File 8 of 21 files on descendants out of Kingswinford, Staffordshire.

SKIDMORE MINERS OF AMBLECOTE, STAFFORDSHIRE 1760-1910

by Linda Moffatt © 2013

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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 the sons of Henry Skidmore [42]1,2,
collier of Amblecote, Staffordshire -

Benjamin Skidmore [83],
Joseph Skidmore [84], p.4 and
Richard Skidmore [85], p.6.

In the main, they remained in Amblecote into the mid-19th century.

Henry's great-grandson Benjamin Skidmore [314] moved into Brierley Hill, where his descendants were iron
workers in the area of Level Street.

[For the Wesleyan Skidmores of Stamford House, see 15. 'Skidmores of Stamford House, Amblecote'].

83. BENJAMIN6 SKIDMORE, the son of Henry [42] and Esther Catherine (Bolus) Skidmore, was baptised
on 8 March 1761 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford and very probably raised in Amblecote. He married Elizabeth Aston
on 26 December 1781 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. A witness was Thomas Taylor. Elizabeth is thought to have been
baptised on 10 May 1761 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, the daughter of Cornelius and Mary Asson. Benjamin
and Elizabeth spent their married life in Oldswinford parish, almost certainly in Amblecote. Benjamin died on
Christmas Day in 1816 aged 55 and was buried 4 days later. Elizabeth died on 4 September 1829 at the Hamlet
(thought to refer to Amblecote) aged 67 and was buried on 8 September. A stone to their memory exists in
Oldswinford churchyard. Also recorded on the stone are their children Esther, Mary, Ann, Elizabeth and her
husband Moses Price, Sarah and Margaret.

The children of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Aston) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford.

i. Esther, baptised 22 December 1782. She married John Cooper on 18 May 1807 at Halesowen.
The marriage was witnessed by Benjamin Robinson and Elizabeth Skidmore. One son Benjamin
Cooper is known to have been baptised in Oldswinford in 1812. Esther Cooper died in December
1821 aged 39.

ii. Mary, baptised 22 November 1785. She seems to have been the second wife of Solomon
Pearson, a yeoman of Amblecote, who married firstly her sister Ann. Mary and Solomon were
married on 12 September 1808 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, the licence having been signed by
Solomon Pearson and by Daniel Pearson, yeoman of Kingswinford. The witnesses were her
brother-in-law John Cooper and Elizabeth Skidmore, probably her mother. Solomon and Mary
Pearson had one child Ann before Mary’s death on 26 July 1811 aged 26.

iii. Ann, baptised 23 September 1787. She appears to be the first wife of Solomon Pearson who
later married her sister Mary. Ann and Solomon were married on 22 September 1806 at St John
the Baptist, Halesowen, witnessed by her sister Mary Skidmore. Ann died only one year after her
marriage, on 13 November 1807 aged 20.


v. Elizabeth, baptised 21 August 1791. She married Moses Price, spade maker (probably baptised
20 July 1788 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, son of Moses and Mary (Taylor) Price), on 25 November
1810 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. The witnesses were Solomon and Mary Pearson, her sister and
brother-in-law. Eight children of Moses and Elizabeth Price were baptised at St Mary’s,
Oldswinford between 1811 and 1831, though they moved from Stourbridge to Netherton around
18203. Moses died on 17 March 1835 aged 46 and Elizabeth died a year later on 19 August 1836
aged 45.

Children, as known - Mary Ann, Joseph, Benjamin, Moses, Thomas, Elizabeth, James, Samuel.

vi. Sarah, baptised 16 June 1794. She married Isaac Robinson, a coal miner (born about 1794 in
Oldswinford parish), on 4 July 1825 at St Giles, Rowley Regis, witnessed by Moses Price her
brother-in-law, and by Richard Gaunt. They baptised four children at St Mary’s, Oldswinford to

1 The code numbers of the heads of household found in my 2004 book are retained here. There are modifications to the
numbering in Generation 9, but changes are indicated, allowing readers who have the book to cross-reference.
2 The male cousins of Henry [42] - sons of Henry [21] - gave rise to a line of glassmen and are described in Skidmore
3 Note that a different Moses Price, collier of Owen Street, Tipton, and his wife Elizabeth, had children baptised at Tipton
between 1815 and 1819, and then at Dudley in 1822 and 1823.
1838 and lived in Amblecote Bank in the hamlet of Amblecote. Sarah Robinson died on 3 December 1851 aged 57. (A stone exists in Oldswinford churchyard to the memory of their son Joseph Skidmore Robinson 1831-98 and his wife Margaret 1832-99).

Children, as known - Benjamin, Thomas, Elizabeth, Sarah.

vii. Margaret, baptised 10 December 1797 and buried 22 August 1798 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, aged 1.

viii. Margaret, baptised 21 July 1799. She died unmarried on 28 January 1824 aged 24 of the Hamlet.

continued
84. JOSEPH SKIDMORE, the son of Henry [42] and Esther Catherine (Bolus) Skidmore, was baptised on 2 February 1766 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. He was a miner and probably spent his childhood in Amblecote. It seems he married twice and married sisters, both daughters of Benjamin and Ann (Gauden) Asson. His first wife Esther Aston (baptised on 22 December 1765 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford) he married on 27 January 1788 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. John Foley and William Steward were the witnesses. A stone in Oldswinford churchyard records Esther’s death at the age of only 27 on 9 December 1793. Also remembered are Joseph and children of both his marriages - Benjamin, Phoebe, Sarah, John, Richard and Samuel.

Joseph married his second wife Ann Aston (baptised 3 June 1770) on 3 August 1795 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, the wedding witnessed by William Baker. Their daughter Ann Skidmore said in later censuses that she was born in Quarry Bank about 1813. Joseph died on 14 November 1818 aged 52 and Ann lived in Amblecote Bank, where she died over twenty years later, on 15 April 1840 aged 70. She could be the lady who occupied a house and garden (part of Plot 1082 in Fowler’s survey of 1822) in Withymoor, south of Delph Road in Amblecote. Her will, dated 28 September 1839 and proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 20 May 1840, left a house each, all situated near to The Cross at The Lye in Oldswinford parish, to her daughters Esther the wife of Joseph Aston engineer, Elizabeth the wife of John Dudley, and Ann Skidmore and any future husband she may have. Her grandson Joseph Skidmore, ‘son of my late daughter Phoebe Skidmore’ received another house and also the public house known as The Cross. There are detailed instructions for the disposal of her household goods between her three daughters and her grandson Joseph. Elijah Aston, miner of Netherton, was her sole executor.

The children of Joseph and Esther (Aston) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,
i. Benjamin, baptised 14 December 1788. He was a cordwainer and is perhaps the man who occupied a house in Brierley Hill (Plot 469a in Fowler’s plan of 1822) on the north-west side of Church Street, at its junction with North Street. He owned the Cross Inn in Lye which in his will (made in February 1823 and proved two months later at Lichfield) he left in trust to his friend John Aston, miner of Amblecote, and Joseph Skidmore, miner of Tipton. Joseph Skidmore is almost certainly Joseph [111] who married Sarah Aston, probably another daughter of Benjamin and Ann (Gauden) Asson, and so Benjamin Skidmore’s uncle by marriage. Benjamin and Ann Asson had a son John, born in 1767, who might be the other trustee. These trustees were to invest the rents, issues and profits until Benjamin’s brothers Charles and Joseph reached the ages of 25 years, whereupon the Inn and investments were to pass to his said brothers. In the event of neither brother reaching the age of 25 (which, in fact, was the case) then the Inn was to pass to ‘my own right heirs for ever’ and ‘the profits from investment unto my own next of kin’. The Cross Inn had been in the occupation of Hester Cox and at the time of the will was in the occupation of William Cox. 20th century documents concerning the Inn can be found at Worcestershire Record Office apparently amongst papers relating to the estate of Miss Margaret Westwood. Benjamin’s will mentions his sister Esther and stepsisters Elizabeth (who was by then married), Phoebe and Ann. He died aged 34 on 14 April 1823 and was buried at St Mary’s, Oldswinford.

ii. Phoebe, baptised 24 October 1790, buried 5 August 1806 aged 15.

iii. Sarah, baptised 13 January 1793, died soon after her infant brother Samuel, on 4 March (buried 6 March) 1810 aged 17.

The children of Joseph and Ann (Aston) Skidmore,
iv. John, baptised 27 September 1795, died 20 November (buried 3 December) 1820 aged 25.

v. Esther, baptised 3 September 1797. The baptism register says she is the child of Joseph and Esther, but this appears to be a clerk’s error. She married Joseph Aston, a mining ‘engineman’, on 13 September 1818 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen. The witnesses were John Skidmore, her brother, and her paternal aunt Mary Stevens, wife of Jeremiah Stevens. They lived in Amblecote Bank and seven children appear to have been baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford to 1835. Joseph Aston, who was widowed by the time of the 1841 census, continued to live with their children at Amblecote Bank. His wife was mentioned in the will of her mother and her

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5 A photograph of the Cross Inn, Lye dated about 1905 can be found in Britain in Old Photographs – Lye & Wollescote by Pat Dunn.
6 Worcester Record Office ref. 705:399/8008/73/ix.
vi. Elizabeth, baptised 17 November 1799. She married firstly James Gauden (possibly baptised 2 September 1798 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford, son of Joseph and Priscilla Gauden) on 28 May 1822 at St Thomas’, Dudley. He died aged 28 and was buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill on 12 August 1828. Elizabeth Gauden married John Dudley (born about 1803 in Dudley, died 4 November 1869 aged 66) on 28 February 1832 at All Saints, West Bromwich. He was a boot and shoemaker and provision dealer of Amblecote Bank. They raised Joseph [315], son of Elizabeth’s sister Phoebe. A stone in Oldswinford churchyard tells us that Elizabeth died on 29 November 1875 aged 79.


viii. Charles, baptised 18 November 1804, buried 25 January 1825 aged 20 of Amblecote.

ix. Joseph, baptised 8 March 1807, buried 5 May 1826 aged 19 of Amblecote.

x. Samuel, baptised 13 August 1809, buried 18 January 1810, an infant.

xi. Phoebe, baptised 21 April 1811. She married Richard Skidmore [167] at St Thomas’, Dudley on 17 May 1830. The marriage was witnessed by Edward Skidmore.

xii. Ann, baptised 1 August 1813. She married Samuel Grice, an engine driver of Mount Pleasant (baptised on 27 Feb 1814 at St Leonard’s, Bilston, son of Samuel Grice, engineer, & Elizabeth) on 13 March 1841 at Holy Trinity, Wordsley. The witnesses were Edwin John Dunn and Phoebe Stamps. Phoebe Stamp’s grandfather is apparently Joseph [111] (who married Ann Skidmore’s aunt Sarah Aston).

Samuel and Ann Grice lived close to Ann’s sister Elizabeth Dudley on Amblecote Bank and, judging by the position of their homes in the census, on either side of Mousehall Farm. Their niece Phoebe Aston lived with them (youngest daughter of Ann’s sister Esther, born in Amblecote in 1835), including the time they spent in Bordesley, Aston where they were living in Bowyer Street in 1861. They had returned to Amblecote by 1871, where Mr Grice died perhaps in 1878Q3 aged 63. Ann Grice remained there and in 1881 lived next to James Bailey and his wife Jane (widow of Joseph [315], Ann’s great nephew). Her niece Phoebe Aston had married Mr Walters and she and two of their sons lived with her aunt. Mrs Grice died in 1887Q2 aged 75.

A daughter Betsy Mary Ann (1838-1845).
85. RICHARD 6 SKIDMORE, the son of Henry [42] and Esther Catherine (Bolus) Skidmore, was baptised on 20 November 1774 at St Mary's, Oldswinford and raised in Amblecote. He married Elizabeth Cooksey on 19 October 1795 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, on the same day that his sister Mary Skidmore married Jeremiah Stevens. Both marriages were witnessed by Harden Cooksey, who was the beadle for many years and uncle to Elizabeth. Richard and Elizabeth's second witness was Thomas Gill. Elizabeth Cooksey was baptised on 25 August 1776 at St Mary's, Kingswinford, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Cartwright) Cooksey (married on 10 November 1767 at St Mary's, Kingswinford). Elizabeth's sister Susannah Cooksey married William Mees on 28 October 1804, where they lived in Amblecote. Sarah, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Cooksey) Cooksey (married on 10 November 1767 at St Mary's, Kingswinford), Elizabeth's sister Susannah Cooksey married William Mees and their daughter Jane Meese married Joseph Skidmore [315]. In other words, Elizabeth's niece married the brother of Thomas Perry who married Rebecca Skidmore, daughter of Obadiah [55].

Richard and Elizabeth Skidmore were to be married for fourteen years before Richard's death aged only 34. He was buried on 24 August 1809 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, shortly before the birth of their son Richard, no doubt named in his father's memory. Elizabeth remained in Amblecote and saw her son Samuel buried in 1814 at the age of only 17. On 25 October 1818 she married widower John Perry at St John the Baptist, Halesowen. The marriage was witnessed by Richard Scriven. John Perry could be the man who married firstly a Sarah Skidmore at St Thomas', Dudley on 2 June 1816. More work is needed on the Perry families in this area but he would appear to be the brother of Thomas Perry who married Rebecca Skidmore, daughter of Obadiah [55]. John, son of Richard and Mary Perry, was baptised on 28 July 1776 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. John Perry died before 1841, when we find Elizabeth Perry an independent widow, living in Amblecote with daughter-in-law Eliza Skidmore (widow of Edward) and her children.

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

i. Sarah, baptised 6 March 1796, buried 27 January 1802 at St Mary's, Oldswinford aged 6.

ii. Samuel, baptised 14 January 1798, buried 25 December 1814 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.

iii. Sylvia, baptised 20 July 1800. She married labourer Aaron Smith on 18 April 1825 at Wolverhampton. Their first child was baptised in 1826 at St Martin's, Tipton, where they lived in Princes End. Three further children were baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill between 1828 and 1835. Children, as known - Thomas, Sarah, John, Edward.

iv. Eliza, baptised 6 March 1803. She married Thomas Southern, iron refiner of the Delph, on 28 January 1821 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. The witnesses were John Perry, her stepfather, and Phoebe Williams.

166. v. EDWARD 7, baptised 31 March 1805, was a miner of Amblecote. His father died when he was only 4 years old and he lived with his widowed mother in Amblecote until she remarried in 1818. At the time of his marriage to Eliza Mason on 24 September 1831 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, Edward was a resident of Oldswinford parish. The witnesses were John Wallens jnr and Hannah Mary Mason. Eliza was born in Halesowen and baptised there on 24 February 1811, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Mason. Her father was born in St John's parish, Worcestershire and was a victualler of Dunn's Bank, Quarry Bank, in 1851. Edward and Eliza remained in Amblecote until his untimely death at the age of only 36. He was buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 2 May 1841, shortly before the birth of their daughter Eliza. Eliza and the children moved almost immediately to the home of her widowed mother-in-law Elizabeth Perry, in Amblecote (near Delph Lane brickyard). She remained there until at least 1851, (though Elizabeth Perry does not appear in the census of that year). By 1856 she was living in London Terrace, Hart's Hill, (Dudley parish) and no doubt helping to care for the family of her daughter Elizabeth Skelding who died there in 1858. By 1871 she and her daughter Eliza were servants, living in the home in Wellington Road, Dudley of Samuel Capewell, colliery proprietor (perhaps a colmaster, which he is called in the census of 1881). Daughter Eliza then had a son Joseph Edward Skidmore, born in 1869, and later in 1871 she married Samuel Capewell. This family unit moved before the time of the 1881 census to 40 Oakeywell Street, Dudley, where Eliza Skidmore died in mid-1881 aged 70.

The children of Edward and Eliza (Mason) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,

i. Richard, baptised 5 February 1832. He was an iron worker and living in 1851 with his mother's parents, John and Elizabeth Mason, at Dunn's Bank. He was buried on 10 November 1851 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, aged 19.

ii. Samuel, baptised 23 February 1834. A stone miner, buried 17 August 1856 at Oldswinford, aged 22 of Hart's Hill.
iii. Elizabeth, baptised 19 June 1836. At the time of the 1851 census she was visiting the home of Samuel Perks, nail and chain manufacturer, at Waste Bank ‘School Houses’ in Wollescote. She married David Skelding, a coal and later a stone miner (born about 1830 in Woodside, Dudley, son of Isaiah Skelding, coal miner of Holly Hall and later the Delph, and Dinah) on 30 October 1853 at All Saints’, Sedgley. Elizabeth died in 1858Q4 and David went with their son James Henry Skelding to live with his mother-in-law. By 1871 he had married secondly Mary Ann _____ (born in Lye) and was living at 9 Turners Lane and they later moved to Brettell Lane where he became a licensed victualler.

314. iv. **BENJAMIN**, baptised 23 December 1838 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford. After his father’s death in May 1841 his mother Eliza lived in Delph Lane with her mother-in-law Elizabeth Perry and this house remained the home of Eliza Skidmore and her sons, both stone miners. Some time between 1851 and the death of his brother Samuel in 1856, the family had moved to London Terrace, Hart’s Hill, with Benjamin’s widowed brother-in-law David Skelding.

On 27 March 1865 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford, Benjamin Skidmore married Eliza Mason (born about 1847 at Sharnford near Leicester, daughter of labourer John Mason and his wife Phoebe who moved to Hart’s Hill around 1852). The witnesses were Francis Bradley and Keziah Lawley. Benjamin Skidmore became an iron worker and his family lived in Court 4, Level Street, Brierley Hill, until at least 1901.

Mr Skidmore died in 1898Q2 aged 59, his wife in 1903Q1 aged 57.

**The children of Benjamin and Eliza (Mason) Skidmore, born in Level Street,**

592. i. **JAMES HENRY**, [was 541.] born 1866Q3 in Level Street, Brierley Hill. A blast furnaceman, he married Mary Ann Louisa Wedge on 26 June 1892 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. She was born about 1867, daughter of John Wedge, woodcutter of Gallows Tree Elm, Kinver, Staffordshire, and his wife Elizabeth. The marriage was witnessed by Phoebe Skidmore, James’ sister, and by George Arthur Wedge, Mary Ann’s brother. (At the time of the 1881 census her brother George Wedge was living in Lower Delph, with his mother Elizabeth and stepfather Charles W. Guager). Mary Ann Wedge in 1881 was with her uncle and aunt Thomas Meredith, cordwainer, and Sarah at Potters Cross, Kinver. By 1891 it appears Mary Ann Wedge had a 2-year old son James Henry *Wedge*, presumably by James Henry Skidmore since this child was registered as James Henry *Skidmore*. James and Mary Ann were living in 1901 at 105 Bromley Lane, Pensnett with their children Florence and Alfred. Their son Alfred Richard, at the time he enlisted with the army in May 1917, gave the family address as 76 Fenton Street, Brierley Hill.

**The children of James Henry and Mary Ann Louisa (Wedge) Skidmore,**

i. James Henry, born 1888Q2 in Brierley Hill and registered with the surname *Wedge*. He was raised in Bromley Lane, Pensnett with his grandmother Elizabeth and her second husband Charles W. Gaiger, a gardener. He was living at his parents’ home by 1911, a loader underground in a coal mine.

ii. Phoebe Elizabeth, born 1892Q4. She died in 1894Q2.

iii. Florence May, born 1895Q1. She is perhaps the Florence M. Skidmore who married at St Mark’s, Pensnett in 1913.

iv. **ALFRED RICHARD**, born 27 March 1898. A horse driver in a coal mine, Alfred enlisted at Brierley Hill on 10 May 1917 with the 4th Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment. He trained at Forest Hall before serving in France from October 1917 to December 1918.
He was transferred in August 1918 to 10th (S) Battalion, Essex Regiment (infantry). A duty order included in his army service records granted him seven days leave, after which 'He will report on 22 December 1918 at the Discharge Centre at Surbiton where he will be transferred to Class "W" or "W(P)" Reserve for the purpose of work in the coal mines.' He returned to work for Old Park Colliery Company, Dudley.

Alfred married Eunice Shepherd in 1919 and had several children. He died in 1958 aged 60.

v. George Arthur, born 1901Q2. He appears to have married in 1928 and had, as known, a daughter and a son.


vii. Edith Gertrude, born 1906Q2. She died at the age of 2 in 1908Q4.

593. ii. JOHN WILLIAM9 (was 542.) was born in Level Street, Brierley Hill, in 1868Q2. He was a labourer of Level Street when he married Mary Ann Jewess of Dudley Street (born about 1866, daughter of Daniel Jewess, puddler, and ?Ann M.) on 12 June 1892 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. The marriage was witnessed by Phoebe Skidmore, John’s sister, and by David Jewess. John’s trade is specified in later censuses as an ironworks labourer. They lived in Level Street, Brierley Hill and by 1911, in addition to their two surviving children, they had a foster child Minnie Skidmore Round, born in Woodside and perhaps registered as Minnie Round in 1904Q3 at Dudley.

Children of John William and Mary Ann (Jewess) Skidmore, born in Brierley Hill,

i. Lily, born 1895Q2. She appears to be the Lily Skidmore who married Charles R. Goring at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill in 1915 and had, as known, four daughters and a son.


iii. A child who did not survive.

iii. Phoebe, born 1870Q2, who died in 1871Q4.

iv. Phoebe Elizabeth, born 1872Q3. She was a witness to the marriage of her brother John in June 1892. She married James Edward Boden, an iron puddler (born about 1873 in Quarry Bank) in 1893Q3 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill and they lived at 37 Blewitt Street, Pensnett. They had, as known, seven children, of whom five were living in 1911 - Jabez, May, Benjamin, Bertha and Samuel. Mrs Boden’s death was registered at Rowley Regis in 1959, aged 87.

594. v. SAMUEL9, born 1875Q1. An iron worker, he married Jane Mason (born about 1880 in Quarry Bank) in 1903Q3 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. They lived in Level Street.

Children of Samuel and Jane (Mason) Skidmore, born in Brierley Hill,

i. Elsie, perhaps registered Elsie Stevens Skidmore in 1904Q1.

ii. May, perhaps Isabella May, born 1905Q1. 2 children who died not survive.

v. Alice, born 1910Q3.


viii. Fanny, born 1915Q2.

v. RICHARD⁶, born 1878Q2, baptised at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 25 April 1888 with his sisters Sabina and Eliza. A furnaceman, he married Mary Halligan (born about 1884 in Walsall Wood, Staffordshire) in 1904Q3 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill and they were living by 1911 with their children Herbert and Dorothy Mary at 61 Station Road, Brockmoor.

Children of Richard and Mary (Halligan) Skidmore, born in Brockmoor,

i. Herbert, born 1906Q2.

ii. Dorothy Mary, born 1908Q3.

vi. Sabina, born in 1881Q3. She was a domestic servant to retired house decorator Thomas Lawley and his wife Harriet at 72 Lysway Street, Walsall at the time of the 1901 census. So far not found later.

vi. Eliza, born 1884Q4. A servant at The Pilot Inn, Pedmore Road, Dudley in 1901.

v. Eliza, baptised 18 July 1841. She had a son in 1869 before marrying widower Samuel Capewell, coalmaster of Lye (born about 1817 at Round Oak, Brierley Hill) on 16 October 1871 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. Emma Lane was a witness. This family moved to Pennsylvania, where Eliza Capewell, a widow, was living at the time of the 1900 census at Latrobe, Westmoreland County. Her son, called Edward J. Capewell, lived with her and was a coal miner. Eliza died 6 October 1918 and was buried in Unity Cemetery, Latrobe.

A son of Eliza Skidmore,

i. Joseph Edward, born 4 March 1869 at Round Oak, registered as Skidmore but called Capewell in the census of 1881. Edward Capewell went with his mother to Latrobe, Pennsylvania and was a coal miner and later a janitor. He was single in 1920. He died of kidney disease on 2 September 1944, having spent 10 months in the 'Way Side Inn' Home, Pine, Mercer County, Pennsylvania and was buried at the Way Side Inn Cemetery.

vi. Sarah, baptised 16 August 1807, buried 20 December 1826 at St Mary's, Oldswinford aged 19 of the Delph.

167. vii. RICHARD⁷, miner of Amblecote, was baptised on 12 November 1809 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. His father died just before or around the time of his birth, and his mother married John Perry at about the time of Richard’s ninth birthday. Richard married his first-cousin Phoebe Skidmore (daughter of Joseph [84]) at St Thomas’, Dudley on 17 May 1830, witnessed by Edward Skidmore, presumably Richard’s brother. Richard and Phoebe spent the sixteen months of their married life in Amblecote before Richard was killed on 14 November 1831 (buried 17 November at St Mary’s, Oldswinford), his death being noted in the Bible of another Amblecote Skidmore, his kinsman Jeremiah [115]. The burial register shows that there was an inquest but unfortunately no coroners' records exist from this period to reveal the cause of death, nor has a search of newspapers been helpful. Phoebe Skidmore is probably the widow of that name who married William Cook on 7 April 1833 at St Thomas’, Dudley (witnessed by Samuel Cook) and whose death at the age of 22 on 7 September 1833 is also noted in Jeremiah’s Bible - 'Pheby Skidmore Late Pheby Cook died Sept 7th 1833 aged 22 years'.

Richard and Phoebe (Skidmore) Skidmore had one child,

315. i. JOSEPH⁸, born in Amblecote and baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 26 December 1830. His father died when Joseph was just one year old and he was raised at Amblecote Bank by his uncle and aunt John Dudley, boot and shoemaker and provisions dealer (born about 1803 in Dudley), and his wife Elizabeth; Elizabeth and Phoebe were daughters of Joseph Skidmore and his wife Ann (Aston). By 1851 Joseph Skidmore was an engine fitter and is also described as an engineer or mechanic.

He married, by licence on 27 February 1854 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, Jane Meese, a daughter of William and Susannah (Cooksey) Meese, baptised 29 March
1829 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. Susannah was a younger sister of Elizabeth Cooksey who married Joseph's grandfather Richard [85]. The marriage was witnessed by Eleanor Jane Skidmore (Joseph's second cousin), John Dudley (Joseph's uncle) and Eli Meese (Jane's brother).

Joseph Skidmore and his son John Dudley Skidmore, 1872

In 1861 Joseph and Jane Skidmore lived in William Street and by 1871 had moved to 41 Park Street in Kingswinford. They were not to have children until eight years after their marriage. Joseph died aged only 42, on 15 August 1872 at Park Street, leaving a will (proved 8 October 1872 at Lichfield) in which he named his wife Jane and also Eli Burford of Brockmoor, an iron master's clerk, his executors. He left to his wife absolutely his interest in a dwelling house and premises at Hart's Hill, occupied by Samuel Beddard. The rents and profits from their home were to be put in trust for the maintenance, education and support of his children. He is remembered on a gravestone in Oldswinford churchyard, together his children Elizabeth Ann and Joseph Richard Skidmore, and also John and Elizabeth (Skidmore) Dudley.

His widow Jane married James Bailey, a coal miner (born in Woodside and baptised 26 September 1824 at St Thomas', Dudley, son of Edward and Hannah Bailey; first wife Eliza Westwood) in 1876Q2 at St John's, Brockmoor and they lived in Amblecote Road, Quarry Bank. Jane Bailey died in 1897Q4.

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

i. Elizabeth Ann, baptised 16 March 1862, died 19 December of that year aged 11 months. Her burial has not been found in the register.

596. ii. JOHN DUDLEY®, [was 543.] born 4 January 1865 and baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 12 March 1865. In 1881 he was at the home in Amblecote Road of his mother and stepfather James Bailey. A coach trimmer, he married Sarah Ann Bloomer (born 14 December 1865 in Quarry Bank) on 6 May 1888 at Christ Church, Quarry Bank. Harry Eardley Morris, the bride's brother-in-law, and Phoebe Jane Skidmore, the groom's sister, were witnesses. Sarah Ann was a daughter of Andrew Bloomer, horse nailer and greengrocer in the High Street of Kingswinford, and his wife Thirza (Foxall). Andrew Bloomer moved from Quarry Bank to Kingswinford High Street just before the time of the 1881 census. John and Sarah Ann's first child was born in Wolverhampton in 1889 but by 1901 they were living in Kirby Road, Birmingham, where Sarah Ann Skidmore died in tragic circumstances on 29 November 1904 when her two children were aged 15 and 5.

John Dudley Skidmore married secondly Margaret, the widow of Joseph Millward on 28 December 1909 at Holy Trinity Church, Lickey. She was born in 1869Q1 in Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire, daughter of Samuel Boucher, a carter, and his wife Eliza, found at the
Brickmaker's Arms, the Thorns, Kingswinford in 1881. John Dudley and Margaret were living by the time of the census in 1911 with their son Arthur at 49 Ashmore Road, Kings Norton. He died at 53 Amblecote Road, Quarry Bank on 4 January 1934 aged 69, leaving a will which named his wife as executor: his wife died on 14 February 1954, and both are buried in Amblecote churchyard.

The children of John Dudley and Sarah Ann (Bloomer) Skidmore,

i. Joseph Andrew, born 10 February 1889 at 66 Drayton Street, Wolverhampton. He left home at an early age (probably soon after his mother’s death) and joined the Navy. In 1910 he was serving on board HMS Acheron. He served in the Far East in the 1920s. Nothing is known of Joseph after a photograph of him taken in 1924.

ii. **ARTHUR JOHN DUDLEY**, born 9 September 1899 in Amblecote Road. He did his engineering apprenticeship at what became Austin Rover in Birmingham. He married Cissie Weaver (daughter of Thomas and Louisa Weaver) who had been schoolmistress at Brampton, Herefordshire for nearly twenty years before her marriage. They lived in Birmingham from the time of their marriage until 1966 when, on retirement, they moved to Weston-super-Mare. Arthur Skidmore died in hospital in Wells on 24 November 1978. Cissie moved to be near her daughter in Cheshire, where she died on 26 December 1996 aged 90.

One child,

i. Hazel Mary, married to Colin. Two children, Catherine Louise and David Hamilton.


iv. Phoebe Jane, baptised 2 April 1871. She married Garibaldi Andrew Williams, a bricklayer, in 1896Q1 at Christ Church, Quarry Bank, and had a daughter Dorothy Jane Williams. Mr Williams was born in Brierley Hill about 1868, son of Thomas Williams, a miner and later a collecting agent of Hill Street, and his wife Phoebe. He died in 1899Q1 aged 31 and Phoebe Jane married secondly Thomas Homer, a warehouseman, in 1909Q4. They were living with daughter Dorothy in Saltley, Birmingham in 1911. Mrs Homer died in 1942.
The marriage in 1922 of John Aston to Martha E. (Pattie) Millward (daughter of Margaret (Boucher/ Millward) Skidmore.
The grandparents shown are Joseph Aston, born 1861 in Amblecote, and Flora, born 1869 in Stratford-on-Avon.

Taken about 1933/34 at Forge House, Upton Bishop.
Back row: Thomas Weaver and his daughter Cissie Weaver.
Middle row: Pattie Aston, Louisa Weaver wife of Thomas, John Aston (husband of Pattie)
Front row: Margaret (Boucher/ Millward) Skidmore, John Dudley Skidmore.
Standing: Joseph Aston, John Dudley Skidmore wearing straw boater, Arthur John Dudley Skidmore, Margaret (Boucher/ Millward) Skidmore, possibly Thomas Homer - Phoebe Skidmore's 2nd husband, possibly Dorothy Williams daughter of Phoebe and first husband Garibaldi Williams.
Middle row seated: Flora Aston, possibly Phoebe (Skidmore) Homer sister to John Dudley Skidmore.
Front row: Pattie Aston.