File 9 of 21 files on descendants out of Kingswinford, Staffordshire.

SKIDMORE GLASSMEN OF AMBLECOTE, STAFFORDSHIRE 1750-1910

by Linda Moffatt ©2016

CITATION
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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 Henry Skidmore [21], yeoman of Amblecote, Staffordshire (1698-1741), specifically of his sons Joseph [43], Richard [44], Thomas [45] and John [46].

Joseph Skidmore [43] remained in Amblecote and his descendants died out in the male line in the 1790s. His sons Henry [86] and Richard [87] are described first.

Richard Skidmore [44] moved to Bristol, where his son Richard [88a] was a glassmaker. See p.4.

Thomas Skidmore [45] was a glassman who went to Whitechapel, London. An account of his son Thomas [89] begins on p.9. This is followed by the many descendants of his son John [90], glassman in Oakengates, Shropshire and Brierley Hill, Staffordshire. This John Skidmore of Brierley Hill had seven surviving sons whose descendants were bottle makers in Blaydon in County Durham, Smethwick in Staffordshire, Newton-le-willows in Cheshire, and in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

John Skidmore [46] of Amblecote had one son Henry Parkes Skidmore, the renowned owner of the Atlas Tube Works in Netherton. See p.42.

The two sons of Joseph [43] and Ann (Mole) Skidmore who raised their families in Amblecote - firstly the eldest son Henry.

86. HENRY⁶ SKIDMORE, eldest son of Joseph [43] and Ann (Mole) Skidmore, was baptised 9 August 1752 at St Mary's, Kingswinford. He is referred to in the King family papers held at Stafford Record Office as a yeoman of Coalbournbrook, Amblecote. The voting list describes Henry as a gentleman of the same place. He married Hannah Smith by licence on 13 April 1776 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. The witnesses were Thomas Jones and Mary Jones (apparently Mary Winser³, married Thomas Jones at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 24 November 1774). She is perhaps the Hannah Skidmore buried on 6 March 1779 at St Mary's, Oldswinford.

Henry Skidmore was almost certainly the proprietor of two houses and gardens found in William Fowler's survey of Kingswinford in 1822 (plot 640g) on the east side of the High Street in Wordsley, just north of its junction with Brierley Hill Road. In addition, it seems likely he was the Henry Skidmore shown on the Pensnett Chase Enclosure Map of 1822, proprietor of the same land (presumably farms) on the corner of Amblecote Bank Road and Black Delph Road which belonged to his grandfather Henry [21].

Henry Skidmore's will, made on 23 August 1816 (proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 13 September 1827), mentions his wife Ann. It is possible he married a second time, though no marriage has been found. His will mentions his nephew Joseph King and his sister Deborah Skidmore of Wollaston but none of his children, who presumably died in childhood. (It was not until 1782 that ages of people buried at St Mary's, Oldswinford were regularly recorded. Burials for Henry’s children are suggested below). He died in Amblecote on 29 June 1827 and was buried on 3 July at St Mary's, Oldswinford, where a stone to his memory and that of his brother Charles exists.

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.
3 Frances Winser, a minor of Oldswinford parish, married Richard Groome, bachelor of Sedgley parish, at St Mary's, Oldswinford on 12 October 1786. Frances' first cousins Sarah Skidmore and Henry Skidmore were witnesses. Frances appears to be the only (known) daughter of Thomas and Barbara (Skidmore) Windsor, baptised at Kingswinford on 11 June 1769.
The children of Henry and Hannah (Smith) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford,
i. Ann, baptised 15 September 1776. Perhaps buried 5 November 1781.

Richard, the second son of Joseph [43] and Ann (Mole) Skidmore

87. RICHARD⁶ SKIDMORE, second son of Joseph [43] and Ann (Mole) Skidmore, was baptised 10 March 1754 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. He was a glass maker of Amblecote and a juryman for Stourbridge in 1781. He married Deborah Whitehouse of Bewdley (apparently baptised 1 April 1753 at the Old Meeting House for non-conformists, Dudley, daughter of Edward and Sarah (Timmins) Whitehouse) at St Mary’s, Oldswinford on 15 November 1780. The witnesses were Henry Skidmore and Sarah Skidmore, probably Richard’s brother and sister. An entry in the International Genealogical Index says that Edward and Sarah Whitehouse lived at Bumblehole (Netherton) at the time Deborah was born.

Richard Skidmore was buried on 8 September 1785 near his mother and his son Thomas Joseph. The gravestone in Oldswinford churchyard gives his age as only 31 years. Deborah Skidmore survived her husband and is remembered in her father-in-law’s will. At the time of the 1841 census she was living with her daughter Ann Skidmore in Wollaston. She lived to be 95 (died 20 October 1846) and was buried on 30 October at Stourbridge Unitarian Chapel.

The children of Richard and Deborah (Whitehouse) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,
i. Ann, baptised 27 January 1782. She was in Wollaston with her mother in 1841. She remained in that village and at the time of the 1851 census was being visited by Mrs Mary Piper aged 86. Mrs Piper appears in the 1841 census in Brettell Lane, hamlet of Amblecote, with what appears to be son Daniel Piper, a maltster. Miss Skidmore died of cancer at the age of 76 and was buried on 24 September 1858 at Stourbridge Unitarian Chapel. The executors of her will (not seen, proved at Worcester on 7 October 1858.) were Charles Holloway, a weaver of Kidderminster (Ann Holloway aged 55[-59] lived with Deborah at the time of the 1841 census), and Thomas Evan Jones, shoemaker of Bewdley.

ii. Thomas Joseph, baptised as Joseph on 27 July 1783 and buried thus on 15 December 1785 at St Mary’s, Oldswinford aged 2.

continued
88a. **RICHARD SKIDMORE**, baptised 6 August 1758 at St Mary's, Oldswinford. He was apprenticed for seven years on 10 March 1773 to James Hill, bricklayer and potmaker. On 4 September 1780 the Bristol Burgess Book records his admittance as a burgess of the town. A poll book of 1781 describes him as a bricklayer and potmaker of St Stephens, Bristol and Reed's New Bristol Directory of 1792 as a potter of Thomas Street, Bristol. He married Susannah Bryan on 23 April 1780 at Keynsham, Somerset.

Richard Skidmore, gentleman of Guinea Street, Bristol, made his will on 16 September 1816, naming his wife Susannah and his children Mary, Richard, Henry, Thomas, Harriet, Charlotte the wife of John Williams [it was, in fact, Harriet who married John Williams], and Elizabeth. The will was witnessed by Amy Jinns, Guy Bryan and Thomas Dix. Richard Skidmore died on 15 May 1817.

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Children of Richard and Susannah (Bryan) Skidmore, baptisms not found,

167a. i. **RICHARD**, born about 1785. He married Sarah Elizabeth Kerslake on 17 April 1808 at St Paul's, Bristol. On 7 October 1812 Richard Skidmore junior, glasscutter, under the patronage of his father Richard Skidmore, brickmaker, became a burgess of Bristol. His children were baptised together in 1815, when he was referred to in the baptism register as a glass blower of Redcliffe, Bristol. Sarah Skidmore died at the age of 56 and was buried at St Mary Redcliffe on 10 September 1839. Richard Skidmore is not found in the census of 1841.

Children of Richard and Sarah Elizabeth (Kerslake) Skidmore,

i. Susannah Bryan, born about 1808, baptised with her younger siblings on 24 December 1815 at St Mary Redcliffe. Nothing further known.

ii. Richard Kerslake, born 1810. Richard Skidmore of St Mary Redcliffe parish was apprenticed on 8 February 1827 to Walter Woodcock Wilmot, glass cutter, and Hannah his wife. No marriage has so far been found for Richard. He died aged 29 and was buried on 16 June 1839 at St Mary Redcliffe.

iii. Mary Charlotte, born 1812. She died aged 25 and was buried at St Mary Redcliffe on 17 May 1838.

iv. John, born 1814. A brewer, he became a burgess in 1838 under the patronage of his father. He married firstly Edith Mackintyre (daughter of Douglas Mackintyre)
on 15 January 1843 at SS Philip & Jacob, Bristol. They were living at the time of the 1851 census in Boulters Place, SS Philip & Jacob, together with a nephew John Wedlock (1847-1851).

Edith Skidmore died in 1851Q4 and he married secondly Louisa Cossons (born about 1826, daughter of John Cossons) on 24 June 1852 at St Philip and St Jacob, Bristol. This couple have not yet found in British census of 1861 or later and they are almost certainly the John aged 42 and wife Louisa aged 30 who, together with a child John Skidmore aged 9, emigrated to Australia in 1857. They arrived as assisted migrants in Victoria in November 1857 aboard the Shalimar.

John Skidmore became a fruiterer of Powlett Street, Kyneton, Victoria in 1868. He was a grocer on the corner of Powle and Jennings Streets whose will (dated 31 July 1880) was proved on 21 September that year, probate being granted to his widow Louisa7. The name of his mother was given as Susannah at the time that his death at the age of 65 was registered. Louisa Skidmore made her will on 11 February 1895 and this was granted to her son John Skidmore, fruiterer of Kyneton, as her sole executor and beneficiary. She died that year aged 69.

The only known son,

597. i. JOHN8, born 1847-48, whose birth registration I have not yet found. He was called John Cuzzens in the census of 1851 when he was living in the home of his widowed grandmother Mary Cuzzens in Bristol. He was known at the time of John and Louisa’s emigration and thereafter as John Skidmore. He married Jane Elizabeth Crockett (born about 1848, daughter of John Crockett and his wife Sarah Jane) and became a Sheriffs Officer in Kyneton. His will was made on 17 June 1915 and probate was granted on 26 August to his widow and his son Henry Jack James Skidmore. The will mentions seven further children. Jane E. Skidmore died in mid-1923, leaving a will but wills of this date have not yet been digitised.

Children of John and Jane Elizabeth (Crockett) Skidmore,

i. HERBERT9, born about 1866. A cab proprietor in Kyneton, he married Annie Welch in 1890. He made a will on 17 October 1898 and died on 15 September 1900. Probate was granted on 8 December to his father, who was made guardian of Herbert’s infant child Stella. His brother William Isaac Kerslick Skidmore was to carry on his business until his brother Henry Jack James Skidmore reached 21.

   i. Estella, born 1890.

ii. CHARLES EDWARD JOHN9, born 1869. A groom by trade, he married Elizabeth Veronica Stevens in 1894. He died in 1923 in Kyneton, leaving a will.

Children of Charles John and Elizabeth Veronica (Stevens) Skidmore,

i. Elizabeth Veronica, born 1895. She died that same year.


iii. Elizabeth, born 1898.

iv. Olive Frances, born 1900.

iii. Susannah Louisa Jane, born 1871.

iv. Sarah Annie Moor, born 1874.


vi. WILLIAM ISAAC KERSLICK9, born 1878. He married

7 Index to Wills, Probate and Administration Records 1841-1925 relating to people whose estates underwent the probate process in the Supreme Court of Victoria.

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Thomas, the second son of Richard and Susannah (Bryan) Skidmore

167b. THOMAS?, born 10 March 1789, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.

167c. iv. HENRY?, born about 1789, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.

v. Harriet, born 5 September 1793. She married on 24 February 1811 at St James', Bristol, John Williams, whose patron when he was made a burgess on 22 July 1812 was his father-in-law Richard Skidmore.

vi. Charlotte, born about 1795.

vii. Elizabeth, born about 1797. The marriage took place in September 1822 between Eliza Skidmore of Bristol, 'youngest daughter of the late Mr R. Skidmore of Guinea Street', and William Bowden of Bedminster. Mr Bowden was an undertaker and carpenter, whose patron when he was made a burgess on 9 May 1824 was his father-in-law Richard Skidmore. They appear to have lived with their children in Bedminster.

Thomas Skidmore died in 1853Q3. His wife appears to be the Susan Skidmore (who said she was born in Newnham, Gloucestershire about 1790-91), lodging in Cook's Gardens, Bristol at the time of the 1861 census. She might be the Susan Skidmore whose death was registered at Clifton in 1867Q1, said to be aged 80.

Children of Thomas and Susannah (Wintle) Skidmore, baptised at St Philip and St Jacob, Bristol,

315a. i. THOMAS?, born about 1811. He was in 1841 a labourer living in Providence Place, Bristol, with his wife Mary (born about 1812 in Bishford, Somerset (Bishport)), and two children who appear to have died in the 1840s. In the 1850s they moved to Cheese Lane and his occupation was recorded at the time of the census of 1861 as a pot maker. His death was perhaps that registered at Clifton later that year.

Children of Thomas and Mary Skidmore, born in Bristol,

i. John, born about 1830.

ii. Maria, born about 1832.


iv. Emma Louisa, baptised 8 November 1818. She died in 1848Q1.

315b. v. MATTHEW?, baptised 18 June 1820. A mason's labourer in 1851. He married Mrs Betsy Clark

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8 The Bristol Mercury, Monday, September 2, 1822; Issue 1693.
9 A Thomas Skidmore married Mary Harford on 15 March 1835 at Dundry, Somerset. If this was this Thomas Skidmore, then the children John and Maria were perhaps children of his wife. The author would be pleased to hear from anyone with knowledge of the Harford families south of Bristol at this time.
(born about 1829 in Timsbury, Somerset, daughter of James Higgins) at St Matthias', Bristol on 11 April 1859. They lived in New Bread Street, where he worked as a labourer in a still house. At the time of the baptism of his daughter, he was a bottleblower of Upper Cheese Lane. He died in 1864Q1 and his widow married thirdly Henry Moody, a blacksmith (son of William Moody), on 19 April 1867 at St Jude's, Bristol. Mrs Moody died in 1907Q2 aged 78.

A daughter of Matthew and Betsy (Higgins) Skidmore,

i. Mary Jane, baptised 19 April 1861 at SS Philip & Jacob. Assistant to a confectioner in 1881. She married William Chinnick, a costermonger (born about 1861 in Bristol) in 1883Q2 and by the time of the 1891 census was living at 2 Dorset Street, Canton, Cardiff. She died in 1892 and her husband continued his business selling fish and fruit in Cornwall Road, Cardiff. Their son William appears to have lived with the family of fruiterer Thomas Roberts in Canton, while daughter May was adopted by Cornelius Self, a greengrocer in Canton. There was also a youngest child Ethel Chinnick, born in 1890.

vi. Benjamin Henry, born about 1823, baptised 28 October 1828. A crucible maker, he married Eliza Tandy in 1855Q2. They were living in 1861 in Avon Street, Bristol. Eliza's was perhaps the death registered at Bristol in 1864Q4, her husband's perhaps at Clifton 1870Q4 aged 47.

vii. Rosina, born about 1826, baptised with her brother Benjamin Henry. Hers was perhaps the death registered at Clifton in 1843Q3.

viii. Selina Adelaide, baptised 22 July 1832. She married James Garmston, an engineer of Barton Hill (born about 1832 in Bristol, son of James and Rachel (Churchman) Garmston) in August? 1849. In the early years of their marriage they and their daughter Emma lived with Selina's parents. The death of Selina Garmstone was registered at Clifton in 1865Q3.

Henry, the third son of Richard and Susannah (Bryan) Skidmore

167c. HENRY7 SKIDMORE, born about 1789. He married Ann Thomas on 13 May 1815 at St Paul's, Bristol. On 10 October 1812 Henry Skidmore, glassmaker, son of Richard Skidmore, bricklayer, was made a burgess of Bristol. He was described as a glassblower of St Thomas [parish], Bristol at the time of his son's baptism. He was dead by the time his father's will was proved in 1817.

A son of Henry and Ann (Thomas) Skidmore,

315c. i. HENRY JOHN8, baptised 24 November 1816 at St James, Bristol. Present evidence suggests his father died when he was an infant. A glass blower, he married Catherine Lane (born about 1813 in Newcastle, daughter of John Lane, a labourer, and the widow of _____ Smith) on 3 December 1837 at St John the Baptist, Gloucester. Mary Ann Morgan and Ephraim Close were witnesses. I have so far been unable to find this couple in British censuses of 1841, 1851 or 1861. Their son Henry John was born in 1852 in Plymouth, at which time his father was a victualler. Henry John Skidmore the elder is described in the census of 1871 as a telegraph creator and his work was presumably the reason for their moves around England in the 1860s, as evidenced by the birthplaces of their children. They were living in 1871 at 2 Collins Court, Bethnal Green, London. Henry Skidmore died in 1878Q3 aged 69, his wife in 1885Q3 aged 72.

Children of Henry John and Catherine (Smith) Skidmore,

598. i. HENRY JOHN9, born 4 February 1852 at 20 Cecil St, Plymouth, Devon. He was a labourer in 1871, living at his parents' home in Bethnal Green. He married Sarah Jane Cookeley (born about 1855 in Shoreditch) at St James', Curtain Road, Shoreditch in 1871Q4. He was a stoker in a saw mill in 1881, living at 16 Long Street, Shoreditch, with his wife and children. By the time of the 1891 census the family had moved to 7 Union Crescent in Shoreditch and in the adjacent house was Mrs Jane Cookeley, a widow aged 59 and, like Henry's wife, a brush drawer - she is perhaps the mother of Sarah Jane. The family remained at this address until at least 1911. Mr Skidmore died in 1912 said to be aged 58 and was buried at Manor Park Cemetery. His wife's death was perhaps that registered in 1939 when she was said to be aged 87.

The children of Henry John and Sarah Jane (Cookeley) Skidmore,

i. HENRY ALFRED10, born 14 June 1872 at 6 New Street, Bethnal Green,
baptised 30 June at St James, Shoreditch. He and his brother Walter transferred from Wellington Street Board School to Virginia Road School, Tower Hamlets on 21 May 1883. He became a chair maker in Hampstead and was lodging there in 1901 in a coffee house in Broadhurst Gardens. Harry Skidmore married firstly Caroline Hatley (daughter of Alfred Hatley, a plumber) at St Mark’s, Old Street, London on 21 December 1902. Caroline Skidmore died aged 22 and was buried at Manor Park Cemetery on 6 July 1905. Henry Alfred married secondly Emma Jane Elmes (daughter of victualler Edwin Joseph Elmes) on 26 November 1916 at St Marylebone, London. Mr Skidmore died in 1949 aged 77.  

A child of Henry Alfred and Caroline (Hatley) Skidmore,

   i. [probably] Caroline, who died in infancy and was buried at Manor Park Cemetery on 30 November 1903.

   ii. Jane Lavinia Kate, born 1 February 1874 at 3 Guys Buildings, baptised 22 February at St Leonards, Shoreditch. Jane Skidmore married John Butler, an upholsterer (born about 1874 in Bethnal Green) in 1896Q2 and was a tooth brush drawer, working in 1901 from their home at 65 Marlborough Road, Shoreditch.

   iii. Walter Lane\(^\text{3}\), born 14 December 1875 at Guys Buildings, baptised 2 June 1876 at St Leonard’s, Shoreditch. A chair maker living in 1901 with his wife and son at 12 Gifford Street, Shoreditch. He married in 1899Q2 Daisy Elizabeth Foreman, an artificial florist (born 1879Q1 in Shoreditch) in 1899Q2. Mr Skidmore died in 1940 aged 64.

The child of Walter Lane and Daisy Elizabeth (Foreman) Skidmore,

   i. Walter Henry, 4 months old at the time of the March census of 1901.

   ii. Susan Kate, born in 1854Q1 in Birmingham. A domestic servant in 1871. Susan Catherine Skidmore married James Steptoe, a cabinet maker (born about 1856 in Shoreditch) in 1874Q3 in Bethnal Green. They were living by 1881 in Hertford Street, Shoreditch.

599. iii. Alfred\(^\text{9}\), born 1857Q1 in Norwich. A sawyer of 6 Sweet? Apple Square, Shoreditch at the time he married Lavinia Gibson, a cardboard box maker of 16 Crabtree Row, Hackney Row (born about 1858 in Bethnal Green, daughter of George Gibson, a general dealer) on 7 September 1874 at St Jude’s, Bethnal Green. The witnesses were Henry John Skidmore and Jane Skidmore. They were living at 50 Fournier Street, Bethnal Green by 1881. Mr Skidmore died in 1885Q3 aged only 29 and by 1891 his wife and daughters had moved to Ashford Street, Shoreditch. Lavinia Skidmore died in 1952 aged 94.

Children of Alfred and Lavinia (Gibson) Skidmore, born in Bethnal Green,

   i. Lavinia Jane, born 8 November 1874 at 8 Guys Buildings, Shoreditch, baptised 6 December at St Leonard’s, Shoreditch. She married John Daniel Paget, a costermonger, on 5 June 1892 and lived in Sarah Street, Drysdale Street, Shoreditch. Nine children, seven surviving - John, William, Mary Ann, Alfred, Elizabeth, James and Albert.

   ii. Alfred, born about 1875. Not found after 1881.

   iii. Eliza Catherine, born 1876Q4. Elizabeth Katherine Skidmore married Albert Edward Coyte (d.1909Q2) in 1895Q2 and lived in Penn Street, Hoxton, London.

   iv. Mary Ann (Polly), born 1879Q1. She died in 1893Q2 aged 14.
89. **THOMAS** SKIDMORE, baptised on 17 November 1765 at St Mary's, Oldswinford, Worcestershire. He married Ursula Hill at St Mary's, Kingswinford on 13 November 1785. The marriage was witnessed by Mary Tilley and by Henry Skidmore, perhaps Henry [86]. Ursula is probably the daughter of Benjamin and Ann Hill, baptised at Oldswinford on 16 November 1760, who had a sister Sarah who probably married Richard Longley.

Thomas Skidmore died aged only 32 and was buried at Oldswinford on 5 February 1798. Ursula Skidmore married Thomas Elwell, a widower, on 1 May 1804 at St Philip's, Birmingham. Fanny Elwell and __?__ Elwell were witnesses. The death of an Ursula Elwell took place in the Strand registration district of London in 1840Q3.

The children of Thomas and Ursula (Hill) Skidmore, baptisms and burials at Oldswinford,

1. George, baptised 30 April 1786 and buried 4 May 1787, aged 1.
2. THOMAS, baptised 27 April 1788, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.
4. Henry, baptised 10 April 1796. A gravestone in Oldswinford churchyard records his death on 27 December 1822 ‘in the 26th yr of his life’. The burial register shows he was buried on 1 January 1822 aged 25 of London. In the same plot are Sarah Longley of London, aged 10, daughter of Richard and Sarah Longley, and Ann Burdin (buried 1813) aged 86. Richard Longley married Sarah Hill, perhaps the sister of Ursula, on 29 September 1800 at St Martin in the Fields, Westminster, but the birth of their daughter Sarah has not been found.

168. **THOMAS** SKIDMORE, baptised 27 April 1788. He married Margaret Hardwick (born in Dudley, the daughter of Thomas and Ann Hardwick, baptised 2 May 1790 at Oldswinford) on 4 February 1810 at St John the Baptist, Halesowen, witnessed by Elizabeth Brooks and Sarah Blew. Thomas Hardwick was the partner of two Wordsley glasscutters, brothers James Parrish (1780-) and Thomas Parrish (1774-) and later their elder brother John Parrish, in the Holloway End Glassworks in Amblecote. In 1800 the local furnace builder Joseph Richardson built a seven-pot furnace for them[10].

Thomas Skidmore was a glass cutter in Dudley until at least 1829. His family's move to Camp Hill in Wordsley came some time before 1839. In 1841 they lived in the area described by the census as 'all the Turnpike Road [now the A491] from Wordsley Bridge to the Turks Head at Audnam and to the end of Brettell Lane, comprising all Mr Webb's houses, the Junction Lock House and houses to L-ifts? Foundry'. Richardson in his commentary on William Fowler's survey of 1822[11] describes a small linear settlement on the east side of the main road through Audnam at Camp Hill (between Audnam Brook and the canal), these houses owned by the glass firm Bradley, Ensell and Holt.

By 1851 Thomas was a master glass cutter, employing in his own right eight men and three boys. He died on 6 August 1854, leaving his glasscutting tools to his son Joseph, and portraits to his sons-in-law Joseph Bourne and Elijah Smith. Margaret (called Mary) was living at the time of the 1861 census in Brettell Lane in the home of her daughter Mary Jane and son-in-law Joseph Bourne and their son Thomas Skidmore Bourne aged 18, a glass maker. She died aged 73 and was buried at Kingswinford on 22 November 1863.

The children of Thomas and Margaret (Hardwick) Skidmore, baptised at St Thomas', Dudley,

1. Richard Henry, buried 2 September 1810 at St Thomas’, Dudley.
2. Mary Jane, baptised 19 February 1812. She was a dressmaker when she married carpenter Joseph Bourne at Kingswinford on 24 August 1840, one of the witnesses being her sister Sarah.

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Joseph was born about 1817 in Dudley, son of James Bourne, a joiner. He was a journeyman carpenter, that is he had served an apprenticeship and was no longer bound to serve a master. They lived in Brettell Lane, next door to Mary Jane’s parents in 1851, and with her widowed mother in 1861. They were still there in 1881, when Joseph was a pattern maker for the iron foundry. Joseph Bourne died on 14 January 1887, Mary Jane on 12 August 1895 at the home of her granddaughter Isabella Smart at 5 Laburnum Street in Wollaston. Mrs Bourne died in 1895Q3.

Their son Thomas Skidmore Bourne, born on 17 November 1842, was a glass maker whose children were born in Amblecote, the youngest in 1879. Shortly after this he moved to Golborne in Lancashire. This information was kindly supplied by their great granddaughter Christine Collins.

iii. Thomas, baptised 12 September 1813. He died aged 19. The Wolverhampton Chronicle reported that Thomas had gone into the belfry of St Thomas’ Church early on Wednesday morning to witness the ringing of the bells. When the ringers were leaving the belfry Thomas tied one of the bell ropes round his waist and started to toll the bell. He was drawn up a considerable height and in his fall severely injured his spine. He died the following day and was buried on 19 October 1832. A stone to his memory exists in St Thomas’ churchyard, together with seven brothers and sisters who died in infancy, and Ann Hardwick who died on 28 September 1824.


v. George, born 2 September 1819, baptised 23 January 1820. Buried 14 April 1839 at Holy Trinity, Wordsley, aged 19 of Camp Hill.

vi. Sarah Hardwick, born 6 January (baptised 17 March) 1822. She married Elijah Smith of Wordsley at Wordsley, on 1 January 1845. He was clerk to a glass manufacturer, probably the firm employing Sarah’s father. Elijah was born in Dudley and baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel there on 1 October 1820, son of George Smith, a journeyman glass maker and licensee of the Harmonie Tavern, Wordsley, and his wife Nancy. Lucy Brown and George Smith were witnesses. Elijah and Sarah were living in Wordsley in 1851 with two children, Sarah Jane Skidmore Smith (married James Sproat at Amblecote in 1865) and George Skidmore Smith. Sarah Hardwick Smith died in 1858Q2 and it is possible Elijah married again in 1859Q2 in Stourbridge registration district - I have not been able to find him or his son George in later censuses. Elijah Smith and William Richardson took over the Holloway End Glasshouse in 1851. Both Richardson and Smith had been glassmakers working for the firm of W.H., B. & J. Richardson (no direct relation to William Richardson) at the Wordsley Flint glassworks. The Richardsons’ business had become insolvent in 1852 and William Richardson and Elijah Smith were among others, such as Philip Pargeter and John Northwood, who took the opportunity to set up their own business. Elijah Smith, William Richardson and their partner Frederick James Mills became founder members of the Association of Flint Glass Makers. The firm continued until 1873 but then abruptly ceased to trade.

316. vii. JOSEPH⁶, born 26 November 1824 in Dudley and baptised at St Thomas’ there on 20 February 1825. In the 1830s Joseph’s family moved to Camp Hill in Wordsley and he became a glass cutter. He married Sarah Horton of Brettell Lane (born in Wordsley, Brierley Hill on 22 July 1821, daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Horton) on 7 October 1849 at St Michael, Brierley Hill. The witnesses appear to have been the bride’s parents. In 1851 Joseph and Sarah were living in Brettell Lane, presumably the lower end where the glass works were located but by 1861 they had moved out to the west of the main road, to Belle Vue in Wordsley. Having lost their first daughter at the age of six, they were to lose their son Thomas Henry when he was only 26 years old. Joseph Skidmore died aged 67 in 1892Q3.

The children of Joseph and Sarah (Horton) Skidmore,  
i. Margaret Elizabeth, born 1850Q4. She died in 1856Q4.

ii. Thomas Henry, born 8 May 1853, baptised with his younger sister at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill on 26 August 1866. He died in 1879Q3 aged 26.

iii. Sarah Jane, born 12 November 1858. She is not listed at home at the time of the 1871 census, though the registration of her death has not yet been found.


90.  **JOHN** sixth (6th) **SKIDMORE**, baptised at Kingswinford on 24 January 1773. He married Sarah Westwood, (baptised 17 November 1776 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, daughter of Edward and Sarah Westwood), at St Leonard’s, Clent on 28 January 1795, when both were said to be of Rowley Regis parish. A witness was Joseph Moody.

John Skidmore was described in the Oldswinford baptism register as a glass maker of Brierley Hill in 1813 and 'the hamlet' (believed to be Amblecote) in 1815. John and Sarah Skidmore spent some time between 1800 and 1807 in Shropshire; their son Edward was born in the area of Donnington Wood\(^{13}\) or Oakengates\(^{14}\) in about 1806.\(^{15}\)

John Skidmore died at the age of 42 and was buried at Oldswinford on 7 February 1815. Two ladies named Sarah Skidmore are found in Brierley Hill in William Fowler’s survey of Kingswinford in 1822. I cannot identify these with any certainty but one is perhaps John’s widow, the other his sister. The first occupied a house and garden of modest size (plot 461) on the north-west side of Church Lane, Brierley Hill - possibly in North Street. The other occupied a sizeable plot belonging to Lord Dudley (plot 942) of over two acres, I believe on the east side of Brierley High Street, in the area of Level Street and Cottage Street. Sarah later went to live with her son John. Sarah Skidmore, widow of Moor Lane, Kingswinford, left a will dated 27 October 1835 (and proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 6 September 1836), dividing all household effects and estate equally between her children John, Charles, Thomas, Sarah the wife of Joseph Partridge, Edward, Richard and George. All that she had under the will of her father Edward Westwood deceased was bequeathed to her daughter Sarah Skidmore. In a codicil she names her two sons John and Edward Skidmore guardians of her grandson Thomas Henry Skidmore son of her late son Henry Skidmore. The witnesses to the will were William Fellowes senior, Joseph Partridge, Job Bate and Joseph Griffiths - and to the codicil John Scriven of Moor Lane, Henry Bridgens of Moor Lane and George Smith of Dudley. Sarah Skidmore was buried on 18 November 1835 at Oldswinford, aged 58 of Moor Lane.

**The children of John and Sarah (Westwood) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary’s, Oldswinford,**

i. Frances, baptised 15 June 1795. The death of 'Miss Frances Skidmore, at Tewkesbury, daughter of the late Mr Skidmore of Stourbridge' was announced in *Jackson’s Oxford Journal* on 1 December 1821. She had been buried at Tewkesbury on 24 November 1821.

169. ii. **JOHN** seventh (7th), baptised 11 September 1796, **OF WHOM MORE LATER.**

170. iii. **CHARLES** seventh (7th), baptised 7 January 1798 at Oldswinford, **OF WHOM MORE LATER,** p.15.

171. iv. **THOMAS WESTWOOD** seventh (7th), baptised 31 March 1799, **OF WHOM MORE LATER,** p.17.


vi. Sarah, baptised 22 August 1802 in Wombridge, Shropshire. (Wombridge is the old name for Wombourne in Staffordshire but here refers to the parish in Shropshire). She married Joseph Partridge of Oldswinford on 9 December 1822 at Kingswinford. Thomas Skidmore, presumably her brother, was a witness. Two men called Joseph Partridge, one a blacksmith of Moor Lane in

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\(^{13}\) There had been a chapel there previously known as St. George's Pains Lane. This later became the parish of St. George's and the records from the Pain's Lane Chapel were deposited with St. George's records and marked 'Chapel of Donnington Wood'. The IGI has listed the records under this title instead of St. George's.

\(^{14}\) For information on this area see www.oakengates.org

\(^{15}\) There was a long-established link between the glass makers of Amblecote and Shropshire. Hancox (Hancox, T.C., *Glassmaking in Broseley*, originally published in the Wilkinson Society Journals 3 & 4 1975-6) explains that between the years 1673 and 1676 one Abraham Bigod, a glass maker from Amblecote, had built a glasshouse at Sneds Hill and presumably used coal from adjacent mines. He suggests that Bigod had been brought to the area by one of the Foleys (Lords of Amblecote) who at that time operated an iron furnace at Wombidge (they had certainly taken glass makers from Amblecote to work in conjunction with a furnace at Stanton Drew, in the Forest of Dean). In 1696 there was only one glasshouse in the whole of Shropshire, in the hamlet of Oakengates. This hamlet was claimed by Wellington, Wombidge and Shifnal parishes indicating that it was situated on a common strip of land where the three parishes adjoined. See also at www.broseley.org.uk Luter, Paul Andrew, *The History of Broad and Bottle Glass Production in East Shropshire*. 

Linda Moffatt 2013
Brierley Hill, the other a glasscutter of Brierley Hill, married ladies called Sarah and had children baptised in the 1820s at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. More study of Partridge families will be needed to distinguish which man married Sarah Skidmore, but they would appear to be the couple living with their children (born in Brierley Hill) in Brettell Lane in 1841, Joseph a glasscutter. Mrs Partridge died, probably in 1844Q3 and Joseph married secondly Sophia _____ (born about 1799 in Dudley) and went to live in Lancaster Street, Birmingham with Joseph’s two youngest sons, where they worked as glassmen and silver workers in the toy trade.

172. vii. EDWARD⁷, baptised 11 August 1805 in Wombridge, TO WHOM WE WILL RETURN, p.27.
173. viii. HENRY⁷, baptised at Oldswinford on 26 April 1807, TO WHOM WE WILL RETURN, p.35.
   ix. Richard, baptised 24 December 1809 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill and buried an infant there on 5 June 1810.
174. x. RICHARD⁷, baptised on 26 May 1811, TO WHOM WE WILL RETURN, p.37.
175. xi. GEORGE⁷, baptised 11 July 1813, TO WHOM WE WILL RETURN, p.38.

John, the eldest son of John and Sarah (Westwood) Skidmore

169. JOHN⁷ SKIDMORE, baptised 11 September 1796. A glass bottle maker of Brierley Hill, he married Sarah Prescott (perhaps the daughter of John and Sarah Prescott, baptised 15 November 1801 at Oldswinford) at St Thomas’, Dudley on 12 November 1820. The marriage was witnessed by Charles Skidmore, John’s brother. The baptismal register for St Michael’s shows that John and Sarah Skidmore lived in Brettell Lane in 1821 and 1824. He is probably the man occupying a house and garden in Plot 1022d on Fowler’s map of 1822. The Proprietor John Griffis also had a house on this plot which was on the south-west side of Brettell Lane, alongside Meeting Lane and/or the Stourbridge Canal. They settled for a time in Moor Lane (presumably the present-day Moor Street), Brierley Hill, and by the time of the 1841 census were in Chapel Street, Brierley Hill, part of the housing between Church Street and the Delph Locks. Living with the family was Sarah Prescott, aged 85, almost certainly Sarah’s mother. The family was in Chapel Street still in 1851, but had moved to the Back Lane from Whimsey Lane by 1861.

John Skidmore was buried on 26 January 1862 at Holy Trinity, Amblecote, said to be aged 68 and of Brierley Hill. (There is some uncertainty as to his exact age - the census of 1851 gives his age as 50, that of 1861 as 68). Sarah survived him but suffered paralysis in her later years. She was living with her son John at 39 Moor Street at the time of the 1871 census. She died shortly afterwards and was buried at Amblecote on 16 April 1871.

The children of John and Sarah (Prescott) Skidmore, baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill,

317. i. CHARLES⁸, born October, baptised 4 November 1821. He was a potter of Brierley Hill and later of Akron, Ohio. He was visiting at the time of the 1851 census the home in Park Road, Stapleton, Bristol of his future wife, Emma Tiley, whom he married on 16 November 1851 at Holy Trinity, Amblecote. The witnesses were Charles’ sister Frances and her future husband David Fradgley. Emma was born in November 1825 in Stapleton, Bristol, daughter of James Tiley, a stonemason, and his wife Hannah.

Like his father, Charles Skidmore lived in Moor Lane in Brierley Hill and was there until at least 1861. He went with his family to America, seemingly before 1871 and was living at the time of the 1880 census in River Street, Akron, Summit County, Ohio. He was a potter for the E. H. Merrill Co. in Akron and appears in a Directory of 1889 at 232 S. Arlington. He and Emma were living at the time of the 1900 census for Ohio with their widowed daughter Eliza A. Rowles, a teacher in the Kent school, and granddaughter Grace Rowles (born October 1886 in Ohio, married Frank Mallison). The Akron Beacon Journal of 25 May 1904 records that Charles ‘one of the pioneers of Summit County’ had come from England at an early age and been resident in Akron ever since. He lived at 1054 Johnston Street, and died there aged 82 years and 7 months. He was buried in the East Akron cemetery, survived by his wife who was still living in 1910 with her daughter Eliza Rowles and appears in Akron’s City Directory as late as 1916.

The children of Charles and Emma (Tiley) Skidmore, baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill,
i. Eliza, born 8 January (baptised 13 February) 1853. She married firstly in Ohio around 1884 Edward Rowles. She lived with the family of her daughter Grace Mallison at 1011 Wooster Avenue, Akron as late as 1931.

ii. Maria, born and baptised 12 May 1855. Died at 10 days old, buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill.

iii. A further child who did not survive.

ii. Thomas, baptised 21 March 1824. He was a glass blower, living with his parents in 1851. He died aged 29 on 24 June 1853 (buried 28 June at Holy Trinity, Amblecote). Two days before his death, Thomas made a will, witnessed by James Turley and by Benjamin Elwell of Brierley Hill, iron moulder, leaving twenty pounds to each of his brothers and sisters and the remainder to his father and mother. Thomas named ‘Mr Westwood’ as his sole executor and on 8 July 1853 probate was granted to Edward Westwood, gentleman of Oldswinford, in the Bishop’s Court in Lichfield. This would appear to be the retired glass bottle manufacturer living in 1881 at The Laurels, Upperswinford, and perhaps connected to Thomas’ grandmother Sarah.

iii. Frances (known as Fanny), baptised 8 October 1826. A dressmaker, she married David Fradgley, furnaceman of Dudley (baptised 1 April 1827 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, son of John Fradgley, cordwainer, and Jane Pearson) on 30 May 1852 at St Thomas’, Dudley. The marriage was witnessed by Edwin Webb and Mary Fradgley, David’s sister. David became a boat unloader before 1861 (when they lived in the Back Lane from the Whimsey Inn in Brierley Hill, next to her parents) but had returned to being a labourer in an ironworks, maybe in Brockmoor - they were living in 1871 at Wallows Common. Mr Fradgley died in 1889Q1 aged 63, his widow in 1891Q3 aged 65.

iv. Mary Ann, baptised 14 June 1829. She appears to be the young lady in service in Birmingham at the time of the 1851 census, a cook in the home of William P. Belliss, a draper’s clerk of 95 Bull Street. She married Thomas Barker (puddler of Dudley, born about 1826 in Kinlet, Shropshire, son of Richard Barker, deceased, butcher) on 21 August 1853 at St Thomas’, Dudley. The marriage was witnessed by Henry Skidmore and by Eliza Skidmore (probably Mary Ann’s sister). Thomas and Mary Ann Barker went to live in the village of Cookley in the parish of Wolverley, Worcestershire, where he and their son Thomas were employed in the iron works there. Mrs Barker died in 1888Q1 aged 58, her husband in 1889Q4 aged 63.

v. Maria, baptised 13 December 1835. Not found at home in 1841.

vi. Eliza, baptism not found, born 1835-36. A dressmaker before her marriage to Thomas Dickens (a coal miner of Parkes Street, born about 1833, son of John Dickens, miner) on 25 December 1876 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. The marriage was witnessed by Edward Jones and Mary Ann Partridge. Thomas and Eliza moved north and in 1881 were living at 68 St Johns Terrace, Normanton, Yorkshire. By 1891 they had moved to 88 Wakefield Road there and had their nephew Arthur Skidmore, son of John [318], living with them until at least 1911. Mr Dickens died in 1910 aged 76, his wife perhaps in 1912 said to be aged 72.

vii. George, born 13 September (baptised 6 October) 1839. Buried 20 February 1840 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, aged 5 months.

318. viii. JOHN, born 20 September 1843, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.

ix. Agnes, born 1 (baptised 25) December 1846. A dressmaker. She appears to have married an Oldbury man, William Fanthom, a Sawyer (born about 1848, perhaps son of Thomas Fantom, Sawyer of Freeth Street, and his wife Maria) in 1870Q1 and lived in Tabernacle Street, Oldbury near the Primitive Methodist Chapel there. Mr Fanthom died in 1895Q3 aged 47. Agnes married secondly in 1902Q2 Joseph Clift, a coal dealer of Broadwell Road, Oldbury. Mrs Clift died in 1923 aged 76.

John the youngest son of John and Sarah (Prescott) Skidmore, 318. JOHN SKIDMORE, born 20 September 1843 and baptised on 25 October at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. He married firstly Marian Tart, recorded as Miriam Tart at her marriage, on 19 February 1865 at Holy Trinity, Wordsley. She was born in 1848Q3 in Brierley Hill, daughter of John Tart, an iron puddler and later a Watchman of Moor Lane, and his wife Rosannah, and is found in church registers and in most censuses as Marian or Marianne. The witnesses were John Tart and Sarah Ann Guest.

John Skidmore was a bottleblower of 39 Moor Street, Brierley Hill at the time of the 1871 census when he and his wife (called Miriam in this census) cared for his ailing mother. Around 1876 they moved into Campbell
Street, Brockmoor, where the family stayed until at least 1893. Marian Skidmore died at the age of 37 and was buried at St Michael's, Brierley Hill on 19 November 1884.

John Skidmore married secondly on 9 April 1889 at St John's, Brockmoor Mrs Hannah Beddard (born 1854, daughter of Benjamin Holt, a shearer), widow of Edward Beddard, furnace heater of Campbell Street, Brockmoor (died 1886Q4 aged 40). At the time of the 1891 census John Skidmore's sons Charles and William still lived at the family home. In addition, there were three daughters, called Skidmore but not otherwise found as such - Maud aged 9, Phibis [sic] 7 and Bertha 3.

Hannah Skidmore was buried at St John's, Brockmoor on 28 December 1893 aged 39 and John was lodging in 1901 in the home of his sister-in-law Betsy Ann Hall (widow of Enoch Hall, furnaceman, daughter of John and Rosannah Tart) at 12 Maughan Street, Quarry Bank. When his son Arthur volunteered for the army in 1908 he gave as next of kin his father who was then living in Motherwell. By 1911 he was living in the home of his son William in Dalziel, Lanarkshire. His was perhaps the death registered at Dewsbury (which registration district contained Thornhill, Yorkshire, home then of his son John) in 1915 aged 71.

The children of John and Marian (Tart) Skidmore, born in Brierley Hill and baptised at Moor Street Methodist Chapel, Brockmoor,

600. i. JOHN THOMAS9, [was 544] born in 1866Q1. He was single at the time of the 1891 census, a glass blower boarding at 39 Harbro Hill Road, Barnsley. He married Margaret Campbell in 1892Q3 and adopted his wife's children Susie Campbell and Joseph Campbell. His wife was born in Blaydon, County Durham, her birth perhaps registered at Gateshead in 1867Q1, daughter of Joseph and Jane Campbell of Cuthbert Street, Blaydon. Margaret and these children were living in 1891 in the home of her widowed mother Jane (Jefferson) Campbell, a small shop keeper, at 31 Cuthbert Street, Blaydon.

In the late 1890s John and his family moved to Thornhill, Yorkshire and were living in 1911 at 27 Dunford Street. Mrs Skidmore died in 1932 aged 64, her husband in 1933 aged 67.

Children of John and Margaret (Campbell) Skidmore, born in Blaydon,

Susie Campbell, born about 1888, known as Skidmore. Susie Skidmore married Matthew Barstow (son of Alfred and Sarah Barstow) on 21 December 1910 at Thornhill Lees.

i. Marion, born 1893Q2. She died unmarried in 1932 aged 39.

ii. Jane, born 1894Q2.

iii. Edith, born 1897Q2.

iv. Selina, born 1902Q4. She married in 1923.

601. ii. GEORGE HENRY9, born 1867Q1. He was living in 1871 with his grandparents John Tart and his wife Rosannah at 8 Shand Street, Garston, Lancashire. He then returned to Brockmoor, where he found work from an early age at the Bottle House, becoming a glass bottle blower. He later went to Barnsley, Yorkshire, where he married in 1900Q3 Emily Harper (born in Barnsley in 1870Q3, widow of George Harper, daughter of Charles Sedgwick, coal miner, and his wife Mary). They lived in Waltham Street, Barnsley and Mr Skidmore was a bottle maker at Dobsons.

Emily Skidmore died in 1924 aged 53, her husband in 1931 aged 64.

Children of George Henry and Emily (Sedgwick) Skidmore,

i. Marian, born 1902Q1.

ii. Elsie, born 1908Q1.

3 further children who did not survive until 1911.

vi. George, born 1915Q2.

iii. Rosannah, born 1868Q1. She married, on 2 October 1887 at St John's, Brockmoor, Enoch Oliver, bottle blower of Brockmoor (born 1866Q1, son of Charles Oliver, miner, and his wife Harriet). The witnesses were John Thomas Skidmore, her brother, and Ann Hart. They lived in Campbell Street, where Mr Oliver died in 1893Q4, aged only 27. Rosannah Oliver married secondly Henry Jevons, an ironworker (born about 1868 in England) in 1897 in Dalziel, Lanarkshire and they were living at the time of the 1901 census at 28 Shieldmuir, Dalziel, with her children Marion, Enoch and Ethel Oliver and a son William Jevons (born in Dalziel), together with her brothers Charles and William Skidmore.

iv. Selina, born in 1873Q1, baptised 30 March 1873 as Sedonia. She moved up to Yorkshire, where she was a domestic servant at the Black Bull in Market Place, Dewsbury before her marriage, on 24 December 1891 at Holy Innocents, Thornhill Lees, to John Holmes, a glass bottle blower (born
about 1868 in Thornhill, Yorkshire). They lived at 47 Back Dale Street, Thornhill. Selina Holmes died in 1950 aged 76. Selina Holmes died in 1950 aged 76. 12 children - Marion C., Clifford, Ethel, Mary, James, Arthur, Mark, Lena, John, Nellie, Margaret and Edward.

602. v. CHARLES⁸, baptised 11 June 1876. He went with his sister Rosannah and her second husband to Dalziel, where he was an iron worker. He married in Glasgow in 1910 widow Alice Roberts, née Holmes but lived in Dale Street, Thornhill, Yorkshire. Alice was born about 1874 in Thornhill, Yorkshire, where she had children by her first husband. Alice Skidmore died in 1948 aged 74, her husband in 1962 aged 85.

Children of Charles and Alice (Holmes) Skidmore, born in Thornhill,
   i. Marion Ethel, born 1910Q4. She died in 1918 aged 8.
   ii. George, born 1913Q4.
   iii. A further son.

vi. Arthur, born 1879Q3. He lived with his aunt Eliza (Skidmore) Dickens at 88 Wakefield Road, Normanton until at least 1911. He was a coal miner for Locke and Co. at Newland Collieries. He was with the army in South Africa from March 1901 to June 1902. He volunteered on 1 April 1908 at Normanton with the King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and received training at Redcar and Peel. He was engaged for service on 21 April 1913 and served until 3 October 1914 when he was discharged medically unfit as a result of miner’s nystagmus. These army records also reveal that he had at some time been buried in a pit fall¹⁷.

603. vii. WILLIAM⁹, born 2 March 1881, baptised 24 May 1883. He went with his sister Rosannah and her second husband to Dalziel, Lanarkshire, where he was an iron worker. He married Ellen Dyas (daughter of William Dyas, ironworker, and his wife Elizabeth (Astbury) on 31 December 1902 at South Dalziel Manse.

Children of William and Ellen (Dyas) Skidmore, born in Dalziel,
   i. Marion Elizabeth, born 1906.
   ii. Lily, born 1907. Died before 1911.
   iv. Minnie, born 1911.
   v. Edith, born 1914.
   vi. Elizabeth, born 1917.
   vii. Rose Hannah, born 1917.

viii. Philip, born 2 May (baptised 24 May) 1883. He died aged 9 in Brockmoor and was buried at Brierley Hill on 18 February 1893.

ix. Marian, born 1884Q4, baptised 29 January 1885. She died in 1885Q1.

Charles, the second son of John and Sarah (Westwood) Skidmore

170. CHARLES⁷ SKIDMORE, baptised 7 January 1798 at Oldswinford. He was a blacksmith and later a furnace manager who married firstly (with consent of her parents) Mary Bywaters (born in Brettell Lane, daughter of John and Ann (Phillips) Bywaters) at St John the Baptist, Halesowen on 23 September 1816. The marriage was witnessed by Sam Bywaters and Rachel Best. Charles and Mary Skidmore lived in Brettell Lane in 1817 and 1818 before moving to Dudley (1819-21), Oldbury (1822-26) and Tipton (1826-31). Mary Skidmore died at the age of 42 and was buried 27 August 1834 and Mr Skidmore tragically lost four of his children in 1834-35, all buried at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Oldbury.

He married his second wife, Mrs Sarah Turner (born about 1802 in Tipton), at St Thomas’, Dudley on 15 December 1834. The witnesses were Elizabeth Cartwright and John Pershouse. It is interesting to note that Charles made his mark in the register at his first marriage but signed his name for the second. Charles and Sarah were in Oldbury in 1836 and they appear in the 1841 census of the town in Freeth Street, with Betsy and Jane, children of his second marriage, and the only child of his first marriage still with Charles at this time, Sarah.

¹⁷ British Army WW1 Pension Records.
He is perhaps the Charles Skidmore, aged 47, who was tried on 27 June 1843 at Stafford County Sessions, for conspiracy to defraud and found not guilty.

Some time after 1841 they moved to the north of Staffordshire and were living at the time of the 1851 census at Lanehouse in the parish of Whitmore, where Charles was a furnace manager. He died on 30 October 1861 at Silverdale, near Newcastle-under-lyme. Sarah Skidmore his widow was executor of his will (not seen), proved in 1862. She was living with her daughter Elizabeth and son Thomas in Adderley Road, Market Drayton at the time of the 1871 census. Her death, at the age of 73, was registered in the Newcastle-under-lyme area in 1875Q1.

The children of Charles and Mary (Bywaters) Skidmore, baptisms and burials at St Michael's, Brierley Hill,

1. John, baptised 16 March 1817 and buried 28 December 1818.
2. Ann, baptised 19 May 1818. She died aged 14 years and 9 months and was buried at the Wesleyan Methodist Oldbury on 9 January 1833.
3. Sarah, baptised 28 December 1819. She married George Allen, a jeweller (born about 1818 in Birmingham, son of James Allen, brassfounder of Great Hampton Row, Birmingham St George, and his wife Hannah) in West Bromwich district in 1842Q1. They lived at first in central Birmingham before moving in the mid-1850s to Aston. Sarah died in 1870Q2 aged 49 and George was living a year later at census time in New John Street West, Birmingham, where he was then employing three youths in his jewellery business. Mr Allen died in 1891Q1.
4. Thomas, baptised 30 September 1821 and buried 2 April 1822 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill, of Oldbury.
5. Frances, baptised 26 December 1824 and buried 2 August 1826 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill, of Oldbury.
6. Edward, baptised 25 December 1826. He died in 1835 and was buried at the Wesleyan Chapel.
7. Frances, baptised 29 March 1829. Francis was buried aged 5 years 2 months at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on 6 June 1834.
8. Henry, baptised 13 March 1831. He also died in 1834 and was buried at the Wesleyan Chapel.

The children of Charles and Sarah Skidmore, born in Oldbury,

9. Elizabeth, baptised 23 October 1836 at Tipton. In 1881 she was living in Silverdale with the family of her sister Jane. She married, on 23 November 1882 at Drayton Hales, Ralph Tatton, a colliery proprietor of High Street, Silverdale (son of farmer Samuel Tatton). Elizabeth Tatton died 1886Q1 aged 48.
10. Jane, born about 1839. She married William Brough (born about 1841 at Rosemary Hill/Trentham, Staffordshire, son of William Brough) at St Luke's, Silverdale, Staffordshire on 13 December 1864. They lived at The Farm [Heath End], Silverdale, Staffordshire. William Brough was a brick and tile manufacturer employing in 1881 sixty men, boys and girls. Mrs Brough died in 1889Q1 at the age of 49.

THOMAS CHARLES9, born about 1843 in Oldbury, appears to be a son (whose birth and baptism have not been found) of Charles [170] and Sarah Skidmore. He was an agent trading in coal and lime. He married Mary Elizabeth Jones (born about 1850 in Tunstall, Staffordshire) in 1874Q1 at St James, Audlem, Cheshire, and by 1881 was living in Station Road, Market Drayton, Shropshire. Thomas' family had moved to Smithfield Road, Market Drayton by 1891. Mary Elizabeth's death at the age of 65 was registered at Atcham, Shropshire in 1915. Mr Skidmore died in 1916 aged 74.

The children of Thomas Charles and Mary Elizabeth (Jones) Skidmore, born in Market Drayton, Shropshire,

11. Gertrude Sarah, born 1874Q4. A domestic servant to retired schoolmaster Samuel Mifflin in Queen Street, Market Drayton in 1901. She married, in 1906 in Market Drayton, Charles Andrew McMahon, a bank clerk (born about 1859 in London) and they were living in 1911 at 92 Stephens Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. She died in 1951 aged 76. No children known.

THOMAS PERCY9, born in 1877Q3. He married Isabella Mary White (born about 1880 in Penicuik, Midlothian, daughter of William White, plumber, and his wife Agnes Janet (Finlayson)) on 27 October 1906 at St Vincent's, Edinburgh. They lived at 43 Mount Terrace, Longslow Road, Market Drayton, where Mr Skidmore was a coal merchant.
They were in Market Drayton at the time of the 1911 census but on 13 May that year sailed from Liverpool on board the Somerset to live in Australia. By 1913 were living in Blaxlands, Ipswich, Queensland where Mr Skidmore bought land to farm and his wife was a dressmaker. He died there on 14 August 1914. Isabella Mary returned to Edinburgh and died a widow on 31 August 1962.

Children of Thomas Percy and Isabella Mary (White) Skidmore, born and baptised in Market Drayton,

i. Agnes Janet, baptised 6 May 1907. She married ____Tasker.

ii. Thomas Charles, baptised 1 October 1908.

iii. Mary Isabel, born 1910Q3. She married ____ Tiernan.

iv. Ethel Mary, born in 1878Q4. A milliner in 1901, she married John Bedford, a commercial traveller in millinery (born about 1882 in Chorlton cum Hardy, Lancashire) in 1908Q2. They were living in 1911 at 25 Elmsmere Road, Didsbury, Manchester.

v. Elizabeth Nora, born 1880Q3. She ran her dressmaking business from her father’s home. She is probably the Elizabeth N. Skidmore who married in Chorlton registration district in 1918.

vi. Nina Jane, born 1882Q1. A mother’s domestic help to Sarah the wife of farmer Thomas Plant of Knowle Woods, Tyrley, Staffordshire, in 1901 (called Norah J. in this census). She married Henry Sloan, a salesman for a cotton manufacturer (born about 1881 in Salford, Manchester) in 1910Q1. They were living at census time about a year later at 21 Bamford Road, Didsbury. Children, as known - Norah W., Dorothy N., Henry W.S.,

vii. Charles, born 1883Q2 in Market Drayton. He was working in 1901 as one of the salesmen in a large drapery establishment in Church Street, Accrington, Lancashire. Not yet found in the British census of 1911.

viii. Kathleen, born 1885Q2. By 1911 she was boarding at 37 Brownlow Road, Ellesmere, Lancashire, where she was a stationery shop assistant. She died the following year at the age of 26.

Thomas Westwood, the third son of John and Sarah (Westwood) Skidmore

171. THOMAS WESTWOOD7 SKIDMORE, baptised on 31 March 1799, was the son of John [90] and Sarah (Westwood) Skidmore. He married Archisadella Langford (born about 1804 and baptised 25 February 1810 at St Leonard’s, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, daughter of John and Sarah Langford) on 16 April 1827 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. The witness was Richard Skidmore, presumably Thomas’ brother, though he was young to fulfil this role. Thomas and Archisadella began their married life in Scott’s Green in Dudley, where Thomas was a painter and glazier. It appears they were Wesleyan Methodists - see children Jemima and Arthur below.

Some time between 1836 and 1839 they moved to Moor Lane, Brierley Hill, ‘near the Bottle House’ and near his elder brother John. Their move to Blyndon, Durham appears to have taken place in the early 1850s; they were still in Moor Lane at the time of the census at the end of March 1851 and their son Edward died in the Gateshead registration district in 1854Q2. Thomas died at the age of 65 in 1866Q4, his wife in 1875Q3 aged 71.

The children of Thomas Westwood and Archisadella (Langford) Skidmore, born and baptised in Dudley,

i. Sarah, baptised 5 August 1827 at St Thomas’, Dudley. She married Ezekiel Jewess, a puddler of Dudley (baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill 24 October 1827, son of William Jewess, potter of Locks Lane, Brierley Hill, and Sarah (Clarke)) on 30 May 1852 at St Thomas’, Dudley. The witnesses were Edward Skidmore (presumably her brother) and Frances Jewis, Ezekiel’s sister. Ezekiel and Sarah moved to north Staffordshire soon after their marriage and lived in Plex Street, Tunstall, with four of their children, all born in Tunstall. Mrs Jewess died aged 66 in 1892Q1, her husband in 1900Q2 said to be aged 70.

320. ii. EDWARD9, born in the Springs Mire area of Dudley and baptised on 27 July 1828 at St Michael’s,
Brierley Hill. In his teens he moved with his family to Moor Street in Brierley Hill, where he learned his trade of glass bottle blowing. He married Eve Jewess (baptised 17 October 1830 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill) at St Thomas’, Dudley on 10 March 1850. The witnesses were Edward’s sister Sarah Skidmore and her future husband Ezekiel Jewess, brother of Eve. Edward Skidmore was a glass blower in Locks Lane, Brockmoor at the time of the 1851 census. His one-week-old nephew Benjamin Raybould was with them, apparently son of Eve’s sister Maria, wife of Thomas Raybould. Some time after the birth of their daughter Maria in 1851 they moved, along with Edward’s parents and other family members, to Blaydon, County Durham. Edward Skidmore died there only a few years later in 1854Q2.

His widow returned home where she married Robert Cox (widower, coal miner of Kingswinford, born about 1826 in Netherton, son of Robert Cox, miner) on 27 May 1855 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. Peter and Elizabeth Parfitt (perhaps Elizabeth Morris, married 1840 at Dudley) witnessed the marriage. Mrs Cox lived at Commonside, Pensnett with her second husband and daughter Maria Skidmore in 1861. Robert and Eve Cox emigrated and were living by 1870 in St Clair, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

The children of Edward and Eve (Jewess) Skidmore,

i. Maria, born 10 July 1851 and baptised 27 August at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill.

ii. [perhaps] Joseph Thomas, born in Gateshead in 1854Q2 and died there in 1855Q1.

321. iii. JOHN8, baptised 7 February 1830, OF WHOM MORE LATER.

iv. Jemima, baptised 18 December 1831 at St Thomas’, Dudley. Probably buried as JEmma [sic]

Skidmore on 28 November 1832 at Wesley New Connexion, (thought to be that on Dudley Road,

Tividal, Rowley Regis), aged 1, though this child was said to be of Tipton.

v. Harriet, born about 1833. Not found in the 1841 census.

vi. Mary, baptised 6 April 1834. She married Stephen Bird, a furnace labourer (baptised 12 December 1830 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, son of Stephen Bird, labourer, and his wife Maria of Level Road19), at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 18 April 1854. Thomas Barker and Emma Parrish were witnesses. Two children are said in the International Genealogical Index to have been born in Brierley Hill to Stephen Bird and Mary Caroline Skidmore - Emma J. Bird about 1853 and Alfred Bird in February 1855. These children appear with their parents in the 1870 census for Chicago, Illinois, together with five further children born in Pennsylvania. This family emigrated to America in 1860, though this should be treated with some caution since the 1900 census says they had been married for 50 years. Their daughter Mary was born in November 1870 in Pennsylvania and and daughter Lulu in April 1873 in Illinois. At the time of the 1900 census they were living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Mary Bird said she had had nine children, all of whom were then living.

vii. Arthur, baptised 10 January 1836. He is perhaps the child buried on 14 May 1837 at the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Dudley, aged 2.

322. viii. THOMAS ARTHUR8, born 17 March 1835, OF WHOM MORE LATER.

323. ix. GEORGE8, born 12 May 1839, OF WHOM MORE LATER.

x. [perhaps] Jemima, born 1842Q2, buried 29 June 1845 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, aged 3 of Moor Lane.

324. xi. WOLDRIDGE8, born 15 March 1844, TO WHOM WE SHALL RETURN.

xii. Agnes, born 7 February 1846 and baptised at St John’s, Brockmoor with Thomas Arthur, George and Woodbridge on 27 December 1846. A servant to the Edmundson family in Bishopwearmouth, County Durham in 1861, she married in 1863Q3 Luke Biggens, a steel moulder (born 1841 in Blaydon, County Durham, son of Robert and Jane Biggens). They lived in Blaydon, Durham in the 1870s before moving around 1880 to Victoria Terrace, Newburn, Northumberland, where Mrs Biggens died in 1923 aged 78.

324a. xiii. RICHARD8, born 12 January 1848, TO WHOM WE SHALL RETURN.

xiv. Maria, baptised 20 January 1850 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. I am grateful to her great-grandson Roderick Duff for information on Maria’s husband. She married David Beech, who was born about 1847 in Glasgow, son of Elisha Beech, a Wesleyan and a potter who came from Fenton, Stoke on Trent, but moved to Glasgow where he married Catherine . David Beech was a bottle maker in Barony, Glasgow in 1861, living with his sister Janet Beech in Scott Street. He

19 A family tree online gives his date of birth as 13 February 1829 and his mother’s maiden surname as Shakespeare, and also that he died in 1904 in Milwaukee.
The second son of Thomas and Archisadella (Langford) Skidmore,

321. **JOHN**<sup>8</sup> SKIDMORE, baptised at St Thomas', Dudley on 7 February 1830. Like his brothers, he was a glass bottle blower. He married Harriet Walters on 24 March 1850 at St Thomas', Dudley. The witnesses were John’s brother and sister, Edward and Sarah Skidmore. Harriet was baptised on 14 July 1833 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, daughter of Joseph Walters, sheet iron roller, and Elizabeth (perhaps Mrs Elizabeth Perry, widow of Joseph Perry).

In 1851 John and Harriet lived at 139 Commercial Road in the eastern part of Wolverhampton in the home of Harriet’s parents. Some time between 1852 and 1856 they moved to Blaydon, County Durham, along with John’s parents and his brother Edward. At first they lived in Robinson Street, moving by 1881 to St Thomas Terrace. Next door was their son Alfred and his family, and in the next street Woldridge, John’s younger brother. Harriet Skidmore died in 1899Q2 aged 67 and John was living at the time of the 1901 census at 4 Tempest Street, Stella (Blaydon) with his widowed daughter Jane Spoore and her children. John Skidmore died later that year on 27 November 1901 aged 71.

The children of John and Harriet (Walters) Skidmore, baptised at St Cuthbert’s, Stella, Durham:<sup>20</sup>

i. **Archisadella**, born in Brierley Hill in 1850Q1, baptised 17 December 1850 at St George’s, Wolverhampton. She died in Wolverhampton soon after.

606. ii. **ALFRED**<sup>9</sup>, [was 545.] born in Brierley Hill, baptised at Holy Trinity, Wordsley on 11 April 1852. In the 1850s he moved with his parents to Blaydon in County Durham. A pork butcher, he married, in the Gateshead registration district in 1874Q3, Mary Ann Wilson (born about 1853 in Blaydon, daughter of _____ and Mary Ann Wilson). In 1881 they lived in St Thomas Terrace, Winlaton, County Durham, next door to his father John. In their household was Hannah Wilson, aged 16, Alfred’s sister-in-law.

By the time of the 1891 census Alfred had become a mineral water manufacturer in Blaydon and his family lived at 2 Birdhill Street there by 1901. Harold Skidmore their grandson, born 1899Q1, lived with them. It seems Alfred also had a factory in Portobello, Edinburgh; the two ginger beer bottles, in the possession of the author, suggest this. Mary Ann Skidmore died in 1916 aged 65, her husband in 1922 aged 70.

The children of Alfred and Mary Ann (Wilson) Skidmore, born in Blaydon,

i. Clara, born 1875Q4. She appears to have married in 1903Q2 in the Gateshead area. Nothing further known at present.

ii. Edwin, born 1877Q3. Edwin was deaf and was educated at the Deaf and Dumb Institution in Jesmond. He later worked in his father’s business. Mr Skidmore died

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20 The birth of a child Ery Skidmore was registered at Stourbridge [this registration district includes Brierley Hill] in 1862Q1. He died in 1865Q1 in Gateshead registration district and might be connected with this family.
iii. Edith Jane, born one month before the 1881 census. A milliner in 1901, she married Robert Battensby, a market gardener (born about 1876 in Winlaton, son of _____ and Margaret Battensby) in 1902Q4. They were living by 1911 at Hagg Hill, Axwell Park, Blaydon, with their children Ronald and Edwin.

iv. Lottie, born 1885Q4. Lotty Skidmore married Charles Henry Newton, a colliery electrician, in 1909Q3. He was born about 1886 in Pocklington, Yorkshire, son of George Newton, a Primitive Methodist Minister from Winster, Derbyshire. Lotty died in 1910Q2 and her husband was living the following year with his father at 42 Bowland Crescent, Blaydon.

v. Florrie, born 1888Q4.


iv. Elizabeth, baptised 29 June 1856. She married Robert H. Lowdon, a coal miner (born about 1853 in Blaydon) in 1874Q1 at St Andrew's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. They lived in Robinson Street, Blaydon. As known, daughters Sarah, Harriet, and sons John and Alfred Home Lowdon.

607. v. ARTHUR9, [was 546.] baptised 8 August 1858Q3. He married Mary Jane Grundy (born about 1860 in Sherriff Hill, Gateshead) in 1881Q4 and was a plasterer in Blaydon and, by 1911, in Ryton. Mr and Mrs Skidmore both died in 1912.

**Children of Arthur and Mary Jane (Grundy) Skidmore, born in Blaydon,**

**Two further children who did not survive.**

i. Ada, born 1884Q1. She married Milton Gaynor, a bricklayer at a colliery (born about 1887 in Ryton) in 1908Q1. At the time of the 1911 census they were living with their son James at 20 May Avenue, Ryton. As known, 2 further sons.

ii. WILLIAM JOHN10, born 1886Q1. A plasterer, he married Hannah Atkinson in 1915Q2. He died aged 36 in 1922.

**Children of William John and Hannah (Atkinson) Skidmore,**

i. George B., born 1916Q3.

ii. 2 daughters born in the 1920s.


v. TOM NORMAN10, born 1895Q4. He enlisted with the Durham Light Infantry and went to France from April 1915 to June 1916 and again from January to July 1917. He returned there for a third time at the very end of 1917 but received shrapnel injuries to his face and left arm. He was discharged on medical grounds in May 1918 and returned to the home of his sister Ada.

A butcher, he married in 1925 and had issue.

vi. John Thomas, baptised 25 December 1860. A bottle blower, he married Isabella Forster (born about 1863 in City Road, London) in 1886Q4 and they were living by 1901 at 82 Thomas Street in Blaydon. Isabella died in 1912 aged 49, her husband in 1928 aged 67. No children.

vii. Jane Harriet, baptised 23 November 1863. She married Edward Spoor, a colliery labourer (born 1862Q4 in Stella Wood, son of John, shoemaker, and Sarah Spoor) in 1880Q1 and lived in Stella Wood. Mr Spoor died in 1900Q1 aged 37. Jane Spoor married secondly in 1901Q2 Francis Quinn and was living by 1911 at 7 Norman Terrace, Newburn, County Durham. She said she had given birth to 16 children, of which 10 were then living. Known children by Edward Spoor are Joseph, Mary Lizzie, Robert, Sarah Jane, Harriet and Edward. Known children by Francis Quinn are Frank, Tom and Henry.

viii. Esther Ann, born 1866Q4 and baptised 6 January 1867. She died in the first quarter of 1868.

ix. Sarah Ann, baptised 31 August 1868. She married Robert Robson, a salmon fisherman and later a fruiterer in Church Street, Blaydon (born about 1865 in Blaydon) in Gateshead registration district in 1888Q2. Children Joseph, Harriet, John, Jane, Charles and Robert.

608. x. JOSEPH HENRY9, [was 547.] baptised 21 May 1871. A draper's traveller, he married Dorothy Rebecca Lee in 1893Q3. She died in 1896Q2 aged 25 and he married secondly Isabella White (born in Benwell or Elswick, Northumberland about 1879) in 1899Q4. They lived at 15 Mary Street, Blaydon.

i. Dorothy Rebecca Lee, born in Blaydon and registered in 1896Q3.

**Children of Joseph Henry and Isabella (White) Skidmore,**

iii. Isabella, born 1908Q1.
iv. Lilian, born 1914Q3.

The third surviving son of Thomas and Archisadella (Langford) Skidmore, 322. THOMAS ARTHUR SKIDMORE, born 17 March 1835 and baptised on 27 December 1846 at St John's, Brockmoor. He was born in Brierley Hill, probably in Moor Lane. It seems he did not move to the Gateshead area with his parents in the early 1850s, remaining to marry Eliza Fisher on 15 July 1855 at St John's, Swindon (Wombourne). She was perhaps the daughter of Elijah and Rosannah Fisher, born 4 September 1838 in Brierley Hill and baptised at Wordsley on 14 October.

They were living in 1861 at Bell Street in Brierley Hill but around 1865 the family moved to Newton-le-willows in Lancashire, and from there to Glasgow. In 1871 their home was at 20 Canal Street, Glasgow and at the birth of their son Thomas in 1873 Thomas was a foreman at the bottle works. After spending a few years in Portobello, Edinburgh in the mid-1870s, the family returned to Glasgow. Mrs Skidmore died in 1877 and at the time of the 1881 census Thomas was living with his children at 162 East Milton Street, Glasgow. He appears to have died in Glasgow during the 1880s, though his death registration has not yet been found.

His sons Elisha, Arthur and Matthias moved down to Newton-le-willows, Elijah and Matthias moving on to St Helens, Lancashire.

The children of Thomas Arthur and Eliza (Fisher) Skidmore, born in Brierley Hill, 609. i. ELIJAH EDWARD SKIDMORE alias Elisha Edward, [was 548.] born 1856Q1. Elijah Skidmore married Alison Allan Borthwick (born 6 August 1867 in Duddingston [Edinburgh], Midlothian, daughter of John Borthwick, lime agent, and his wife Agnes (Teviotdale)) on 31 October 1884 in Portobello, Edinburgh. A glass bottle maker, Elijah's work took his family to Newton le Willows before returning to Edinburgh to live in Viewforth Buildings, Fishwives Causeway, Edinburgh.

The death of Elijah Edward Skidmore, aged 40, was registered at Portobello in 1898. His widow married Adam McElvogue, a glass bottle maker (born about 1872 in Blaydon) and they were living in 1911 at 115 High Street, Portobello with the four Skidmore children Thomas, William and Elijah, and Isabella Irvine, and McElvogue children James M. who was born about 1899 in Belfast, [Adam born 1900 in Edinburgh not listed], Matthew, Alexander and Alison.

The children of Elijah Edward and Alison Allan (Borthwick) Skidmore, ii. Isabella, born 1889 in Portobello, Edinburgh. She married William Spence Irvine in 1909 in Edinburgh and was living at the time of the 1911 census with her son David Irvine in the home of her parents.

iii. William born about 1891 in Dublin. He was a glass bottle maker and is presumably the William who witnessed his brother Thomas Edward’s marriage in 1913. He died in the Quintinshill rail disaster on 22 May 1915. Quintinshill was an intermediate signal box (on what is now the West Coast Main Line) with refuge loops on the Caledonian Railway Main Line near Gretna Green in Scotland. The crash involved five trains and killed 226 people - their names appear on the memorial in the Rosebank Cemetery in Edinburgh. It is the worst rail crash in the United Kingdom in terms of loss of life. The majority of victims were Territorial soldiers from the 7th Battalion, The Royal Scots, travelling from Larbert.
The crash occurred during World War I when all news was subject to official censorship, so was not widely reported at the time. A trial afterwards convicted two negligent railway workers of having caused the accident.


A son,

i. IAN. Ian went into journalism as a copy boy and then an apprentice compositor. In the army he was posted to an Army newspaper as a reporter and subsequently joined the Army PR unit. He was night news editor for the Daily and Sunday Mirror and the People). He was a broadcaster, columnist and author of eighteen books. His Owain Glyndwr Prince of Wales, which is still in print after twenty years, and a topographical account of a neighbouring mainland county ‘Gwynedd’ are both required reading in the University of Wales. He presented the Radio 4 programme ‘Archives’ for four years to an audience of five million and his Radio 4 interview series ‘Times Remembered’ was highly received. In 1998 he was awarded the ‘Golden Microphone’ for services to broadcasting in Wales. He was a Member of the Welsh Academy (which looks after the interests of creative artists) and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art, awarded for services to the Academy in writing and broadcasting about its activities. Ian was also a book, theatre and restaurant critic for the same paper in which he wrote a column – the Daily Post.

Celia his wife has won the prestigious Tir Na N-Og, the top Welsh prize for children’s writing and the Irma Chilton Award.

Children Gay Heather, Lynn Charmian and Nicholas St John.

ii. Jemima, born 1857Q2. She married Samuel William Walsh, an able seaman (born about 1853 in Sheffield) in 1879 in Glasgow, and they were living in 1881 with their seven-month old daughter Joanna Walsh at 17 Ashvale Row West there.

iii. THOMAS ARTHUR, born 1858Q4 in Brierley Hill, known always as Arthur Skidmore and his birth registered as such. His parents moved to Portobello, Edinburgh, where, like his father, he was a glass bottle maker. Thomas Arthur Skidmore married in Glasgow on 31 December 1883. His bride Mary Brady was born in about 1864 at Clonmel, Tipperary, daughter of John Charles Brady (born Knockbride, County Cavan, Ireland), and his wife Bridget (née Buckley, probably born i in Cootehill, County Cavan). Family lore has it that John Brady was a policeman, but his great grand daughter Mary Gregory has only ever found him working as a plate layer and an ironworks labourer. At the time of his daughter’s marriage to Arthur Skidmore, John Brady said he was a ?casting/ ?carting contractor. The Elijah Skidmore who witnessed Arthur and Mary’s marriage was presumably Arthur’s brother Elijah Edward.

At some time around 1885 Arthur and Mary moved to Earlestown (Newton-le-willows) in Lancashire, where Arthur continued as a glass blower at Messrs Charles Borran & Co., a bottle works off Crow Lane. He was also a hotel bar man in the evenings. The 1891 and 1901 censuses find the family in Houghton Street, Newton-in-Makerfield (the old name for Newton-le-willows) and 5 Haydock Street by 1911. Arthur Skidmore died in 1917 of cancer of the mouth.

The children of Thomas Arthur and Mary (Brady) Skidmore, born in Earlestown, Lancashire,

i. THOMAS, known as Tommy, born 17 February 1884 at 24 Stanhope Street, St Rollox, Glasgow. He became a bottle maker and lived in Portobello, Edinburgh much of his adult life. He married Esther Dunnes, known as Hettie (Hetty, born 17 February 1885 in Gas Street, Newton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire, died 6 September 1938) on 23 June 1906 in Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Blackley, Prestwich, Lancashire.

Children of Thomas and Esther (Dunnes) Skidmore,

i. John Charles, (Jack) born 3 December 1906 at 5 Budhill Avenue,
Shettleston, Glasgow.

ii. Thomas, (Tom), born 1908Q3 in Prestwich.

iii. Mary Agnes, born 1910 in Glasgow.


v. Letitia, born 1920.

vi. Winnie.

ii. Mary, known as Polly, born 1886Q1. A printer machinist in 1901. She married Herbert Alfred Waddington in 1907Q3 (born about 1883 in Golborne, Lancashire) and was living at 78 Crown Street, Earlestown in 1911. They had six children, Frank, Tom, Joseph, Marie, Kathleen and Joan.

iii. JOHN CHARLES, born 1888Q2. He married Christiana M. O'Brien in 1916Q1 in Warrington.

Children of John Charles and Christiana M. (O'Brien) Skidmore,

i. Thomas J., born 1916Q3.

ii. Mary, born 1918Q1.

iii.-ix. 6 further daughters and a son.

iv. Margaret, or Margaret Frances, born August 1890. She married Thomas Henry Turner and had four children, Agnes, Henry, Eileen and John.

v. Agnes, born 31 July 1892. She married John Finnerty and had two children, Terence and Michael. Their granddaughter Mary Gregory kindly supplied much information on this family.

vi. Maria, born 1896Q1. She married Harry Smith and had three children, John, Winifred and Gerald.

vii. Letitia Mary, born 22 August 1898. She married firstly in 1923 Robert Kenny (1892-1925), who worked at Viaduct wagon works, Earlestown. By him she had one child; sadly both father and child died of tuberculosis. Her second husband was Cyril Wroe of St Helens, Lancashire and with whom she had three children, Doreen, Cyril and Gerald A., the latter an engineering executive in California, who also kindly supplied information on this family.

viii. Winifred, born 23 June 1903. She died at only 6 hours old and is buried in public grave number A6083 at Newton-le-Willows Cemetery, Park Road.

Mary (Brady) Skidmore, Agnes (Skidmore) Finnerty, Terence Finnerty 1922

Tommy Skidmore

Mary (Polly) Skidmore
MATTHIAS, [was 550.] born in Brierley Hill in 1860Q3. He married, in 1884Q4 in Warrington, Sarah Ann Dobson (born in Sunderland, Durham about 1865) and became a glass bottle finisher in St Helens, Lancashire. By 1891 they were living at 137 Napier Street there, where they remained until at least 1901 before moving to 91 Raglan Street. Mr Skidmore died in St Helens in 1938 aged 78, his wife in 1947 aged 82.

Children of Matthias and Sarah Ann (Dobson) Skidmore, born in Earlestown,

i. Elizabeth, born 1886Q1. A brass finisher in 1901. At the time of the 1911 census she was cook to the Hoyle family at Glen Royd, Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

ii. THOMAS ARTHUR, born 1887Q4. A glass bottle blower, he married Mary Lomax in 1914 and was living in 1915 at 164 Bolton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

Children of Thomas Arthur and Mary (Lomax) Skidmore, as known,

i. A daughter, stillborn in 1915.


iii. MATTHIAS, born 1889Q3. He was a sapper in the Royal Engineers in WW1. A stone mason, he married Mary Ann Ackers in 1915.

The daughters of Matthias and Mary Ann (Ackers) Skidmore,

i. Hilda J.

ii. Mary E.
born in St Helens,


v. John Henry, born 1893Q2. A pill box stamper (machinist) at Beecham’s factory in 1911. He enlisted in December 1915 in Liverpool and was a rifleman in France with the 5th South Lancashire Regiment from February 1917. He suffered shell shock on 2 July 1917 and was sent home a month later. He later had chronic lung problems which were attributable to his war service. He was in the Convalescent Hospital at Billinge, which I believe was in Orrell, near Wigan. Nothing further presently known.

vi. Lilian, born 1895Q2.

vii. William, born 1897Q2.

viii. Mary Eveline, born 1900Q1. She married in 1930.

ix. Albert, born about 1901.

x. Alfred, born about 1902Q4.

xi. Fred, born about 1905. He married in 1936.

v. Elizabeth, born 25 September 1863. A worker in the bottle works in Glasgow in 1881. She married Robert Pollock Shanks, a carter (born about 1861 in Coatbridge, Lanarkshire) in Glasgow in 1884 and they lived at 74 Old Keppochhill Road, Glasgow. They emigrated in 1927 to Chicago, where Mr Shanks died on 25 May 1927, his wife on 23 September 1938. According to a pedigree posted at Ancestry.com they had six sons and a daughter.

612. vi. JOSEPH9, born 1865Q4 in Brierley Hill, was a coachman of Glasgow. He married firstly Agnes Irvine (born about 1871 in Kilsyth, Stirlingshire, daughter of Robert and Agnes (Barrie) Irvine) in 1887 in Glasgow and by 1891 was living at 28 Cobden Street, Glasgow. Agnes Skidmore died in 1900.

He married secondly Martha Martin (born about 1878 in Leith, Midlothian) in 1900 in Glasgow and was living by 1901 at Haghill Lodge, Cumbernauld Street, Glasgow and at 31 Inglis Street by 1911. Joseph Skidmore died on 15 August 1950 in Glasgow.

Children of Joseph and Agnes (Irvine) Skidmore, born in Glasgow,

i. Thomas Arthur, born 1888. He married Jeanie Gallacher on 15 August 1915 in Glasgow. Private Skidmore died on 20 July 1916, serving with the 5th Battalion the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.


A child of Joseph and Martha (Martin) Skidmore, born in Glasgow,

v. William Martin, born 1901.

vii. Maria, born in Glasgow on 2 September 1867 and died in 1868.

viii. Mary, born 14 February 1869 in Glasgow. She appears to have married on 7 June 1889 in Rothesay, Bute, giving her parents as John Skidmore, bottlemaker and Janet (née Fisher), and her age as 22. Her husband William Wilson was born about 1864, son of William Wilson, dairyman, and his wife Margaret (Shaw). They lived at Glenburn Hydro-Cottages, Rothesay, where Mr Wilson was an engineer at the hydrotherapy baths.

ix. Rosannah, born 19 January 1871 in Glasgow. At the time of the 1891 census Rose Skidmore was housekeeper to widower John H. M. Wilkinson and his several children in Quarry Road, Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. Not yet found later.

x. Thomas, born 22 December 1872 at 3 Brownhill Street, Glasgow. Died in 1874 aged 2.


The fourth surviving son of Thomas and Archisadella (Langford) Skidmore,

323. GEORGE8 SKIDMORE, born 12 May 1839 in Brierley Hill and baptised at St John’s, Brockmoor on 27 December 1846. Called Christopher in the 1841 census. He and his older brothers were glass bottle makers but, unlike them, he did not travel to County Durham in the 1850s. At the time of the 1861 census he was boarding in Cottage Street, Brierley Hill, with widow Mrs Sarah Tonks, his future mother-in-law. Shortly afterwards, on 20 May 1861 at Kingswinford, he married Susannah Tonks (daughter of Richard Tonks, a miner
of Mill Lane. Richard Thomas and Margaret Thomas were witnesses.

George Skidmore died aged only 21, about a month after his son’s birth, and was buried at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill on 18 August 1861. His widow married in 1866Q3 Levi R. Ansill (born about 1833 at Wootton or Ellenhall, Staffordshire, called Richard in the census of 1901), a coachman and groom. They lived at first in Brockmoor and by 1881 on the side of the canal to Brierley Works in Brierley Hill, with their three children and Susannah’s son George Edward Skidmore.

George and Susannah (Tonks) Skidmore had one child, baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill,

613. i. **George Edward**\(^6\), [was 551.] born 20 July 1861 and baptised on 1 September at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. An iron moulder in Brockmoor, he married, at Wordsley on 22 April 1883, Mary Ann Prosser (born about 1861 in Brierley Hill, daughter of George Prosser, boatman and his wife Caroline). The witnesses were John and Jane Prosser. Earlier, at the time of the 1881 census, Mary Prosser had lived at The Stores, no. 8 The Delph with her brothers George and Thomas and sister Jane. George and Mary Ann Skidmore perhaps continued to live there after their marriage.

George Skidmore died at the Delph on 24 January 1886 aged 24 and was buried on 28 January at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. Mary Ann lived to be 84, though I have not been able to find her in censuses after the death of her husband. A memorial in Brierley Hill churchyard tells us that she died on 22 November 1945.

George Edward and Mary Ann (Prosser) Skidmore had one child, baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill,

   i. George Richard, baptised 31 August 1884. Died 23 February (buried 27 February) 1886 aged 1y 6m.

The fifth surviving son of Thomas and Archisadella (Langford) Skidmore,

324. WOLDRIDGE\(^8\) SKIDMORE, born 15 March 1844, probably in Moor Lane, Brierley Hill, was baptised Woodbridge at St John’s, Brockmoor on 27 December 1846. His name is probably a version of the surname Wooldridge.

A bottle maker by trade, he married Jane Brooks (born in Swalwell, County Durham, about 1843) on 26 August 1864 at Calton, Glasgow and moved soon after to Blaydon, County Durham. This was a community of glass workers with some coal miners. In adjacent St Thomas Terrace were Woldridge’s older brother John Skidmore and nephew Alfred Skidmore. By the time of the 1891 census the family were settled in 13 Flass Street, Blaydon and Mr Skidmore later became a painter at the engine works. He died on 20 February 1907 aged 65, leaving a will which named his sons Charles and Thomas Westwood Skidmore executors. Jane Skidmore died in 1924Q2 aged 81.

The children of Woldridge and Jane (Brooks) Skidmore, born in Blaydon,

   i. George Edward, born 1865Q1. An apprentice engine fitter at the time of the 1881 census. He died later that year aged 16.

614. ii. **Charles**\(^9\), [was 552.] born 1868Q1. A glass bottle maker of Blaydon, Durham, he married Sarah Annie Forster (born about 1872 in Birtley, Durham) in 1893Q2. In the late 1890s they spent some time in Edinburgh but were back in Blaydon at the time of the 1901 census, living in George Street. Around 1905 the family moved once more to Portobello, Edinburgh, where they were living in 1911 at 3 Pipe Street.

The children of Charles and Sarah Annie (Forster) Skidmore,

   Perhaps with others born after 1911.

   i. John, born in Blaydon in 1894Q3.
   ii. Alfred, born in Edinburgh in 1899.
   iii. Jane, born 1901Q2 in Blaydon.
   iv. Thomas Westwood, born 1903Q4 in Blaydon,
   v. Mary, born 1906 in Portobello.
   vi. Woldridge, born late 1910 in Portobello.
   vii. A further child who did not survive to 1911.


616. iv. WOLDRIDGE\(^8\), born 1876Q1. A glass bottle maker, he married Jane Jefferson (born about 1883 in Blaydon) in 1906Q2 and was living with his family in 1911 at 12 Cuthbert Street, Blaydon.
Children of Woldridge and Jane (Jefferson) Skidmore, born in Blaydon,

i. George Edward, born 1907Q1.
ii. Sarah Jane, born 1908Q4.
iii. John, born March 1911.
iv. Woldridge, born 1913Q3.
v. Florence M., born 1918Q2.
v. Alfred, born 1882Q2. He was a fitter and turner at the Elswick Ordinance Company (a British armaments manufacturing company of the late 19th and early 20th century).

The sixth surviving son of Thomas and Archisadella (Langford) Skidmore,

324a. RICHARD³ SKIDMORE, born 12 January 1848 at Brockmoor and baptised on 23 April at St John’s there. He appears to be the man who married Rhoda Tench in 1870Q1 at the Cathedral of St Nicholas, Newcastle upon Tyne. She was born in 1851Q2, daughter of John Tench, a carter of Robinson Street, Blaydon, and his wife Catherine, near neighbours both of her parents and her brother John. Richard found work as a bottle maker in Glasgow, where they lived at 30 Canal Street, and also appears to have been in Edinburgh when his son Edward was born in 1874. He died in Glasgow in 1878 and Rhoda Skidmore returned with their son to Blaydon. She married George Puddifoot, a scaffold builder (born about 1852 in London), in 1879Q1 and was living at the time of the 1881 census two doors from Woldridge Skidmore in Robinson Street. She died in 1925Q3 aged 74.

Children of Richard and Rhoda (Tench) Skidmore, 618.

i. JOHN THOMAS⁹, born 1871Q2 in Blaydon. A mineral water cartman, he married Martha Twizell in Tynemouth registration district in 1892Q4. They were living by the time of the 1901 census at 1 John Road, Blaydon but moved before 1905 to 21 Holly Avenue, Ryton. Mr Skidmore became an assurance agent in Ryton.

Children of John Thomas and Martha (Twizell) Skidmore, born in Blaydon,

i. Jane, born 1895Q1.
ii. Rhoda, born 1899Q3.
iii. George William, born 1905Q1.


It is now necessary to return to Edward, the sixth son of John and Sarah (Westwood) Skidmore

172. EDWARD⁷ SKIDMORE, glass maker of Smethwick, was baptised at Wombridge, Shropshire, on 11 August 1805. Census entries show that he was born in the area of Donnington Wood and Oakengates. He married Mary Ann Day (born 1810 or 1813 in Birmingham) at St Mary's, Handsworth on 15 February 1830. They head most of the Skidmore families found later in Smethwick. They lived it seems around the boundary of West Bromwich and West Smethwick. The baptism registers of Smethwick Church show that they were in Smethwick from 1831 to 1845 (at Scotch Row in the 1841 census), then spending some years in West Bromwich (found at Spon Lane in 1847 and at Glover Street at the time of the 1851 census), before returning to Oldbury Road, Smethwick some time before 1856 (when he is mentioned as a glass maker of Smethwick in the will of his brother Richard Skidmore).

Mrs Skidmore is probably the Mary Ann Skidmore found in Pigot’s Directory of Smethwick for 1835 running a day school. She is thought to have died in 1866Q3 aged 54. Her husband died in 1870Q4 aged 66.

The children of Edward and Mary Ann (Day) Skidmore, born and baptised in Smethwick,

i. Agnes, born in Smethwick but baptised 22 May 1831 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill. She married Edward Ashworth (born about 1832 in Manchester, stocktaker, son of Edmund Ashworth, engineer) on 2 January 1854 at St Thomas’, Dudley. Witnesses were Richard Micklewright and Ruth Woodall. By 1861 they were running a booksellers in Oldbury Road, Smethwick, Edward described in the census as a stationer and insurance agent. They moved to Lodge Street, Middleton, Lancashire in the late 1860s and later lived at 3 Thomas Street there and also in Oldham. Edward worked in the waste paper and dry soap making trade and also returned (or perhaps always continued) to sell life assurance. Agnes was widowed by 1901 and living with her daughter Agnes Parkinson who with her husband John ran the Exchange Hotel in King William
ii. Henry, born in West Bromwich and baptised 27 January 1833. A glass maker in 1851, he is not found in the 1861 census for Smethwick and could have moved north by this time. He became a saddler, though where he did his apprenticeship is not presently known. He married Elizabeth Harwood (born about 1831 in Wedgbury, Herefordshire) in York in 1864Q2. They lived at 25 Barker Hill, the Half Moon in the St Maurice area of the city. As well as being the publican Henry made horse collars. He had adopted Flora Harwood (born about 1877 in Birmingham), apparently the daughter of his niece Jemima Harwood (born about 1861 in Birmingham). She is called Florrie Skidmore in the 1891 census, when Henry was a saddler at 18 Grape Lane, York. Mrs Skidmore died aged 74 in 1896Q3. Henry was working from his home at 6 Wood’s Yard at the time of the 1901 census. He died in York in 1908Q1 aged 75.

325. iii. THOMAS EDWARD⁸, born in West Smethwick and baptised at Smethwick on 9 August 1835. Like his father he was a glass maker. He married Lydia James (born about 1837 in Oldbury) in 1858Q4 at Smethwick Old Church. From the time of their marriage until at least 1901 the family lived in Oldbury Road, Smethwick, as did Thomas’ brother George and his father. Lydia Skidmore died in 1877Q1 aged 40, a year after they lost their son Thomas Edward. Her husband was a shopkeeper at the time of the 1901 census, at 354 Oldbury Road, Smethwick with daughter Sarah, son Elias and his married daughter Mary Jane and her husband. Thomas Skidmore died there aged 68 and on 9 July 1903, leaving a will which named as his executors John Skidmore, mechanic and son-in-law James Mason, joiner.

The children of Thomas Edward and Lydia (James) Skidmore, born in Smethwick,

i. Mary Jane, born 1859Q3. She married James Mason, a carpenter and joiner (born about 1862 in Smethwick) in 1889Q3 in Aston and was widowed by 1911. No children.

619. ii. JOHN JAMES⁹, [was 553.] born 1861Q1. He was a general mechanic in the steam works in Smethwick at the time of the 1901 census and was working as an iron turner at the carriage works by 1911. He married Mary Smout (born about 1866 in West Smethwick) in 1895Q2 at St Paul’s, Smethwick and they lived at 79 Marshall Street, Smethwick. Mr Skidmore died in 1948 aged 88.

Children of John James and Mary (Smout) Skidmore,

i. Dorothy Mary, born 1899Q1 in West Smethwick.

ii. Marion, born 1905Q4. She is perhaps the lady with her name who married in 1935.

iii. A further child who did not survive to 1911.

iii. Sarah, born 1862Q2. A glass smoother, not yet found after the time of the 1901 census.

iv. Lydia, born 1863Q4. She was a domestic servant to Miss Ellen B. Jones at 21 Soho Hill, Handsworth, in 1881. She married Edward Beech, a police constable (born about 1860 in Bradley, Staffordshire, son of Edward Beech) on 27 September 1891 at Christ Church, West Bromwich and they were living by 1911 at Calfeath, Shareshill, Wolverhampton, with the two surviving of their five children - daughter Sarah and son William.

v. Thomas Edward, born 1869Q1, died 1876Q1 aged 7.

vi. Elias, born 1875Q1. A fitter’s labourer, he was living with his widowed sister Mary Jane Mason at the time of the 1911 census. Mr Skidmore died in 1941 aged 67.

325a. iv. EDWARD⁹, baptised 26 February 1837 at Smethwick. A glass maker, he married firstly Alice Downing in the Kings Norton registration district (which contained Smethwick) in 1863Q2. Alice died in the city of York on 6 January 1866, aged 25, and their son died at around the same time. Edward Skidmore married secondly, on 25 October 1868 at St Olave’s, York, Sarah Mitchell, a dressmaker (born about 1837 in Bridlington, Yorkshire, daughter of William Mitchell) and they were living in 1871 at 5 Marygate, York. By 1881 he had become a woodcutter and dealer. Richard Mitchell, a railway goods porter aged 24, no doubt a relative of Sarah’s, was boarding at their home at 1 Garden Street. Edward and Sarah lived at the time of the 1891 and 1901 censuses at 7 Dewsbury Terrace in York. He died in York in 1902Q1 aged 64, his widow in 1906Q3.

A son of Edward and Alice (Downing) Skidmore, born in York,
i. William Henry, born 1865Q4 and baptised 8 February 1866 at St Savior’s, York. Died 1866.

326. v. JOSEPH⁶, born in Smethwick and baptised there on 29 September 1839. He was a glass maker at the time of the 1851 census but thereafter a shingler in an iron forge. In 1861Q3 he married Susannah Willetts (born about 1838 in Oldbury). They were living in 1871 at 202 Nock Street, Ocker Hill, Tipton, and in 1881 and 1891 at 64 Great Western Street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire. They remained in Wednesbury until at least 1901, when they lived at 3 Ct 3 Potters Lane with their son Edward and son-in-law Isaac Mincher. Joseph died there in 1907Q1 aged 67 and his wife lived with the family of her daughter Agnes Whitehouse. She died in 1922 aged 85.

The children of Joseph and Susannah (Willetts) Skidmore,

i. Mary Ann, born 1862Q3 in Smethwick but registered in West Bromwich. She married Isaac Mincher, an ironworker of Great Western Street (born about 1861 in Wednesbury, son of Samuel and Ann Mincher) on 29 December 1885 at St Peter’s, Walsall. Isaac, a tube maker, and his family spent a short time in Warrington around 1901, but returned soon after to Wednesbury and lived at 8 North Street. Mrs Mincher died in 1938 aged 75, her husband in 1947 aged 84. Children, as known, Eva, Leonard, Alfred, John Bernard, Nellie, Edward, Frank and Arthur.

ii. Agnes, born 1864Q1 in Wednesbury. She married Alfred Whitehouse, a steel roller (born about 1863 in West Bromwich) in 1887Q3 in a Register Office/Registrar-Attended ceremony, registered at West Bromwich. They were living at the time of the 1911 census at Broadway House, Corporation Street, Wednesbury. Three surviving children, as known, Alfred Edward, Doris and Leslie.

iii. Lizzie, born 1869Q2 in Tipton. A shop assistant, living at her parents’ home in Wednesbury in 1891. By the time of the 1901 census she was laundry superintendent at the Workhouse, Infirmary & Cottage Homes, Oakworth Road, Fell Lane, Keighley, Yorkshire. She married, in 1908Q4 in Leicester, Joseph Daykin, a mechanical engineer from Hawick, Scotland, and they were living by 1911 at 266 Gwendolin Road there with Mr Daykin’s sons William Edward and Alick. Mrs Daykin’s death appears to have been that registered at Billesdon, Leicestershire in 1934, aged 64.

iv. Sarah, born 1871Q4 in Toll End, Tipton. She was a dressmaker before she married William Henry Dugard, a coach blacksmith (born about 1871 in West Bromwich) in a Register Office/Registrar-Attended ceremony, registered at West Bromwich in 1895Q4. They lived in Whitmore Street and, by 1911, Radnor Street, Birmingham. Children, as known, Albert E.R., Edna G., William Harley and Ivy.

v. Florence, perhaps registered as Flora in 1874Q1, born in Wednesbury. She appears to have married Albert Cattell, a steam hammer driver in a railway tyre mill (born about 1880 in Warrington) in a Register Office/Registrar-Attended ceremony, registered at West Bromwich in 1899Q3. They were living by 1911 at 31 Terrace Street, Wednesbury.

Children of Joseph Edward and Sarah Ann (Saunders) Skidmore,

i. Lizzie Evelyn M., born 1904Q1. She married in 1929.

vi. Louisia Julia, born 1876Q2. She married Harley John Francis, a commercial clerk (born about 1877 in Wednesbury, son of Richard Francis, a postman) on 25 October 1898 at St Paul’s, Wednesbury. They lived in Foley Street and had a daughter Evelyn.

620 vii. JOSEPH EDWARD W.⁷, born 1879Q3 in Wednesbury. In 1902Q3 he married Sarah Ann Saunders in a Register Office/Registrar-Attended ceremony, registered at West Bromwich and was living by 1911 at 22 Terrace Street, Wednesbury. Joseph Skidmore worked in a railway tyre mill. He died in 1955 aged 76.

Children of Joseph Edward and Sarah Ann (Saunders) Skidmore,

i. Lizzie Evelyn M., born 1904Q1. She married in 1929.


iii. Gladys, born 1913Q3.


v.-vi. A further daughter and a son.
327. vi. CHARLES⁸, baptised 20 June 1841, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.
328. vii. JOHN⁸, born 1843Q2, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.
328. viii. GEORGE⁸, born 1844Q4, OF WHOM MORE BELOW.
   ix. Mary Ann, born 28 February 1847, a twin to Sarah, both baptised that same day at the Wesleyan
   Methodist Chapel, West Bromwich. She died later in that year.
   x. Sarah, born 28 February 1847 and died soon after.
   xi. Mary Ann, born in West Bromwich in 1849Q3. She was a servant in a 'dining room' in Spiccal
   Street, Birmingham before her marriage in 1875Q1 in Kings Norton registration district to
   Thomas Hands. More work needs to be done but she would appear to have been living with her
   sister Agnes' family in 1891 and to then have spent time as a pauper in West Bromwich
   Workhouse (still recorded as married, not widowed). She is perhaps the Mary Hands whose
   death was registered in 1898Q4 at West Bromwich aged 50.

The fifth son of Edward and Mary Ann (Day) Skidmore,

327. CHARLES⁸ SKIDMORE, born in Smethwick and baptised there on 20 June 1841. A glass maker, he
married firstly Mary Ann Knight at St James', Wednesbury on 17 May 1864. She was born in 1844Q4 in Nailsea,
Somerset, daughter of Richard Knight, a glass furnace man, and his wife Mary. Charles and Mary Ann's son
Joseph was born in 1873 at 499 Oldbury Road, Smethwick and at some time before 1881 the family moved to
19 Feeder Street. Mrs Skidmore died in 1887Q2 aged 44.

In 1887Q4 at Christ Church, Oldbury, Charles Skidmore married Sarah Cartwright (born 1850, daughter of
William Cartwright, tailor of Swindon, Wombourne, and his wife Charlotte), widow of Joseph Griffiths
(m.1869Q4). They shared their home at 102 Oldbury Road, Smethwick with Sarah's mother Charlotte (m.1.
William Cartwright 1845Q2, m.2. Thomas Stockley 1859Q4). Charles Skidmore died aged 64 in 1905Q2.

The children of Charles and Mary Ann (Knight) Skidmore, born in Smethwick,

621.  i. CHARLES⁹, [was 554.] apparently the Charles Skidmore KNIGHT whose birth was registered at Kings
Norton in 1863Q4. A glass furnace minder of Smethwick, he married Ellen Pruden on 13
December 1885 at Holy Trinity, West Bromwich. More checking is needed but she appears to
have been born in 1868Q2 in Wednesbury, daughter of William Pruden and his wife Mary
(Nichols).  
Charles and Ellen Skidmore were living at 245 Oldbury Road, Smethwick in 1891, moving to 19
Bridge Street West by 1901 and 107 Marshall Street by 1911. Mrs Skidmore reported at the time
of the 1911 census that in the 25 years of their marriage she had borne 14 children, only four of
whom were then living. Charles Skidmore died in 1928 aged 64, his wife in 1944 aged 76.

The children of Charles and Ellen (Pruden) Skidmore, born in Smethwick,

   ii. Richard, born 1892Q1. A house decorator.²¹
   iii. George, born 1894Q3. He was an emery bobber (a bobber polishes articles on a
bob or polishing-disc) of 107 Marshall Street, Smethwick at the time he enlisted at
Smethwick on 15 January 1916, giving his mother Ellen of the same address as next
of kin. He joined the Lincolnshire Regiment as an infantryman but, apparently as a
result of a slight eye defect, was assigned to garrison duty abroad. These troops
freed up regular soldiers of the then British Empire for duty in France. On 19
October 1916 he left for India, arriving on 8 December and was stationed with the
1st Garrison Battalion at Calcutta. His Military History Sheet shows that he was
awarded the 3rd Class Certificate of Education at Fort William, Calcutta in April

²¹ Three men called Richard Skidmore were born in this area in the 1890s:
   Richard born 1890Q4 the son of George Edward [622], Richard born 1892Q1 the son of Charles [621], Richard born
   1895Q4 the son of George [328].
   Four marriages took place in the late 1910s, early 1920s. Without sight of the details of the marriages, it is not possible
   at the moment to assign them to the correct man.

Richard Skidmore married Elizabeth Dee at Christ Church, West Bromwich in 1914. Seven sons and four daughters were
born to this marriage.

Richard Skidmore married Annie Keeley in 1916 at Smethwick Old Church. A daughter and a son were born to this
marriage.

Richard Skidmore married Lily Standing in 1922 in Kings Norton registration district. No children found.
At the beginning of 1919 both his mother and brother Richard asked for his discharge on compassionate grounds owing to his mother’s ill health. He was finally demobilised and returned home in February 1920. Mr Skidmore’s death was perhaps that registered at Smethwick in 1961.


622. ii. **GEORGE EDWARD**, born 13 March 1865. A glass maker, he married Louisa Swan (born 15 October 1867 in West Smethwick, daughter of James Swan and his wife Sarah (Clancey)) on 20 May 1888 at Holy Trinity, West Bromwich. At the time of the 1891 census they shared 16 Maria Street with the family of John Swan. Their home was at 48 Glover Street, West Bromwich. Mr Skidmore died in 1933 aged 68.

The children of George Edward and Louisa (Swan) Skidmore, born in West Bromwich,

i. Agnes, born 1888Q4. She appears to have been recorded twice in the 1901 census, both at her parents’ home and again at 1 High Park Road, Smethwick with her widowed grandfather Charles Snape, an ironworks labourer. (He is perhaps Charles Abraham Snape who married Sarah Swan in 1882Q2. She could be the widowed Sarah Swan living with her children at 53 Glover Street in 1881, but this needs further investigation).

Agnes ran a private reading room on the Oldbury Road, Smethwick. She married Frank Holford in 1915 and had two sons.

ii. Richard (Dick) born late in 1890. A glass maker in 1911.

iii. Millicent, baptised 7 March 1895 at Christ Church, daughter of George Skidmore, pipe warmer of 48 Glover Street. She married John R. Hill at Holy Trinity, West Bromwich in 1915.

iv. Ethel, born 18 February 1898 and baptised 9 March at St John’s. She was living at 48 Union Street at the time of her marriage on 22 September 1917 at Holy Trinity, West Bromwich, to Herbert Alan Shrimpton, a casting dresser of 88 Union Street, son of Robert Shrimpton, a forge furnaceman. The witnesses were Joseph Burgess and Violet Yapp. Ethel died of influenza in 1918 in West Bromwich. There was one daughter from the marriage.

Herbert Alan Shrimpton’s father was born in Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire and descended from the needlemaking Shrimptons whose lineage in that village goes back to 1618. My thanks to Valda Shrimpton for kindly supplying this information.

v. Bertie, born 24 May (baptised 11 June, non-conformist) 1900. He married a widow who had two children.

vi. **WILLIAM JAMES**, born 25 April 1903 and baptised on 21 May at Holy Trinity Church, West Bromwich. He married Doris Edith Baker on 14 July 1934 at St John’s, West Bromwich. Mrs Skidmore died in 1965, her husband in 1978 and both are buried at Heath Lane Cemetery. At least one daughter - Margaret, whose son Mark kindly supplied information on this family.


viii. Flora, baptised 2 July 1908.

ix. **OWEN**, born 1910Q4. He married in 1933 and had, as known, two daughters and four sons.

x. A further child - date unknown - who did not survive.

623. iii. **RICHARD WILLIAM**, born 1869Q3 in West Smethwick. He was a pipe warmer at the glass works before his marriage to Laura May Manfield in 1894Q1 at St Paul’s, Smethwick. She was born about 1872 in Nailsea, Somerset, daughter of George Manfield, stone mason, and his wife Fanny Maria (Knight). Richard for a time was a stone quarry labourer in Nailsea and at the time of the 1901 census they were living in Park Row there. However, by 1903 Mr Skidmore had once more found work in the Spon Lane Glassworks in Smethwick and was living in 1911 with his family at 34 Feeder Street.

Richard and Laura Skidmore later lived in the High Street, Nailsea, where he died on 3 March 1936. Laura Skidmore died on 4 June 1940.

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22 Her birth was recorded with the surname Manfield and her family appear with that name in the Nailsea censuses. However, she was recorded as Mansfield in the census of 1891 (a servant in Nailsea) and again at the time of her marriage to Richard William Skidmore.
Children of Richard William and Laura May (Manfield) Skidmore, born in West Smethwick,

i. Emily Violetta, born 1895Q1\(^{23}\). Violetta was a dressmaker and married William E. Anderton in 1917. She died in 1946 aged 51.

ii. Theodore Frederick, born 10 May 1897. He became a telegraph messenger for the General Post Office. During WW1 he was in the Somerset Light Infantry and the Royal Navy. He was awarded the Royal Navy Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1936 and continued to serve as an electrician throughout WW2. He married in 1946. Mr Skidmore died in 1974 in Plymouth.

iii. Ethel, born about 1903.

iv. A further child who did not survive to 1911.

\(^{23}\) And not Violet Annie, as stated in error in the 2004 edition.
The children of Joseph and Florence Ellen (Edwards) Skidmore, born in Smethwick,

i. Joseph, born 1916Q4, died 13 June 1968. He married Mary Murray (died 15 January 1995) from Galway Bay in Ireland. They had one daughter who died at six months of age and is buried in the Uplands Cemetery, as are Joseph and Mary.

ii. Florence, born 1920. She worked at Chance Brothers in the ‘light-house’. She married George Taylor and they lived in rooms at 40 Lonsdale Road, later at 53 Marshall Street and 33 West End Avenue in Smethwick. Florence died 17 February 1976 aged 55, her husband on 31 May 1995 aged 77, both buried in Langley Cemetery, West Smethwick.

Their son David kindly provided information on this family.

625. v. EDWARD², [was 558] born 1876Q2. He appears to be the Edward Skidmore found in the 1901 census in Smethwick and described as a fireman at a glass metal furnace. He married Lottie Lunn (born 1877Q2 in Smethwick, daughter of Charles Lunn, glassworks labourer, and his wife Lucy) in 1897Q3 at St Michael and All Angels, Smethwick. They were living in 1901 at 6 Bridge Street W., Smethwick with their daughter and with three sisters of Lottie - Lily Lunn 20, Nellie Lunn 18 and Florence Lunn 16.

A child of Edward and Lottie (Lunn) Skidmore,

i. Fanny, born 1898Q3 in Smethwick. She was living at the time of the 1911 census with her grandmother Sarah Skidmore.

ii.-iii. 2 further children who did not survive to 1911.

vi. Mary Ann S., born 1878Q3. She died at the age of 3 in 1882.

vii. Agnes, born 1880Q4. At the time of the 1901 census she was general servant at William Johnson’s beer house at 2 Ledsam Street, and by 1911 at George Ayres’ licensed house in Spring Hill, both in central Birmingham.

viii. Mary Ann S., born 1883Q3. Called Polly in the census of 1891.

The sixth son of Edward and Mary Ann (Day) Skidmore,

332. JOHN⁶ SKIDMORE, born in West Bromwich in 1843Q2. He was employed as a glass maker at the time he married Honor Sarah Noons (born 1837Q4 in West Bromwich, daughter of Thomas Noons, a mould) on 31
July 1864 at St Thomas', Dudley. The witnesses were Martha Ruston and James Trowmans.

John and Honor Skidmore began their married life in West Bromwich, moving to York in the late 1860s and then to Winson Green Road, Birmingham before 1871. In 1881 John was a tube maker, living at 103 Rocky Lane, Duddeston & Nechells, Birmingham and he appears in Aston Manor with his wife (called Sarah) at the time of the 1901 census.

Mrs Skidmore died on 7 June 1910 at 21 South Road, Handsworth, leaving a will naming her husband John Skidmore, coal dealer, as executor. He died in 1926 aged 82.

The children of John and Honor Sarah (Noons) Skidmore,

626. i. THOMAS EDWARD9, [was 562] born in 1865Q2 in West Bromwich. A blacksmith, he moved with his parents first to York and then to Birmingham. He married Isabel Freeman (born about 1863 in Birmingham) on 27 December 1892 at Holy Trinity, Bordesley. They lived in Great Tindal Street, Ladywood, Birmingham until at least 1901 but were 'refreshment house catrous [sic]' at their home at 120 Wheeler Street by 1911. Isabel Skidmore died in 1917.

The children of Thomas Edward and Isabel (Freeman) Skidmore, baptised at St John's, Ladywood,

ii. Archibald, born 1894Q4. A medal worker, he joined the Royal Warwickehire Regiment on 12 August 1912. The Silver War Badge Roll shows that he was discharged in 1918 as a result of wounds received. One other scrap of evidence is his name in an undated list of soldiers from this regiment who were temporarily listed as missing. He married Maud Louisa Taylor in 1922. He died in Birmingham in 195924.
iv. Another child who did not survive.
iii. Joanna, born in 1868Q4 in York. She married William Hancock, a millwright’s labourer (born about 1864 in Great Alne, Warwickshire) in 1889Q4 in Birmingham. They were living at the time of the 1901 census at 47 Francis Road, Cotteridge. Five children - John William, Eva Eleanor, Sidney, Frederick V. and Albert Edward.
v. Maud, born 1873Q1 in Birmingham. A luggage label maker, she married in 1903Q1 Arthur Smallwood, a jobbing carpenter in the building trade and was living with her husband and her daughter Stella in her father’s home at the time of the 1911 census.

The seventh son of Edward and Mary Ann (Day) Skidmore,

328. GEORGE9 SKIDMORE, born in Smethwick in 1844Q4. He was a glass blower of Lancaster Street, Birmingham, when he married Ann Stowe on 10 May 1868 at Edgbaston. Sarah Bradley was a witness. Ann was born in Birmingham and baptised at St Philip's there on 26 May 1851, daughter of George Stowe, victualler of Bagot Street, and Elizabeth. George and Ann Skidmore lived in Smethwick, at Oldbury Road in 1871 and at 23 Victoria Street in 1881.

His first wife died aged 40 in 1891Q2 and he married secondly Jennie Leech (born about 1865 in Smethwick) in 1892Q4. They were living by 1901 at 31 George Street, Smethwick. He is probably the George Skidmore who died in 1903Q2 aged 59. Mrs Skidmore died aged 47 in 1912Q1.

The children of George and Ann (Stowe) Skidmore, born in Smethwick,

i. Agnes Elizabeth, born 1877Q4. She married in 1901Q1 William Williams, a bricklayer for the

24 Pedigree found at Ancestry.com.
furnaces at a sheet iron mill (born about 1883 in Dudley). They moved between 1907 and 1911 to Newport, Monmouthshire and were living at the time of the 1911 census at 17 Colne Road there.

Children, as known - Annie, Doris and Beatrice Ann.

628. iii. GEORGE⁶, born 1879Q2. A compositor, he married Ethel Mary Harris (born about 1888 in West Bromwich) in 1909Q4 at St Matthew’s, Smethwick. They were living in Woodlands Street, Smethwick in 1911.

Children of George and Ethel Mary (Harris) Skidmore,

i. George Eric, born 1910Q2.
iii. Frank R., born 1915Q1.
iv. Dora Mary Ann, born 1882Q1. She married James Marshall in 1913Q4 at Smethwick Old Church.

629. v. JAMES ALBERT⁷, born 1884Q3. A compositor of Smethwick, he married Eunice Parkes (born 1883Q2 in Blackheath, Worcestershire) at St Paul’s, Smethwick in 1907Q3. At the time of the 1911 census they were living at 38 George Street with their daughter Beatrice and with Eunice’s widowed mother Eliza Parkes.

Children of James Albert and Eunice (Parkes) Skidmore,

i. Beatrice, born 1908Q4.
ii. Annie, born 1914Q2.
iv. A further son.

The children of George and Jenny (Leech) Skidmore,

vi. William, born 1895Q1. A gas fitter’s assistant in 1911. He had become a cycle saddle maker at the time he enlisted in November 1915 with the 17th (Local Reserve) Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Lance Corporal Skidmore was obliged to give up his military service in 1916 as a result of foot problems. Unfortunately, nothing further presently known.

vii. Richard, born 1895Q4. A diesinker’s assistant, he joined the Royal Flying Corps on 1 August 1916 and was assigned as a fitter to 76 Squadron, where he served for the duration of the war.¹⁸

Henry, the seventh son of John and Sarah (Westwood) Skidmore

173. HENRY⁷ SKIDMORE, baptised at Oldswinford on 26 April 1807. He married Sarah Wood (baptised 22 December 1805 at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill, daughter of Joseph and Mary Wood) at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 24 February 1828. The witnesses were Richard Skidmore, presumably Henry’s brother, and Jane Wood, Sarah’s sister. Henry was a glass maker of Spon Lane in West Bromwich until 1832, though he used St Thomas’ Church in Dudley. He died before or very shortly after the birth of his second son.

His widow was probably in Holly Hall, Dudley by 1834 and appears to have married secondly widower William Hand, flint glass maker (born about 1803 in Bude, Somerset), at Oldswinford on 23 May 1836. Five children were baptised to William and Sarah Hand at St Thomas’, Dudley, including Mary Wood Hand in 1851, though their home was in Duddesdon, Aston. She is perhaps the Sarah Hand whose death at the age of 89 was registered at Aston in 1894Q4.

The children of Henry and Sarah (Wood) Skidmore, baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley,


329. ii. THOMAS HENRY⁸, born in West Bromwich and baptised at St Thomas’, Dudley on 15 January 1832. In 1841 he was living with his grandmother Mary Wood in Stafford Street, Dudley. In the household were his uncle and aunt, Thomas Wood (born in 1824, a glass maker) and Mary Wood, and Joseph Cooper aged 1. By 1851 Thomas Skidmore lived in the home of his uncle Thomas Wood, an agent, at 24 Hall Street, Dudley. When Thomas Skidmore married Leonora Annie Bedward on 27 March 1853 at St Martin’s, Birmingham, he was a clerk of Duke Street (presumably the Duke Street in Aston, Birmingham). Leonora was born on 30 September 1832.
and baptised at Christ Church, West Bromwich, a daughter of John Bedward, builder of Duke Street, and his wife Sarah. She had two brothers, John born about 1825 and George 1840. Witnesses to the marriage were John Bedward and Mary Wood.

In 1871 Thomas was the foreman at a glassworks, perhaps Union Glassworks in Dartmouth Street, Birmingham, of which he had become manager by 1881. This was owned by the firm of Stone, Fawdry and Stone. John Benjamin Stone (1838-1914) was a master photographer and at one time President of the Birmingham Photographic Society. He took some 15000 photographs some of which are held at the National Portrait Gallery. Mrs Audrey Skinner, a great granddaughter of Thomas Skidmore, has photographs taken by him in 1893 at Wormley, Hertfordshire (he was by then Sir J. Benjamin Stone), where her grandmother Clara Jane Skidmore was a teacher. She also has books passed on to her by her grandmother dated Christmas 1887 and 1888 and signed by J.B. Stone.

Leonora Annie Skidmore died aged 44 in 1877Q1 in Aston. Her husband and children remained at the family home at 126 Great Lister Street in Duddeston, where they are found in the 1881 and 1891 censuses. Thomas Skidmore married secondly Elizabeth Bedward (born about 1836 in West Bromwich), in 1882Q3 in Aston registration district and they were living at the time of the 1901 census at 96 Bloomsbury Street, Aston. He died aged 74 in 1905Q4.

The children of Thomas Henry and Leonora Annie (Bedward) Skidmore, born in Aston, Birmingham,

i. Ann Elizabeth, born about 1854 in Smethwick. A domestic housekeeper at the time of the 1891 census, when she was living in the home of her sister Sarah Kate Hutchason. She remained unmarried and later lived with her sister Clara in Main Street, Stanstead St Margaret.

ii. Leonora Louisa, known as Poppy, born 1856Q2. She worked in the warehouse at the glassworks before her marriage in Birmingham in 1882Q4 to George Robert Baldwin, a gun case maker of Devonshire Street there (born about 1857 in Beckenham, Kent). A daughter Leonora Ada Marie, born in Hong Kong, and a son George Henry born 1892Q4 in Birmingham and possibly the George Baldwin who later looked after the poultry unit at Writtle College, Essex. Mrs Baldwin died in 1910 in Bromsgrove.

iii. Sarah Kate, known as Kitty, born 1859Q1. In 1881Q1 she married Frank Sidney Hutchason, a teacher (born in Nottingham about 1858, son of Stephen Hutchason, clerk, and his wife Charlotte). At the time of the 1881 census they were living with Frank’s parents at 15 Rocky Lane, Aston. They moved to the School House, Wormley and then to Main Street, Stanstead St Margarets in Hertfordshire. By the time of the 1911 census the family home was Holly Croft, Victoria Road, Bromsgrove. After the death of Frank Hutchason in 1906 the family moved to Dorchester, Dorset, where Mrs Hutchason died in 1949 aged 90.

iv. Mary Wood, known as Bidie, born 1864Q1. A paper sorter in 1881. James William Powell, her future husband, moved to Sydney, Australia, where she later joined him and where they were married. Three children Harry, Frank William and Hilda Dorothy Louise.

v. Clara Jane, born 16 June 1867, died 25 December 1929. She was a teacher in Wormley, Hertfordshire before her marriage on 1 February 1896 at Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire to William Dyke (born 3 October 1869 in Solihull, died 26 August 1957 Roydon, Essex). At the time of the 1901 census they were living in Main Street, Stanstead St Margaret, Hertfordshire. Mr Dyke worked in Turnford, Hertfordshire growing lilies for Rochford’s. He later set up in business with Frank Hutchason, his brother-in-law, and a Mr Way, and they started a nursery at St Margarets. After the early death of Frank Hutchason, William carried on the business alone and moved on to Roydon where he built a nursery which his son Archie eventually took over. Four children Gerald Lawrence William, Frank Cecil, Archie Douglas (whose daughter Audrey kindly supplied information on this family) and Dorothy Kathleen.
632. vi. **JOHN HENRY** SKIDMORE, [was 559.] known as Jack, born in 1871Q2 at 126 Great Lister Street, Aston, Birmingham. In 1891 he was a cabinet maker, living in the home of his father and stepmother. He married Frances Mary Harrison on 4 August 1897 and they were living in 1901 at 9 Holly Bank, Deakins Lane, Hay Mills (Yardley) and by 1911 at 5 Swan Buildings, Coventry Road, South Yardley. They went to Australia in 1912, first to Adelaide and then to Sydney where other family members had settled. He was a cabinet maker at the time of his marriage and found work in house building.

**The children of John Henry and Frances Mary (Harrison) Skidmore,**

i. Leonora Frances, born 26 April 1898 in Birmingham. She married in her sixties.


iii. **JOHN HARRISON** (Jack), born 1904Q3 in Hay Mills. He married Fanny Alice Fuller in 1932 in Hurstville, New South Wales. He died in 1985 in Kogarah, New South Wales.


633. vii. **GEORGE FREDERICK**, [was 560.] known as Fred, born in 1873Q1 at 126 Great Lister Street, Aston, Birmingham. At the time of the 1891 census he was living with his father and stepmother in Aston, a railway coach maker. He married Annie Maria Forrest (born 1874Q3 in Aston, daughter of ____ Forrest and his wife Jane) in 1898Q2 in Aston. They were living with their daughter Annie in north Manchester at the time of the 1901 census but had moved by 1911 to Dorset where Frederick was foreman coach body maker for the Corporation Tramway in Bournemouth. Annie Skidmore died on 26 July 1935.

**A daughter of George Frederick and Annie Maria (Forrest) Skidmore,**

i. Leonora Annie, born 1899Q2. She married Harold. A son John.

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174. **RICHARD SKIDMORE**, baptised on 26 May 1811 at St Michael's, Brierley Hill. He was at first a shingler but became a butcher in Oldbury. Richard Skidmore married firstly Phoebe Baker on 11 July 1830 at Kingswinford. Sarah Baker and Richard Jones were witnesses. It is difficult to identify Phoebe Baker, since of the three girls of that name baptised locally (between 1808 and 1811, all at St Thomas, Dudley), all three had a sister Sarah who could have been the marriage witness.

When Richard’s daughter Sarah Adelaide was baptised in Tipton late in 1830, he was a forgeman of Lower Green there. They lived between 1835 and 1838 in Bilston parish but by the time of the 1841 census were near Richard’s brother George Skidmore in Brades New Village, Oldbury. Richard’s wife was apparently one of the ladies called Phoebe Skidmore whose deaths were registered in West Bromwich in 1848Q1 and 1848Q3.

Richard Skidmore married secondly Mary Hingley in 1848Q4 at All Saints’, West Bromwich and lived with his second wife at 3 Halesowen Street, Oldbury. Richard’s wife said at the time of the 1851 census that she was born in Rowley around 1815 and was probably the widow of Thomas Hingley of Kingswinford parish. Thomas Hingley married Mary Hennefer at Kingswinford on 27 August 1832. Their daughter Ann Maria Hingley (baptised 1 May 1836 at Kingswinford) lived in Richard Skidmore’s household at the time of the 1851 census.

Richard Skidmore was buried at Oldbury on 23 March 1856 aged 44. His will was made on 12 March 1856 and proved at Worcester on 8 September of that year. He held freehold land and leased a house and premises in Oldbury, the rents of which were to support his wife Mary Skidmore and which, on her death, were to be sold and the benefits used for his three children, Henry Skidmore, Mary Ann Skidmore and Sarah Skidmore. Provision was made for Sarah’s education should his wife remarry. The executors were Richard’s brother Edward Skidmore, glass maker of Smethwick, John Granger, builder of Bilston (also his trustees) and his wife Mary Skidmore. I have been unable to find Mary Skidmore died aged 45 and was buried on 18 December 1859 at St Giles, Rowley Regis.

The children of Richard and Phoebe (Baker) Skidmore,

i. Sarah Adelaide, baptised 5 December 1830 at Tipton. Buried 29 September 1835 at Bilston aged 4 years and 10 months.

ii. [perhaps] Salina, buried at Bilston on 25 October 1836, aged 2.

iii. Henry, born about 1836 in Bilston. Like his father, Henry was a butcher and living in Temple Street (perhaps the road off New Street in central Birmingham) at the time of his marriage at St Philip’s, Birmingham, on 14 April 1856 to Caroline Pritchard. She was born about 1832, the daughter of John Pritchard, a watch maker. Witnesses to their wedding were Eliza Glover and William Hall. However, by the time of the census of 1861, when Henry was living with his sister Mary Ann Baylis, he was recorded as married and a musician. Nothing further known.

iv. Mary Ann, born about 1837 and remembered in her father’s will in 1856. She lived for a time as the wife of Henry Bayliss, a miller of Freeth Street, Oldbury (born about 1836 in Stratford, Warwickshire). Mary Ann Skidmore, aged 36, married widower Samuel Latimer, a moulder, at St Giles, Rowley Regis on 3 November 1872. Peter Tonks and Harriet (?Hathersmith) Tonks were witnesses. Mr Latimer, whose first wife was Ann Maria Turton, was born about 1828 in Oldbury, son of Samuel Latimer, labourer, and Hannah. Mary Ann Latimore died in Derby in 1889Q4 aged 52 and her husband was living at Princes Street there in 1901 with his son William Latimer.

The child of Richard and Mary (?Hennifer) Skidmore,

v. Sarah, born 1853Q3 and baptised 16 October 1853 at Oldbury. Buried there on 21 December 1857 aged 4. An entry in the register of Oldbury Wesleyan Methodist Chapel records a child of Richard Skidmore born 2 August and named 18 August 1853. Sarah was born in 1853Q3. It would appear she was baptised twice.
The tenth son of John and Sarah (Westwood) Skidmore

175. GEORGE\(^7\) SKIDMORE was the son of John [90] and Sarah (Westwood) Skidmore, born in Old Hill and baptised at St Michael’s, Brierley Hill on 11 July 1813. He married Sarah James (born about 1815 in Oldbury) on 16 December 1833 at St Mary’s, Handsworth. George was a blacksmith who like his older brothers Charles, Edward and Richard moved away from Brierley Hill. The 1841 census finds them in Brades New Village, Oldbury, where they remained until at least 1851 before moving to Smethwick sometime before 1853. In 1861 the family were in Union Street, West Bromwich, and in 1871 St George Street, Smethwick. George Skidmore died in 1878Q3 aged 64.

His widow was with her son George and daughter Mary Jane at Broomfield, Smethwick, in 1881. She died in 1892Q1 aged 75.

The children of George and Sarah (James) Skidmore,

i. Mary Ann, baptised 21 September 1834 in Brierley Hill. Not found in the 1841 census. Like her brother William and sister Sarah, she died in 1838Q1.


iii. Sarah, born 1837Q3 and baptised 15 October 1837 at Oldbury. Died in 1838Q1.

iv. Elizabeth, born December 1840. She perhaps married Samuel Holloway, an edgetool grinder (born about 1840 in Oldbury) in 1866Q2 at Holy Trinity, Smethwick and lived at 11 Junction Street, Oldbury.

v. George Henry, born in 1842Q3. He was a blacksmith, presumably working at first with his father, and became a house agent in the 1890s. He married Mary Ann Matthews (born about 1844, a British subject born in St Louis, USA) in 1887Q4 at Holy Trinity, Smethwick and lived at 57 Hume Street, Smethwick. Mary Ann Skidmore died in 1910Q2 aged 67. Mr Skidmore married secondly in 1916 Annice Hampson. He died on 4 November 1917 at 9 Wyncliff Road, Small Heath, Birmingham, aged 75, leaving a will (not seen). No children.

vi. Ann Maria, born 1 May 1844 in New Town, Oldbury. She married Thomas Prescott, a traveller, in 1863Q1 in the registration district of West Bromwich (which included Oldbury). In 1871 they were living at 45 Ditch Hillock, St Helens, Lancashire. After the death of her husband in the 1890s, Ann Maria Prescott lived with her family in the Sparkhill and Small Heath areas of Birmingham.

330. vii. RICHARD\(^8\), born in 1846Q1 in Oldbury. He was a blacksmith who married Elizabeth Fleming (born about 1846 in Stourbridge) in 1869Q1 at St James’, West Bromwich. They were living in 1871 at 3 Pardoe’s Lane, Darlaston. Their daughter Elizabeth Jane was born in Trinity Street, West Bromwich in 1875 and they were still at this address in mid-1879 when Richard was baptised. Their son Elias was born at Invercargill, New Zealand in October 1880. Unfortunately the New Zealand 1881 census returns were not kept; I have yet to find them in the UK census in 1881. By 1882 Richard and his family had returned to England and later had various addresses in Smethwick, including 59 Poplar Street in 1892 (when his son Elias changed schools). At the time of the 1911 census, they were living at 146 Rosefield Road and Mr Skidmore was a blacksmith at the Railway Company Carriage Works. Elizabeth Skidmore reported in this census that she had had eight children in the 42 years of their marriage, four of whom were still living. Only three of these are presently known.

Richard Skidmore’s death appears to have been registered at Aston, Birmingham in 1923, aged 77.

Children of Richard and Elizabeth (Fleming) Skidmore,

i. Amelia, born in 1869Q4 in West Bromwich. She died in 1871 aged 1 year 7 months and was buried at Holy Trinity on 6 August.

ii. Elizabeth Jane, born in the first quarter of 1875 and baptised at Holy Trinity, West Bromwich on 21 March.

iii. Richard, born 1878Q4 and baptised at Holy Trinity on 15 June 1879. He died in New Zealand in 1880.

634. iv. ELIAS JAMES\(^9\), born 7 October 1880 in Invercargill, New Zealand (not found in the
BMDs online of the New Zealand government. He went to Corbett Street Board School, moving to Smethwick Central Board School on 3 October 1892. He left England and arrived at Montreal in June 1904 on the Parisian. In Canada he married in around 1909 Sara Edith _____ (born March 1880 in Canada of Irish parents). They were living by 1911 in Brantford, Ontario, where he was an electrician.

He entered the US via the Detroit Border Crossing on 24 March 1923. His wife and son joined him in Detroit, where Elias became a machinist in the automobile trade.

A son of Elias James and Sara Edith Skidmore,


viii. [perhaps] Agnes, born in 1849Q1, died 1849Q4.

ix. Agnes, born in 1850Q4. A dressmaker in 1871. She married Joseph Hockley Brockhouse, a back axle turner and later a manager at the Axletree works (born about 1847 in Wednesbury) in 1874Q1. They lived in Smethwick near to her family. Mrs Brockhouse died in 1901Q3 aged 51, her husband in 1903Q4 aged 55.

born in Smethwick,

x. Alice, born 1853Q3. She was a domestic servant, living in 1871 in the home of her sister Ann Maria. She married James Walsh, an engine fitter (born about 1852 in St Helens, Lancashire) in a civil ceremony registered at Prescot, Lancashire in 1873Q3. They were living in 1881 at 22 Junction Lane, St Helens and had moved around 1890 to South Shields. Children, as known - Ada, Agnes, Thomas R., Harry, Frederick, Jennie.

xi. Mary James, born in 1855Q3. A lacquerer in 1881. She married Richard Highcock (born about 1858 in St Helens, Lancashire) in 1882Q4 at Holy Trinity, Smethwick and appears to have moved with him soon after to live in St Helens, where he was a railway clerk. Children, as known - Mary Elizabeth, George Henry, Richard, Frederick.

331. xii. ELIAS§, born 25 September 1858 at Oldbury Road, Smethwick. A wheelwright of Smethwick, he married Elizabeth Clews (born 24 April 1861, daughter of William, breeze dealer, and Elizabeth Clews) on 24 October 1880 at Holy Trinity, the parish church of North Harborne. They were at 129 Corbett Street, Smethwick in 1881 and 156 Gilbert Road in 1901. Elias was a dowser and much in demand in the days of wanting a personal water supply. He died in 1927.

The children of Elias and Elizabeth (Clews) Skidmore, born in Corbett Street, Smethwick,

636. i. GEORGE ELIAS§, [was 561] born 18 December 1881 at Corbett Street, Smethwick, on 18 December 1881. He was apprenticed at Tangys in Smethwick and then at The Wolseley Motor Company, Manchester. From there he enlisted in August 1914 and immediately was made Sergeant in the A.S.C. (later the R.A.S.C.). He ran mobile workshops for two years in France and then another two in Mesopotamia or, as the troops called it, 'Mespot'. In 1921 he married Ethel, who was born on 8 October 1898, daughter of Charles, a grocer in Bearwood Road.

On his return from the war George set up Skidmore's Garage Ltd at 118 Windmill Lane in Smethwick. The garage prospered and he added a haulage side, but the General Strike in 1926 shattered the enterprise, as the drivers left their lorries and loads to be pilfered and vandalised wherever they were. He was left with massive debts which were not paid off until 1938. The garage provided parking for Smethwick Market, the Rink Cinema and the boxing venue across the road. George's daughter Fay remembers her father coming home from the boxing one night and telling the family that he had seen the best young hope he had ever witnessed - one Randolph Turpin.
The children of George Elias and Ethel Skidmore,

i. Jean Mary. She married Harold.

ii. Margaret Fay (who kindly supplied information on this family). She married Edwin. Three sons and a daughter.

iii. JOHN ALAN\textsuperscript{10}. Married Patricia. After his father's death he ran the garage business, transferring it to West Bromwich and selling it when he retired. The site became a Firestone Tyre Depot. Daughters Marion and Helen.

ii. Lilian Elizabeth, born in 1884Q2. Miss Skidmore died in 1926Q3 at Stanmore Road, Edgbaston.

iii. John William, born in 1888Q3. Known as Bill, he was apprenticed to the Austin Motor Company and worked there until the late 1920s, when he opened his own garage in Bearwood specialising in Austin repairs. This he was forced to close just before World War II. Mr Skidmore remained unmarried and died in Dudley Road Hospital in 1959.

iv. A further child who did not survive.

continued
HENRY PARKES SKIDMORE, born 19 June 1795 and baptised at St Mary’s, Kingswinford on 4 October of that year. He married, by licence, Eliza Nock of Rowley parish on 18 January 1830 at St Mary’s, Kingswinford. The witnesses were Mary Purton and Elijah Williams. Eliza was baptised at St Giles’, Rowley Regis on 18 October 1807, daughter of James Nock and his wife Hannah (perhaps Hannah Purton, married 20 May 1805 at St Thomas’, Dudley). Henry was a nailmaster and, in the 1834 voting list for Kingswinford, a nail ironmonger of The Thorns, Kingswinford parish. The area around Dunn’s Bank and The Thorns, between the southern edge of Quarry Bank and the River Stour, and east of Thorns Road, was sparsely populated and separated from the southern edge of Quarry Bank even at the time of the 1914 Ordnance Survey map of Lye. The landscape was dominated by fireclay pits and, on Thorns Road itself, the fireclay and brick works.

Henry Skidmore was one of the first Directors of the Stourbridge and Kidderminster Banking Company, inaugurated at a meeting held at the Talbot Hotel on 29 January 1834. Another Director of this successful enterprise was Joseph King, fire brick manufacturer and the son of Henry’s cousin Sarah Skidmore who married William King. The Bank’s first Cashier was Samuel Nock, probably not Eliza’s brother who would have been too young, but perhaps an older relative.

A stone in Brierley Hill churchyard commemorates the deaths of Henry Parkes Skidmore (died at the age of 39 on 31 May 1834 and buried on 7 June) and his son James Nock Skidmore. Henry Parkes Skidmore’s death is noted in the Bible of Jeremiah (115), though this appears to have more to do with Henry’s renown in the neighbourhood than very close kinship. His will was made on 9 April 1833 and proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 9 November 1834. His freehold property was to be divided between his two sons Henry Parkes Skidmore and James Nock Skidmore ‘and any further increase that may take place in my family within nine months after my death’. He wished the Thorns property ‘purchased from the Trade’ and ‘an offer made my partner in trade [Mr William Pargeter] of the property purchased by us at the Common side now in the possession of Mr Thomas Stinson my oldest son Henry P Skidmore when of age to have the choice of property’. If Henry chose the Thorns property then James was to have the property at the Delph and a house be built there for him. His wife received £250 per annum for the bringing up of their children - ‘I have named the sum thinking it will be sufficient but leave my Executors to advance up to the age of fourteen years a little extra if they think it useful as at that age I would wish them to choose a trade and of course during their apprenticeship less will be required than during their education so that during the whole time the above amount may be sufficient’. ‘Miss Skidmore’ his sister received £350. His executors were Joseph King of Stourbridge and his wife’s father James Nock, and the will witnessed by Noah Forest and Benjamin Webb.

After the death of her husband and before the time of the 1841 census, Eliza moved with their three children to Rowley Regis, specifically to the area between Cradley Bridge and the Five Ways. She married secondly in 1845 Frederick James Clerke, (born 1815 in Belfast, Ireland), Minister of St Giles’, Rowley Regis (and later St Luke’s, Reddal Hill). They lived in 1851 at the parsonage at Five Ways in Cradley Heath, with their children Mary Jane Clerke, aged 4, Ann Maria Clerke, aged 2 and Frederick James Clerke, aged 12, and Eliza Skidmore daughter of her first marriage. Her son Henry Parkes Skidmore, nail and iron maker, was living at this time with his grandmother Hannah Nock (born about 1768 in Halesowen) and Mary Purton her daughter-in-law (born about 1803 in Rowley Regis) at Piddock Green, Rowley Regis. Henry and Eliza Skidmore’s son and daughter married sister and brother Blanche and Thomas Pargeter Jones. Mrs Clerke appears to have died in 1870 aged 63.

The children of Henry Parkes and Eliza (Nock) Skidmore, baptised at Holy Trinity, Wordsley, 176.  

HENRY PARKES, baptised 18 January 1831. A tube maker of Netherton. Before his marriage he appears to have lived with his grandmother Hannah Nock at Piddock Green, Rowley Regis.

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26 Fonteyn, C., Part 2.
27 Possibly the man nominated as junior chaplain in Bengal on 26 April 1890, ref. India Office Records: Public & Judicial Department IOR/L/PJ/6/275.
The tube trade expanded rapidly at the beginning of the nineteenth century in response to the demand for tubes to convey gas, a cheaper alternative to those of lead, copper or brass. Cornelius Whitehouse of Wednesbury patented his method for constructing wrought-iron tubes in 1825 and this was still in use in 1875 when Curzon wrote of the Atlas Tube Works belonging to Henry Parkes Skidmore. This tube works, which then employed about 140 men and boys, had been established in around 1850 and used 'the best and most modern machinery known to the trade' and were 'well built and conveniently arranged premises, very suitable for the purpose for which they were used'. Skidmore purchased the strip iron locally and also the bar iron used in making sockets and fittings. 60 to 80 tons of tubes and fittings per week were made, and Skidmore also did a considerable trade in garden seats, made with supports of tubing, and wooden seats. He had a tramway laid down to connect important parts of the works, and also on to the wharf. The storage yard for the strip iron also housed excellent stables for the draught horses. The Works also made coils for anvils, blast furnaces, distilleries and so on, but the greatest novelty was the 'Atlas Hot-water Coil Stove'. By means of pipes attached to the coil all the rooms in a house could be heated by one stove placed in the hall or kitchen. Not surprisingly, this early form of central heating was patented.

Henry Skidmore had an agent in London; a directory of 1859 records Henry Parkes Skidmore gas pipe worker (patent iron) with Thomas Henry Tytherleigh, agent, at 4 Colman Street, City E.C., together with H.P. Skidmore and Jones (probably Thomas Pargeter Jones, his wife’s brother and his sister’s husband), nails, etc., manufacturer, at the same address.

Lloyd’s Weekly Newspaper (London) 7 Jun 1857.

from Leaderhall Buildings in Fenchurch Street, London. Henry Parkes Skidmore lived in Church Road in Netherton in 1881 when his firm was said to employ 150 hands. In 1883 he bought Stonehouse Farm and lands at Fockbury near Bromsgrove from William Stableford. By 1891 he had retired to Austin's Close, Harberton in Devon. Notice was given in the London Gazette ‘...that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between the undersigned Henry Parkes Skidmore and Thomas Jones trading at the Atlas Tube Works Dudley as Tube Manufacturers and Galvanizers under the style of H. P. Skidmore and at Ilchester Wharf Birkenhead as Galvanizers under the style of H. P. Skidmore and Co. and formerly at the Dudley Fort Ironworks as Ironmasters under the style of Plant and Fisher's Successors has been dissolved by mutual consent.—Dated the twentieth day of May 1896. H. P. SKIDMORE. THOMAS JONES.

Henry Parkes Skidmore died in Devon on 9 March 1897 aged 36, leaving a will, after which his properties near Bromsgrove were sold, together with property in Northfield31.

ii. James Nock, baptised 18 January 1832, died 27 April (buried 4 May) 1843, aged 11 of Five Ways.

iii. Eliza (referred to as Elizabeth in the King family papers), baptised 31 July 1834. She married by licence Thomas Pargeter Jones (coalmaster of Oakham, born about 1832 in Halesowen, son of Thomas Pargeter Jones, nailmaster) on 17 April 1855 at St Luke's, Cradley Heath. Thomas Jones was an iron chain, cable and anchor manufacturer and his son Thomas Jones a clerk at the anchor works in Rowley, where the family had their home at Oakham Cottage, Oakham Road. Thomas and Eliza Jones were beneficiaries in 1900 in the will of James Nock of Broadhidley in Northfield [now in Birmingham]. Other beneficiaries were Thomas Jones, Ann Elizabeth Farrar, William Henry Jones, James Skidmore Jones, Caroline Theresa Jones Evans, Mary Jane Beilby (Eliza Jones’ stepsister), Jane Lilian Elizabeth Town, The Rev. Thomas Gregory and wife, James Nock Clarke and Henry Thomas Firmstone King32.

Thomas Pargeter Jones died late in 1900, his wife perhaps in 1906Q4 aged 72.

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31 Birmingham City Archives MS911/19, 911/20.
32 Worcester Record Office in papers of Bannister, Bernard, King and Sons ref. 705:87/9670/2/vi - date: 1900.
APPENDIX 1


‘The Burgess Books of Bristol recording the names of men admitted to the freedom of the city exist in an almost unbroken sequence from 1558 to the present day. They were the body of townsmen who, in the Middle Ages, chose the mayor by acclamation, and from their ranks until 1835 were chosen the mayor, sheriff, aldermen and all the councillors of the town. The freedom of the town and the freedom of the craft guilds were also closely linked, and it was difficult, and at some periods virtually impossible, for a man to set up as a master in his own craft or trade and take apprentices without first being admitted a freeman.... Since apprenticeship could lead to freedom, it was necessary for the Corporation to keep an accurate record. Master and apprentice would come before the mayor and particulars of the apprenticeship indentures would be taken. As a result, there exists, ...[a] series of Apprentice Books from 1532 to the present day.’

The following were extracted by the author from an index held by the Bristol and Avon Family History Society.

*P Patron, the person through whom the Burgess qualified for the privilege.
*B Burgess, the person being admitted to the liberties of the City.

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