File 18 of 21 files on descendants out of Kingswinford, Staffordshire.

SKIDMORE FAMILIES IN BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND FROM 1750

by Linda Moffatt ©2016

CITATION
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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. For an individual born after 1837, and where only a baptism date is given, assume the birth was registered in the same quarter but the exact date of birth is not presently known.

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.

Contents
p.2.  Introduction.
p.4  Earliest arrivals, Joseph Skidmore button maker and Joseph Skidmore toymaker.
p.7  Joseph Skidmore (c.1750-1811) of St Martin’s parish, whose son Joseph Jeremiah Skidmore (1795-1860) was a brassfounder.
p.8  William Skidmore/Scudamore of St Philip's parish (c.1752-1821), 1st wife Ann Whitehouse, 2nd wife Mary Banner.
p.23  William Skidmore (1793-1837), wireworker and pin maker & his brother Benjamin.
p.40  Notes
INTRODUCTION

Skidmore families are found in Birmingham, Warwickshire, from the middle of the eighteenth century. They are few in number when compared with the nearby Black Country. There were, for instance, only 10 Skidmore burials across the 27 parishes of the Greater Birmingham Burial Index for the period 1790-1799, compared with 34 Skidmore burials in the nearby adjacent Black Country parishes of Oldswinford and Brierley Hill alone.

There was no early Skidmore/Scudamore ancestor who moved into Birmingham and to whom all other families can be traced. Rather, it seems that individuals migrated to this bustling and growing town. The trades to be found among Skidmore men and women at this time reflect the nature of Birmingham as a centre of craftspeople and small businesses. Pearl button making, glass pinching, cabinet making and jewellery making are all represented among the Skidmore men of Birmingham in the second half of the eighteenth century and the early part of the nineteenth.

Berg points out that families who first appeared as box makers, japanners and toy makers, both in the countryside and in Birmingham, were almost all sons of buckle making, lock making and yeomen families in Sedgley, Bilston and Wolverhampton. Most of these families had held customary or freehold land locally and could raise small mortgages on it for capital. Immigrants from the counties of Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire accounted for five hundred of the seven hundred settlement certificates from 1686 to 1726.

There were no known Skidmore families amongst this early settlement of Birmingham. Almost all the Skidmore men of the Black Country region in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were coal miners. A small number were glasssmen. Some Skidmores did migrate away from Amblecote and Brierley Hill in the eighteenth century. A few Skidmore coal mining families were in Wednesbury in the first half of the eighteenth century and Dudley by the 1770s. Skidmore families appear in Bilston parish in the mid-eighteenth century. I have been able to find little if anything about their descendants and it is possible they were non-conformists, the registers for which congregations rarely survive from this period. See Joseph Skidmore [43], Richard Skidmore [44], Maurice Skidmore [66], Thomas Skidmore [67] and John Skidmore [68].

Non-conformism sometimes played a part in bringing about friendships within congregations which in turn led to movement of families. Baptists from Kingswinford parish in Staffordshire visited the congregation in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire and later set up a new congregation in Coseley, Staffordshire. See John Skidmore [51]. This same John Skidmore would have known a variety of businessmen, as shown by an agreement dated 4 May 1796 by which he, together with others, borrowed £600 from Mrs Alice Gough, widow of Wolverhampton. This was in connection with the Temple Street Baptist Chapel in Wolverhampton. Others named were William Taylor, steel toy maker, Thomas Smith, rule maker and George Williams, tinplate worker, all of Wolverhampton; Thomas Smith, coal miner, Joshua Bissell, woodscrew forger, Richard Mills, butcher, all of Coseley, John Smith, coal miner, Richard Bayliss, enamel box maker and Joseph Pagett, box maker, all of Bilston.

In order to move into the Birmingham trades, it was presumably necessary to pursue an apprenticeship. Joseph Skidmore of Kingswinford parish was apprenticed to a button maker in Birmingham in 1760 but I am unaware of other surviving indentures binding Skidmore apprentices to Birmingham masters.

Pearl buttons were made from huge oyster-like shells some two feet in size obtained from the East Indies and other Pacific regions, by processes which were largely manual because of the fragility of the material. Pearl button manufacturers seldom had conventional factories but supplied shell to outworkers who actually made the buttons.

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1 Produced by the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry.
3 Skidmore Families of the Black Country, the first five generations by Linda Moffatt at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.
4 ibid.
5 Wolverhampton Archives DX/602/19.
The glass and toy trades developed together in Birmingham. Here the glass industry, in contrast to the norm in the rest of the country, started out on a small scale, alongside the manufacture of glass buttons, beads and toys. Berg states that it was started by small master cutters and toy makers who took over the manufacture of their own raw materials.

The toy trades covered a range of new products which became identified with the Birmingham metal industries in the eighteenth century. Berg defines the eighteenth century 'toy' as a comprehensive term 'for an assemblage of numerous kinds of more or less useful wares, of small dimensions, and varying from a few pence to many guineas in value. It included much of what is now termed jewellery, small articles of plate, sword hilts, guns, pistols, and dagger furniture, buttons, buckles, bracelets, rings, necklaces, seals, chains, chatelains, charms, mounts of various kinds, etuis, snuff boxes, and patch boxes'. By 1759 there were about twenty thousand employed in the toy trades in Birmingham and the surrounding district, and the value of the ornamental part of the trade was estimated at £600,000 per year.

In addition to the widespread production of buttons and buckles, Berg describes the appearance of other new toy branches distinctive to Birmingham. Japanning, a form of enamelling with a mixture of turpentine, balsam, oils, pitch, resin and wax, was started in Monmouthshire and spread to Staffordshire in the early eighteenth century. The stamped brass foundry trade, using sheet metal, die and hammer, was introduced by the London toy maker John Pickering and spread so rapidly in Birmingham that by 1770 the town housed stampers, die sinkers, stamp and press makers and button stampers. According to Clive Jennens⁶ the buckle trade reached its zenith about 1770 when it employed five thousand workers in Birmingham but within another twenty years it had been destroyed by the simple invention of the shoe lace. Tradesmen, desperate for employment, turned to making metal buttons, originally by crude casting techniques but increasingly by stamping and pressing. By 1840 the use of hand presses was extensive and a great range of metal buttons was made, from elaborate uniform and gilt varieties through electro-plated and enamelled to cheap japanned iron goods.

The wire drawing trade (the use of a draw plate to produce a uniform wire) appeared in England in the Forest of Dean about 1670 and soon afterwards at Stourbridge in Worcestershire. In 1720 a Wire Mill was established by John Webster at Pens, near Sutton Coldfield⁷. In about 1800 the method of reducing the thickness of metal prior to drawing was changed from the use of a tilt hammer to a rolling process, thus speeding up manufacture. Similarly, powerful machinery was introduced for drawing the wire through the plates where it was progressively reduced in size. Aside from the toy trade, needle and pin manufacture was carried out in Birmingham from the late eighteenth century. The manufacture of needles was divided into eight main operations, including pointing the ends by means of a wheel.

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THE FIRST SKIDMORE FAMILIES IN BIRMINGHAM

Here I set out what I presently know of the first families to appear in Birmingham in the second half of the 18th century.

I have made the assumption, perhaps wrongly, that the men described in this article originated in the Black Country and have assigned them appropriate code numbers which can be tracked in the databases of the Skidmore/Scudamore One-Name Study. Readers are welcome to contact me with additions and amendments to this account, or with alternative interpretations of the data, at skidmore@one-name.org.

The first Skidmore references found in Birmingham parish registers were in the 1750s and related to the marriage of men called Joseph Skidmore, button makers and toy makers. When searching for men born at a time to be of an age to marry in the 1750s, we note four boys called Joseph Skidmore baptised, three in 1735 and one in 1741. The numbers in square brackets refer to the code assigned to the fathers of these boys, all of whom belong to the Kingswinford branch of the family and are described in Skidmore Families of the Black Country, the first five generations by Linda Moffatt at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of baptism of Joseph Skidmore</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Father</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1734/5 02 02</td>
<td>Halesowen</td>
<td>St John the Baptist</td>
<td>John [23]</td>
<td>SKIDMORE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1734/5 01 19</td>
<td>Kingswinford</td>
<td>St Mary</td>
<td>Joseph [24]</td>
<td>SKIDMORE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1735 12 14</td>
<td>Kingswinford</td>
<td>St Mary</td>
<td>Daniel [30]</td>
<td>SKIDMORE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1741 09 21</td>
<td>Oldswinford</td>
<td>St Mary</td>
<td>Daniel [40]</td>
<td>SKIDMORE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1744 05 12</td>
<td>Oldswinford</td>
<td>St Mary</td>
<td>Joseph [41]</td>
<td>SKIDMORE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1758 07 09</td>
<td>Oldswinford</td>
<td>St Mary</td>
<td>Joseph [49]</td>
<td>SKIDMORE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

68a. JOSEPH SKIDMORE married Elizabeth Nicking on 30 August 1756 at St Philip's, Birmingham. She was a single woman; his marital status is not given. Unusually, the marriage entry gives his occupation - he was a button maker. William Avery was a witness. Neither bride nor groom could write and both made their mark.

Elizabeth was probably the lady buried as the ‘wife of Joseph Skidmore’ on 9 June 1765. Unfortunately, her age was not recorded in the burial register of St Martin’s. She was perhaps the daughter of John and Mary Nickin, baptised 17 November 1722 at Rushall, Staffordshire. I have not found Joseph’s burial nor any will he might have made. He is not the man described next below, who, although a button maker, was able to write and was a bachelor when he married in 1771.

**The children of Joseph and Elizabeth (Nicking) Skidmore, baptised at St Philip’s,**

i. Sarah, baptised 2 September 1757, daughter of John and Elizabeth Scudamore.

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The only other Joseph Skidmore known to the author was born in Eyam, Derbyshire in 1734; he was apprenticed and became a successful currier in Nottingham.

Readers with an interest in exploring origins other than the Black Country for these early Birmingham families might also find of interest

Skidmore and Skidmore Families of Rural Warwickshire 1550-1915 by Linda Moffatt;
Skidmore and Skitmore Families of Oxfordshire 1600-1900 by Linda Moffatt, Joan Skidmore and Carole Skidmore;
Skidmore Lead Miners of Derbyshire, and their Descendants 1600-1915 by Linda Moffatt.
ii. Elizabeth, baptised 17 August 1759 and buried 6 February 1760 at St Philip’s.

and at St Martin’s,

iii. Elizabeth, baptised 12 June 1761.

iv. Mary, baptised 7 October 1763 and buried at St Philip’s on 1 January 1765.

JOSEPH SKIDMORE, bachelor of St Martin’s parish and a pearl button maker, married Ann Spinks at St Martin’s on 1 October 1771. The witnesses were Joseph Neal and Rebecca Allen. All parties except the bride wrote their names. He was perhaps the eldest son of Daniel Skidmore [40] of Amblecote, Staffordshire, and his wife Mary (Lawley), baptised 21 September 1741 at Oldswinford, Worcestershire. He is thought to be the Joseph Skidmore apprenticed for £6 in 1760 to Samuel Lawley, a button maker of Birmingham. Samuel Lawley was perhaps a relative of Joseph’s mother Mary Lawley. He would appear to have been the son of William and Hannah Lawley (baptised 7 February 1732 at Oldswinford) and the man who married Mary Mills on 24 November 1755 at St Martin’s, Birmingham, and had children baptised at St Martin’s and St Philip’s between 1756 and 1769.

Ann Skidmore, wife of Joseph Skidmore, was buried at St Mary’s, Whittall Street on 29 March 1792. Assuming that her husband was buried in the same churchyard, he was perhaps the Joseph Skidmore buried there on 14 October 1824, aged 80 of Great Charles Street. No children have been found to this marriage.

68b. JOSEPH SKIDMORE, toy maker and shopkeeper of 15 Smallbrook Street, Birmingham, appears in Sketchley’s Birmingham Directory in 1770, in Swinney’s New Birmingham Directory in 1774 and 1776 and in Pearson’s Directory in 1777, 1780 and 1781. He is listed as a glass pincher in Pearson’s in 1777 at 15 Smallbrook Street, and later as a glass grinder.

He does not appear to be either of the Joseph Skidmores described above. He was a bachelor who married Elizabeth Brown of Aston on 12 January 1766 at Aston, with James Onions acting as a witness. Both bride and groom could write their names. His wife was probably the Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Skidmore, who was buried at St Philip’s on 10 April 1785.

Children of Joseph and Elizabeth (Brown) Skidmore, baptised at St Martin’s,

135. i. JOSEPH, baptised 19 November 1766.

There is evidence of three marriages of men called Joseph Skidmore, any of whom might be this man, or his father.

1. Joseph Skidmore married Mary _____ and had a son,
   i. William, buried 18 June 1789 at St Martin’s.

2. Joseph Skidmore married Elizabeth _____ and had a daughter,
   ii. Ann, baptised 30 September 1790 at St Martin’s.

He is presumably the Joseph Skidmore who was buried at St Philip’s on 28 July 1793.

3. Joseph Skidmore of St Martin’s parish married Mary Cooper of Aston on 27 May 1792 at Aston, by licence. The witnesses were John Garbatt and Frances Garbatt. (John Garbett married Frances Kendrick at St Martin’s on 18 April 1786).

   ii. Mary, baptised 4 March 1768. She probably married John Brame at St Peter and St Paul, Aston on 11 November 1787, witnessed by Joseph Jason. A daughter Sarah Brame was baptised in 1791.

   iii. Ann, baptised 4 March 1768.

   iv. John, baptised 14 September 1772 and buried at St Philip’s on 26 July 1778 ‘son of Joseph and Elizabeth Skidmore’.

Notes

In an Overseers Book dated 2 April 1834, for the parish of St Martin in the Fields, London, there is a reference to a pauper called Martha Skidmore belonging to the parish of St Martin’s, Birmingham. She was aged 60, bore a good character and was subject to fits. She was ‘much disappointed by not having the extra 6d a week observing that the good gent who called last year faithfully promised her’. The overseer noted ‘Ward allowance BBW [Bedfordbury Ward] 1/6 per week. Resolved the same be received.’

Joseph Skidmore, a widower, married Sarah Docker, spinster, on 22 April 1822 at St Martin’s, Birmingham.
We turn now to the descendants of

**JOSEPH SKIDMORE (c.1750-1811) OF ST MARTIN’S PARISH, BIRMINGHAM.**

136. **JOSEPH SKIDMORE**, born, if we make the assumption that he was of a similar age to his wife, around 1750. He was a bachelor of St Martin’s parish, Birmingham when he married Lydia Furkins (born about 1752) on 3 November 1788 at St Martin’s. Thomas Downs and Elizabeth Langford were witnesses. Joseph was able to write his name, Lydia made her mark. The Furkins family had been well-established in West Bromwich, Staffordshire from the 17th century but I have so far been unable to link Lydia into this branch.

There is no evidence of Joseph Skidmore’s occupation but it perhaps safe to assume that the elder Joseph was a metal worker like his son Joseph Jeremiah who was a brassfounder (and presumably a master of his trade employing others since he appears in Trades Directories).9

Joseph Skidmore’s burial was presumably that on 7 August 1811 at St Philip’s. Lydia Skidmore was resident in Smallbrook Street when she died at the age of 70. She was buried on 15 September 1822 at St Philip’s. This age has been checked in the original register since Lydia was over 40 when she had her children.

**The children of Joseph and Lydia (Furkins) Skidmore,**

i. **Ann**, buried at St Martin’s on 26 September 1793.

266. ii. **JOSEPH JEREMIAH**, baptised at St Martin’s on 29 September 1795. Joseph Skidmore married Lucy Harrison (born about 1794 in Birmingham) on 29 August 1822 at St Mary’s, Handsworth, Staffordshire. Both made their mark in the register. George Thistlewood and Sarah (Thompson) Thistlewood - who married at Handsworth in 1819 - were witnesses. Joseph Skidmore was a brassfounder in Birmingham and lived in Hurst Street in 1825 and Old Inkleys (perhaps the present Hinckley Street) in 1824, 1829 and 1832.

Note that at the time of the 1851 census Joseph and Lucy Skidmore stated that their son Henry was born in Bromsgrove about 1836. However, the baptism register indicates that they were living in Inge Street, central Birmingham at the time that Henry was baptised. Samuel Skidmore, the son of William [137] described below, lived in Bromsgrove in the 1820s and 1830s. Samuel Skidmore and Joseph Jeremiah Skidmore were living within half a mile of each other in 1853 when they were both listed in Slater’s Trades Directory. I suggest tentatively that these facts indicate a kinship between these men, who were perhaps cousins.

Joseph and Lucy Skidmore lived in Inge Street, in the St Thomas’ ward of Birmingham, between 1836 and 1853. The family home is specified as 22 Inge Street at the time of the 1851 census and Joseph Skidmore, brassfounder, appears at the same address in Slater’s Directory of Birmingham for 1852-53. He died in 1860Q1 and by the time of the 1861 census his widow was living in the home of her daughter Lucy Guest in Hurst Street, Birmingham. Lucy Skidmore died in 1863Q1.

**The children of Joseph Jeremiah and Lucy (Harrison) Skidmore, baptised at St Martin’s,**

i. Charles Joseph, born 27 June 1823 and baptised 1 January 1824 at St Martin’s, Birmingham, son of Jeremiah and Lucy Skidmore. A brassfounder, he died aged 25 of Bristol Street and was buried at St Philip’s on 19 November 1848.

ii. Sarah Ann, born 5 May (baptised 1 August) 1825, daughter of Joseph and Lucy Skidmore. She was a servant at the time of the 1841 census in Edgbaston Street, Birmingham. She married William Bayley, a wood carver of Duddeston on 3 April 1849 at Aston. Mary Higg was a witness. William was a son of William Bayley, a brewer, and his wife Sarah; he was living at the time of the 1841 census with his mother and younger siblings in Spon Street in the St Thomas area of Birmingham.

iii. Joseph, born 17 February (baptised 12 June) 1829. He presumably died young.

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9 It is worth noting another marriage earlier that year, on 17 February 1788 and also at St Martin’s, between William Skidmore and Phoebe Purkins [sic]. Their witnesses Sarah Harper and Joseph Trueman, like the bride and groom, were unable to write and made their mark. I have found no children born to this marriage, nor a burial or remarriage for Phoebe Skidmore.

10 For other brassfounders who moved from Dudley, Worcestershire to Clerkenwell, London in the 1780s, see Skidmore Stove Grate Makers, Token Makers and Jewellers of Birmingham, London and Coventry by Linda Moffatt.
iv. Joseph Jeremiah, born 12 December 1831 and baptised 27 December 1832. Buried 25 September 1833 at St Martin's, aged 1 year 9 months of Old Inkleys.

v. Henry, born on 19 February 1836, in Bromsgrove according to the 1851 census, and baptised 7 March 1836 at St Martin's, son of Joseph and Lucy Skidmore of Inge Street. He died in Inge Street aged 17, buried at St Philip's on 27 March 1853.

vi. Mary Ann, born about 1836, according to age she gave in the census of 1861 and again at her marriage. [She was not listed in her parents' home in 1841 and was listed as the eldest child in 1851, said to be aged 22]. She was a 'warehouse woman' in 1851 and a waitress in Dudley Street, Wolverhampton by 1861. She married John Barker, a widower and traveller of Duddeston (born about 1819, son of John Barker, cordwainer) on 16 April 1867 at SS Peter & Paul, Aston.

vii. Lucy, born 29 April 1838 and baptised 5 June 1841. She was a polisher at the time of the 1851 census. She married Thomas Guest, a silversmith (son of William Guest, a carpenter) on 2 October 1859 at St Bartholomew's, Edgbaston. She is perhaps the Lucy Guest who died in Birmingham in 1886 aged 48.

viii. Emma, born 25 April (baptised 5 June) 1841. In 1862 she married John William Hinds, a clerk at the galvanised iron works (born February 1842 in Birmingham). John Hinds emigrated in 1887, followed by his wife and family in 1891. They were living at the time of the 1900 US census in Cradwick Street, Philadelphia, where Mr Hinds was a factory timekeeper. Emma Hinds died on 3 November 1909 at Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania. They had nine children - as known, Harry James, John Swan, William, Walter Edward, Constance Amy, Florence Sarah.
A somewhat later arrival in Birmingham was

**WILLIAM SKIDMORE (c.1752-1821) OF ST PHILIP’S PARISH, BIRMINGHAM.**

137. **WILLIAM SKIDMORE.** The first record of the William Skidmore described here is his marriage to Ann Whitehouse in Birmingham in 1790. Here I present evidence that he married twice and that he died in 1821 aged 71.

William Skidmore married Ann Whitehouse at Saint Peter and St Paul, Aston\(^\text{11}\) on 22 August 1790. None of the entries in the marriage register of this church at this time indicated the marital status of bride or groom. A witness to the marriage was Michael Bolton.

William's surname was recorded in the marriage register as Scudeymore. His first three children were baptised as Skidmore at St Martin's church in central Birmingham, the fourth at St Philip's as Scudemore. A father's occupation and residence were not recorded in baptism registers until 1812, so these registers provide no clue to William's trade. Nor has any will he might have made, which would furnish this information, been found.

Ann, wife of William Scadmore or Seadmore (the writing is somewhat obscured) was buried at St Philip's, Birmingham on 14 June 1796, on the same day that Michael the youngest son of William and Ann Scudimore was baptised. The author suggests that Ann died in childbirth and was buried on this day.

Further, it seems likely that William is the widowed William Skidmore who went on to marry Mary Banner at St Martin's on 17 October 1796. Neither bride nor groom could write and both made their mark in the marriage register. At her burial in 1853 Mary Skidmore was described as the widow of William Skidmore of Beak Street. She was said in the burial register to be aged 76 but her death certificate gives her age as 66. The marriage of

\(^{11}\) Strictly Aston juxta Birmingham. Aston and the area to the south of Birmingham officially became part of the city in 1911. This church is in Witton Lane, Aston.
Mary Banner to William Skidmore was witnessed by Benjamin Banner senior and Elizabeth Banner, suggesting strongly that Benjamin Banner was her father and that she had a brother Benjamin Banner. She was perhaps Mary daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Banner, baptised at St Peter's RC Church in Birmingham on 6 June 1779. The children of William Skidmore by his second wife were baptised at St Philip's.

Mary Skidmore seems to be the lady of that name who, along with others, witnessed against Thomas Palmer, aged 35, who was committed on 16 September 1802 to a term in Warwick Gaol. He had 'stolen, taken and carried away three gross of buttons, a pattern card and thirteen watch chains, the property of Henry Kettle and Thomas Kettle'. If correctly identified this would suggest that Mary and perhaps her husband William Skidmore were involved in the button trade. It is not known whether the Kettle family were concerned with the production of pearl or metal buttons.

William Skidmore was buried at St Philip's on 22 May 1821 aged 70, of Pinfold Street. Mary Skidmore gave her address as Queen Street at the time of her marriage. Benjamin Skidmore was buried at St Philip's on 5 March 1843, when he and his wife Frances were living at Court 13, Edmund Street. Benjamin was a labourer of Ludgate Hill and appears to have settled there. His age was given as 37 when he was in prison at the time this census was taken. Benjamin probably married again. Benjamin Skidmore, a widower, married Frances Faux (apparently the daughter of Humphrey and Ann (Insley) Faux, baptised 8 May 1806 at Polesworth, Warwickshire) at St Philip's on 28 December 1835. The witnesses were Catherine Faux and Humphrey Faux, her sister and brother. Benjamin was a labourer at the time of the 1841 census, when he and his wife Frances were living at Court 13, Edmund Street. Elizabeth and Sarah Ann, his daughters, were living in nearby Lionel Street with the family of fruiterer Mrs Sarah Franklin; his son John was in prison at the time this census was taken.

Benjamin Skidmore was buried at St Philip's on 5 March 1843, though his age was given as 37 when he would have been around 46. His widow is perhaps the Frances Skidmore who was committed on 16 September 1802 to a term in Warwick Gaol. He had 'stolen, taken and carried away three gross of buttons, a pattern card and thirteen watch chains, the property of Henry Kettle and Thomas Kettle'.

The children of William and Ann (Whitehouse) Skidmore, baptised at St Martin's, were of husband and wife William and Mary (Banner) Skidmore. I have so far been unsuccessful in finding Mary Skidmore in the censuses of 1841 and 1851.

The children of William and Ann (Whitehouse) Skidmore, baptised at St Martin's,

i. John, baptised 30 September 1791. He was a wire worker living in Pinfold Street in 1820 and then in Edgbaston Street in 1822. In 1827 he was a labourer of Ludgate Hill and appears to have settled for a while from 1828 or 1829 in Edmund Street (where his wife died). He was then a porter. Jane Skidmore died at the age of 37, soon after the death of their son Nathaniel, and was buried at St Philip's on 9 February 1834. In 1838, four years after her mother's death, their daughter Sarah Ann Skidmore gave her address as Queen Street at the time of her marriage.

The children of William and Mary (Banner) Skidmore, baptised at St Philip's,

ii. WILLIAM, baptised 27 December 1792, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.

iii. [perhaps] SAMUEL, baptised 27 December 1794, TO WHOM WE WILL RETURN. See p.17

iv. Michael, baptised as Scudimore on 14 June 1796 at St Philip's. Buried there as Michael Skidmore on 27 September of that year.

v. BENJAMIN, baptised 9 April 1798. Although aged only 19 or thereabouts, he appears to be the Benjamin Skidmore of St Martin's parish who married Jane Martin (baptised 2 October 1797 at St Martin's, daughter of Nathaniel and Ann Martin) at St Martin's on 26 August 1817. He was able to sign the register. The marriage was witnessed by William Cook and Catherine Cook.

The burial index of St Philip's contains a burial for a John Skidmore on 21 January 1796. The Greater Birmingham Burial Index gives two burials for John son of William and Ann Skidmore, on 21 February and 21 April 1796. None of these burials appears in the actual burial register for St Philip's.

This should be treated with some caution since the name is recorded as Francis Skidmore in the Greater Birmingham Burial Index.

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13 The burial index of St Philip's contains a burial for a John Skidmore on 21 January 1796. The Greater Birmingham Burial Index gives two burials for John son of William and Ann Skidmore, on 21 February and 21 April 1796. None of these burials appears in the actual burial register for St Philip's.

14 This should be treated with some caution since the name is recorded as Francis Skidmore in the Greater Birmingham Burial Index.
The children of Benjamin and Jane (Martin) Skidmore, baptised at St Martin's, burials at St Philip's,

i. Elizabeth, born 23 December 1817 and baptised 29 May 1820. She was a varnisher before her marriage to George F. Hitch of Bread Street, a bellows maker and later a weighing machine maker (born 26 November 1824 in Birmingham, baptised at St Philip's on 4 April 1825, son of John and Hannah Hitch) on 24 November 1844 at St Philip's. Sarah Marshall and Charles Bromwich were witnesses. George and Elizabeth moved in the mid-late 1850s to Sheffield, where he was a silversmith. Mrs Hitch died on 16 August 1877 at 59 Norwich Street, Sheffield. Children, as known - John, Elizabeth, George, Sarah Jane.

ii. Sarah Ann, born 11 December 1819 and baptised 29 May 1820. She married Robert Taylor, a miner of Blucher Street, Birmingham (father's name and profession not recorded) on 22 July 1838 at St Philip's. Both bride and groom were minors and were married by licence. Robert Taylor was tried for bigamy and the marriage was annulled in 1840. Sarah Ann was a warehouse worker, lodging at the time of the 1841 census, together with her sister Elizabeth, in Birmingham.


iv. John, born March 1824, baptised 8 June 1827. A brassfounder, he was in the Town Prison in Birmingham when the census was taken in 1841. Nothing further presently known of this young man.


vi. Ann, born January 1829 and baptised 1 August 1831. Buried 20 May 1832 aged 3 of Edmund Street.


viii. Nathaniel of Edmund Street, died at 3 months, buried 26 January 1834.

i. Elizabeth, baptised 1 October 1804.

ii. Thomas, born 1 January (baptised 6 November) 1810. He was buried at St Philip's as the son of William Seydamore on 27 September 1811.

The son of William and Ann (Whitehouse) Skidmore,

267. WILLIAM SKIDMORE was a tailor in Birmingham. Two men called William Skidmore raised families in Birmingham in the 1810s and 1820s. There is strong evidence that one of these, William Skidmore the wire worker who married Mary Gregory, originated from Oldswinford parish, Worcestershire, and he is described below. It is more likely that William Skidmore, the tailor who married Maria Povey, was the son of William [137] and Ann (Whitehouse) Skidmore, baptised 27 December 1792 at St Martin's. His date of birth can be placed at or about September 1791 from the precise age of 49 and three quarter years given on his death certificate. William died at Court 7, St George Street, Birmingham, on 26 June 1841 (buried 4 July at St Paul's).

William Skidmore married Maria Povey at Aston on 6 July 1814. They are found at various addresses in Birmingham - Newhall Street in 1815, Great Hampton Street in 1821 and Northwood Street in 1824 and 1831. By the time of the 1841 census they lived at Court 7, 5 St George Street with their son William, silversmith, his first wife Sarah and son George aged 1 month.

The death at the age of 71 of Maria Skidmore on 3 June 1862 in Birds Buildings, Summer Lane, Birmingham, was registered by her daughter Maria Byfield of the same address.

The children of William and Maria (Povey) Skidmore, baptised at St Philip's,

459. i. JOHN, born 28 July 1815, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.

ii. [apparently] Sarah, born about 1819. She appears to have married John Peace, a gun nipple maker (born about 1819 in Birmingham) in 1838Q4. Their home was in Hampton Street, Birmingham; in 1851 with her supposed brother William [460] and his two sons George and William

15 Date and place of death from a pedigree posted at Ancestry.
Skidmore and at the time of the 1861 census with the said nephew William Skidmore (his father having moved to London).

460. iii. **WILLIAM**, born 18 April 1821, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.

iv. Maria, born 8 February (baptised 15 March) 1824. She and her husband appear to have cared for a time for Mary Ann, the daughter of her brother John Skidmore [459]. Maria married Henry Byfield, brazier and tray blank maker of Handsworth (born about 1821 in Erdington or Bromford, Warwickshire, son of John Byfield, labourer) at Handsworth on 21 September 1840. Her brother-in-law and sister, John and Sarah (Skidmore) Peace, were witnesses. Henry and Maria had various addresses in the St George district of Birmingham and were running a huckster's shop in Summer Lane at the time of the 1861 census.

Henry Byfield died in 1895 aged 75, Maria in 1897, said to be aged 71.

Children, as known – Catherine, Eliza, Emma, Julia, William, Henry, Robert, Rosina.

v. Eliza, born 9 November 1830 and baptised 17 January 1831. She died at the age of 10 and was buried at St Paul's, Birmingham, on 26 April 1840.

The elder son of William and Maria (Povey) Skidmore,

459. **JOHN SKIDMORE**, born on 28 July 1815 and baptised at St Philip's on 28 September. He was a silversmith or plater and lived in Cox Street in 1834 and 1836 and then in St George Street (near his father) in 1838. On the marriage certificates of his children Frederick in 1856 and Emily in 1860 he was said to be a Stamper.

He married Mary Ann Sutton (born in Halifax, Yorkshire, baptised there 30 May 1813, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Sutton) on 22 July 1833 at St Philip's. The witnesses were Caroline Sutton and William Bradbury. It seems John and Mary Ann Skidmore separated before the time of the 1841 census, when she was working in the hook and eye trade and living with Thomas Sutton, presumably her father, and Elizabeth Sutton, presumably her sister, in Livery Street, Birmingham. She lived as the wife of John Thomas Worrall (born in Halifax, Yorkshire, baptised there 30 May 1813, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Byfield) Worrall) at Yardley parish church on 14 September 1834. She was buried on 16 November aged 7 months, of Cox Street.

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

i. Emma, born April (baptised 15 September) 1834. She was buried on 16 November aged 7 months, of Cox Street.

847. ii. **ALFRED alias FREDERICK**, born 22 October 1835 and baptised 2 May 1836. He married Susannah Mary Doughty of Aston Manor (born about 1839, daughter of Richard Doughty, chaser, and his wife Mary (Ashmore)) on 14 September 1856 at Aston. The witnesses were Frederick Perry and Jane Guest. Frederick Skidmore was a gun implement maker of Aston Manor in 1856, of Tower or Lower Street in 1857 and George Street in 1866 and 1869. He died in 1869Q4 aged 34.

Susannah Mary married secondly widower James Griffiths, jeweller (born about 1836 in Birmingham), on 10 December 1871 at St Philip's. Caroline Bailey was a witness. They were living in 1881 at 9 Wellington Place, Lower Hospital Street, Birmingham, with two of James' children (James Griffiths 20 and Henry Griffiths 18), their own daughter Amy Griffiths aged 9 and three Skidmore children from Susannah's first marriage (Rose, William and Susan), their son Richard's wife Emma Skidmore and grandson Alfred Skidmore. Susannah was working as a bronzer at this time. By 1891 they were at 242 Great Russell Street. Susannah Griffiths lived in her later years with the family of her son George Skidmore. She died in 1904 aged 65.

The children of Frederick and Susannah Mary (Doughty) Skidmore,

i. **RICHARD**, baptised 12 April 1857. A chandelier maker, he married Emma Dale (on 21 June?) 1875. His wife and son Alfred remained in the home of Richard's mother after Richard joined the army. On 5 November 1879 he enlisted with the First Battalion of the Grenadier Guards and, like his brother George, was then in the 2nd Warwick Militia (reserves). He was made Lance Corporal on 4 April 1881 and the census taken shortly afterwards shows that he was based at the School of Military
Engineering at Brompton Barracks in Gillingham, Kent. He remained in the UK until, at the end of 1885, he was transferred to the 1st Class Army Reserve. He was discharged from the army at the end of 1891, giving his mother as next of kin, which suggests that his wife had died. Their son Alfred continued to live with his grandmother, at least until the time of the 1891 census.

He appears to be the *Charles Richard* Skidmore who married, in 1887 in Chelsea, London, Rhoda Baker (born 1860 in Dittisham, Devon, daughter of Thomas Baker, sergeant of police, and his wife Eliza). Their children are included here but sight of the 1887 marriage record is needed to confirm this. In London he was a waiter.

Mr Skidmore died in 1908Q4 aged 49 and was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery.

**The sons of Richard and Emma (Dale) Skidmore, baptised at St George’s,**

i. **ALFRED FREDERICK** (known as Frederick), baptised 25 December 1876. A cycle turner living in New Street, Aston Manor in 1901. He married Frances Annie Lett (born about 1880 in Handsworth, Staffordshire) in Birmingham in 1897Q4. He died aged 78 on 28 December 1954 and is buried with his wife (died 12 January 1957) in Rugby cemetery.

**Children of Alfred Frederick and Frances Annie (Lett) Skidmore, born in Birmingham,**

i. Frances May, called May in the census of 1901, born 1900Q2 in Aston Manor. She married in 1922 and had a daughter and a son.

ii. William, registered as William in 1903Q1 and called William M. Skidmore in the census of 1911. He is probably the William Skidmore who married in Rugby in 1931 and had a daughter. He died there in 1964 aged 61.

iii. Doris, born 1905Q2 in Handsworth. She married in 1924 in Rugby and had, as known, a son.

iv. Frederick Albert, born 1907Q3. He married in Rugby in 1933 and had twin daughters.

v. Florence Annie, born 1910Q1. She married in Rugby in 1930 and had one daughter.

vi. Horace T., born 1912Q1. He married in Rugby in 1944 and had two sons.


**The children of Charles Richard and Rhoda (Baker) Skidmore, born in Paddington, London,**

iii. Oswald Charles, born 1888Q3.

iv. Edith Gertrude, born 1890Q2.

v. Cecil Richard, born 1892Q1. He died that same quarter.


vii. Leo George, born 1895Q1.

ii. George, born 11 January 1859. A gun implement maker, he was in the 2nd Warwick Militia (reserves) when he joined the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards on 17 July 1879. He was at Victoria Barracks in Windsor, Berkshire at the time of the 1881 census and served in Egypt for six months in 1882 and was in Dublin in 1885. In 1885 he was made 1st Class Army Reserve and was discharged in 1891 at the end of the 12-year term for which he signed. He was living by census time in April 1891 at his mother’s house in Birmingham, described as an engine driver. He appears to be the metal annealer living in 1901 with his wife at 4, Ct 24 Hampton Street, Birmingham. He married Emma _____ (born in Birmingham about 1865). He is probably the George Skidmore who died in Birmingham in 1904Q4 aged 46.

iii. Frederick, born 1861Q1. He died in 1871 aged 10.

iv. Rose, born 18 May 1863. A paper box maker in 1881, she later became a nurse. She married (giving her father’s name as Alfred Skidmore) Arthur Dolphin on 23 October 1881 at St Stephen’s, Birmingham. He was the son of Thomas, comb maker, and Eliza.
Dolphin, and is found in 1881 a jeweller at his family home in Great Hampton Street in Birmingham. Rose Dolphin died in Birmingham in 1945 aged 82.

Children - Lily, Arthur, Rose.

v. William, born January 1866, baptised 6 June at St George's, Birmingham. A brassfounder in 1881. His WW1 army service records show that he was the Will Skidmore who served in the Second Boer War with the 42nd Black Watch in South Africa and received in 1901 the South Africa Medal with clasps for campaigns at Witteberg and Cape Colony. He was aged 48 and in the National Reserve when he attested at Birmingham on 24 November 1914 for the 'guarding of all vulnerable points'. He was transferred in February 1916 to No. 2 Supernumerary Company, 5th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment and reported to work at the City of Birmingham Gas Department, Windsor Street Gas Works.

He married Mrs Eliza Ann Blanche Jones (daughter of John Ward, a fruiterer) on 8 November 1902 at St Nicholas', Birmingham and lived at 47 Gordon Street, Lozells, Birmingham.

Children of William and Eliza Ann Blanche (Ward) Skidmore, baptised at St George’s,

i. Amy, born 18 August 1903. She married in Birmingham in 1927.

ii. Sidney, born 24 January 1905.

iii. Ivy, born 4 September 1908.

vi. Susannah Mary, born August 1868 and baptised Susan Mary on 3 February 1869. She married Frederick Lamb on 10 April 1887. He was then a coal dealer, also of Hospital Street, and later was a cycle maker's packer. They had three sons and six (perhaps seven) daughters, including Alice (born 29 August 1891) who married Thomas Wood, whose daughter Brenda is the mother of Mrs Carol Burton who kindly supplied information on this family.

Susannah died of bronchitis and pneumonia on 26 October 1907, aged 39.

Frederick died in 1909 aged 44.

Children - Frederick, Albert, Alice, William, Amy, Ethel.

Emily, born 14 December 1837 and baptised 29 January 1838. She married Frederick Hanson, gun implement maker of Birmingham on 25 December 1860 at St Peter’s, Dale End, Birmingham. John Skidmore and Sarah Skidmore were witnesses. He was a son of Edward Hanson, wood turner, perhaps baptised with his brother John on 18 March 1844 at St Martin’s, son of Edward and Mary (Shaddock) Hanson. More details of his army records are given below, for after Emily Hanson died on 1 March 1875 he married secondly her half-sister Lavinia.

Mary Ann, born 1839Q4. She lived for a time with her aunt Maria Byfield. She married Edward Hickton Calton, brassfounder of Duddeston (born 2 February 1841, son of Joseph Hickton Calton, brassfounder, and his wife Mary Ann Maria) on 30 January 1860 at Aston. Edward’s father and mother were witnesses. She appears to be the lady with her name who died aged 40 in 1880, though I have so far failed to find her in censuses after her marriage.

A child by Margaret Howe or Howes,
v. Margaret, born 31 July 1842 in the Workhouse in Birmingham, daughter of Joseph Skidmore, button stamper and Margaret Howe. A Margaret Howse died in the Workhouse aged 6 months and was buried at St Martin's on 18 February 1843. Margaret wife of Joshua Howes was the Matron of the Workhouse at Aston at the time of the 1851 census but more investigation is needed to determine whether she was the mother of John Skidmore's child.

Children of John and Sarah (Shaddock) Skidmore,

vi. John, born 1847Q1. He died in Lancaster Street, Birmingham, aged 7 months and was buried at St Bartholomew's on 10 October 1847.

vii. Henry Shaddock, born 1848Q316, buried 4 May 1851 at St Bartholomew's, central Birmingham, aged 2 years 9 months, of Lench Street.

viii. Louisa, born 1851Q1. She was one of the witnesses to the marriage of her sister Lavinia in 1871. She married John Godward (born about 1838 in Reading, Berkshire) in Birmingham in 1876 and was living in 1881 in the Artillery Barracks in Colchester, Essex. She died in Horsham, Sussex in 1888 aged 37 and John Godward married Mary Ann Elliott in 1889.

ix. Lavinia, born 31 December 1852. Lavinia Shaddock Skidmore married firstly Benjamin Thomas Wayne, an implement maker (born about 1854 in Enfield, Middlesex, son of Robert Wayne, gun stocker) on 9 April 1871 at St Matthew's, Aston, Birmingham. He died in 1874Q2 aged 21. Lavinia Waine married secondly Frederick Hanson on 21 November 1875 at St Gabriel's, Birmingham. He was a career soldier in the Royal Artillery and had previously married Lavinia's half-sister Emily. Lavinia Macleich was present at the death of her mother in April 1876 and is named on the death certificate. Frederick and Lavinia McLeish were living at the time of the 1881 census at 111 Freedom Street, Nether Hallam, Sheffield, Yorkshire with children Clara 10 and Louisa 8 (born in India), Sarah 7, Emilia 3 and Luther 1 (born in Sheffield). The births of these children were registered with the surname Hanson. His army records show that he was born Frederick Hanson in Glasgow and was a gun smith at the time he enlisted at Woolwich on 17 November 1862, and changed his name to McLeish. He served in India from 1863 to 1872, accompanied by his first wife. He was posted to the Curragh in Dublin in the early 1880s before moving to Portsmouth. He left the army at the start of 1888, intending to live at Red Lion Yard, High Street, Portsmouth. Thereafter, members of this family were recorded as Hanson. He became a waiter in Portsea before returning with the family to Birmingham. Frederick Hanson died in 1920 aged 84, Lavinia in 1935 aged 82.

The younger son of William [267] and Maria (Povey) Skidmore.

460. WILLIAM SKIDMORE, born 18 April 1821 and baptised four days later at St Philip's. He was a watch pendul maker in Birmingham and later in London. In 1851 he was lodging at 83 Hampton Street in Birmingham with his two sons George and William, in the home of John Pace 32, gun nipple maker, and Sarah Pace 33. He is listed as a silversmith in the 1852-53 Slater's Birmingham Directory, at No. 21 Court, Great Russell Street. After the death of his first wife, he moved to London around 1858, when he is found in London Post Office Trade Directories. His place of residence then (and again in 1871 and 1881) was 292 Goswell Road, Clerkenwell. He was in partnership with Alfred Denham at 18 Rawstone Street, Goswell Road, in 1860, and at 1 Fredericks Place, Goswell Road, in 1862 and 1871, as watch makers, pendul makers and gold pen makers.

He married firstly Sarah Johnson (baptised 31 May 1822 at St Martin's, daughter of Joseph, shoemaker, and Rebecca (Band) Johnson) on 22 February 1841 at Handsworth. A witness was his sister Sarah Peace. Sarah (Johnson) Skidmore died on 11 March 1857 aged 34 at Court 6, Water Street, Birmingham and was buried at St Paul's. Her death was registered by Ann Graves who lived at the back of 45 Brewery Street in Birmingham.

William Skidmore also had children by Sarah Whinyates, whom he married in London, at St Giles Cripplegate, on 6 March 1879. Nicholas and Eliza Thorp, their daughter and son-in-law, were their witnesses. Sarah was baptised at St Philip’s on 15 June 1821, daughter of Samuel, gun maker, and Mary (Snape) Whinyates. She was a button maker in Aston at the time of the 1851 census, when she is found with her daughter Ann aged 8 visiting the home of Mrs Hannah Parker, a widow, at 22 New John Street. William and Sarah Skidmore lived at 292 Goswell Road,

16 For some reason he was said in the 1851 census to be aged 10 and his sister Louisa aged 3.
Clerkenwell, London, where she died on 20 January 1891 (buried at Islington Cemetery), William a few months later on 26 August.

The children of William and Sarah (Johnson) Skidmore, baptised at St Philip’s, 848.  

1. **GEORGE**, born 26 April 1841 in at Court 7, Hospital Street, baptised 26 December 1844. He was a watch hand maker and married Sarah Hipwood (baptised 27 December 1843 at St Philip’s, daughter of Samuel Hipwood, brasscaster, and his wife Rosetta (Glover)) on 21 May 1861 at St Mary’s, Handsworth. The witnesses were his cousin Frederick Skidmore and Frederick’s wife Susannah Skidmore. 

They lived in 1861 at 18 Brewer Street, Clerkenwell, and in 1871 at 54 Rahere Street. By 1881 he had moved with his wife and children to Coventry. George Skidmore died at 4 Percy Street, Coventry on 23 December 1901 aged 60, Sarah on 2 November 1909 aged 68.

The children of George and Sarah (Hipwood) Skidmore,

1. **GEORGE**, born 12 January (baptised 18 August) 1861 at St Thomas Charterhouse, Clerkenwell. A watch hand maker, he married Catherine Carling (Carline) on 2 December 1878 at St Thomas’, Bethnal Green. She was born 1860 in Clerkenwell, daughter of Cornelius (born in Ireland, called Carline in the 1881 census, furrier skin dresser of Bowling Green Walk in Shoreditch, London) and his wife Mary Ann. Robin Grant and Marion Rigby were witnesses.

In 1881 George and Catherine Skidmore lived at 9 Seward Street in St Luke’s registration district [Holborn], London. By 1891 the older four children were with their Carline grandparents at 25 Rushton Street, Shoreditch. In 1901 George was a cycle finisher and living with Catherine and their three youngest children in Chapel Buildings, Hill Lane, Coventry. Catherine Skidmore died in 1915Q1 aged 54, her husband in 1925Q4 aged 76.

The children of George and Catherine (Carline) Skidmore, born in Coventry, 10 children, of whom 8 were living in 1911.

1. Mary Ann Emily, born in St Luke’s in 1880Q2. She married Harry Freeman, a hotel manager (son of Samuel Freeman) on 10 September 1899 at Nicholas, Kenilworth.

2. **GEORGE CORNELIUS**, born 12 June 1881 in St Luke’s. A watch hand maker, he boarded with the Pitt family in Mount Street, Coventry before his marriage on 9 December 1901 to Florence Maria Liggins (born 3 June 1882 in Coventry, daughter of William Liggins).

Mrs Skidmore died in 1940 aged 57, her husband in 1958 in Coventry aged 76.

The daughter of George Cornelius and Florence Maria (Liggins) Skidmore,

1. Mabel F., born 2 September 1910. She married in the Rugby area in 1940 and had a daughter. She died in 1953 aged 42.

2. **JOHN WILLIAM**, born 1883Q2 in Coventry. He was lodging with the Tansley family in Crabbs Cross Lane, Crabb’s Cross, Worcestershire in 1901, a cycle polisher. He married Emily Jane Smith in 1901Q4 and was living with his family in Redditch, Worcestershire, at the time of the 1911 census. He died in 1920 aged 37 and his wife is presumably the lady with her name who married secondly Albert E. Troth in 1924.

Children of John William and Emily Jane (Smith) Skidmore, 9 children, of whom 6 were living in 1911.

1. **JOHN WILLIAM**, born 1902Q2. He is presumably the John W. Skidmore who married in 1923 in the Bromsgrove registration district (which included Redditch).

2. [perhaps] George Henry, born and died in 1903Q2 in the Bromsgrove registration district.

3. Doris Emily, born 1905Q2.

4. **REINALD**, born 1907Q1. He married in 1927 and died
in 1934 aged 27.


vi. [perhaps] Albert, born and died in 1911Q3.

iv. Annie, born 1886Q1 in Shoreditch or Coventry. She was living at the time of the 1901 census with her aunt and uncle Sarah and Robert Bickley and in 1911 with the family of her sister Mary Ann Freeman. Annie Skidmore was a blouse maker.

born in Coventry,

v. Florence Jane, born 1893Q1. She was a chair maker in the cycle trade.

vi. Ernest, born 1895Q1.


viii. May, born 1901.

ix. [perhaps] Sarah Hilda, buried at London Road Civic Cemetery, Coventry on 24 April 1899, aged 2 months.

x. [perhaps] William, an infant who died in 1901Q1.

ii. Sarah, born in Birmingham in 1866Q1. She married Robert Bickley, watch maker (born about 1865 in Coventry, son of Joseph Bickley) on 15 April 1889 at Holy Trinity, Coventry. She was a draper and shopkeeper, working for herself in 1901 from the family home at 82 Colchester Street, Coventry. She accepted probate of her mother’s will in 1909 and in this year she and her husband became licensees of the Dun Cow Inn, Jordan Well, Coventry. (This pub was demolished in 1963\(^ {17}\)). Sarah Bickley died on 2 May 1921, her husband only ten days later. A daughter Sarah May.

iii. WILLIAM, born in Holborn in 1872Q2. A watchmaker, he married Mary Jane Lomas (born about 1873 in Nuneaton) in Coventry in 1894Q4. They lived in Spon Street, Coventry until at least 1906 before moving to Colchester Street, where they managed a working men’s club. William died in 1914Q1 aged 42, his wife in 1936 aged 64.

Children of William and Mary Jane (Lomas) Skidmore,

7 children, of whom 4 were living in 1911.

i. Rose, born in 1896Q3 in Coventry, baptised 16 September 1896. She was probably the Rose Skidmore who married Ernest W. Nicks in Coventry in 1922.

ii. Emily, born 1903Q1.

iii. [perhaps] Florrie, died an infant in 1905Q3.

iv. Lily, born 1906Q2, baptised 10 August at St John the Baptist, Coventry.


viii. REGINALD, born 24 November 1913. He is presumably the Reginald Skidmore who married in Coventry in 1940. He died in 1985.

iv. JOHN FREDERICK, born in Holborn in 1876Q3. A watchmaker, he married Ellen Elizabeth Webb (born 1876, daughter of William Webb, a blacksmith, and his wife Rosina) on 26 August 1894 at St Peter’s, Coventry. He is recorded in the census of 1901, when he was living in the home of his parents, as single. A John Frederick Skidmore, apparently this man, died aged 32 in 1907Q1 in the Solihull registration district, Birmingham.

A daughter of John Frederick and Ellen Elizabeth (Webb) Skidmore,

Perhaps with others.

i. Violet, born 8 March 1898. She was living at the time of the 1911 census with her grandparents William and Rosina Webb at 46 West Orchard, Coventry. She attended Spon Street Board School until the age of 14 and then worked for 2½ years for the printing firm of Bushell

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\(^{17}\) Coventry Telegraph. A century ago Coventry city had 250 pubs. 16 March 2011. See also realalerambles.co.uk.
& Co. in Cow Lane. In 1917 she became a machinist for Daimler Co. at a salary of £2 10 shillings and worked there for eight months before enrolling, on 27 March 1918, with the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps. She and her mother Nellie Elizabeth Skidmore lived at 32 Court 5 House, Gosford Street, Coventry. She became a storehouse woman at the Receiving Depot Hostel in Saltley, Birmingham (later Saltley College). She was discharged on compassionate grounds on 25 May 1918. Violet Skidmore married Jesse Frederick Aldrich in 1921 and had a son. She died in 1976.

v. Rose, born in Coventry in 1880Q1. She is presumably the Rose Skidmore who married James Wilson in Coventry in 1904Q4.

ii. William, born 22 June 1844 at Court 26, Hospital Street, Birmingham, and baptised on the same day as his brother George. He was a journeyman machine fitter in the bicycle trade in Birmingham. He died from phthisis on 23 June 1898 aged 54 at Western Road Workhouse Infirmary.

iii. John, born 21 September 1846 at 27 St George Street, Birmingham. He died on 17 March 1850 at 83 Hampton Street and was buried the same day at St Paul’s, Birmingham. His death was registered by Sarah Pace of the same address.

The children of William Skidmore and Sarah Whinyates, born in Birmingham,

iv. Ann Whinyates/ Skidmore, born in Bagot Street, baptised 26 December 1842 at St Philip’s. She is found in the 1861 census lodging at 11 Sidney Grove in Clerkenwell, a paper colourer. She married John Thorp (born in St Luke’s, London, son of John, horse dealer, and Eliza (Cox) Thorp) on 9 November 1862 at St Mark’s, Myddleton Square, Clerkenwell. He was an ironmonger’s warehouseman and later a gas fitter and their home was 22 Brewer Street, Clerkenwell. Ann Thorpe died aged only 30 on 1 November 1872. Children, as known – John W., Alfred Nicholas, Herbert Charles, Annie Rosina. John Thorp married secondly Charlotte Kebleo/ Tait in 1875.

Information on the descendants of William [460] was kindly supplied by Mrs Joan Stollenwerk, great-granddaughter of John and Ann (Skidmore) Thorp.

**Triplets born and baptised 10 December 1848 at no. 12 Court, New Summer Street. All died within 24 hours, their deaths registered by Charlotte (Whinyates) Burn, Sarah’s sister: All registered as Whinyates:**

v. Eliza.

vi. Samuel.

vii. Sarah.

viii. Eliza, born 7 May 1852 at Court 21, Great Russell Street, Birmingham. A seamstress of 4 Bridgewater Gardens when she married Nicholas Thorp of 20 Edward Place (born about 1845 in Islington and brother to John Thorpe, who married Eliza’a sister Ann) on 17 September 1871 at St Giles’ Cripplegate, London. J. Thorp and Madeline Hutchinson were witnesses. Nicholas Thorp was a messenger for the Inland Branch of the General Post Office. Eliza Thorp died aged 61 at 157 Russell Avenue, Wood Green, on 27 August 1913.

ix. Rosina, born 7 May 1854 at Court 21, Great Russell Street. A seamstress before her marriage to Robert Hunn, a glider and plater of Bridgewater Gardens (born about 1851 in Norwich, Norfolk, son of William Hunn, carpenter, and his wife Caroline) on 21 November 1875 at St Giles Cripplegate, London. Nicholas and Eliza Thorp were their witnesses. They were living in 1881 (when Rosina, like her sister Sarah, was a burnisher) at 49 Percival Street in Clerkenwell and, by 1891, at 22 Brewer Street. Rosina Hunn died in 1910 aged 56. She had been admitted for a 3-month period between 13 March and 9 July 1908 to the Holborn Workhouse in Archway Road. Robert Hunn died in 1911 aged 62.


x. A still born son, born in Rawstone Street and buried 16 October 1856 at Victoria Park Cemetery.


A son Henry William who was living at the time of the 1891 census with the family of his aunt Eliza Thorpe.
xii. Selina, born 1861Q4. She died at Brewer Street when 8 months old and was buried in Victoria Park Cemetery, Hackney.

267a. SAMUEL SKIDMORE, baptised 27 December 1794 at St Martin’s, Birmingham. The man here described said at the time of the 1851 census that he was born in Birmingham about 1798. The only baptism of a Samuel Skidmore so far found is that of the son of William [137] and Ann (Whitehouse) Skidmore. However, evidence suggests kinship with Joseph Jeremiah Skidmore [266], described above, p.9. Both Samuel and Joseph spent time in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire and were living close together in the 1850s.

Samuel Skidmore married Ann Dipple (born in Bromsgrove about 1797) on 7 February 1819 at St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove. Samuel was at first a boot and shoe maker and was living at 33 Castle Street in Westminster, London, in 1820. Samuel and Ann’s second child was baptised in Bromsgrove in 1823, when Samuel was said to be a shoemaker of the Strand. On 14 September 1825 a complaint for assault was brought against Samuel Skidmore of Bromsgrove, shoemaker, by Sarah the wife of William Manning, a nailer of Bromsgrove.

Samuel and Ann moved back to his birthplace, Birmingham, at some time before 1838: when their daughter Sophia married in that year she was resident in Digbeth, Birmingham. Her parents appear to have have settled in Bradford Street, Deritend (adjacent to Digbeth), their son Thomas giving this as his address at his marriage in 1843.

At the time of the 1841 census Samuel was away from home, a cattle drover lodging with other drovers at the New Inn, Hatton, Warwickshire. In 1851 Samuel was living with his wife at 133 the back of 129 Bradford Street. He is listed as a drover in Slater’s Birmingham Directory of 1852-53 at 133 Bradford Street.

Ann Skidmore died at Bradford Street aged 57 and was buried at St Paul’s chapel in St Martin’s parish on 5 June 1853. Samuel Skidmore’s death was presumably that registered at Birmingham in 1855Q2.

The children of Samuel and Ann (Dipple) Skidmore,

i. Sophia, baptised at Westminster on 9 July 1820. She married John Clarke, spoon maker of Digbeth (son of Thomas Clarke, bricklayer) at St Martin’s on 29 October 1838. Mary Higgins was a witness. Sophia was recorded as a spoon buffer on her marriage certificate. Sophia Clarke was living with her mother Ann Skidmore at the time of the 1841 census. Children, as known - Henry William (1839-40), Alfred (1841-47).

461. ii. THOMAS, baptised 23 February 1823 in Bromsgrove. He was a street grinder or tile grinder and lived at Bradford Street, Deritend, at the time of his marriage to Harriet Wasnidge, a minor of Lawley Street, Duddleston on 27 June 1843 at Aston. The witnesses were William Wasnidge and Julia Jones. Harriet was born 2 November 1823, baptised 27 March 1826 at St Martin’s, Birmingham, daughter of James Wasnidge, cutler of Lawley Street, and his wife Harriet. Thomas and Harriet Skidmore spent some years in Manchester, where he was a cutlery grinder at the time of the 1861 census, living with his family at 5 Sutton Court, David Street. She died at 54 Richmond Street, Manchester, aged 38, and was buried at St John, Deansgate on 24 November 1861. Thomas Skidmore died in Manchester Workhouse in 1866 aged 43; he was buried at All Saints, Newton Heath on 6 October that year.

The children of Thomas and Harriet (Wasnidge) Skidmore, born in Manchester,

i. Samuel, born 1845Q2 in Aston. He died in Manchester of hydrocephalus at 14 months and was buried on 25 June 1846 at Rusholme Road Cemetery.

ii. Mary Ann, born 1848Q1. A power loom cotton weaver in 1861.

iii. Harriet, born about 1851 (her birth registration has not been found). She married George Rogers, packer of Lawley Street (born about 1850 in Halesowen, son of William Rogers, coal miner) on 14 December 1873 at Bishop Ryder, Birmingham. The witnesses were William Hope and Emma Hope, Harriet’s sister and her husband. In 1881 Harriet was a pearl worker and lived at Court 6, 4 Henry Street in Aston with her husband and children Henry aged 7 and Harriet aged 1.

iv. Emma, born 1852Q4. She married firstly William Hope, iron caster of Mount Street

18 Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office DR 37/2/Box 124/108.
(born about 1847 in London, son of George Hope, button turner) on 27 November 1871 at St Philip’s. William Hope died in 1890 and Emma married secondly Henry Allen in 1900 in Aston, Birmingham. She was again widowed before 1911 and is perhaps the Emma Allen whose was registered in Birmingham South in 1925, aged 72.

Children, as known (surname Hope) – Julia, Emma, Alice, Ernest, Bertha, William.

Thomas, born 1855Q4. He was a victim of the Wood Pit colliery explosion at Haydock on 8 June 1878. The entry in the report of the inquest describes him as '24 years of Twenty Eight Row, Haydock. He was a drawer to William Turnock & identified by John Evans. He was a member of the Haydock Colliery Brass Band & was buried at St James' with his instrument placed on top of the coffin, on 12th June'.

JAMES, born 1858Q2. He was presumably the James Skidmore, aged 22 and son of deceased grinder Thomas Skidmore, who married Mrs Annie Turnock of Haydock on 12 June 1879 in a civil ceremony in Warrington, Cheshire. She was born about 1848, daughter of Thomas Swain, an engineer. James' brother Thomas Skidmore worked with her first husband William Turnock who also died in the Wood Pit explosion on 8 June 1878.

James was a coalminer living at the time of the 1881 census with his wife at Clipsley Lane, Haydock. His birthplace was recorded in this census as Wolverhampton, not Manchester. Another member of the household was John's uncle, also a coalminer, James Harrison born about 1829 in Parr, Lancashire.

**Children of James and Annie (Swain) Skidmore,**

i. Thomas, born 13 July 1879, baptised 14 September at Haydock. He died in 1880Q3.

ii. May, born 1881Q2 and baptised 11 September 1881. She was a domestic servant in Wallasey, Cheshire at the time of the 1901 census. She married William Kay, a coal miner, in 1903Q4 at the Congregational Church, Gerard Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield. Children – James Arthur, Doris, Harold, Horace.

iii. Alice Annie, born 28 April 1883, baptised 31 October. She married John Mercer, a builder’s carpenter, in 1902Q3 and they were living at the time of the 1911 census at 343 Clipsley Lane, Haydock. She died in 1972.

   Children – Robert, James, Eric, Annie, Mary E.

iv. Eunice, born 30 March 1885, baptised 10 June. I have not been able to find this child in the 1891 census or later.

v. Sarah Elizabeth, born 14 May 1886, baptised 23 June. She died later that year.

vi. [perhaps] John, born about 1862 in Birmingham. A cattle drover at the time of the 1901 census, living unmarried in a lodging house at 117 New Canal Street, Birmingham. I have otherwise not found his birth nor found him in other censuses.
We now turn to another man whose origins might lie in the Black Country,

THOMAS SKIDMORE (c.1773-1831) GLASS BLOWER OF BIRMINGHAM.

118. THOMAS SKIDMORE, glass blower of Birmingham and husband of Ann _____, is known from his stated age when he died to have been born about 1773. He is perhaps the son of Thomas [67] and Ann Skidmore, baptised 3 May 1772 in Bilston.

He married Ann Collins at Oldswinford on 28 November 1795. The witnesses were Edward Crannidge and Catherine Mellington. Thomas was a glass blower of Birmingham Heath in 1822, presumably at Park Glass House. He died aged 58 at Communication Row (a road alongside the present railway line and close to Five Ways station) and was buried on 18 February 1831 at St Thomas’, Bath Row, Birmingham. I have been unable to find Ann Collins in the 1841 census but she was perhaps the 67-year old lady with her name buried at St Thomas’ on 15 December 1844.

The children of Thomas and Ann (?Collins) Skidmore, baptised at St Philip’s, Birmingham,

i. Thomas, buried 16 March 1797 at Brierley Hill, an infant.

ii. Susannah, baptised 4 August 1798. She appears to have married (with consent of parents) Josiah Price at Halesowen on 22 August 1819. Thomas Jonathan Woollar Price, son of Josiah and Susannah Price, was born 4 July 1820 and baptised at St Philip’s.

iii. Priscilla, baptised 29 November 1800. She married Thomas Rogers at St Peter’s, Harborne on 17 March 1822.

257. iv. JAMES, born about 1801 and baptised 27 December 1806. He married Sarah Leaver at St Peter’s, Harborne on 1 January 1821. He was a glass maker or glass blower of William Street in 1822 and remained there until his death aged only 24. William Street is behind the present Accident Hospital in Birmingham and close to Five Ways. His daughter Elizabeth was born on 7 October 1825, the same day that James was buried at St Paul’s. His widow appears to have moved a few streets north to Nelson Street by 1827 when Elizabeth was baptised. Note that Elizabeth Skidmore of Nelson Street, aged 69 and so far unidentified, was buried at St Philip’s on 18 March 1824.

Sarah Skidmore, widow, married Henry Osband at St Philip’s on 8 July 1828. Mary Roberts and James Roberts were witnesses.

The children of James and Sarah (Leaver) Skidmore, baptised at St Philip’s, Birmingham,

i. Mary Ann, born 18 December 1821, baptised 8 April 1822. She married Joseph Macdonald, a caster of Warwick Street (son of Joseph Macdonald, caster) at St Philip’s on 30 September 1838. The witnesses were Ann Brett and James Osborne. Four of their children were baptised together on 28 December 1846, at St Martin’s in Birmingham - Joseph, Mary Ann, Emma and Anna - and a further daughter in 1849, Maria.

ii. Sarah, born 7 November 1823, baptised with her sister Elizabeth on 7 June 1827. She died at the age of 15 in 1838Q4.

iii. Elizabeth, born 7 October 1825. Died aged 7, of the Asylum, buried 2 April 1833 at St Mary’s, Whitall Street, Birmingham.

v. Rebecca, buried 3 July 1805 at St Paul’s, Birmingham.

vi. Benjamin, baptised 27 December 1806.

19 From http://billdargue.jimdo.com/placenames-gazetteer-a-to-y/places-b/birmingham-heath/ The west of Birmingham lies on sandy pebbly soil. Much was formerly heathland covered with long tough grass with bushes and few small trees. Winson Green was a location at the west end of Birmingham Heath. The heath lay roughly between the Dudley Road and Soho Road. In the 18th century, such waste was seen as an agricultural development opportunity when, in common with many heaths elsewhere, it was enclosed. The green of Winson Green lay near the junction of Winson Green Road and Handsworth New Road. There was some industry here prompted by the Birmingham Canal which cut through the southern part of the heath in 1769. Between Heath Street South and the canal, Park Glass House was built by Isaac Hawker in 1787. Originally a glass cutter near the Bull Ring, he found the canalside out-of-town site more convenient for the transport of his delicate products. A drawing advertising Park Glass House can be seen at http://www.revolutionaryplayers.org.uk.
258. vii. CHARLES, baptised 3 October 1808. A glass maker of Lambeth, London he appears to have married firstly Mary Burrough on 9 December 1826 at St Mary’s, Newington. At the same church he married Elizabeth Jefferies on 5 March 1836. Charles appears at the time of the 1841 census, lodging in Rose and Crown Yard, York and presumably away from London on business. His wife and son were living at this time in Zoar Street, Southwark, London, where Elizabeth was a book stitcher. She died at Zoar Street aged 36 and was buried at St Saviour’s, Southwark on 8 May 1845.

Charles Skidmore was a glassblower of Waterloo Road, Lambeth, London at the time he married his third wife Harriet Harrison on 25 November 1849 at St John the Evangelist, Islington. The witnesses were Joseph Read and Sarah Whittaker. She was born 5 November 1822 and baptised 1 December at All Saints’, Sudbury, Suffolk, daughter of Thomas Harrison, waterman, and his wife Elizabeth.

Charles and Harriet were living in 1851 at 7 Church Street, Southwark and Essex Street, St Saviour’s, Southwark in 1852. They settled by 1861 in Duke Court, Duke Street, Lambeth. Charles Skidmore was a member of the Flint Glassmakers Friendly Society in 1856 as a London glassmaker. He died in 1870Q4 aged 62. Harriet Skidmore was recorded as a glassblower at the time of the 1871 census, when she was a widow living with her children at the Glass Works in Pratt Street, Lambeth. By 1881 Mrs Skidmore was living on income derived from property, at 50 Reedsworth Road, Lambeth.

Children of Charles and Mary (Burrough) Skidmore,

i. Elizabeth, buried at St Saviour’s on 11 November 1832, aged one year of Williams Court.

ii. Mercy, born 13 December 1833, baptised 19 January 1834 at St Saviour’s, Southwark, daughter of Charles Skidmore, glass blower of Williams Court. She died in Essex Street at the age of six and was buried at St Saviour’s on 13 October 1839.

A son of Charles and Elizabeth (Jefferies) Skidmore,

457a. iii. CHARLES THOMAS, baptised 12 February 1837 at St John the Evangelist, Lambeth. He was a glassblower and married, on 22 June 1857 at Holy Trinity, Lambeth, Maria Wilson (daughter of Samuel Wilson, glassblower). They moved before 1871 to Gateshead, County Durham.

Children of Charles Thomas and Maria (Wilson) Skidmore,

i. Maria Elizabeth, born 1859Q1 in Poplar. She married, on 31 August 1879 at St John’s, Walworth, London, Joseph Dunn, a carman (son of Joseph Dunn).

ii. CHARLES SAMUEL, born 1860Q4 in St Saviour, Southwark. He was a glass blower at the time he joined the 2nd Royal Surrey Regiment on 1 April 1881 (regimental number 1851). After six months training at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Surrey, he served in India and Burma until June 1887. He was a hospital orderly with the Regiment for at least some of this time. On being transferred to the 1st Class Army Reserves in June 1887, he was described as ‘steady, trustworthy and intelligent’. He gave his intended address as 47 Nelson Street, Long Lane, Bermondsey.

He married, on 8 April 1890 at Silvertown, London, Mary Gray (born about 1870 in Erith, Kent). They lived in Plumstead, London.

A daughter,

i. Mary, born 13 May 1891. She married Herbert H.G. Wright in 1918Q4 and died his widow on 24 September 1958.

iii. A boy, born and died in 1863.

Children of Charles and Harriet (Harrison) Skidmore, born in Lambeth,

iv. Elizabeth Mary Ann, born 22 February 1852, baptised 28 March at St Saviour, Southwark. Not yet found after 1871.

v. Arthur Thomas, born 3 April 1853, baptised 1 May at St Saviour’s, son of Charles, glass blower of Essex Street. He died at three months and was buried at Southwark Chapel, St Mary Magdalen parish, Bermondsey.

21
iii. Robert James, born 1855Q3 in Blackfriars. At the time of the 1861 census he was fostered in the home of James Penn, a gardener of Clapham, and his wife Susan. He was a plasterer, lodging in Clapham and still calling himself an unemployed plasterer as late as 1911, when he was living in Stockwell. However, he is listed in a directory of 1906-07 as a beer retailer of 10 Gundulf Street, Ethelred Street, Lambeth and of 204 Farmers Road, Camberwell. Robert James Skidmore of the Cambridge Beerhouse, 204 Farmers Road, died unmarried on 24 April 1914 aged 59.

iv. Martha Mercy, born 1 February 1857 and baptised on 7 June at Christ Church, Southwark, of Dukes Court, Duke Street. She died in 1858.

v. William Henry, born 1858Q2. His death was registered at West London Register Office in 1861Q3.

vi. James Arthur, born 3 August 1859 and baptised 6 November at Christ Church, Southwark. He was boarding in 1861 with the Bendy family in Islington. A prisoner in Wandsworth Jail at the time of the 1881 census. I have been unable to find him in the censuses of 1891 and 1901 and it is possible he was away in the army, or perhaps changed his name. He died in Lambeth Infirmary on 17 February 1910, of 7 Gundolf Street, Lambeth, leaving a will.

vii. John Joseph, born 1861Q3, baptised with his brother Charles on 24 May 1863 at St Andrew's, Lambeth. A plumber's labourer in 1881, lodging in Lambeth. Like his brother James Arthur, he does not appear in UK censuses in 1891 and 1901, nor in 1911. A John Joseph Skidmore appears in London Electoral Registers living at 13 Rebecca Terrace, Rotherhithe in 1922, though there were other John Joseph Skidmores who could be this man.

458. viii. CHARLES WILLIAM ARTHUR, born 1863Q2. A lithographer's apprentice in 1881. He was a draughtsman of 84 Millbank Street at the time he married May Isabel Hunt (daughter of Richard Hunt, a surgeon) on 13 February 1886 at St John the Evangelist, Smith Square, London. His death has not been found but at the time of the 1891 census May Isabel was living a widow at 30 Wincott Street, Lambeth. She married secondly Edward Larner, a jewellery polisher, and was living at 9 York Mansions, Camberwell in 1901.

Children of Charles W.A. and May Isabel (Hunt) Skidmore, born in Lambeth,

i. Charles William, born 21 February 1887, baptised 22 January 1888 at St Peter's, Mile End Old Town. A jobbing jeweller in 1911, working from the home of his mother and stepfather at 18 Mortlake Road, Ilford, Essex.

846. ii. HENRY CLARENCE, born 1888Q3, baptised 27 April 1890 at Christ Church, Battersea. In 1910Q1 he married Gladys Cogger (daughter of Joseph H. Cogger). A jewellery repairer, he was living with his wife at the time of the 1911 census at 4 Park Cottages, Exeter Road, Croydon.

Children of Henry Clarence and Gladys (Cogger) Skidmore, (perhaps with others)

i. Henry C., born and died in 1910Q3.


iii. Madge, born 1913Q4.


ix. Alice Martha Mercy, born 1865Q1 in Blackfriars Road, baptised 16 April at St Andrew's, Lambeth. She died unmarried in 1897 said to be aged 29.

viii. Mercy, born 29 March 1814 and baptised with her sister Esther on 8 April 1822. She appears to have married James Whitehouse, a silver plater, on 5 February 1833 at St Mary’s, Handsworth. The witnesses were William Hadley and Tama Whitehouse. James and Mercy Whitehouse were living in Grosvenor Street West, Birmingham at the time of the 1841 census. She died in Rushton Street North and was buried at St Paul’s, Birmingham on 19 June 1859 aged 44.

ix. Esther, born 10 February 1817. She married Richard Barnett, a coal dealer (born about 1824 in Birmingham) on 22 February 1846 at St Peter’s, Wolverhampton. They were living by the time of the 1851 census at 24 Bristol Street, Birmingham.
There were two brothers – William and Benjamin Skidmore – who became wire and pin makers in Aston, Birmingham. They were almost certainly from the parish of Oldswinford or the parish of Kingswinford in Staffordshire.

**BROTHERS WILLIAM SKIDMORE AND BENJAMIN SKIDMORE, WIRE AND PIN MAKERS OF ASTON, BORN 1790s, AND THEIR DESCENDANTS.**

KFD 127. **WILLIAM SKIDMORE**, wire worker and pin maker of Aston, Birmingham, was born, according to the age given when he died, in 1792 or 1793. His baptism has not been found; one possible explanation is that a non-conformist baptism register containing their names has not survived. He would appear to be an older brother of Benjamin Skidmore, described below.

There is sufficient evidence to suggest that William Skidmore was born in the parish of Oldswinford, Worcestershire or, perhaps more likely, the parish of Kingswinford, Staffordshire. William Skidmore married Mary Gregory (born about 1793) on 11 October 1813 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, Worcestershire, both said to be of Oldswinford parish. Witnessing the marriage were William Richards and Nancy Pargeter. William Richards appears to be the brother-in-law of the bride Mary Gregory; William Richards married Eliza Gregory at St Martin’s, Birmingham, on 2 August 1812. It is not possible to say with certainty that William Richards came from Oldswinford since several boys of that name were baptised both in Oldswinford and in Birmingham in the late 1780s and early 1790s. However, he and Eliza had at least ten children baptised at Oldswinford, beginning with Eliza Gregory Richards in 1813. Unfortunately, no baptism of Eliza Gregory has been found in either Oldswinford or Birmingham. A number of Gregory families can be found locally at the right time with sisters Mary and Elizabeth, but given that most big families used one or both of these forenames, this does not help in the quest for Mary and Eliza Gregory’s parents.

It is worth noting that at the time of the 1851 census a visitor at the home of William’s married daughter Ann Marshall was **Ann Skidmore, born in Birmingham about 1787 who died aged 66 in 1853**. I have yet to find this lady in the census of 1841; she is called a widow in 1851 and a spinster in the census of 1861 (when she was living with her three lodgers at 5, Court 5, Blucher Street). I have yet to find a record of her death and cannot yet link her to William and Mary Skidmore’s family.

Mary, William Skidmore’s wife, is perhaps the ‘Mrs Skidmore’ who ran a ladies’ school in Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, found in Wrightson’s Triennial Directory for 1818. William and Mary Skidmore had various addresses in the Digbeth and Deritend areas of central Birmingham. They are found at Bromsgrove Street in 1816, at Bordesley Street between 1817 and at least 1822 and at Great Barr Street in the parish of Aston in 1829 and 1832.

William Skidmore of Great Barr Street was buried at St Philip’s on 23 July 1837 aged 44. Mary Skidmore, a widow of independent means, is found in the 1841 census at Great Barr Street, Deritend. Three of her four children are recorded, though their ages - Ann 18, Mary 15, Thomas 11 - do not correspond with the birth dates given in the St Martin’s baptism registers. A further child James Skidmore is recorded, born in or around 1840, perhaps a grandson.

Mary Skidmore, widow of pin pointer William Skidmore, died at Court 6, Baggot Street, St Mary’s, Birmingham, on 15 October 1853. He death was attended and registered by Mary Gee, presumably her daughter. She was said to be aged 66 and died of an abdominal tumour.

**The children of William and Mary (Gregory) Skidmore, baptised at St Martin’s, Birmingham,**

259. i. **WILLIAM, of whom more below**, baptised 15 April 1816.

ii. Ann, born December 1817, baptised 31 July 1820. Before her marriage she worked as a pin

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20 Nancy Pargeter, the other witness, was perhaps kin to John Pargeter of Kingswinford (nail ironmonger, died about 1810) and Thomas Pargeter (died 1828) of the Delph, Kingswinford. The Thomas Pargeter mentioned here was a widower when he married Elizabeth (Parkes) Skidmore, the widow of John Skidmore [46] in 1802 at St Martin’s, Birmingham.
header. She married William Marshall of Great Barr Street, a brassfounder and gas chandelier maker (born in London about 1822, son of William Marshall, brassfounder) on 30 May 1843 at St Philip’s. The family of William and Ann Marshall lived in 1851 in Ellis Street in St Thomas’ ward, Birmingham, later moving to Irving Street. Mr Marshall’s death appears to have been that registered in 1874Q3, aged 53, that of his wife in 1879Q1 aged 62.


Ann Skidmore a child[ren] before her marriage,

i. [perhaps] Ann, born 11 September 1839 to Ann Skidmore of 61 Lombard Street, Aston. This child does not appear in the 1841 census.

ii. James, born December 1839 and baptised 13 April 1846 at St Martin’s, son of Ann Skidmore, single woman of Inge Street. In the censuses of 1851 and 1864 he was recorded as James Marshall. He was a gas fitter and a chandelier maker of Thorp Street at the time of his marriage to Mary Ann Barlow of Victoria Street (born about 1834, daughter of Benjamin Barlow, plater) on 1 August 1864 at St Philip’s. The witnesses were Elizabeth Hansen and John Barlow. They were living in 1871 at 6, Court 22, Gregoe Street, Birmingham.

He is presumably the married man of that name, aged 42 and born in Birmingham, bicycle maker, boarding in 1881 with family of Mrs Sarah Maloney at 1, Back of Butchers Row in Coventry. Mrs Mary Ann Skidmore was living in 1881 in Meriden, Warwickshire with her nephew Benjamin Biddle 14, also born in Birmingham, a brass finisher (the son of Edward Biddle, engraver of Camden Street, and his wife Jane (Barlow)). Her husband James Skidmore was a bicycle maker, boarding in 1881 with widow Sarah Maloney and her daughters at 1 Back Butler Row, Coventry. By the time of the 1891 census James was an engine fitter in Brierley Hill (the birth place of Benjamin Biddle’s wife Martha Amelia Holloway). James Skidmore died that year aged 51 and was buried at Brierley Hill on 10 June 1891 aged 51.

260. iii. JOHN, born June 1820 and baptised on 31 July at St Martin’s. Like his father, was a scutcheon pin maker. He was living in Great Barr Street at the time of his marriage at St Philip’s on 27 January 1840. His wife was Mrs Jane Wright of Great Barr Street (baptised at St Martin’s on 8 February 1813, daughter of William Luckman, brassfounder, and Elizabeth). Her first husband was John Wright whom she married on 5 March 1832 at St Mary’s, Handsworth.

At the time of the 1851 census John and Jane Skidmore lived in Watery Lane in Aston and with them were Jane’s daughter Jane Wright 18, a scutcheon pin maker, and her son James Wright 15. John Skidmore of 92 Watery Lane is found in a Directory of 1868 with a shop at 50 Miles Street, Sandy Lane. Their home was at 5 Parliament Street in Aston from at least 1871. He is presumably the John Skidmore of 92½ Watery Lane who made a will (not seen) proved at Birmingham on 3 July 1897, though he and his wife had retired to Laurel Cottage, Yardley Road, Yardley before 1891. Jane Skidmore died on 10 February 1895 aged 82, her husband at the age of 76 on 26 April 1897, (leaving a will).

The children of John and Jane (Luckman) Skidmore, born in Birmingham, baptised at St Andrew’s, Bordesley,

i. Angelina born 23 October 1840. She married James Proctor, a pearl button maker (born 27 September 1840 in Rugby, Warwickshire, son of Henry Proctor, a plate layer, and his wife Mary) at St Andrew’s, Bordesley, Birmingham on 22 June 1862. They emigrated in 1893 to the US in and were living at the time of the 1900 census at Ansonia, New Haven, Connecticut, where Mr Skidmore found employment as a dipper in the brass works.

Angelina Proctor died on 8 March 1918 at Arlington, Hudson County, New Jersey, her husband on 5 February 1926 at Ansonia.

Children, as known – James, Charles Harold, Alice, Alfred, George, Ellen, Annie, Ada Frances, Angelina, Florence Mary.

I am grateful to David Ryan, great grandson of James and Angelina Proctor, for information on the descendants of John and Jane (Luckman) Skidmore in Connecticut.
ii. Mary Ann, born about 1842, perhaps the ‘female’ registered at Birmingham in 1841Q4. She married Henry Proctor, a gun implement forger (born about 1839, son of Henry Proctor and brother to James Proctor who married her sister Angelina) on 24 September 1865 at St Nicholas’, Kings Norton. They lived in Bordesley, Birmingham, moving in the 1880s to live in Woodbine Cottage, Yardley Road, Acocks Green, near to Mary Ann’s retired father. Henry Proctor died in 1895Q4 and, after the death of her parents also in the 1890s, Mary Ann went in 1900 with her daughter Nellie to live in Ansonia, New Haven County, Connecticut. The 1911 Ansonia City Directory cites that Mary Ann Proctor (widow of Henry Proctor) and her daughter Nellie moved back to England. She was perhaps the Mary A. Proctor whose death was registered at Kings Norton in 1919Q3. Children — Annie (1868–71), Arthur (1870–71), Ellen (Nellie) (1873–), Florence (b.1876).

468. iii. WILLIAM, born 2 September 1843 at 3 Andover Street, Birmingham. A wire drawer, he married Elizabeth Frances Compson (born 14 July 1844, daughter of Edward Compson, a spade maker, and Hannah) at St Thomas’, Dudley on 14 July 1867. Bride and groom were both said to be of St Thomas’ parish. The two witnesses were Elizabeth’s sister Sarah Ann (Compson) Trump and brother-in-law William Edward (or Edmund) Thomas Jeffrey Trump (married 27 January 1867 at Dudley). After the loss of their first two sons in 1873, they emigrated to the US, arriving on at New York on 11 August 1874 aboard the City of Montreal. They were living at the time of the 1880 census in Huntingdon, Fairfield County, Connecticut, where William ran William Skidmore and Co., hair pins and jewellery manufactory on Howe Avenue. He was said to be the first man to have manufactured hairpins in the US, establishing the Star pin factory at Birmingham (later called Derby) before moving to Bridgeport. He moved with his brother Alfred to Bridgeport, Fairfield County in 1886. This extract from the 1892 City Directory for Bridgeport shows the two brothers and also other Skidmores belonging to the Westerleigh branch of the wider Skidmore family. Around 1893 he and his family moved from 49 Congress Avenue to 163 Seaview Avenue, Bridgeport. In 1916–17 he was listed as the proprietor of the Imperial Theater on 545 Union Avenue.

Elizabeth Skidmore died 31 December 1924, William on 30 March 1925 and they are buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Bridgeport.

Children of William and Elizabeth Frances (Compson) Skidmore, born in Birmingham,

There were seven children, of whom three were reported still living at the time of the 1910 census.

i. William Edward, born 1868Q2. He died aged 5 in 1873Q4.

ii. Alfred Henry, born 1870Q2. He died around the same time as his brother in 1873Q4, aged 3.

iii. ARTHUR J., born 28 October 1874 in Newark, Essex County, New Jersey. He was a painter in Bridgeport and married Estella Louisa Porter (born 29 October 1879, daughter of Washington Irving Porter and his wife Estella Louise (Taylor)). He died in 1914 and was buried in Fairhaven Memorial Park, Santa Ana, Orange County, California, though some further corroboration is needed.

A daughter of Arthur J. and Estella Louisa (Porter) Skidmore,

i. Florence Elizabeth, born 18 October 1914 in Orange County, California. Miss Skidmore died on 28 June 1997 in Groton, New London County, Connecticut.


He managed the Imperial Theater on Stratford Avenue for nine years before in January 1916 buying the Elite Theater at 2314 Main Street in Bridgeport. This was a new theatre to which, when a history of Bridgeport was written in 1916, a balcony was being added to bring its seating capacity to more than a thousand. It was said in the Bridgeport Telegram on 7 March 1918 to be ‘one of the prettiest and most homelike theatres in town’.

He married Belle Lowe (daughter of Milton Lowe) on 7 March 1914. He died in Milford, New Haven, Connecticut on 15 October 1938 aged 59.
v. Walter J., born 28 April 1881, died 28 September 1898, aged 17 years 5 months.


iv. Eliza, born 1845Q2. Eliza, daughter of John Skidmore, a hair pin maker of Birmingham, married John Beardsmore, leather case or pocket book maker of St Peter's, Dale End (born about 1843, son of William Beardsmore, servant) on 30 March 1868 at St Martin's. Samuel Beardsmore and Mary Ann Proctor were witnesses. John and Eliza lived for a few years around 1870 in Hackney, London, but by 1881 had returned to live at 27 New Canal Street in Birmingham.


469. v. JAMES, born 1846Q4. A baker, he married Fanny Richards (born about 1849 in Northfield, Worcestershire, daughter of Joseph Richards and his wife Sarah) on 6 September 1868 at St Mary's, Moseley. The marriage certificate (not seen) will, of course, confirm the name of James' father.

They lived in Balsall Heath, where James Skidmore was a baker. He retired to 218 Green Lane, Small Heath, Birmingham, where he died in 1896, said to be aged 48. He was buried at Aston on 2 February. His widow then lived with her son Henry and his wife in Sparkhill, Birmingham before her death in 1918 aged 69.

The children of James and Fanny (Richards) Skidmore, born in Aston,

i. Alice, born 1869Q2, living at the time of the 1871 census with her grandparents Joseph and Sarah Richards in Edwardes Street, Balsall Heath. She does not appear in censuses after this date.

856. ii. ARTHUR JAMES, born 1871Q1. A gas fitter, he married Florence Marianne Barker (born about 1870 in Sparkhill, Birmingham, daughter of Samuel Barker) in 1893Q1 in Solihull registration district. They lived at 94 Durham Road, Sparkhill.

Children of Arthur James and Florence Marianne (Barker) Skidmore, born in Sparkhill,

i. Mabel Irene, born 1897Q3. She died aged 4 in July 1901.

ii. Gladys Lilian, born 2 June 1900.

iii. HAROLD ARTHUR, born 1903Q1. He married in 1926 and had one daughter.

iii. Nellie, born 1872Q3, perhaps married in Solihull registration district in 1892Q2.


857. v. WILLIAM, born 1876Q4. A carpenter and joiner, he married Eliza Emma Morgan, a dressmaker, in 1899Q4.

The son of William and Eliza Emma (Morgan) Skidmore,

i. LESLIE JAMES, born 1901Q1, born in Sparkhill. He married in 1929 and had, as known, one son. Leslie James Skidmore died in 1966.

vi. Isabella, baptised 19 September 1852. Isabella Skidmore of Bordesley, aged 22 (daughter of John Skidmore, manufacturer) married on 3 May 1875 at Aston, James Munro Flavell, a mechanical engineer of Bordesley (born in Montreal, Canada, the son of Charles Flavell, publican). Eliza Stanyard was a witness. They were living with
their two children in 1881 at no. 5 at the back of No. 12 Parliament Street in Aston. Isabella Flavell died in 1930 aged 78.

Children, as known – Mary, Charles Henry.

470. vii. ALFRED, born about 1854, baptised 1 August 1858 at St Andrew’s, Bordesley. He married Susan Kettle, known as Susannah, on 5 November 1876 at St Thomas’, Birmingham. They emigrated to Connecticut, where they joined Alfred’s brother William Skidmore. Alfred operated a bakery on Derby Avenue, Derby.

The following year of 1885 he was employed in his brother’s company and lived on the Orange and Derby Line.

Both brothers moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1886, where Alfred was a confectioner at 606 Main Street. The family home was on Seaview Avenue. This City Directory extract dates from 1893-94.

He later ran a billiard and pool room on Main Street and also became a dealer in billiard and pool tables and supplies. Alfred Skidmore died on 11 November 1933, his wife in 1940; they are buried in the family plot in Lakeview Cemetery, Bridgeport.

Children of Alfred and Susannah (Kettle) Skidmore,

i. Daisy Lily, born 14 February 1879 in Aston, Birmingham. She married Edward Henry Sturdevant (1879-1942) in 1900. She died on 14 October 1961 in Stratford, Fairfield County.

Children – Marion, Cornelia.

ii. Rose May, born 1880 in Aston. She married George Henry Rowland
Jr. in 1896. She died on 20 November 1960 in Milford, New Haven County.
A daughter Eva Rowland.


iv. ARTHUR WILLIAM, born 15 June 1894. He was a foreman in the Printing Department of T.T. Taylor Co. and later worked for his father. He married firstly Ruth Bertha Emery (1902-90) on 21 September 1922. He died on 19 January 1968 at Stratford, Fairfield County.

viii. [presumably] Ellen, died aged 11 days at Watery Lane, buried 22 July 1857 at St Bartholomew, Birmingham.

ix. Matilda, born 1857Q3 and baptised with her brother Alfred.

iv. Mary, born 27 December 1821 and baptised 28 January 1822. She married David Gee, a glass cutter of Lawley Street (born about 1821 in St Luke's, London, son of Samuel Gee, butcher) on 27 December 1847 at St Bartholomew's, Birmingham. David Gee could be the man of that name aged 30[-34] found in 1841 with Elizabeth Gee aged 60[-64] in the hamlet of Deritend, Aston. David and Mary Gee lived at first in Fisher Street, Birmingham, moving between 1851 and 1861 to 1 Rochell Building, Great Brook Street, Duddeston, Birmingham. Mary Gee was widowed during the 1860s. At the time of the 1881 census she was living at 19 Fisher Street in Birmingham, at the home of her daughter Mary Ann and son-in-law John Hadduck, brass caster. Her death was perhaps that registered at Solihull in 1888Q3, aged 66. Mary Skidmore had a son,

461. i. HENRY, known in childhood as HENRY GEE and in adult life as HENRY SKIDMORE, born 27 February 1843 at 12 Court 1 Great Barr Street, Aston, registered as Henry Skidmore. He was baptised Henry Reddell Skidmore on 26 August 1844 at St Martin's. He was a fitter of Steelhouse Lane at the time of his marriage at St Philip's on 3 June 1866. Henry Skidmore married Emma Priscilla Barford (born about 1846, daughter of Thomas Barford, jeweller of Francis Street). The witnesses were Emily Taylor and Samuel Inman. Emma Taylor married Thomas Fella Barford at St Philip's on 31 October 1869. Thomas F. Barford aged 33, tortoiseshell worker, is found with his wife Emily at 114 Monument Street in Birmingham in 1881. Thomas Felix Barford was baptised at St James The Less in Ashted, Warwickshire on 3 August 1856, son of Thomas and Mary Ann (Barrett) Barford, and could be a brother of Emma Barford. Henry Skidmore was an iron safe maker and lived with his family at first at back 69 Cromwell Street and later in Francis Street, Duddeston, Birmingham. At the time of the 1881 census Emma Skidmore was a laundress, living with her six children at Block 1, 190 Francis Street. Her husband was at this time a patient at this time in the asylum in Winson Green in Birmingham. Henry resumed his trade and the family was reunited by 1891 and housed at 4, back of 433 Bolton Road, Bordesley. Emma Skidmore died in Aston in 1898Q2 aged 52.

The children of Henry and Emma Priscilla (Barford) Skidmore, born in Aston,

859. i. HENRY, born 31 December 1867. A railway engine fireman of 139 Herbert Road, Birmingham, he married Elizabeth Jones (born about 1871 in Birmingham, daughter of Edwin Jones, labourer) on 2 June 1889 at St Andrew's, Bordesley. They moved from Aston to Greet, Birmingham, in the 1900s.

The children of Henry and Elizabeth Skidmore, registered in Aston,

  i. Florence, born 10 October 1890.
  ii. Annie Elizabeth, born 1892Q3.
  iii. William Henry, born 13 May 1894. A boiler smith, he joined the Royal Navy on 10 August 1912 for a period of 12 years. He served aboard the Dreadnought during

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22 Joseph Blewett and Ann Blewett were witnesses. Joseph Blewett married Ann Atwood at Aston on 20 June 1830.
World War 1 as Leading Stoker and was awarded a Free Discharge on 14 January 1920.


ii. Thomas, born 1870Q3. He was described as an engine cleaner in the census of 1891 and as a machinist in gun manufacture in 1901. He died in Aston in 1902Q2 aged 31.

iii. Mary Ann, born 1873Q1. She and her younger sisters worked in a warehouse in Bordesley. She married Ernest John Waldron, a bricklayer (born about 1873 in Birmingham) in 1896Q2. They lived in Ruston Street, Birmingham where Mr Waldron died in mid-1911. Children, as known (of six born) – Florence, William, Ernest, Frederick.

iv. Ellen, born 16 September 1875. She married Thomas Thursfield, a plasterer (born about 1875 in Birmingham) in 1896Q2 in Aston and lived at 304 Arthur Street, Small Heath, Birmingham. She died in 1948 aged 72. Children, as known – Rose, Emily, Ellen, Lily, Lucy, Thomas N., Frank, Albert E.

v. Emily, born 28 February 1878. She lived with her younger brother and remained unmarried.

vi. William Alfred, born 10 October 1880. Mr Skidmore had a variety of jobs – he was a striker in an iron plate works in 1901, a cycle polisher in 1911 and a carpenter in 1939. He did not marry and died in Birmingham in 1949 aged 68.

261. v. THOMAS, born 21 February 1826 and baptised at St Martin's on 12 October 1829.

A pin pointer, he appears to be the Thomas Skidmore of Great Barr Street who married firstly on 29 September 1845 at Edgbaston Parish Church. He gave his occupation as tackmaker. Judging by the ages given in subsequent censuses, both bride and groom were under 21, though they both said they were of full age. Neither stated the name or occupation of their fathers. His bride was Maria Gregory of Ladywood Lane (born about 1826 in Birmingham), though on their son Alfred's birth certificate in 1850 her maiden name was given as Brighton. Both were unable to write and made their mark in the marriage register, as did their first witness William Skidmore. Their second witness Elizabeth Carey signed her name.

Thomas and Maria were living in Great Barr Street, Deritend in 1846 but within two years seem to have settled in Ward Street. Maria Skidmore died of peritonitis aged 34 on 5 February 1860 at 26 Ward Street.

Thomas married secondly Sarah Hood, a japanner of Key Hill (born about 1843, daughter of George Hood, an axletree maker, and his wife Isabella) on 29 January 1866 at All Saints', Birmingham. The witnesses were Edward Breese, Thomas' future son-in-law, and Selina Hood, apparently Sarah's sister. Thomas Skidmore died in 1870Q3 aged 44. Sarah Skidmore lived with her daughters Lavinia, Isabella and Ada, working as a button carder, her daughters finding employment in a warehouse. In her later years she lived with Ada's family in Wheeler Street, Birmingham.

The children of Thomas and Maria (Gregory) Skidmore, born in Birmingham,

i. Maria, died on 29 December 1845 aged 1 month, of Lily Green, Great Barr Street in the parish of Aston.

ii. Jane, born 1847Q3 and baptised 24 April 1848 at St Philip's. She married Edward Benjamin Breese, a metallic birdcage maker (born 1847 in Birmingham, son of Thomas Breese, engine fitter) on 23 May 1869 at All Saints', Birmingham. The witnesses were Thomas John Breese and Jane's sister Emily Hodgetts. Mr Breese died in 1897, his wife Jane in 1927 aged 80. Children, as known – Edward Alfred, Edith Agnes, George T., Ernest H.

iii. ALFRED, born 1850Q1. Alfred married Elizabeth Suzell Thomas (born about 1849 in Walworth, Surrey, daughter of William Joseph Thomas, a brass founder, and his wife Elizabeth) on 24 December 1871 at St Mary's, Newington, London. He was a hairpin pointer in Newington and was living at the time of the 1881 census with his family at
64 Inville Street, Newington, together with Elizabeth’s widowed mother, who was a nurse.
By 1891 Alfred Skidmore was an employer in the manufacturer of hairpins. He died in 1912Q3 aged 62.

The children of Alfred and Elizabeth Suzell (Thomas) Skidmore, born in Walworth,

i. Alfred William, born 26 September 1872 at 111 Rodney Road and baptised 20 October at St Peter’s, Walworth. A hair pin pointer in Newington. He died in 1901Q4 aged 29.

ii. Elizabeth Jane, born 1874Q1 in Camberwell, Surrey. She married E.G. Thompson on 25 December 1894 in the St Saviour registration district.

iii. Emily, born 1877Q4. She died in 1888Q1 aged 10.

iv. GEORGE THOMAS, born 1880Q1. He married Bertha Kate Powell in 1908Q2. He was a kitchen porter and his wife a cook in a restaurant in Peckham, London.

Children of George Thomas and Bertha Kate (Powell) Skidmore,

i. Edith Elizabeth S., born 1909Q2.

iv. Thomas, born 1853Q1. Buried 20 May 1855 at St Philip’s, aged 2 of Ward Street.

v. Ann Maria, born 1855Q3. She married George Hughes, bricklayer, in Aston district in 1874 at St Mary’s, Aston Brook. They were living in 1881 at 103 Farm Street, Birmingham.


vi. Emily, born 1857Q3.

The children of Thomas and Sarah (Hood) Skidmore, born in Birmingham,

vii. Lavinia, born 9 March 1862 at 26 Ward Street, Birmingham. She worked in a warehouse at the time of the 1891 census and married William Frederick Brownhill, a blacksmith, in Aston district in 1897Q4. She died in 1940 aged 78.

viii. Isabella, born 1866Q4 in Bow Road, Nunhead, London. She had her own business concern at the time of the 1901 census, when she was called a general draper. By 1911 she was working as a button carder and living with her married sister Lavinia in Clifford Street, Aston Manor.

ix. Ada, born 1869Q3 in the Aston district of Birmingham. She married Alfred Hodgetts Harrison, a cabinet maker, in 1888Q3 and at the time of the 1901 census was sharing their home at 150 Lozells Road, Aston Manor with her mother and sister Isabella.

vi. Joseph, born 23 September 1829 and baptised with his brother Thomas. Buried 25 March 1830 at St Philip’s, aged 6 months of Great Barr Street.

vii. James Gregory, born 12 June 1832 and baptised 30 July. Died in Great Barr Street at 7 weeks, buried 5 August 1832.

Returning to the eldest son of William [127] and Mary (Gregory) Skidmore,

259. WILLIAM SKIDMORE, baptised 15 April 1816 at St Martin’s, Birmingham. He followed his father’s trade and is variously described as a (hair)pin maker, (escutcheon) pin pointer and metal roller. He married Emma Barnes on 15 May 1836 at St Bartholomew’s, Edgbaston, Birmingham23, witnessed by Ann Skidmore, presumably William’s sister, and by James Lamborn. Emma was born on 22 November 1820 and baptised at St Martin’s on 29 September 1821, daughter of Benjamin Barnes, brassfounder and his wife Mary Ann.

23 In the early 1270s, on the site of the present church, Henry de Edgbaston built a small chapel dedicated to St Bartholomew adjacent to his manor house. The population of Edgbaston increased markedly during the early nineteenth century, and the church was enlarged significantly with the completion of a south aisle in 1856. www.edgbastonoldchurch.org.uk.

It is distinct from St Bartholomew’s in Masshouse Lane, Digbeth (now demolished). This was an early neo-classical church built on the edge of the town in 1749. Standing at the centre of the Jennens’ family’s proposed housing estate, it was designed to be a focal point for the new residents. St Bartholomew’s became a parish church in 1847 with a parish assigned out of that of St Martin’s. ahistoryofbirminghamchurches.jimdo.com.
William and Emma Skidmore had a number of addresses in central Birmingham, as revealed by the entries in the register at the baptism of their children. This perhaps reflects his reliance on the tied houses of his employers. Emma Skidmore is probably the lady named as Emily Skidmore whose death at the age of 55 was registered in Birmingham in 1875Q1. William died in 1881Q1 aged 64.

The children of William and Emma (Barnes) Skidmore, baptised at St Martin's,

i. Emily, born July 1836 in Great Barr Street and baptised 28 December that year. She was recorded as Emma Skidmore in censuses. She married James Lloyd, a gimlet maker of New Thomas Street (born about 1838 in Wolverhampton, son of Richard Lloyd, gimlet maker) on 25 December 1856 at St Philip's. Jane Barnes and William Skidmore were witnesses. James and Emma Lloyd lived at 9 Princes Street, Birmingham and their children were baptised at Bishops Ryder Church. Mr Lloyd later became a beer retailer and the family lived in Nova Scotia Street, Birmingham. He died in 1901Q1 aged 63 and his widow continued their business from their home at 93 Coleshill Street, Birmingham, with the help of her son Alfred Lloyd. Hers was perhaps the death registered at Birmingham in 1902Q1 aged 65.

ii. William, born October 1837 and baptised 11 June 1838 in Great Barr Street. He died of phthisis pulmonalis on 27 March 1854 aged 16, buried St Philip's. Mary Ann Barnes of Highgate, Aston (perhaps his grandmother), was present at his death.

iii. Benjamin, buried 20 September 1840 at St Martin's, of Lombard Street.

462. iv. EDWIN, born October 1841, of whom further.

v. Benjamin Thomas, born December 1843 in Bristol Street and baptised 15 January 1844. He died at the age of 2 and was buried at St Martin's on 1 June 1845, (recorded in error as Benjamin the son of Benjamin and Emma Skidmore).

vi. Thomas, born February (baptised 14 April) 1846. He died in Aston aged 25 in 1871Q2.

vii. John, born 1848Q1 and baptised 1 April 1850 (when the family was living in Price Street). I have yet to find this man after the UK census of 1871.

463. viii. DANIEL born 1850Q1 and baptised on 1 April 1850 at St Martin's. Like his brother Henry, he was working as a hairpin pointer in Newington at the time of the 1871 census. He married his cousin Angelina Gee (born 1852Q1, the daughter of David Gee, glasscutter and his wife Mary (Skidmore) on 19 October 1873 at St Bartholomew's, Birmingham. The marriage witnesses were William Skidmore and Mary Ann Gee.

Daniel and Angelina Skidmore lived at 51 Barford Street, Birmingham in 1881 and, by 1891 in Rea Street. He became a stamper in a brass works before the time of the 1901 census. Angelina died in 1916 aged 65, Daniel in 1931 aged 81.

Children of Daniel and Angelina (Gee) Skidmore, born in Birmingham,

i. Emma, born 1875Q3, baptised at St Alban's, Bordesley on 7 April 1881. She married firstly George Bust, a tool maker (son of George Bust) on 6 August 1899 at St Martin’s, Birmingham. George Bust died in 1907Q2 and she married secondly, on 2 August 1908 at St Martin’s, James Cross, a metal roller (son of John Cross, an engine driver).

ii. Alice, born 1878Q3, baptised at St Alban’s, Bordesley on 7 April 1881. Described in the 1901 census, with her sister Florence, as a ‘frequenter’ OW (?outworker). She was single in 1911, a brass lacquerer living at her parents’ home.


iv. Lucy, born 1885Q2, baptised at St Martin’s on 27 April. A paper bag maker in 1901. She was living with her parents in 1911, a ‘wrapper up’ at the cycle works.

v. Lily, born about 1887.

vi. Angelina, called Annie, born 8 November 1888 and baptised on 28 November at St Gabriel’s, Deritend, Birmingham. A brass lacquerer in 1911, living with her parents.

464. ix. HENRY, born 1852Q2. He was working as a hairpin pointer in Newington at the time of the 1871 census but a year later at the time of his marriage was an iron bedstead caster in Birmingham. He married Sarah Ash (perhaps baptised at Bordesley on 25 December 1853, daughter of Thomas and
Sarah Ash) on 25 December 1872 in Aston. They were living from at least 1881 through to 1901 at 6, Court 3, Darwin Street in Aston.

Henry Skidmore died in 1913Q1 aged 61, his wife apparently in 1939 aged 87.

The children of Henry and Sarah (Ash) Skidmore, born in Aston,

At the time of the 1911 census, Sarah Skidmore said she had borne 13 children, of whom six were then living.

i. Thomas, born 1873Q1. A brass moulder, he married Fanny Elizabeth Smithson (daughter about 1876, daughter of James Smithson, a brush maker) on 3 August 1902 at St David’s, Birmingham. They were living at the time of the 1911 census at 13 Court 6 House, Alcester Street, Birmingham, together with Fanny’s father (who was born in Plymouth).

ii. Sarah Ann, born 1875Q2. A press worker in 1891. She married Harry Hudson, a brasscaster (born about 1875 in Birmingham) in 1893Q3 in Aston. Mrs Hudson died in 1900Q3 aged 25, and at the time of the 1901 census Harry was living at 62 Hollier Street, Aston with his brother Walter Hudson and brother-in-law Thomas Skidmore.

iii. Lily Elizabeth, born 1879Q1. She married David Alexander Peckham, a bricklayer (born about 1875 in Kidderminster, Worcestershire) in Birmingham in 1898Q4 and they were living by 1901 at 20 Hollier Street, Deritend. Children, as known – Lily Ruth, David Alexander, Elsie F., Irene M., Mabel E.

iv. Maud, born in or about September 1880. Died 1881Q3.

v. William Henry, known as Harry, born 1882Q1. Like his brother Edward, a brass caster in 1901. He is perhaps the man who married Emily Berrow on 19 January 1907 at St Asaph’s, Birmingham.

863. vi. EDWARD, born 1884Q3. He was living at 12 Dymock Street, Balsall Heath at the time he enlisted with the 4th South Staffordshire Regiment on 22 July 1904. He gave his age as 18 years 1 month, though he was then about 20 years of age. He was a brass caster by trade but was then working as a bricklayer for builder and contractor David Peckham, his brother-in-law. He married Frances Mary J. Latham in 1907Q1 in Aston.

Children of Edward and Frances Mary J. (Latham) Skidmore,

i. Frances Emily, born 1908Q1
iii. Elizabeth E., born 1914Q2.

vii. Violet, born 1886Q2 and baptised at St Alban’s, Bordesley on 15 April. A manufacturer’s clerk in 1901. She married Charles Henry Phelps, a tin plate worker, in 1906Q3. Mrs Phelps died in 1955 in Birmingham, aged 69.


viii. Nellie May, aged 1 month at the time of the census on 5 April 1891. She died in 1893Q4 aged 2.

ix. William, born 1892Q4. A cycle maker, he was living in 1911 in his parents’ home.

465. x. DAVID, born 1854Q1. A brass bedstead maker, he married Sarah Ann Green (born about 1854, daughter of William Green, a blacksmith) on 25 December 1874 at St Bartholomew’s, Birmingham. The witnesses were Daniel Skidmore and Clara Green. The birthplaces of David and Sarah Ann Skidmore’s children, recorded in the 1901 census, show that they lived in Balsall Heath, Birmingham in the 1870s and 1880s before moving to Yardley, Birmingham around the mid-1880s. At the time of the 1881 census their home was 4 Emily Buildings, which was off Brunswick Road in Balsall Heath and, by 1901, in Warwick Road in Sparkhill. David Skidmore died in 1920 aged 66.

The children of David and Sarah Ann (Green) Skidmore, born in Balsall Heath,

i. David, born 1875Q4, said in the 1881 census to have been born in Kings Norton but registered in Aston. On 9 June 1890 the Birmingham Daily Post reported that these lads, including David Skidmore of 18 Mountford Street, Greet, were brought before Solihull Police Court after trespassing on the Great Western Railway. It was stated that ‘a great nuisance had been caused on the line lately by boy trespassers, and the Bench therefore inflicted a fine of 5 shillings and costs in each case.’
At the time of the 1901 census, he was a seaman aboard HMS Undaunted, a 1st Class Cruiser, at sea and homeward bound from China Station.

ii. Emma, born 1877Q2. Living with her parents in 1901, a machine minder.

864. ii. TOM, born 1880Q1. A polisher at a gun works, he married Laura Thomas in 1904Q3 and was living at the time of the 1911 census at 32 Havelock Road, Greet, Birmingham.

Tom Skidmore died in Birmingham in 1964 aged 84.

Children of Tom and Laura (Thomas) Skidmore, born in Yardley,

i. Ralph Tom, born 1906Q1.

ii. Oswald Henry, born 1907Q4.

iv. William Henry, born 1883Q4. An umbrella machinist in 1901. He was sergeant of ‘A’ Company, 1st Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment when he died on 25 April 1915. His name appears on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres, Belgium, one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders.

v. Sarah Ann, born 1885Q4. A French polisher at the time of the 1901 census. She married Trew Harold Billingham, a wood turner in the motor industry, in 1910Q3 in Aston and they were living a year later at 24 Havelock Road, Greet.

born in Yardley,

vi. Eliza Amy, born 1888Q3. She married John Ernest Richards, a carpenter in the building trade, in 1907Q4 in Aston and they were living in 1911 at 82 Boscombe Road, Greet.


466. xi. ARTHUR, born 1856Q2. He was an iron caster when he married Esther Freeman, an ornamental (born about 1858 in Malvern, Worcestershire) on 28 March 1875 at St Bartholomew’s, Birmingham. The witnesses were David Skidmore and Alice Tudge. Alice Tudge was presumably born 1857Q4, the daughter of William and Elizabeth Tudge of Malvern Common, and younger sister of Sarah Ann Tudge (born 1840Q2 and the mother of Henrietta Tudge and Horatio Tudge). Sarah Ann was living as the wife of Thomas Freeman in Malvern in 1871, together with her daughter Henrietta Tudge, then aged 12. It appears that Henrietta Tudge called herself Esther Freeman at the time of her marriage to Arthur Skidmore, naming her father as Thomas Freeman, cab driver. Arthur and Esther Skidmore’s first child Alfred Bertram was living at the time of the 1881 census with his widowed grandmother Sarah Ann Freeman.

Arthur and Esther Skidmore separated and by 1891 he was living with his common-law wife Polly at 5 Sherbourne Grove, Balsall Heath, Birmingham. She was Mary Jane Hawkeswood, born 1858Q1 in Birmingham, daughter of Richard and Harriet Hawkeswood. Also present in Arthur and Polly Skidmore’s household in 1891 were their stepdaughter Eliza Lock (born about 1883), his children Florence Lock Skidmore and John Skidmore and his widowed father-in-law Richard Hawkeswood. Arthur Skidmore died in Birmingham in 1904Q1 aged 46.

His wife appears to be the Henrietta Wilkins living, called a widow, in 1891 at 3 Packington Place, Whitmore Road, Bordesley, with her daughters Henrietta Wilkins (born 1887Q2 in Birmingham) and Lily Wilkins (born 1889Q3 in Beeston, Nottinghamshire), together with a boarder, Harry Bates, a widower (born about 1857 in Birmingham). Henrietta was living as the wife of Harry Bates, a chandelier Brazier, in 1901 with her daughters Henrietta and Lily Wilkins (called his nieces), her sons Alfred Skidmore and Arthur Skidmore (called brothers-in-law of Harry Bates and not yet found in the 1891 census), Arthur Bates 17 and Alice A. Bates 16 (presumably children of Harry Bates by a former wife and not yet found in the 1891 census) and George Bates 9 and Florrie Bates 6 (presumably children of Henrietta’s with Harry Bates). Henrietta Skidmore married Harry Bates in Birmingham on 8 February 1908 at St Gabriel’s, Deritend, Birmingham, giving the name of her father as Alfred Fereday, a deceased bricklayer. Alfred Bertram Skidmore and Emily Skidmore were witnesses.

Children of Arthur and Esther (Freeman) Skidmore, registered in Aston,

i. Alfred Bertram, born 1876Q3. He was living in 1881 with his widowed grandmother Sarah Ann Freeman at 2/58 Leopold Street, Aston. Not yet found in the census of 1891. He appears to have married Emily Taylor in 1900Q4 in Aston but was living
without his wife in 1901 in his mother’s home, together with his brother Arthur. He and his wife witnessed the marriage of his mother in 1908. He died in 1910Q1 aged 33.

865. ii. ARTHUR, born about 1882 (his birth that registered in 1881Q3 in Birmingham or in 1882Q1 in Aston). Not yet found in the census of 1891, he was living with his mother and stepfather Harry Bates in 1901. A brass dresser, he married Emma Moore (daughter of Frederick Moore, a boot repairer) on 7 May 1906 at St Gabriel’s, Deritend. They appear to be the family living in 1911 at 20 Medley Road, Greet.

Children of Arthur and Emma (Moore) Skidmore, born in Birmingham, There were two further children who died before the time of the 1911 census.

i. Florrie, born 1907Q1.
iii. James Frederick, born 1912Q1. He married in 1936.
iv. Alfred T., born 1913Q3.


and registered in Kings Norton,

iv. John, 5 days old at the time of the 1891 census. He died later that year.
v. David Daniel, born 4 April 1892, baptised 18 December at St Gabriel’s, Deritend. He died in 1952 aged 60.
vi. Beatrice, born 1894Q3.

467. xii. WILLIAM, born in Fleet Street, Birmingham and baptised 21 July 1858. He married Emma Allen (born about 1865 in Manchester, daughter of William Allen, joiner, and his wife Sarah Ann) on 26 December 1887 at St Andrew’s, Ancoats, Manchester. They were living by 1891, when he was a bricklayer’s labourer, at 22 Stafford Street, Chorlton on Medlock, Manchester. Emma and her three children were admitted on 8 February 1898 to Chorlton Union Workhouse and I have so far been unable to find the family in the census of 1901. In 1911 William Skidmore was a pipe layer for Messrs Gierces?, sewerage contractors. The family was living at this time at 19 Piercey Street, Ancoats, Manchester.

Children of William and Emma (Allen) Skidmore, born in Manchester,

i. Elizabeth Emma, born 1887Q2. She married Thomas Henry Reece, a fruit salesman (son of John Reece, a greengrocer) on 22 December 1906 at St Andrew’s, Ancoats, Manchester. They appear to be the couple living at the time of the 1911 census at 25 Ducle Street, Piccadilly, Manchester, together with their son William Henry Reece and Thomas’ brother Robert Reece.

866. ii. WILLIAM HENRY, born 1889Q1. A glassmaker at Joseph Kidd’s flint glass works, he married Elizabeth Ann Briney (daughter of Thomas Briney, a labourer) on 24 September 1910 at St Jude’s, Ancoats, Manchester. He was killed in action on 27 September 1916 serving with the 11th Battalion, Manchester Regiment. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.

Children of William Henry and Elizabeth Ann (Briney) Skidmore,

i. Elizabeth Ann, born 1911Q1.
ii. Mary E., born 1912Q3.
iii. William H., born 1913Q4.

867. iii. DAVID, born 1891Q1. A carter for John Wright carriers, he married Emily Nurtney (daughter of James Nurtney, a labourer) on 14 June 1913 at St Jude’s, Ancoats, Manchester.

Children of David and Emily (Nurtney) Skidmore,

i. David, born 1913Q3.
ii. Emma, born 1915Q2.
iii.-ix. 4 sons and 3 daughters born between 1921 and 1931.

xiii. Margaret, born about 1860. Her birth registration has not been found and she is not found after
the 1861 census.

xiv. Mary Ann, born 1861Q2. She died aged 2 years 7 months and was buried in Saltley on 10 November 1863.

xv. Ann, born at Back 6 Princes Street and baptised 17 July 1864 at Bishops Ryder, Birmingham. She died in 1868 aged 3 years 6 months and was buried on 12 April 1868 at St Saviour’s, Saltley.

The third son of William [259] and Emma (Barnes) Skidmore, 462. EDWIN SKIDMORE, also known as EDWARD SKIDMORE, born October 1841 and baptised with his brother Benjamin Thomas at St Martin’s, Birmingham, on 15 January 1844. He was a brass pin pointer living in Princes Street when he married Clara Ward at Bishop Ryder Church on 18 February 1861. Clara was born in 1844Q4, daughter of William Ward, a pearl button turner of Deritend, Aston, and his wife Maria. The witnesses were James Lloyd, presumably Edwin’s uncle and husband of Emma Skidmore, and Mary, presumably his aunt, the wife of David. Soon after their marriage they lived with Clara’s parents in Hemmings Buildings, Barford Street.

Edwin and Clara’s family remained in Barford Street until at least 1871. He is called Edward in the 1881 and 1891 Birmingham censuses and had moved with his family to Bordesley Street sometime during the 1870s. Clara Skidmore died aged 45 in Birmingham in 1888Q3.

Edwin Skidmore was living in 1901 with his second wife Laura (born about 1860 in Birmingham, daughter of Frederick and Emma Hart and widow of Charles Lawrence, tailor of Deritend, Aston), her sons Francis E. Lawrence 19 and Frederick J. Lawrence 16, and his daughter Caroline Skidmore.

Edwin Skidmore appears in Kelly’s Directory of Birmingham in 1903, 1904 and 1905 as a safety pin manufacturer of 109 Bissell Street. His wife ran a general provisions shop from the same premises. Edward Skidmore’s death was registered in 1904Q4, aged 63.

The children of Edwin and Clara (Ward) Skidmore, born in Birmingham,

i. Clara, born 1861Q1. Like her sister Emily, a screw worker in 1881 and 1891. She married William Radford, a cabinet brass worker of Dean Street (born about 1862 in Birmingham, son of Thomas Radford, a blacksmith) on 11 July 1892 at St Martin’s, Birmingham. They were living by 1901 in Darwin Street, Aston. Clara Radford’s death was perhaps that registered in Birmingham in 1936, aged 74.

Children, as known – Sarah, Clara May, Emma.

ii. Emma, born 1863Q3. She married, on 5 February 1883 at St Bartholomew’s, Birmingham Charles Hicken, iron plate worker (born about 1860 in Gloucester, died 16 January 1939, son of Edward Hicken). They were living by 1891 in Glover Street, Deritend, Aston and in Rea Street, Birmingham in 1901.

Children, as known (of 14 born) – Charles E., Henry B., Kate, Emily I., William E., George T., Edith A., Clara.

850. iii. EDWIN SKIDMORE alias EDWARD SKIDMORE, born August 1866 in Birmingham. A hair pin pointer, Edward Skidmore married Caroline Tighe on 4 March 1886 at St Michael’s Catholic Church, Birmingham. His wife was born in August 1868, daughter of Andrew Tighe, a musician from Roscommon, Ireland, and his wife Margaret (Keyte) of Bordesley Street, Birmingham.

Edwin and Caroline Skidmore emigrated soon after their marriage. Edw. Skidmore aged 21 arrived at New York on 3 January 1887 on board the Leerdam, his wife a little later that year on 5 May aboard the Adriatic. Edward Skidmore was a silver worker for a jewellery shop and their home was 62 Winthrop Street, Newark, Essex County, New Jersey.

Mrs Skidmore died in about 1908 after making a trip to England two years earlier. Edwin Skidmore died after the time of the 1940 census.

Children of Edward and Caroline (Tighe) Skidmore, born in New Jersey,

i. Ada, born at sea 29 April 1887 aboard the Adriatic.

ii. Edward, born 1 July 1889. He married Helen Catherine Wakefield (born in New York, daughter of Thomas and Clara K. (Stagg) Wakefield) on 31 December 1923 at St John’s, Newark. He died on 7 April 1978 in Florida.

iii. ALFRED, born 5 January 1891.

iv. WILLIAM, born February 1893.

v. Thomas, born January 1897.
vi. Clara, born 28 August 1899.

vii. **HENRY ARTHUR**, born 28 May 1901. The sponsors at his baptism were his uncle Michael Tighe and Mary Ann Arnes (said to be his aunt, but see below). My thanks to his granddaughter Kathy Skidmore-Weishaar who kindly provided information on Edward and Caroline's family in the US.

viii. Robert, born 1903.

ix. James, born 1904.

851. iv. **WILLIAM**, born 1868Q3. A brass tube finisher, he was living in 1891 in Meriden Street, Birmingham. He married Edith Alice Sweet, a nurse (born 1872 in Bath, Somerset, daughter of Frederick Sweet, a coach trimmer) on 30 December 1900 at St John’s, Deritend, Birmingham. They lived at 2, Back of 13 Vaughan Street South, Aston. He was listed in Kelly’s Directory of 1903 as a brass worker of 109 Bissell Street, though it seems unlikely that his family occupied his father’s business address. By the time of the 1911 census they were at 1H 6 Ct, Belton Place, Highgate Street in Deritend.

William Skidmore's death was probably that registered in Birmingham in 1949, aged 81.

**Children of William and Edith Alice (Sweet) Skidmore, born in Birmingham,**

*There were four further children who had died before the time of the 1911 census.*


iii. Elizabeth Esther, born 1899. She married George Edgar Spilsbury at St Thomas', Birmingham on 21 February 1921.


v. Maria Jane, born in 1871Q2 and known as Jane. An umbrella worker in 1891, living at the home of her sister Emma in Aston. She married Frederick Nicholls, a steel stamper (born about 1874 in Birmingham) on 6 June 1892 at Holy Trinity, Bordesley, Birmingham.

They lived in Birmingham and Coventry before emigrating in September 1920 to Newark, New Jersey. Mr Nicholls died in Newark in 1927, Maria Jane Nicholls in 1946 in Belleville, Essex County, New Jersey.

Children – Frederick James, Jane, James, William, Caroline, Edward.

852. vi. **THOMAS**, born 1873Q1. A wire worker, he married Catherine Blockside, a japanner (born about 1873 in Birmingham, daughter of William Blockside, a pearl button maker) on 2 August 1896 at St Mark’s, Birmingham. They were living with their daughters at 1 Ct 3 Barford Street, Birmingham at the time of the 1901 census. Thomas died in Birmingham in 1904Q2 aged 31 and his widow and children went to live with his brother Albert in Alcock Street, Deritend.

**Children of Thomas and Catherine (Blockside) Skidmore, born in Birmingham,**

i. Elizabeth, born 1896Q4. She married in 1922 and died in 1985 aged 88.


853. vii. **ARTHUR**, born 1874Q4. A hairpin and wire worker of Aston, he married Annie Pemberton, a tinware solderer, (born about 1877 in Birmingham, daughter of William Pemberton, a copper kettle maker, and his wife Mary of Dyke Street, Deritend) on 24 October 1896 at St Andrew’s,
Bordesley, Birmingham. They were living by 1901 in House 2 at the Back of 29 Thomas Street, Birmingham, later moving to Allcock Street, Deritend.

Arthur Skidmore was killed in action on 24 September 1917, serving with the 11th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. His name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

Annie Skidmore then married Charles Hicken, her widowed brother-in-law.

**Children of Arthur and Annie (Pemberton) Skidmore, born in Birmingham,**

i. Clara, born 3 January 1897. She married in 1923 and died in 1969 aged 72.

ii. William Edwin, born 1900Q3 and baptised 28 October 1901 at St Nicholas, Birmingham. He married Catherine Flora Charlotte Nicholls (daughter of John Nicholls, a bricklayer’s labourer) on 20 May 1918 at Holy Trinity, Bordesley.


v. **JOHN JAMES**, born 6 February 1910, baptised 23 February at St Basil’s, Deritend.


vii. Frank, born 1915Q1.

viii. Mary Ann, aged 3 in 1881, perhaps registered in Birmingham in 1876Q4. She is said to have married _____ Arnes and to have been present at the baptism of her nephew Henry Arthur in 1901 in Newark. However, she was living by 1911 in Birmingham, England with the family of her sister Emma Hicken, recorded as Mary A. Skidmore and single. She married George Matthews (son of George Matthews, a tailor) on 26 May 1917 at St Basil’s, Deritend, Birmingham.

ix. David Albert, born 1879Q2 and known as Albert. He was cited on the ship’s manifest as close kin when his sister Carrie went to New Jersey in 1907. At this time, he was living at 1 Ct 3 Alcock Street, Birmingham. His death was presumably that registered at Aston in 1918, aged 40. He was buried at Witton Cemetery on 4 September.

x. Caroline, born 1886Q3. A press worker from Birmingham, England, Carrie Skidmore arrived at New York on 21 August 1907, bound for Newark, New Jersey. She gave as next of kin her brother Albert Skidmore of 3 Court, 1 House Alcock Street, Birmingham.

**We now turn to the probable brother of William Skidmore, pinmaker of Aston.**

128. **BENJAMIN SKIDMORE** was a brassfounder of Birmingham. The date of his birth is uncertain. According to the age he gave at census time (1841 aged 35[-39], 1851 aged 50, 1861 aged 57), he was born somewhere between 1801 and 1804. He died in 1868 said to be aged 71, which would place his birth in about 1797.

He appears to be a younger brother of William Skidmore above. Francis Sutton, perhaps a relative of Mary Ann Sutton who married John Skidmore, witnessed Benjamin Skidmore’s marriage to Sarah Hatton on 6 September 1829 at St Martin’s. According to censuses Sarah Hatton was born in Birmingham about 1802.

Benjamin and Sarah Skidmore lived at Little Charles Street in 1834 and Alcester Street in 1838. He gave his occupation as stamper, living in Little Ann Street in 1840-41 and as brassfounder of Bordesley Street between 1843 and 1850. At the time of the 1851 census they were at 2 Ct 6, Vauxhall Road, Duddeston, Aston, with two of their children, Alfred and Susan. A visitor at their home was widower Joseph Gregory (born in Birmingham about 1791), a retired brassfounder. He was a contemporary and perhaps a brother of Mary Gregory who married Benjamin’s supposed brother William Skidmore.
By the time of the 1861 census the family had moved to Trent Street in the St Martin's area of the city. A pauper, Benjamin Skidmore was admitted to Birmingham Asylum on 10 December 1867, where he died on 7 August 1868. He was buried at Witton Cemetery. His widow then lived with her daughter Emma Hastings before being similarly admitted on 28 January 1873 and died on 22 April 1874 aged 71.

The children of Benjamin and Sarah (Hatton) Skidmore, baptised at St Martin's,

i. James, born about 1830. He died at age 3 and was buried at St Paul's on 8 July 1834, of Little Charles Street.

ii. Elizabeth, born December 1831 and baptised 9 November 1840. She married Thomas Standley, a labourer of Duddleston Row (born about 1828 in Aston, son of William Standley, labourer) on 10 February 1851 at St Philip's. Eliza Standley and William Standley were witnesses. At the time of the 1861 census Thomas and Elizabeth Standley were living beside her parents in Trent Street and later in life moved to Bordesley Street, where Thomas Stanley became a coal dealer. They apparently had no children. Elizabeth Standley's death was perhaps that registered at Birmingham in 1892Q3 aged 61, Thomas Stanley's that registered at Aston in 1897Q3 aged 68.

iii. Harriet, born in July or August 1833, died aged 11 months of Little Charles Street, buried at St Paul's on 29 July 1834.

iv. Emma, born May 1835 and baptised 9 November 1840. She was a metal burnisher before her marriage to Joshua Hasteing, tool maker of Little Charles Street (born about 1827 in Birmingham, son of William Hasteing, forger) on 27 July 1852 at St Philip's. Bride, groom and witnesses were unable to write and make their marks in the register. Elsewhere, Joshua appears with the surname Hastings. He later became, like his brother-in-law Thomas Stan(d)ley, a coal dealer in Bordesley Street. Emma Hastings died in 1869Q2 aged 36, Joshua Hastings in 1881Q1 aged 54. A daughter Betsy (perhaps with others).

v. Benjamin, died aged 12 months of Alcester Street, buried 6 May 1838 at St Mary Whittall Street, Birmingham.

vi. Esther, born March 1839 (according to the baptism register) and baptised with Elizabeth and Emma. She died aged 12 in Bordesley Street and was buried at St Mary’s on 25 September 1850.

vii. [perhaps] Charles, died aged 2 of Bordesley Street, buried 24 December 1843 at St Mary Whittall Street.

viii. [perhaps] Sarah, born 1844Q4, buried at St Mary Whittall Street aged 6 months of Bordesley Street, on 9 March 1845.

ix. Alfred, born 1845Q4. He died aged 8 and was buried on 23 July 1854.

x. [perhaps] Eliza, born 1848Q2. She died aged 16 months in Bordesley Street and was buried at St Mary Whittall Street on 25 November 1849.

xi. Susannah (called Susan in the 1851 census), born 14 February 1850, baptised 2 October 1850 at St Martin’s and again on 18 July 1869 at St Bartholomew’s, Birmingham. She was an umbrella maker at the age of 11, as described in the census of 1861. She married (giving her father’s occupation as a stamper) Thomas Neale, brass founder (born about 1847 in Birmingham, son of Thomas Neale, a labourer) at St Bartholomew’s, Birmingham on 18 April 1870. Thomas Standly, presumably her brother-in-law, and Betsy Hastings, no doubt related to her brother-in-law Joshua Hastings, were their witnesses. It was presumably Thomas' work which took them some time after 1874 to Newington in Surrey, where they are found at 2 Chatham Row in 1881 with daughters Emily 10 and Elizabeth 7, both born in Birmingham. They were to return before 1891 to live in Coventry Road, Bordesley. Mr Neale died in 1897Q1 aged 50.

Children, as known (of nine born) – Emily, Elizabeth, Thomas, Charles, Ada, William, Susannah.

Original data: Commissioners in Lunacy, 1845–1913. Lunacy Patients Admission Registers, Series MH 94. The National Archives, Kew, England. These registers record the names, admission, and discharge details for patients at private and public asylums for the mentally ill.
A note for those readers having a copy of my 2004 book *Skidmore Families of the Black Country and Birmingham 1600-1900*

The families described in this article were originally part of my book *Skidmore Families of the Black Country and Birmingham 1600-1900*, published in 2004. The first section of that book dealt with the Skidmore families of the Black Country, an area a few miles northwest of Birmingham which prospered owing to its position on the South Staffordshire coalfield. I showed that the large number of Skidmore families of the Black Country were all descended from one couple who married in Kingswinford parish in 1625.

The second section of the 2004 book dealt with the families of Birmingham. Skidmore families begin to appear in this growing town in the 1750s. I have now assigned the origin of many of the Skidmore families of Birmingham to the Black Country nearby. They are described above.

This table will hopefully help readers who have a copy of the 2004 book to make sense of the changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head of household</th>
<th>2004 book code</th>
<th>New code and the article in which the man and his descendants are described at <a href="http://www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com">www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Skidmore arrivals in Birmingham, all called Joseph, button makers &amp; toymakers</td>
<td>B24, B28, B25, B26.</td>
<td>KFD [68a], [68b], described above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>B27</td>
<td>KFD [135], described above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>B11 &amp; B13</td>
<td>KFD [137], described above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**NOTES for Skidmore in Birmingham**

*In the interests of space, the numerous Birmingham and Aston births, marriages and deaths from 1837 of unknown Skidmores are not included. These databases can be viewed at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.*

**ANN SKIDMORE**, widow, married William Jobbern, widower, on 30 June 1816 at St Bartholomew’s, central Birmingham. The witnesses were Diana Jones and Thomas Orme.

**BENJAMIN SKIDMORE** married Ann Frances (Frances was her surname but could be a variant spelling of Francis) at St Philip’s on 21 August 1809. The witnesses were Mary Skidmore and William Skidmore.

**MRS CAROLINE (HOLLINS) SKIDMORE**, widow of Inge Street (born about 1826 in Birmingham, daughter of John Hollins, stone mason, perhaps baptised 27 November 1836 at All Saints, daughter of John and Phoebe Hollins) married George Johnson, widower of Bromsgrove Street (born in West Haddon, Northamptonshire in 1819/20, son of William Johnson, wheelwright) at All Saints’, Birmingham, on 18 February 1851. William Hopkins and Mary Ann Hopkins were witnesses. First wife Esther Dickens, married 27 February 1843 at Boughton in Northamptonshire.

**CHARLES SKIDMORE**, perhaps another brother of William [127], married Ann and had issue,

i. Charles, buried 3 August 1819 at St Mary’s, Whittall Street.
ELEANOR SKIDMORE married Abraham Lees at St Philip's on 22 July 1749.

ELIZA SKIDMORE, aged 10, buried 26 April 1840 at St Paul's, of Hatchett Street.

ELIZABETH SKIDMORE of Nelson Street aged 69 was buried on 18 March 1824 at St Philip's.

ELIZABETH SKIDMORE (born 1782 to 1786) of Edgbaston parish married Sampson Deeley, brass caster and widower of the parish (born about 1783 in Aston), at St Bartholomew's, central Birmingham on 24 February 1830. Jane Deeley and Charles Dean were witnesses. Probable first wife Sarah Caswell, married 14 September 1824 at Handsworth. Sampson and Elizabeth Deeley were living in Lombard Street, Deritend in 1841. He was widowed by the time of the 1851 census.

EMMA SKIDMORE, born about 1833 in Birmingham, a metal burnisher, lodging in 1851 at Court 11, 9 Bordesley Street, with the Butterfield family.

EMILY SKIDMORE, widow of Aston Manor (born about 1833 - according to the 1871 census in Bath - daughter of William Barkes?, labourer) married Thomas Luck, an agricultural labourer of Braunston and later a tailor of Braunston and Aston Manor (born about 1838 in Braunston, Northamptonshire, son of John Luck, agricultural labourer and later lock keeper of Nibbits Lane, Braunston, and his wife Eliza, found 1841 and 1851 in Braunston) on 6 April 1868 at Aston. Edward Woodland and E. Woodland were witnesses. Thomas Luck is found in 1881 at 10 Skinner Lane, Birmingham, with his wife Sarah A. Luck. 1871 Skinner Lane, St Martin's, no children.

HANNAH SKIDMORE married William Hilton at Aston on 18 November 1810. The witnesses were Walter Cecil and Robert Roberts. They were perhaps the couple whose children were baptised at Hope Independent or Congregational Chapel, Shenstone, Staffordshire, between 1815 and 1833.

HANNAH SKIDMORE married James Green at Aston on 17 November 1823. Baptisms at St Philip's to 1837. Found in 1841 as James and Anna, he a button maker, at Watery Lane, Bordesley.

HENRY SKIDMORE, born about 1859 in Birmingham, a brass turner in 1881 at Court 5, 7 Great Brook Street, Aston, with his wife Matilda J. (born about 1860 in Birmingham).

HENRY SKIDMORE, born 1874Q4, baptised 19 March 1875 at St Mary's, Aston Brook, son of Elizabeth Skidmore. He died in 1875Q1.

JAMES SKIDMORE married Ann and had issue,
   i. Richard Francis George, baptised 8 March 1802 at St Philip's.

JAMES SKIDMORE married Elizabeth Cartwright on 10 July 1815 at St Martin's. The witnesses were Sarah Skidmore and Alexander Sanders (perhaps the clerk).

JANE SKIDMORE had a daughter Charlotte who died aged 8 at 'The Hospital' and was buried at St Mary's, Whittall Street on 21 August 1836.

JOHN SKIDMORE, a widower of St Martin's parish, married Elizabeth Tibbetts there on 5 August 1782. He signed the register. The name of the first witness is very difficult to decipher, ------ Thomas ----- The second witness was Sarah Bird. Elizabeth was perhaps baptised at St Martin's on 27 August 1762, daughter of John and Elizabeth Tibbetts.

JOHN SKIDMORE married Elizabeth and had two boys buried at St Philip's,
   i. Frederick, buried 3 September 1804.
   ii. Richard, buried 14 October 1804.

41
JOSEPH SKIDMORE widower of St Martin's parish, married Sarah Docker on 22 April 1807 at St Martin's. A witness was Alexander Sanders (perhaps the clerk).

JOSEPH SKIDMORE, tool maker of New John Street, married Matilda.

i. Charlotte, born January (baptised 7 November) 1831 St Martin's.

MARTHA SKIDMORE, born between 1792 and 1796, who was in the japan trade and living in Granville Street, St Thomas, Birmingham in 1841, died in the workhouse and was buried at St Philip's on 21 February 1845.

MARY SKIDMORE, buried 17 July 1790 St Mary Whittall Street, no age given.

MARY SKIDMORE married Thomas Hollins, a widower, on 23 July 1812 at St Bartholomew's, central Birmingham. Mary Johnson and John Herrick were witnesses. Bride and groom signed their names.

MARY SKIDMORE married John Pritchard on 24 October 1825 at Handsworth.

MARY SKIDMORE, a widow, married Samuel Swinburn on 12 January 1828 at Aston. Settlement (not seen) was filed on 9 January 1828 (Birmingham City Archives MS 345/129). A bill exists in the papers of the lawyer Edward Chater, to (presumably a widow) Mrs Mary Skidmore for transactions involved in her purchasing premises in Brick Kiln Lane (Bell Barn Road), Birmingham, from John Inions and Joseph Bramah, in October 1824.

MARY SKIDMORE died 1844Q1 in Meriden registration district.

RICHARD SKIDMORE of Norfolk Street aged 74 was buried on 27 February 1814 at St Philip's. He is perhaps the son of Richard and Mary Skidmore of Shifnal, Shropshire, baptised there 26 November 1738 or son of Thomas and Sarah (Hands) Skidsmore [sic], baptised at Snitterfield, Warwickshire, on 8 February 1739.

RICHARD SKIDMORE, age unknown, was buried at St Philip’s on 30 June 1797.

RICHARD SKIDMORE married Elizabeth and had issue,

i. William, buried 4 November 1808 at St Philip's.

SARAH SKIDMORE married widower Edward Jones at St Martin’s on 11 August 1802. The witnesses were Eleanor Crockett and John Crockett.

THOMAS SKIDMORE, born about 1769 in Birmingham, served in the 9th Foot Regiment, 3rd Royal Veteran Battalion from 1807 until his discharge in 1814 aged 45.

THOMAS SKIDMORE married Elizabeth,

i. Ann Maria, baptised 8 October 1823 St Martin's.

and perhaps to the same couple,

ii. Elizabeth, buried 27 April 1837 at St Martin's, of Meriden Street.

WILLIAM SKIDMORE, born about 1797 in Birmingham. Served from 1815 to 1837 in the 3rd foot Guards. Discharged aged 40.

WILLIAM SKIDMORE, unmarried and born about 1852 in Birmingham, was a gun implement maker, lodging in 1881 at the home of Thomas and Jane Dawson at 137 Hampton Street, Birmingham.

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