File 2 of 21 files on descendants out of Kingswinford, Staffordshire.

SKIDMORE FAMILIES OF BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE AND LATER WOLVERHAMPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE 1790-1900

by Linda Moffatt © 2012

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

For an Introduction to this branch of the family and an account of the first five generations of this branch, see Skidmore Families Of The Black Country, the first five generations on the website www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.
This account begins at Generation 6, denoted by superscript 6 next to the name of the head of household.

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

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

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

PRIVACY
The Skidmore/Scudamore One-Name Study does not, as a matter of course, publish any biographical detail from the last 100 years, unless with permission of descendants. Information posted online, for example at Ancestry.com, is considered to be posted with permission of descendants and is always acknowledged as deriving from an online pedigree.
The Skidmore families described here are descendants of Noah Skidmore [70], born about 1764 in Oldswinford parish. His wife was a native of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire and they spent their married lives there. His sons were cabinet makers. The younger, James Skidmore [143], remained in Bromsgrove, while the elder, Thomas [142], set up in business in Birmingham. Thomas’ son Thomas [270] moved to Wolverhampton, where he established a successful safe-making business and where two of his sons became mayors of the town.

70. NOAH⁶ SKIDMORE, the son of Thomas [33] and Sarah (Parkes) Skidmore, was born probably in 1763 and baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 29 January 1764. There is no evidence of his occupation and he is the only known Skidmore to settle in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, the birthplace of his wife. He married Elizabeth White on 16 February 1790 at St John’s Church in that town. The witnesses were Francis Danby or Darby, and John Southall. Elizabeth was baptised at Bromsgrove on 23 October 1768, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth White.

The index of monumental inscriptions for St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove, held at Worcester Record Office, shows that Noah Skidmore died in December 1800 aged 38, though the National Burial Index shows his burial there on 18 December 1801. His wife survived him and raised their children in Bromsgrove: she was living in 1841 in the Strand with her daughter Elizabeth. She died on 6 June 1850 aged 82 and was buried four days later at St John’s.

**The children of Noah and Elizabeth (White) Skidmore, baptised at St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove,**

142. i. THOMAS⁷, baptised 3 March 1791, TO WHOM WE WILL RETURN.

143. ii. JAMES⁷, baptised 2 October 1793 at the age of 6 months. He was a carpenter and builder who lived with his family in High Street East, Bromsgrove (next to or near the Hop Pole Inn). In 1851 he was employing two men and two boys. He married Phoebe Smith on 13 May 1822 at St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove. She was born about 1798 at Stoke Prior, Worcestershire, perhaps the daughter of James and Phoebe Smith, baptised 28 January 1798 at Belbroughton, Worcestershire. The marriage bond (dated 29 May 1822) was signed by James himself and by Joshua Crane, watch maker of Bromsgrove. The witnesses to the marriage were William Rose, Richard Parry and Ann Smith.

My thanks to Paul Weaver for this information on his ancestor William Weaver who in 1856 was indentured as an Outdoor Apprentice to James Skidmore of Bromsgrove, Cabinet Maker and Joiner. His hours of work during October - March were from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm, and during April - September from 6.00 am until 7.00 pm, being allowed half an hour at breakfast and one hour at dinner. The wage was one shilling per week during the first year, three shillings per week during the second year and an increase of one shilling per week during every succeeding year.

James Skidmore appears to have had a keen interest in church affairs. In his will he left £10 to the British and Foreign Bible Society, the same sum to the London Missionary Society, and £5 to the Independent Tract Society. He died on 24 May 1867 at Bromsgrove aged 74 though his burial is not recorded at St John’s Church. In his will, made at Bromsgrove on 17 December 1866 (proved at Worcester on 3 January 1868), he remembered his wife Phoebe and five children, John, Eliza wife of John Crawford, Mary Ann wife of James Laughton, Martha wife of Charles Edmund Wigley, and Ann. James’ executors were his son John, son-in-law James Laughton of Bromsgrove and Mr Joseph Amphlett, grocer of Bromsgrove. Phoebe Skidmore was living in 1871 in the home of her daughter Mary Ann Laughton in New Road, Bromsgrove. She died in 1878Q3 aged 81.

**The children of James and Phoebe (Smith) Skidmore, baptised at St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove,**

i. Eliza, baptised 1 October 1823. She married John Crawford, nail maker of the Strand, Bromsgrove (born about 1822, son of Benjamin Crawford, nail maker and Sarah) in 1848Q1 in a Register Office/ Registrar Attended ceremony registered at Stourbridge. In 1851, they were living in Spring Gardens, Halesowen, where John was schoolmaster. They emigrated to Australia in 1854, where Mr Crawford became a teacher at Tamworth, New South Wales. Eliza Crawford died on 21

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¹ The code numbers of the heads of household found in my 2004 book are retained here.
January 1898, her husband in 1910. They are buried at Tamworth.

ii. George, baptised 18 January 1825, buried 4 June an infant.

iii. Mary Ann, baptised 6 September 1826. She married James Laughton (baptised at Bromsgrove 21 March 1830, son of Joseph Laughton, grocer of High Street, Bromsgrove, and Ann) at St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove on 25 August 1852. He began as a nail factor’s clerk in the High Street, Bromsgrove, rising to manager of a nail manufacture and by 1881, when they were living at The Highlands, New Road, Stoke Prior, Worcestershire, was a nail manufacturer employing 72 men, 72 women, 12 boys and 5 girls. Mary Ann died in 1883Q4 and James Laughton married secondly Mary Letitia New (born 1854 in Evesham). He had moved by 1901 to Horsham in Sussex where he was an ironmonger with his son Charles S. Laughton.

iv. Emma, baptised 31 August 1828, buried 29 April 1836 aged 7 of the High Street.

v. Martha, baptised 22 September 1830. At the time of the 1851 census she was a visitor in the Halesowen home of Edward Reeve, an Independent Minister. A second visitor was five-year old John William Matthews, born in Wolverhampton and perhaps part of the family of her aunt Elizabeth Matthews who married Thomas [142]. Martha married Charles Edmund Wigley (born about 1829 in Birmingham, son of Reuben Wigley, coffin furniture maker of Lombard Street, Deritend, and ?Emily) at Bromsgrove in 1864Q3. He was a coffin furniture maker and their children were baptised at St John’s, Deritend and Bordesley. In 1871 and 1881 the family was living at 298 Moseley Road in Balsall Heath. Martha Wigley died in 1871Q3 aged 41 and her husband retired to Fernlea, Oxford Road, Moseley. He died in 1893Q2 aged 64.

vi. Ellen, baptised 26 December 1832. She died in 1848Q4.

vii. Ann, baptised 25 December 1835. In 1851 she was living in Stoke Prior with her aunt Rebecca Baker, a widow who farmed fifty acres. She later lived with her sister Martha in Balsall Heath, Birmingham before marrying widower William Joseph Harris, a horn button manufacturer, on 17 April 1871 at St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove. Ann’s brother-in-law James Laughton and Annie Laughton were witnesses. William Harris was born about 1834 in Carters Lane, Halesowen, son of Thomas Harris, a horn button manufacturer of Springhill, Halesowen and later also a farmer of Kitwell House, Woodgate, Northfield, and his wife Jemima. At the time of the 1861 census - when he lived with his first wife Mary Ann on the Hagley Road in Halesowen - he employed 4 men, 10 women and 15 children.

William and Ann Harris went to live in Steyning, Sussex where he was a master grocer at the time of the 1881 census. Mrs Harris died in Steyning in 1884Q3 aged 49 and William Harris was living by 1891 with his son Joseph who with his wife ran a boot and shoe warehouse in Bridport, Dorset. William Harris later married for a third time Sarah C.G.J. Ironside-Hallett and retired to Allington, Dorset. Children, as known, William Joseph and Mary Hannah.

viii. James, baptised 26 July 1837. He died in 1851Q4.

271. ix. JOHN⁸, baptised 16 October 1839. He was a nail factor of Sidemoor and later Stoney Hill, Bromsgrove. Despite being described in the census of 1851 as deaf and dumb, he became a Wesleyan Local Preacher. He married Mrs Louisa Wells (born about 1834 in Bromsgrove, daughter of John and Charlotte Pugh) at Bromsgrove in 1862Q3. Mrs Wells had four known children by her first husband, Amos Wells, nail factor of Sidemoor.

John Skidmore died aged only 28 on 2 January 1868, perhaps at around the same time as their supposed child Louisa. He left a will, naming his wife executor; letters of administration were granted at Worcester in 1868 (with will passed at Worcester 11 January 1904?). Mrs Skidmore retired with her children to The Ferns, Stoney Hill, which she kept as a boarding house. Her daughter Phoebe met and married one of her boarders and, in her later years, Mrs Skidmore moved with them to Frampton On Severn, Gloucestershire, where she died in 1902Q2 aged 68.

The children of John and Louisa (Pugh) Skidmore, born in Bromsgrove,

i. [probably] Louisa, born 1863Q2, died 1868Q1.
ii. Phoebe, born 1866Q1. A school teacher, she married Sidney Thomas Osborn (born 1864Q4 in Great Malvern, Worcestershire), also a school teacher, in Bromsgrove in 1891Q4. By the time of the 1901 census they were living in Frampton Street, Frampton on Severn, Gloucestershire, where Mr Osborn became Head Teacher at the local Gloucestershire County School. No children.

iii. Elizabeth, baptised 27 September 1795. Unmarried in 1841, a grocer. She is probably the Elizabeth who married, in 1841Q3 in Worcester, Robert Rofe, a baker and confectioner of Bromsgrove (born about 1818 in Worcester). Mr Rofe died in 1863Q4, his widow in 1875Q1 aged 79.

iv. Mary, baptised 29 October 1797. She remained unmarried and was resident at The Haymarket in the parish of Saint Martin's in the Field, Middlesex, at the time she made her will on 26 September 1837 (proved 17 November 1837 at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury). In her will she remembers her only sister Elizabeth Skidmore, her oldest brother Thomas Skidmore and his second daughter Eliza, her youngest brother James, his wife Phoebe, and three of their daughters, Mary Ann, Eliza and Martha. She left with her will £25 in money ‘which will foot the expense of my body being sent to Bromsgrove to be interred there in case I die as tomorrow Sept. 27th I go to St Georges Hospital as an in patient to have an operation performed. In the event of my death this is my last wish that my body may be opened by the Surgeons of the institution and then to be placed in a coffin and sent to Bromsgrove with as little delay as possible’. She died three weeks later on 15 October 1837 aged 40 and was buried at St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove on October 25th.

Returning now to the eldest son of Noah and Elizabeth (White) Skidmore,

142. THOMAS’ SKIDMORE, baptised 3 March 1791. He married Elizabeth Matthews at St Bartholomew’s, Edgbaston, Birmingham on 3 April 1814. The marriage was witnessed by Elizabeth Eades and Richard Eades.

(Thomas and Elizabeth Skidmore were presumably the people who witnessed the marriage at Edgbaston of Harriet Matthews (perhaps a sister of Elizabeth) to Joseph Hughes on 11 May 1828).

Thomas Skidmore was a cabinet maker of the Horse Fair, Birmingham until at least 1828. Then it seems he returned for a time to the place of his birth - he appears in the registers of St Bartholomew’s, Tardebigge, Worcestershire, a cabinet maker of Tutnell (a village between Tardebigge and Bromsgrove), when his son James was baptised there on the day before the death of his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth’s death on 19 February 1831 ‘wife of Thomas Skidmore cabinet maker of Edgbaston Street aged 41 years’ was reported in Aris’s Birmingham Gazette.

The will of Thomas’ sister Mary Skidmore, made in 1837 in London, mentions his wife Eliza, though no marriage for him has been found between Elizabeth Skidmore’s death in 1831 and the making of the will. He was living with his children in Birmingham at the time of the 1841 census, apparently a widower and no death of an Eliza Skidmore in Birmingham has yet been found between 1837 and 1841. It is perhaps safe to assume he married only once.

Thomas Skidmore is listed a cabinet maker of 55 Edgbaston Street, Birmingham, in Pigot’s directory of 1841, Slater’s directory of 1852-53 and Cornish’s directory of 1861. At the time of the 1851 census he was employing two men in his business. He died in Birmingham in 1866 aged 74 and was buried, according to an online source which does not name his burial place, on 29 January.

The children of Thomas and Elizabeth (Matthews) Skidmore, baptised at St Martin’s, Birmingham,

i. Harriet, born 31 May (baptised 27 December) 1819. She married by licence Richard Parkes Hunt, a draper of the parish of Kidderminster (born there about 1821, a son of John Hunt, grocer) on 13 February 1847 at St Martin’s, Birmingham. Richard Hunt apparently took on his father’s business in the Bull Ring, Kidderminster, where he was described in the 1851 census as a mercer, hosier and glover. After living for a time in Birmingham, the family moved in the late 1850s to Osborne House, Canton Road, Cardiff and by 1861 Mr Hunt was described as a commercial traveller in waterproof and ready made clothing. In 1881, when their address was 3 St Andrews Place in the St John’s area of Cardiff, Elizabeth Woods aged 69, apparently a sister of Richard born in London, was lodging with them, together with his nieces Sophia Woods and Kate B.
Woods. Mrs Hunt died in 1888Q3 aged 69, her husband in 1892Q2 aged 71. Two sons Richard Parkes Hunt and Frederick Hunt and daughters Eliza Jane, Emily Harriet and Mary Ann.

ii. Eliza, born 25 June 1821 and baptised 8 October 1823. She was called Elizabeth in the 1851 census, when she was still at home with her father. Miss Skidmore did not marry and worked for a time as a nurse to the children of the Minister at Budbrooke, Warwickshire. By 1871 she was keeping a small lodging house at 2 Thornloe Villa in Richmond Road, Malvern Link, Leigh, Worcestershire. She retired some time in the 1880s and lodged firstly in nearby Arundel Villa and later at Ferndale, Church Terrace, Malvern Link. Miss Skidmore died in 1905Q4 aged 84.

iii. Ann Maria, born 7 June (baptised 8 October) 1823. She married draper Henry Minors in 1851Q1. He was apparently a son of Henry and Eleanor Minors, born in Nantyglo, Monmouthshire on 2 November 1829, baptised at Aberystruth 25 September 1830. The death of Ann Maria Minors was registered at Birmingham in 1854Q4.

iv. Thomas, born 12 June 1826 and baptised at St Martin’s, Birmingham on 17 April 1827. He was a cabinet maker with his father at 55 Edgbaston Street, Birmingham before his marriage on 30 April 1857 at Snow Hill Congregational Church in Wolverhampton. His wife, Matilda Eliza Langman of Cleveland Street, Wolverhampton was a daughter of John and Ann Langman (baptised 6 July 1827 at St Peter’s, Wolverhampton). In 1859 they were living in Windham Terrace when their first son was born but moved soon after to Cleveland Road, where Thomas had his business of auctioneer and furniture dealer, and later to 38 Tettenhall Road.

Jim Evans, in his online A Gazetteer of Lock and Key Makers describes a plate from a safe in the Locksmith’s House claiming that the company was established in 1850. He points out that the company was originally named Skidmore and Langham, Thomas Skidmore being in partnership with his brother-in-law. Evans also describes an advertisement from the catalogue of the Wolverhampton Arts and Industrial Exhibition of 1884 which seems to show a well established company operating at the heavier end of the security market and based at the Staffordshire Safe Works, Stewart Street, Wolverhampton. This advert mentions ‘Royal Letters Patent’, which refers to the patents the company held. They were also ‘by Royal Appointment’, though when, to whom and for what is not known. The company continued to make safes up until the 1920s.

Matilda Skidmore died in 1867Q1 aged 39 and Thomas’ sister Jane kept house for him until at least 1881. He had moved by the time of the 1891 census to Parkdale, Wolverhampton with his daughter Ada. Mr Skidmore died on 22 December 1909 aged 83, naming his two surviving sons executors of his estate.

The children of Thomas and Matilda Eliza (Langman) Skidmore, born in Wolverhampton,

i. Jeanette, born 1858Q2. She married, on 29 April 1886 at St Jude’s, Birmingham, Thomas Gripton Greensill, a solicitor who had married firstly Mary Price in 1875Q2

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3 Manchester Times 8 May 1886.
in Wolverhampton and was a widower in 1881. He was born in 1850 in Walk Mill, near Cannock, son of John Greensill, a colliery clerk of 50 North Road, Wolverhampton, and his wife Mary. A son Thomas Wilfrid Greensill 1892-1905.

485. ii. **FREDERICK HOWARD**⁹, born 14 December 1859. He was an auctioneer and safe maker of Wolverhampton and lived in 1891 at The Albynes, Tettenhall Road, also at Windham Terrace and later Edenfield, Compton, Wolverhampton. He married Sarah Kate Willcock (born 1860Q3, daughter of Henry Willcock), at Wolverhampton in 1887Q4.

He was elected to Wolverhampton Council in 1906, as a Conservative representing Park Ward. He was the Chairman of the Town Housing Committee during the period of purchasing and planning the council house estate at Birches Barn, Parkfields and Green Lanes, which were among the first in the country, and it is for him that Skidmore Avenue was named⁴. He also served on the Art Gallery, Free Library, Finance, General Purposes, Parks and Baths, and Public Works committees. During the First World War he took an active part in the recruiting campaign, and welcomed the first arrival of Belgian refugees. Married to the sister of a later mayor, Frederick Willcock, he had three sons, all of whom participated in the Great War. He was a churchwarden at St Peter’s and a member of St Peter’s Lodge and its representative on the Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association.

In 1913 he became mayor, holding the office for one year; and in 1915 was elected alderman. His name was added to the Commission of the Peace of the Borough in 1918. Following a road traffic accident he died at his home, ‘Edenfield’, Compton, on Monday 12th July 1920, leaving a will naming his three sons as executors. He was aged 60, and had resigned from his position as alderman on the same day. Mrs Skidmore died in 1939 at the age of 78 and a window was installed at St Peter’s, Wolverhampton in memory of Frederick Howard Skidmore and Sarah Kate Skidmore.

*The children of Frederick Howard and Sarah Kate (Willcock) Skidmore, born in Wolverhampton,*


ii. **FREDERICK OSWALD**¹⁰, born 1894Q1. He served in France in WW1, attached to the King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He married Mary Joyce Rayner on 2 June 1921 at Christ Church, Paddington, London. Miss Rayner was born at 114 Harrow Road, Paddington, the daughter of William John Rayner, a grocer and wine merchant. Mr Skidmore died in 1977 aged 83.

*Children,*

i. **FREDERICK JOHN**¹¹, born 1922. He married May. Mr Skidmore kindly supplied names of the descendants of Thomas and Matilda (Langman) Skidmore. He died in

⁴ www.localhistory.scit.wlv.ac.uk/articles/streets

ii. Kathleen Joyce, born 1924. She married in 1954.

iii. **NEIL RAYNER**\(^3\), born 1931. He married Brenda. Sons Christopher Simon, Jeremy David and Brian Daniel.

iii. **THOMAS VICTOR**\(^3\), born 1897Q3. He married Ursula. Sons John Anthony (1935-1951) and Richard Piers. Mr Skidmore died on 24 February 1940.

iii. Ada, born 1861Q4 and baptised 24 May 1863 at St George’s, Wolverhampton. She was living unmarried at 1 Parkdale, Wolverhampton in 1911. She died in 1943 aged 81.

iv. Percy, baptised 8 September 1863 at St George’s and died soon after.

v. **ARTHUR CHARLES**\(^9\), baptised 19 April 1865 at St George, Wolverhampton. He married Eliza Marian Rayner in 1895Q2 in Paddington. She was born in 1865Q1 in Paddington, London (died 1946), daughter of William Rayner, tea dealer and wine merchant, and his wife Eliza M. They were living with their daughter Rayna in Waterworks Road, Tettenhall in 1901.

He was in the Staffordshire Volunteer Regiment, 4th Battalion, and was made Temp. Lt. in 1917\(^5\) and Temp. Capt. in May 1918\(^6\).

Arthur Charles Skidmore
from the collection of Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies, ref.Y1/Ski/2

He was a member of the town council from 1909 and was elected mayor in 1915, holding the office until 1917. In 1918 he was made an alderman and was chairman of two committees, the Water Committee from 1919 until 1920; and the Care of the Blind Committee from 1921 until 1924.

Mr Skidmore resigned as Langley Borough Coroner early in 1935 owing to ill health, and transferred the firm of A. C. Skidmore & Co., Solicitors, operated until then in partnership with his nephew Frederick Oswald Skidmore at 44 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, solely to his nephew\(^7\). He died on 28 May 1940\(^8\).

The children of Arthur Charles and Eliza Marian (Rayner) Skidmore, born in Wolverhampton,

i. Rayna Margaret, born 1897Q4 and died 1946. She married Ronald Guy Willcock (1898-1979) in 1927. Had, as known, a son and a daughter.

ii. Clarice Adeline, born 1901Q3, married Frank Blythe.

iii. May (Molly), born 1902Q4. She married Henry Patrick E. Pereira in 1939 and died in 1946. As known, one son.


v. Jane, born 23 November (baptised 29 December) 1828. She did not marry and lived with the family of her brother Thomas until at least 1881. She was living at the time of the 1911 census at 6 Westminster Road, Handsworth and died in 1912 aged 83.

vi. James, born 12 February 1831 and baptised on the 18th of that month at St Bartholomew’s, Tardibegge, Worcestershire, and apparently again on 1 January 1833 at St Martin’s, Birmingham.

\(^6\) Supplement to The London Gazette, 28 May, 1918, p.6219.
\(^7\) The London Gazette, 30 August 1935, p.5554.
\(^8\) www.localhistory.scit.wlv.ac.uk/history/chronology
James, cabinet maker of Birmingham, died on 2 June 1847 (though the date of death on administration papers was given as 2 June 1848). Administration was granted at Lichfield on 28 September 1848 to his father. Other parties named in the obligation were William Cook, clothier of Birmingham, and John Twist of Birmingham, victualler. James was buried at St Martin’s, Birmingham, on 5 June 1847, aged 16 of Summer Lane.

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