbah (where she lived after her husband's death with her sister).

We now turn to the second of the sons of Obadiah and Rebecca (Shaw) Skidmore to have had issue,

107. FRANCIS⁶ SKIDMORE, baptised on 18 May 1777 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. A coal miner, he married Elizabeth Harper (perhaps baptised Elizabeth Whitehouse Harper on 28 October 1781 at Oldswinford, daughter of William and Mary Harper) on 14 February 1803 at Oldswinford. The marriage was witnessed by Rebecca Skidmore, Francis' sister, and her future husband Thomas Perry. Francis and Elizabeth lived in the Delph; he was a tenant of a house and garden very close to Delph Locks, on the NE side of Delph Road.

Francis died aged 63 and was buried at Oldswinford on 10 April 1839. His widow Elizabeth was still living in the Delph in 1841 and 1851. The 1841 census describes the area in which she lived (close to Francis' nephew Obadiah [210]) as 'All the road from Delph Bridge up Canal side to 9 Locks Bridge thence to Skeldings House nr. Mount Pleasant, and houses in Wood and the road from top of Delph to the Bridge, Brickyard at Delph and road from there up Amblecote to Sidonia Cartwright's top Amblecote'. Four children were still at home, Elizabeth, Ann and Maria, all described as brick makers³⁵ and presumably working at the Delph brickyard, and Ambrose, a forgerman. A five-year old child, Elizabeth Skidmore, was living with the family, thought to be a granddaughter and the daughter of Elizabeth Skidmore.

Mrs Skidmore died in 1854 and was buried at Oldswinford on 27 October of that year aged 73.

The children of Francis and Elizabeth (Harper) Skidmore, baptisms and burials at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

213. i. **CHARLES⁷**, baptised 1 May 1803. A collier of the Delph, he married Ann Turley (born about 1803 in Kingswinford) on 29 August 1825 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. John Turley was a witness. They had one child before Charles' early death at the age of only 24. He was buried at Oldswinford on 14 January 1827 and his widow later lost their only child William at the age of only 15.

Four years after Charles Skidmore's death, Ann married Thomas Bache, bricklayer of Delph Lane at St Thomas', Dudley on 30 October 1831. John Turley was again a witness. They had several children and lived in Delph Lane next to their nephew Frederick Skidmore [215], with Elizabeth Turley, presumably Ann's mother. Mr Bache died in 1858Q4 and his widow then lived in South Street, Brierley Hill before moving in her final years to live in Turners Lane with the family of her son Thomas Bache, newly returned from living in Stockton on Tees, Durham. Ann Bache died in 1886Q3 aged 83.

The child of Charles and Ann (Turley) Skidmore,

- i. William Downing, baptised 26 March 1826 at Brierley Hill. He died aged 15 and was buried on 12 April 1841 at Brierley Hill. The Staffordshire Gazette and County Standard on 22 April 1841 reported that an inquest was held before coroner H. Smith on 15 April into the death. William was employed at the Lay Colliery and was killed 'as a consequence of an explosion of sulphurous air'.
- ii. Frances, born in Withymoor and baptised 1 May 1805, thought to have married Joseph Bache, a builder on 20 June 1831 at All Saints, West Bromwich. By 1851 (when Frances was a widow) the family had moved to Holly Hall. Mrs Bache died in 1879Q3 aged 74.
Four children of Joseph and Frances/ Fanny Bache were born in Commonsides and baptised at Kingswinford and Brierley Hill to 1839 - Charles, ___?___, Ruth, Drusilla.
- iii. Ambrose, baptised 26 July 1807. He died aged 5 and was buried on 19 September 1812.
- iv. Francis, baptised 19 November 1809. He died at the age of 18 in the Delph and was buried on 13 August 1827.
- v. Lucy, baptised 17 November 1811. She married William Shakespeare, a coal miner, on 21 July

³⁵ The Children's Employment Commission Pt II reported that 'The moulders of fire-bricks are usually women, and they generally mould 1000 bricks in one day. The moulder is almost always by a child (a girl), who bears off the bricks as they are made, and places them in rows to dry. In burning the bricks in the kiln, each man is assisted by one or two boys. All the children are employed by the adult workpeople, not the masters. The hours of work are from six in the morning till six at night ... The state of the place of work is very wholesome, being clean and open to the air at both ends of the buildings I observed no material difference between those of Mr Cartwright of Upper Gornal and the clay works of Stourbridge..... I have seen no children and young persons employed in the manufactories of my district who looked so happy, and were so well made in person, as those girls who work at the fire-brick and fire-clay works.... The dress they wear is extremely picturesque handkerchief round the head and the blue or black leggings (the feet being naked for coolness on the warm sand or clay)... they bear a close resemblance to girls in the Persian costume'. Page Q89. R.H.Horne.

1834 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. The marriage was witnessed by Elizabeth Skidmore, Lucy's sister, and her future husband Joseph Penn. William was baptised at Brierley Hill, either 7 November 1813 the son of John Shakespeare, engineer of Brierley Hill, and Jane, or 18 September 1814, son of Benjamin Shakespeare, miner of Brierley Hill, and Sarah. Seven children are known to this couple who lived in Rocks Hill. Mrs Shakespeare died in 1858Q3 and William then lived with his sister Maria Shakespeare who ran a small shop in the High Street in Brierley Hill.

- vi. Elizabeth, baptised 20 March 1814. She appears to have had a child,
 - i. Elizabeth, baptised on 30 October 1836 at Oldswinford. She moved with her mother and stepfather to Greasbrough.

In the census of 1841 Elizabeth was a brick maker and she and her daughter were living at her mother's home in the Delph. Later that year, on 19 December 1841, she married at Clent, Joseph Penn (son of Thomas Penn, iron moulder of Dudley Wood, and Mary, baptised at St Peter's, Cradley, on 28 October 1821). She describes herself as a brick maker of Rowley Regis whilst Joseph was a forgerman of the same place, son of Thomas Penn, then deceased. The wedding was witnessed by Ann Skidmore, possibly Elizabeth's sister. (From 1780-1837 Rowley Regis was not licensed for marriages. Couples had to go over the hill to Clent to marry).

Their daughter Maria was born in Brierley Hill around 1846, after which they moved to Park Gate, Greasbrough, Yorkshire where Mr Penn was a ball furnaceman in the iron works. After spending some time in Mount Pleasant, Durham, they had returned by 1881 to the Rotherham area and were living at census time 24 Albert Road, Rawmarsh.

Elizabeth Penn's death appears to have been that registered at Rotherham in 1883Q2 at the age of 70. Joseph Penn, a widower, was a night watchman in a quarry and living at 38 Wild Boar Street, Bradford at the time of the 1891 census.

- vii. Ann, baptised 12 May 1816. Described as a brick maker in 1841. She witnessed her sister Maria's wedding in 1845. She married John Patchett, a coal miner (born about 1817, son of Hill Patchett, miner of Pensnett, and Ruth) on 25 December 1846 at All Saints', Sedgley. John and Ann (called Pagett) lived at 18 Delph Road next to the home of Ann's sister Maria. The death of Ann Pagett at the age of 52 was registered in 1869Q4.
- viii. Maria, baptised 11 October 1818. No burial has been found but a further daughter Maria was baptised two years later.
- ix. Maria, baptised 18 June 1820. She married John Adams, iron roller of Withymoor (born about 1823 in Oldswinford parish, son of John Adams, engineer) on 25 December 1845 at Oldswinford. Witnesses to the marriage were James Millward and Ann Skidmore. John and Maria lived in Delph Road where, after being widowed in the 1850s, Maria was a brickmaker. She died in 1871Q4 aged 51.
- x. Ambrose, baptised 27 June 1824. He was an iron puddler in a forge and did not marry. In 1861 he was lodging with his brother-in-law John Patchett and in 1871 with his widowed sister Maria Adams. He died in 1873Q1 aged 50.
