

File 16 of 21 files on descendants out of Kingswinford, Staffordshire.

SKIDMORE GUNSMITHS OF WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE, LATER OF WOLVERHAMPTON & LIVERPOOL

by Linda Moffatt ©2016

CITATION

Please respect the author's contribution and state where you found this information if you quote it.

Suggested citation

' *Skidmore Gunsmiths of Wednesbury, Staffordshire, later of Wolverhampton and Liverpool* by Linda Moffatt at the website of the Skidmore/ Scudamore One-Name Study www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com'.

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.

PRIVACY

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

Two sons of Ephraim Skidmore of Kingswinford parish are described here - Charles [116] and Joseph [117]. Ephraim Skidmore (1739-1807) was numbered [58] in my book published in 2004¹. He was apprenticed in 1754 to Samuel Maberly, a gunsmith in Birmingham.

116. CHARLES⁶ SKIDMORE, son of Ephraim [58] and Hannah (Bissell) Skidmore, was baptised at St Bartholomew's, Wednesbury on 3 April 1768. Like his father he was a gunsmith, specifically said to be a gunlock filer. He married Sarah Smart (perhaps the daughter of Thomas and Mary Smart, baptised at All Saints, West Bromwich on 11 March 1770) at All Saints, West Bromwich, on 6 April 1790, witnessed by James Smart.

At the time of the census taken in 1841 Charles was a widower, living in New Street in NE West Bromwich with Joseph Smart, coach smith and Mary Smart (both born 1807-1811). By 1851 Charles was living in Sandwell Road, West Bromwich with his son-in-law Joseph Birch. This area, between West Bromwich centre and Hill Top, is known as Guns Village. One explanation of this name is the existence at one time of many lock filers there and there is a pub called the Cross Guns at the end of Guns Lane. Charles Skidmore died in 1855Q1. Sarah could be the lady of Hockley Heath (perhaps Horseley Heath in Tipton?) buried at All Saints, West Bromwich on 11 November 1814, aged 46. If so, then it is likely they had further children since a child Ann Skidmore of the same place, aged 2, was buried a year earlier. Charles Skidmore died in 1855.

The children of Charles and Sarah (Smart) Skidmore, baptisms and burials at All Saints', West Bromwich,

- i. Ephraim, baptised 9 January 1791. Buried a month later on 14 February.
 - ii. Betty, baptised 29 January 1792. She married Joseph Birch, a pistol filer (born about 1786 in West Bromwich), at St Mary's, Handsworth on 22 March 1830. Betty Birch died before 1851 when Joseph Birch is found a widower in Sandwell Road, West Bromwich, with his daughter Mary Birch aged 20, and his father-in-law Charles Skidmore.
 - iii. Mary, baptised 21 April 1794.
 - iv. Sarah, baptised 5 October 1796, buried 28 December of that year.
 - v. John, baptised 21 January 1798. He appears to be the soldier, born in West Bromwich, who served in the 67th Foot Regiment from 1820 until his discharge in 1843 aged 43².
 - vi. Sarah, baptised 20 January 1800, buried 5 August of that year.
 - vii. Rebecca, baptised 1 November 1802.
 - viii. Sarah, baptised 24 March 1805.
245. ix. **EPHRAIM**, baptised 16 October 1808, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.
- x. [perhaps] Ann, buried 29 October 1813, aged 2 of Hockley Heath.

The youngest son,

245. EPHRAIM⁷ SKIDMORE, baptised 16 October 1808 at All Saints, West Bromwich. He was married three, perhaps four, times. His first wife was Maria Gutridge and they were married on 3 August 1829 at St Mary's, Handsworth. They lived in Holloway Bank in the Hill Top area between Wednesbury and West Bromwich, before moving to Wolverhampton between 1837 and 1839, where Maria died aged 30 in 1840. She was buried on 28 January at St Peter's, Wolverhampton.

At the time of the census in June 1841 Ephraim was living in Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton with his second wife Susannah. When their daughter Bertha Ann married for the second time she gave her father as Ephraim Skidmore, hotel keeper and her mother Susannah Malpas. I have been unable to find Susannah's birth around 1813 nor her death before Ephraim's marriage to Mary Ann Wurr in 1849.

Ephraim Skidmore, pattern maker of York Street, Wolverhampton, son of Charles Skidmore, locksmith, married Mary Ann Wurr (born about 1822 in Longnor, Shropshire, daughter of James Wurr, a constable) at St George's, Wolverhampton on 2 August 1849. They were living in 1851 at 130 Waterloo Street, when Ephraim is described in the census as a holloware turner (a pottery worker who made ornaments, teapots, etc. as opposed to flatware such as plates and dishes). He is called a founder of Duke Street in 1853, and a pattern maker in 1862.

¹ The code numbers of the heads of household found in Skidmore Families of the Black Country and Birmingham 1600-1900 are retained here.

² National Archives reference WO 97/806/23.

By the time of the census in April 1861 Mr Skidmore was a publican, living alone at 141 Walsall Street, Wolverhampton. Mary Ann Skidmore is thought to be the lady of that name who died in Wolverhampton in 1861Q3.

He married in 1864Q1 Mrs Ann Jones (born about 1825 in Darlaston, widow of David Jones) and by 1871 was living in Wolverhampton Road, Wednesfield with his wife and her son George Jones (born about 1849 in Darlaston). In this census he describes himself as a 'master brickmaker employing 1 assistant', presumably his son Charles who also lived with them. He had retired by 1881. Ann Skidmore died in 1884Q4 aged 60 and Ephraim died two years later, on 12 November 1886 in Frederick Street, Heath Town, Wednesfield, leaving a will (not seen). His executor was Sam Marriot of the Star Hotel, Wolverhampton Road, Heath Town.

The children of Ephraim and Maria (Gutridge) Skidmore, baptised at All Saints, West Bromwich,

- i. Sarah, born about 1830. Not at home at the time of the 1851 census. She married Charles Tudor at St James', West Bromwich in 1848Q2.
- ii. John, baptised 24 April 1831. He could be the child of Holloway Bank who was buried at All Saints, West Bromwich on 16 March 1832, said to be aged 11 weeks (?11 months).
- iii. Mary, baptised 13 October 1833. She was buried at All Saints, West Bromwich on 2 July 1834.
- iv. Mary, baptised 18 October 1835. She married firstly Peter Dean (recorded in the marriage register as Peter Danes), a puddler of St Mark's Street (son of John Dean, labourer) on 29 September 1856 at St Mark's, Wolverhampton. James and Eliza Skidmore were witnesses. Peter and Mary moved to Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

and baptised at St Peter's, Wolverhampton,

- 444a. v. **JAMES**⁸, baptised 6 March 1837. He began work as a boy in the holloware trade like his father, later becoming a licensed victualler in Wolverhampton. He married Eliza Jordan (born about 1836 in Wolverhampton, daughter of John Jordan, packer, and Eliza (Tuft)) on 23 December 1855 at St Mark's, Wolverhampton. James died on 1 January 1880 at Wolverhampton aged 44. A year later at census time his widow was living in 1881 in St John Street, Wolverhampton, with her daughter and son-in-law. Mrs Skidmore died on 7 August 1892 at 97 Vicarage Road, Wolverhampton, her estate going to her daughter, and only next of kin, Mary Ann.

A child of James and Eliza (Jordan) Skidmore,

- i. Mary Ann, born 19 June 1857 in Wolverhampton. She married Benjamin Worton, an edge tool maker (born 12 April 1859 in Wolverhampton, son of Benjamin Worton, edge tool maker, and Maria (Holland)), on 27 February 1881 at St George's, Wolverhampton. Their great grandson John Worton of Probus, Cornwall kindly provided information on this family. Benjamin Worton died on 26 May 1892 at 97 Vicarage Road, Wolverhampton and his widow married William Devney on 31 July 1897 at St George's, Wolverhampton. Mary Ann died in Lilleshall Street, Newport, Monmouthshire about 1910.
A son John and a daughter Flora.
445. vi. **JOHN**⁸, baptised 24 February 1839. At the time of his marriage he was a hardware merchant's clerk of Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton. He married Susan Jane Horton (born about 1837 in Princes End, daughter of Benjamin Horton, ironmonger, and Mary his wife) on 13 February 1862 at the Congregational Church, Snowhill, Wolverhampton. The witnesses were Lucy Louisa Swales, William John Cavillier Swales and John Parnell Palmer.
John Skidmore, a commercial clerk, lived with his family at Rose Cottage, 18 Larch Lane in Wolverhampton, along with Ellen Maria Horton (born about 1839 at Princes End, sister of Susan Jane Skidmore).
John Skidmore died in Dublin on 26 April 1897 (discovered from his probate). Susan at the time of the 1901 census was running a lodging house at 1 Merridale Road, Wolverhampton (adjacent to the Presbyterian Chapel). By 1911 she was living from the proceeds of her boarding house and able to retire to 23 Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton. She died in 1919 with a reported age of 84.
The three eldest sons of this family seem to disappear from UK records from around 1890 and it is probable that they emigrated, though I have so far been unsuccessful in locating them.

The children of John and Susan Jane (Horton) Skidmore, born in Wolverhampton,

- i. Richard James, born in Compton and baptised at Tettenhall on 14 May 1862. Clerk

- to a japanner in 1881 and to a rope spinner in 1891. I have yet to find him in the UK after 1891, though his mother reported in 1911 that all her seven children were then living.
- ii. Alfred John, born 1864Q2, baptised with his brother Francis on 1 March 1867 at St Peter's, Wolverhampton. Clerk at the chemical works in 1881 but by the time of the 1891 census he was valet to Rupert Henry Smedley at Ashurst Lodge, Brynford, Flintshire. Single at the time of the 1901 census and clerk for a holloware firm in Wolverhampton. Living in 1911.
 - iii. Francis Ephraim, born 1866Q1. Clerk to a factor (perhaps his father) in 1881.
 - iv. Bernard, born in Larches Lane, Wolverhampton in 1867Q3 and baptised with his sister Ada at St Mark's on 1 May 1870. He was educated at Weston School, Somerset, at the same time as Joseph and Benjamin Skidmore, sons of John [334]. He became a clerk to an ironworks in Wolverhampton and married Jessie Ransom (born about 1868 in Chevington, Suffolk) in 1896Q1. They were living at the time of the 1901 census at 61 North Road, Wolverhampton but moved to Newport where Mr Skidmore was a cost clerk in an ironworks. Jessie Skidmore died in 1937 aged 69, her husband in 1951 aged 83.
 - v. Ada Susan, born 1870Q2. She was married in 1898Q4 to Bernard Kay, a school master (born about 1866 in Essington, Staffordshire). They lived at 1 Merridale Road, Wolverhampton.
A son Bernard Corbett Kay and a daughter Eileen Kay.
 - v. Florence Ellen, born 1872Q2, baptised with her sister Jessie at St Mark's on 12 September 1875. She did not marry and died in Wolverhampton in 1943, aged 70.
 - vi. Jessie Louise, born 1875Q3. In 1903Q4 she married Frank Ashmore-Dutton, an ironworks clerk and was living in Penn Fields, Wolverhampton in 1911. She died in 1959.

Children of Ephraim and Susannah (Malpas) Skidmore,

- vii. Clara, baptised 9 July 1842. She married at Moxley on 11 August 1862 Joseph Watton, a miner of Bilston (born about 1835, son of Thomas Watton, miner).
- vii. Bertha Anne, born in Walsall Street and baptised 15 February 1845. At the time of the 1861 census she was a worsted spinner, lodging in Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Bertha Skidmore married firstly, in Gloucestershire in 1868Q1, Thomas Aston and by the time of the 1871 census was living with her 5-year old son William Aston (born in Wallbrook, Staffordshire), housekeeper to John James, a woodcutter, in Blakeney Hill, Gloucestershire. She married John James on 29 April 1887 at South Malvern, Canterbury, New Zealand. She married thirdly Robert James in 1898 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. She died on 24 September 1931 in Cessnock, New South Wales, aged 86³.



Bertha (nee Skidmore) and Robert James 1925

- viii. Charles Hamlet, baptised 4 March 1848. He died in Stafford Street aged ten months and was buried at St Peter's on 2 January 1849.

The children of Ephraim and Mary Ann (Wurr) Skidmore, born in Wolverhampton,

446. ix. **HRAIM**⁸, baptised 19 January 1851 at St George's, Wolverhampton as the son of Thomas (an error), pattern maker of Bilston Street, and his wife Mary. He was educated at The Mount, High Street, Kingswinford, an establishment found at the time of the 1861 census, run by Hamlet Bayley and catering for 11 teenage boys including Charles. He left his father's brickmaking business around 1871 and was at the time of his marriage a railway goods guard in Wednesfield. He married Isabella Dutton (born 1852 in Whitmore,

³ Information on Bertha Anne Skidmore obtained from a pedigree posted online at Ancestry.com.

Cheshire, daughter of Samuel Dutton, a railway ticket inspector, and his wife Jane) in Birmingham in 1872Q4. They were living in Wolverhampton Road, Wednesfield, in 1881, with Isabella's mother Jane Dutton, a milk vendor (born about 1824 in Kirkby Stephen, Westmoreland), and Isabella's brother John W. Dutton, a railway engine fireman (born about 1858 in Heath Town, an area between Wolverhampton and Wednesfield). They are found in Bushbury Lane, Bushbury, Staffordshire, in the 1901 census, when Charles was a millwright's labourer and, by 1911 at 189 North Street, when he had become an engineer for a steam laundry.

Isabella Skidmore died in 1916 aged 64, Charles in 1918 aged 67.

The children of Charles Ephraim and Isabella (Dutton) Skidmore, born in Heath Town, Wolverhampton, baptised at Wednesfield,

837. i. **JOSEPH SAMUEL**⁹, baptised 17 May 1874. He went to Carlton, Nottinghamshire, where he found work as a colliery shaft raker. There he married Ada Rowlson (born about 1880 in Carlton) in 1900Q4.

Children of Joseph Samuel and Ada (Rowlson) Skidmore,

- i. Minnie, born 1903Q3.
 - ii. Isabella, born 1907Q3.
 - iii. Evelyn, born 1909Q2.
- ii. Mary Jane, baptised 14 May 1876. She appears to be the lady who in 1901 was assistant in the sweet shop run by Miss Mary Lenahan at 16 Bodfor Street, Rhyl, Flintshire. By 1911 she was cook to a household in Belgrave Road, London.
- iii. Florence Beatrice, born 1878Q1 and baptised 12 May 1878. A dressmaker in 1901. She married Samuel Thomas Hardwidge in 1915.
- iv. May, baptised 14 November 1880. Died aged 5 months, buried on 31 January 1881 at Holy Trinity, Heath Town.
838. v. **FRED HARRY**⁹, born 1882Q2 and baptised 10 September of that year. He married Sarah Comber in 1910 in Leeds and at the time of the 1911 census they were butler and cook to a solicitor in Penn, Wolverhampton. He died in 1927 aged 44.



*Sally and Fred Skidmore with
Lawrence, James and Gerald, 1923.*

Children of Fred Harry and Sarah (Comber) Skidmore,

- i. James C., born 1911Q4.
- ii. Lawrence J.L., born 1915Q4.
- iii. Gerald, born 1919Q3.

born in Bushbury,

839. vi. **CHARLES JOHN**⁹, baptised 25 February 1885. A postman, he is presumably the Charles J. Skidmore who married Eleanor E. Brettell in 1913Q2. He died in 1961 aged 76.

Children of Charles John and Eleanor E. (Brettell) Skidmore,

- i. Hilda M., born 1915Q4.
 - ii. A son born in the 1920s.
- vii. Olive, born 17 October 1887, baptised 1 February 1888. She married Joseph

- Edward Sleith, a railway platelayer (born about 1885 in Lapley, Staffordshire), in 1910Q3 and was living at the time of the 1911 census at 2 Rockport Terrace, Bushbury Lane, Wolverhampton. Olive Sleith died in 1969 aged 81.
- viii. Walter Harold, born 1889Q1, baptised 8 May of that year. A grocer, he married Birdie Nora Constance Caldicott in 1911Q1. This is the only Skidmore-Caldicott marriage of which I am aware⁴ and it appears this couple had several children in Liverpool. Given the difference in location between the marriage and the births of the children, the children are not included here until further evidence can verify this.
 - ix. Minnie, born 1895Q4. She is perhaps the Minnie Skidmore whose marriage was registered at Wolverhampton in 1922.
 - ix. Ann, born December 1852, baptised 27 February 1853 at St James', Wolverhampton. She died at 10 weeks of bronchitis and was buried in Merridale Cemetery.
 - x. William, born 1854Q2. Buried in Merridale Cemetery on 29 May of that year.

117. JOSEPH⁶ SKIDMORE, gun barrel filer of Wednesbury, married Mary _____. He is perhaps a son of Ephraim Skidmore [58] and brother to Charles above. Nothing further presently known of this family.

Joseph and Mary Skidmore had one known child,

- i. Thomas, baptised 15 September 1816 at St Bartholomew's, Wednesbury. See also Thomas son of William Skidmore [119].

NOTES

117a. BENJAMIN⁶ SKIDMORE, of Tipton parish, married Sarah _____ and had two children, perhaps twins, baptised at St Martin's, Tipton, both of whom probably died young. Sarah Skidmore perhaps died in 1799 and was buried 3 March at St Martin's.

- i. Ann, baptised 6 August 1797
- ii. Ephraim, baptised 6 August 1797. An infant Ephraim Skidmore was buried three days later at St Michael's, Brierley Hill.

⁴ Albert Skidmore married May Coldicott in 1906 but I believe remained in Birmingham.