DESCENDANTS CALLED SKIDMORE OF RALPH FARGO AND ELIZABETH TOOKER OF NEW LONDON COUNTY, CONNECTICUT


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This family descends from Elizabeth Scidmore of New London, and they are not genetically speaking, Skidmores at all. Elizabeth Scidmore was a daughter of Joseph Tooker (by his wife Mary Ogden?) and the first wife of Joseph Scidmore of Huntington, Long Island. [See Thomas Skidmore (Scudamore) 1605-1684, of Westerleigh, Gloucestershire, and Fairfield, Connecticut, (2nd edition, 1985), pages 33, 57-8.] A complete history of this family has been promised by Timothy M. Blomquist of Farmington, New Mexico.

ELIZABETH TOOKER, the wife of Joseph Scidmore, was a member of the First Church at Huntington in 1726. Sometime after this date she deserted her husband and went across the Long Island Sound to New London, Connecticut. Joshua Hempstead (1678-1758) of New London most fortuitously recorded the gossip about her in an entry in his diary on Sunday, 7 July 1734: “Joseph [widow] Skidmore died yesterday in childbed with her 3rd child by Ralph Fergo. She was the wife of one Skidmore of Naharagansett and had Eloped from him and Ralph Fergo having no wife took her in.” Hempstead's facts are basically correct, but Elizabeth was not a widow and her Skidmore husband did not live in Rhode Island. She had issue by Ralph Fargo (born 1693),

1. A child, perhaps born about 1730. No further record.
2. Benjamin, “son of Elizabeth Skidmore” (no father is mentioned), was baptized on 25 June 1732 at Groton, New London County. Nothing more is known of him.
3. RALPH, presumably the child born at New London, New London County, on 6 July 1734, of whom further.

The 3rd son, FGO [1]

RALPH SKIDMORE was presumably the child born 6 July 1734. No probate has been found for Ralph Fargo and his son Ralph seems to have been sent to Long Island perhaps to live with the Tooker family. His grandfather Joseph Tooker, Sr., settled late in life at Elizabeth, Essex County, New Jersey, where he left a will dated 31 December 1753. It provided for the unnamed children of his deceased daughter Elizabeth. Ralph Skidmore is first mentioned in a private list of marriages kept by William Salmon of persons who married in and around Southold, Suffolk County, Long Island. From this we learn that he married 1stly Hannah Owin on 31 September 1755 on Long Island. He married 2ndly Mary (perhaps Dayton) who was living his widow in Hampshire County, (West) Virginia, in 1784 when she appears on a tax list taken by Michael Cresap. Mary Skidmore disappears after this date and may have remarried. (The early marriage bonds of Hampshire County are lost.) Ralph Skidmore was enlisted on 30 March 1758 by Captain Thomas Arrowsmith on Staten Island to serve in the French and Indian War; he reenlisted in 1759, 1760 and 1761. His age on the muster rolls varies between 19 and 21, but this has to be understated unless he married as a youth of 15. He is reported to have been born on Staten Island, but this is also patently an error for there is no father to be found for him there at the proper period. He is listed as a laborer, varying in height from 5’ 7 ½” to 5’ 9” and with brown complexion, brown eyes, and brown hair. He is doubtless the man of his name who enrolled in Hampshire County, (West) Virginia for service in Dunmore's War in 1774 under Captain David McClure and Lieutenant Francis McClure. His name appears on a list of men who were paid off at Pittsburgh in 1775, and on another list of men paid at Romney in Hampshire County. The men on this latter list mostly transferred over to service in the Revolutionary Army and we find Ralph Skidmore serving soon after in the 12th Regiment of the Virginia Continental Line. Nothing else is known.

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[1] Male heads of households are assigned a number preceded by the code FGO [Fargo] in the databases of the Skidmore/Scudamore One-Name Study. Linda Moffatt. www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com
Descendants called Skidmore of Ralph Fargo and Elizabeth Tooker of New London County, Connecticut.

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of him after this and he presumably died in the service before 14 June 1778 when his son was bound out in Hampshire County. Had issue probably by his second wife,

2. 1. WILLIAM, of whom further.

3. 2. Ralph, born about 1774. He was added to the list of tithables in Hampshire County in 1792 at the age of at least 16. On 28 April 1790 both he and his older brother William appear on a muster roll of the Hampshire County Militia. He married, presumably in Hampshire County, Mary Ross who survived him. Ralph Skidmore was living as late as 1800 in Hampshire County and in 1802 in Monongahia County, West Virginia. He disappears from the tax lists thereafter and was in Ohio by 1807. He served in Ohio (probably from Hamilton County) in the War of 1812 in Captain Thomas Seton's company from 5 February to 12 August 1813 and later in Captain Henry Zumalt's company. In 1820 he was living with his wife Mary in Wayne County, Indiana, with five females aged 16 to 26 in his household all presumably his daughters; no sons are known. Ralph Skidmore, aged 60-70, and his wife were living alone in Washington Township, Wayne County in 1830. He went by 1834 to St. Joseph County, Indiana, with his son-in-law Theophilus Case and may have died there. Neither he nor his wife are found as the head of a family in 1840. In 1850 Polly (aged 73) was living with her daughter Nancy Tweedy and her husband in Edgar County, Illinois; she is identified in the census as a native of Hampshire County, Virginia, as was her daughter Nancy. Mary Skidmore, aged 82, died in November 1859 in Simms Township, Edgard County, Illinois. Had issue, 1. Sarah, born 15 October 1793 in Virginia. She married Theophilus Case (born 1789, died 1846) on 24 December 1812 at Williamsburg, Clermont County, Ohio. He was drafted soon after in the War of 1812 in Captain John Faris’ company and was taken prisoner at Detroit. Discharged on 24 September 1812 at Fort Maulden in Canada, he returned home and was living in 1830 near Ralph Skidmore in Washington Township, Wayne County, Indiana. He had two land grants in 1837 in Warren Township, St. Joseph County, Indiana, where he died on 25 July 1846. His widow was living in 1850 at Bristol in Washington Township, Elkhart County, Indiana, and had moved by 1856 to Cadiz Township, Green County, Wisconsin, with her son Samuel Skidmore Case. In 1871 she applied for a pension in the right of her husband and was then living at Shreve, Clinton Township, Wayne County, Ohio. She died on 19 September 1876 at Bristol, Elkhart County, Indiana.

2. Margaret, born 1798 in Virginia. She married Jonas Sleeth on 2 March 1814 in Greene County, Ohio. They had moved by 1830 to Shelby County, Indiana, where she was living in Marion Township, his widow, in 1850.

3. Mary, born 1800 in Virginia. She married John Henderson (born 1811) on 5 March 1828 in Wayne County. He was a shoemaker and last maker according to the 1850 census. They were living with their six children in Elbridge Township, Edgard County, Illinois, in 1860, but had lived earlier for brief periods in Fayette and St. Joseph Counties, Indiana.

4. Nancy, born 1802 in Virginia. She married Samuel Tweedy (born 1799, died 1853) on 15 February 1821 in Wayne County. She was living, his widow, in 1870 in Elbridge Township, Edgard County, Illinois. [Her husband was a brother of Robert Tweedy (born 1796, died 1873) of Stratton Township, Edgard County, Illinois, who married 2ndly Katherine (Skidmore) Downing who was not related. See HUNTINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA (noticed elsewhere).] Samuel Tweedy is buried in the Old Baptist Cemetery in Eldridge Township.

5. Julianna, born 1807 in Ohio. She married Aaron Mercer (born 1799, died 1862) on 28 April 1823 in Wayne County, Indiana. They were living in Greene County, Ohio, in 1860.

6. Cresey (probably). She married William Fisher on 8 September 1803 in Allegheny County, Maryland. They were married at the Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church at Cumberland by Thomas Larkin who made the return on the marriage license.

The elder son,

WILLIAM SKIDMORE, born about 1770. He was bound out as a young boy to Peter Peters until 14 June 1778; after this he was to serve Isaac Dayton (who may have been his uncle). He was added to the list of tithables in 1790 and on 28 April 1790 both he and his brother Ralph appear on a muster roll of the Hampshire County Militia in Captain John Blue's company. William went soon after to Mason County, Kentucky, where he
married Mary Criswell on 23 June 1792. They were living in 1799 in Shelby County, Kentucky, and are enumerated in the 1810 census of Henry County, Kentucky. He had died there by March 1814 when his estate was appraised. His widow Mary was the head of a family in 1830 in the Lower Division of Henry County. Had issue,

3. 1. SAMUEL, of whom further.
4. 2. JOHN, to whom we will return.
5. 3. JAMES, to whom we will return.
   4. William, born 1801. He married Lucinda Mahoney on 18 February 1827 in Oldham County, Kentucky. They were living in 1840 in Marion Township, Putnam County, Indiana, and in 1850 in Floyd Township of the same county. They were both living in Floyd Township, Putnam County, in 1860. It seems likely, but unproven, that he was the William Skidmore who obtained a licence to marry Mary J. Wilson on 26 June 1865 in Putnam County. There was no return on this licence and it is probable that the marriage was not performed. No issue.

6. 5. FRANCIS ELIJAH, to whom we will return.
7. 6. ELZA, to whom we will return.
8. 7. JEPTHA, to whom we will return.
   1. Mary, born 1793. She married Alexander Hanna on 3 August 1808 in Henry County.
   2. Nancy, born 1803. She married 1stly Aaron McGuire on 4 April 1821, and 2ndly Charles Tingle on 12 January 1835. They lived in Carroll County, Kentucky.
   3. Elizabth. She married Benjamin Morgeson on 18 May 1820 in Henry County.
   4. Susannah, born 1814. She married (his 2nd wife) Levi McGuire on 6 April 1831 in Henry County.

The eldest son,

FGO [3]. SAMUEL SKIDMORE, born 1795. He married Nancy (born 1799), the daughter of Joseph Nay, on 26 October 1822 in Henry County, Kentucky; she was living in 1880 with her son-in-law Daniel P. Funderburk in Dorchester Township, Macoupin County, Illinois, aged 81. They had moved by 1840 to Macoupin County and were enumerated there in 1850. Samuel Skidmore appears to have died before 1860. Had issue,


9. 2. Reuben, born 1827. He married 1stly Martha Grant (previously the widow of _______ Mann) on 2 September 1850 in Macoupin County, and 2ndly Gabriella Augusta Smart (born 1851) on 22 September 1864 in Edgar County, Illinois. Reuben Skidmore was enrolled on 6 July 1846 as a private in Company E, Fourth Regiment of Illinois Militia in the Mexican War. He was farming in 1860 in Dorchester Township, Macoupin County, Illinois, and in 1870 in Grandview Township, Edgar County, Illinois. In 1880 he was in the Second Ward of the city of Paris, Edgar County. His widow Augusta Skidmore was living in 1900 at 1225 Mound Avenue, Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois with her daughter Alza, wife of Theodore Dunnerman. He had issue by his 1st wife, 1. Mary V. J., born 1857. She married Harvey Milward on 13 February 1873 in Coles County, Illinois.
   2. Dinah, born 1859.
   Mr. Skidmore had issue by his 2nd wife,
   1. Reuben, born 1866.
   2. Aaron, born 1859. He was living at home in 1880.
   3. Alza F., born May 1871. She married Theodore Dunnerman, a baker.
   1. Elizabeth, born 1823. She married (his 2nd wife) Daniel F. Funderburk (born 1819, died 1895) and they were living in 1880 in Dorchester Township.
   3. Mary Frances, born 1829. She married Joseph Bartmess on 18 September 1853 in Clark County, Illinois. They were living in 1854 at Pollock, Sullivan County, Illinois, and in 1860 at Jackson's Corners, Sullivan County, Missouri, where he was a farmer.
   4. Cassandra, born 1831. She married William H. Thompson on 10 June 1850 in Edgar County, Illinois. He was farming later in the same year in Grandview Township, and they were living in Kansas Township in the same county in 1860.

The 2nd son of William Skidmore by his wife Mary Criswell,

FGO [4]. JOHN SKIDMORE, born about 1797. He married Lucy Jane, the daughter of John McEnder, on 17 February 1818 in Henry County. She was a sister of the wife of James Skidmore. He had died before 1830
when his widow was the head of a family in Henry County. She moved by 1836 with her brother Elijah McEnder and her four children to Johnson County, Indiana. Had issue,

10. 1. William, born 26 November 1818 in Kentucky. He married 1stly America Leech (born 7 August 1820 in Indiana, died 1 February 1880) on 25 November 1838 in Johnson County, Indiana; she is buried in the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Lucas County, Iowa. He married 2ndly Mary Ann DeFriese (born 16 April 1825, died 13 July 1887) on 2 November 1881 in Reno County, Kansas. William Skidmore had moved by 1836 to Brown County, Indiana, where he entered land in Township 10 North, Range 4 East, Section 4. He was enumerated in 1840 in Johnson County and in 1850 in Washington Township, Brown County, Indiana. He went in 1854 to Lucas, Jackson Township, Lucas County, Iowa, bringing 30 head of cattle from Indiana with his family. They crossed the Mississippi River at Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa. He went (late in life) to Ninnescah Township, Reno County, Kansas, where he died at Pretty Prairie on 30 January 1893. He and his 2nd wife are buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Had issue,
   1. John Thomas, born 24 January 1845. He married Adeline Dare Stackhouse on 27 September 1866 in Lucas County. A Democrat, he was a township trustee for six years and assessor for 14 years. He died in 1924 and is buried in the Chariton Cemetery in Lucas County.
   2. William Henry, born 16 October 1848. Never married, he was living alone at Haven, Reno County, Kansas, in 1910. He died there on 19 March 1917 and is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.
   3. Sarah Ann, born 13 February 1840. She married Duncan McCollum on 9 August 1859 and died in Lucas County on 31 October 1868.
   4. Margaret Melvina, born 5 August 1841. She married _______ Davis and lived in Kansas.
   5. Harriet, born 8 February 1843. She married William B. Ramsey on 1 March 1866 in Lucas County.
   6. Lucy Jane, born 26 April 1872; he married 2ndly her cousin America Skidmore.
   7. Elizabeth R., born 16 August 1850. She married William J. Hughes on 10 February 1873 in Lucas County.

   2. Mayberry Skidmore, born 19 April 1823. He married 1stly Elizabeth Jane Evans (born 11 March 1825, died 12 February 1845) on 17 February 1844 in Johnson County, Indiana, and 2ndly Naomi Steward (born 6 February 1824, died 28 December 1906) on 28 January 1847 at Woodburn, Lucas County, Iowa. They moved in 1863 to Jackson Township in Lucas County where his brother William had settled earlier. He died there on 13 October 1897. They are buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery, northwest of Lucas in Lucas County. Had issue,
   1. John Wesley, born 27 February 1848. He died on 24 November 1848, an infant, and is buried in the Lickspring Baptist Church Cemetery in Johnson County.
   2. William Sanford, born 16 May 1863. He died 30 December 1871 and is buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery.
   3. Louisa, born 23 July 1849. She died 3 February 1852, an infant, and is buried in the Lickspring Baptist Church Cemetery.
   4. Elizabeth Jane, born 17 October 1851. She married Thomas J. Allen on 7 March 1875 in Lucas County. He was a merchant and stock dealer at Woodburn in Jackson Township. She was the only child to survive her mother Naomi Skidmore.
   5. America, born 19 November 1853. She married (his 2nd wife) Ellis Mabry on 7 September 1875. (He had previously married her cousin Lucy Jane Skidmore.)
   6. Matilda Ann, born 25 November 1855. She died 29 July 1876 and is buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery.
   7. Amanda Melvina, born 16 April 1858. She died 1 May 1860 and is buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery.
   8. Sarah Rebecca, born 19 November 1860. She married William Harvey Snedaker on 23 March 1881 and died on 1 November 1891 at Chariton, Lucas County.
1. Elizabeth, born March 1820. She married (his 2nd wife) William Taggart on 13 November 1845 in Johnson County. They were living in 1850 in Hamilton Township, Brown County, Indiana, where she died on 16 August 1852.

2. Margaret Melvina, born 1829. She married James Anderson (born 1825-died 1853) on 24 February 1847 in Johnson County. Her children went to Lucas County, Iowa, before 1875.

The 3rd son of William Skidmore by his wife Mary Criswell, 

JAMES SKIDMORE, born 1798. He married 1stly Susan (born 1794), a daughter of John McEnder, on 12 April 1817, in Henry County, and 2ndly Delphia Bowling (born 1802 in Virginia), the widow of Nathan Rodgers, on 21 June 1864 in Johnson County, Indiana. His 1st wife was a sister of the wife of John Skidmore. He moved to Brown County, Indiana, after 1840 and was living there in Hamblen Township in 1870.

Had issue by his first wife,

1. John McEnder, born 1818. He married 1stly Cynthia Stowers (born 5 December 1817, died 13 January 1856), and 2ndly Tamar Maris (born February 1832, died 1902 in Keith County, Nebraska) on 23 September 1856. She was previously the widow of Isaiah Allen Lane (by whom she had two daughters). They were living in 1860 in Ninevah Township, Johnson County, Indiana, but moved soon after the Civil War to Bement Township, Piatt County, Illinois, where he had a land grant on 29 January 1873 for 40 acres at $12.00 per acre. He added another 40 acres in the same township on 31 March 1873. He died there on 14 October 1876. His widow went with her sons before 1889 to Ogallala, Keith County, Nebraska; she was the mother of all his surviving issue,

1. Infant son, born 22 August 1839, died 25 December 1839. He is buried in the Lickspring Baptist Church Cemetery close to his mother.
2. Infant son, born 1 April 1842, died 9 April 1842. He is buried in the Lickspring Cemetery.
3. George L., born September 1860. He never married and was living with his mother in Keith County, Nebraska, in 1900.
4. Allen Winter, born 2 December 1862. He married Rose Mossberger on 2 March 1890. He went to Chase County, Nebraska, in 1886, and to Keith County in the same state in 1904.
5. John Curtis, born 2 August 1870. He married Grace Tuttle Scott (born 1877, died 1925) on 8 March 1894. He died on 16 January 1940 at Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California.

1. Mary Elizabeth, born February 1840. She married first Allen S. Wright (1836-1862), who died while serving in the Union Army, and 2ndly James T. Quick on 31 August 1865.
2. Levisa, born 24 April 1843, died 20 August 1847. She is buried in the Lickspring Cemetery close to her mother.
3. Matilda, born 15 October 1845. She died 5 February 1852 and is buried in the Lickspring Cemetery.
4. Wilhemina (Wilma), born 1858. She married Cary H. Utterback on 2 February 1881 in Piatt County, Illinois. She is said by descendants of this family to have been adopted. However Mrs. Utterback is called Skidmore in the 1860 census (in contrast to her Lane half sisters who are called Lane) and is remembered in her father's will in 1876.
5. Lilly May, born 1 May 1867 in Piatt County, Illinois. She married Henry Burgot Snow in 1889 at Ogallala, Keith County, Nebraska, and died on 16 January 1940 at Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California.

13. 2. William Skidmore, born 16 April 1823 at Newcastle, Henry County, Kentucky. He married 1stly Lucinda Mitchell on 16 December 1846 at Nashville in Hamblen Township, Brown County, Indiana, and 2ndly (late in life) Martha Belle Brinkerhoff Hay, a retired school teacher. (She was born in January 1832 and living his widow in 1910). He served in Company I, 79th Indiana Infantry in the Civil War enlisting for three years on 14 August 1862 at Franklin, Johnson County, Indiana, at the age of 39 as a Corporal. About 18 September 1862 while on a march through Louisville, Kentucky, he received a severe sunstroke which caused him to collapse. He was discharged on 4 December 1862 and pensioned in 1867. He and his family went after the war to Unity Township,
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Piatt County, Illinois, where they were living in 1870. They had moved by 1880 to Humboldt Township, Coles County, Illinois. His widow Martha B. Skidmore was added to the pension rolls in 1901. He died on 21 November 1901 at Pierson Station, Piatt County, Illinois and is buried in the Mackville Cemetery. Had issue,

1. James Alexander, born 1848. He married Sarah Elizabeth Wildman (born November 1852, died in 1927 at Newkirk, Kay County, Oklahoma) on 23 November 1871 in Piatt County. They moved from Atwood, Illinois, in 1884 to Atchison, Lancaster Township, Atchison County, Kansas, where they were living in 1900. He died on 5 October 1919 at Attica, Harper County, Kansas. His widow was living in 1920 in Harper County, Kansas, with her son-in-law Ethelbert E. Welch.

2. John Wesley, born 1853. He married 1stly Catherine Wright (born 1849, died 1897), and 2ndly Frances Wyman (previously the widow of ______ Hull) on 30 August 1900 in Marion County, Illinois. They were living there in Omega Township in 1900, and were in Marion County, Illinois, in 1910.

3. Joseph W., born 1856. In 1880 he was living, a farm laborer, with his brother Elijah D. Skidmore and his wife in Unity Township, Piatt County. He married (his 1st marriage) Mary J. Peters (previously the widow of ______ Turner) on 19 January 1897 at Palestine, Crawford County, Illinois. They were living there in Montgomery Township in 1900, in Johnson County, Illinois, in 1910, and at New Lebanon, Sullivan County, Indiana, in 1920.

4. Elijah Daniel, born 28 January 1859. He married Mary Luella Cain (Kane) (born 6 December 1864, died 23 June 1943) on 6 August 1879 at Arcola, Douglas County, Illinois, but was enumerated in the following year in Unity Township, Piatt County. He died 19 January 1930 at Robinson, Crawford County, Illinois.

5. Oliver, born April 1866. He married 1stly Leola ______ , and 2ndly Lucy Hook in August 1905 in Douglas County, Illinois. He was living in 1910 in Crawford County, Illinois.

1. Sarah Elizabeth, born 1851. She married Abraham F. Moody on 4 July 1871 in Douglas County, Illinois. They were living in 1880 in Humboldt Township, Coles County. She was living at Pierson Station, Piatt County.

2. Minerva J., born 1854. She married 1stly William Landrus on 11 September 1884 in Coles County, Illinois. She married 2ndly ______ Chamberlain and was living in 1935 at Storm Lake, Buena Vista County, Iowa.


14. 3. Elijah, born about 1826. He married his cousin Paulina, a daughter of Aaron McGuire, on 29 February 1844 in Henry County, Kentucky. She married 2ndly William Hammond on 2 October 1852 and was living with her son Elijah in 1880. Elijah, Sr., had died before the 1850 census when Paulina and her two children are living with Charles Tingle (her stepfather) in Carroll County, Kentucky. Had issue,

1. Elijah Alonzo, born 25 December 1846. He married Margaret Batts (born 1 December 1846, died 12 January 1910) on 22 March 1870 and was living in 1880 at Newcastle, Henry County, Kentucky. He died 26 August 1888 and is buried in Henry County.

1. Melvina, born 1845.

1. Elizabeth Robert, born 1 January 1820. She married Signor Hanks on 6 February 1834 in Henry County. They were living in 1850 in Hamblen Township, Brown County, Indiana. He was committed in 1872 to the Indiana State Hospital for the Insane where he died in 1877. His widow went after 1880 to Douglas County, Illinois, where she died.

2. Mary Jane, born 1828. She married James Alexander Mitchell on 27 October 1850 in Brown County, Indiana, where she died before 1865.

The 5th son of William Skidmore by his wife Mary Criswell, 
**FGO [6].** **FRANCIS ELIJAH SKIDMORE,** born 1806. He married Elizabeth, (born 1810 in Amherst County, Virginia) a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Landram) Wright, on 3 February 1830 in Oldham County, Kentucky. He was a cabinet maker in 1850 at Bedford, Trimble County, Kentucky. In 1860 he was a tavern keeper and county jailer at Bedford, and in 1870 was the proprietor of the only hotel in Trimble County. Had issue,
15. James W., born about December 1830. He was not living at home in 1850. He married Louisa J. Cook about 1855 and drowned in the Little Kentucky River in Trimble County on 13 May 1856 aged 25 years, 6 months. His widow and young son were living in 1860 at Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana, with her sister Miranda and her brother-in-law Byron J. Wright. They had returned to Trimble by 1870. Had issue, an only son,
   1. James W., born 5 June 1856 at Bedford. He married Affio [Alfie] Reno on 5 March 1878. His widow married J. C. Saunders and was living with her two sons at Florence, Marion County, Kansas.

16. Joseph, born 1831. A cabinet maker by trade, he and his wife Catherine were living at Christianburg, Shelby County, Kentucky in 1860. He enlisted on 26 May 1862 in Company C of Jesse's Battalion of Mounted Volunteer Kentucky Rifles in the Confederate Army. He served later in Company K, Sixth Regiment of the Georgia Cavalry. Nothing has been learned of him or his wife after the war.

Had issue,
   2. Sallie, born 1858.

17. Francis Little (Frank) (Sergeant), born July 1838. He married Virginia Colbert on 28 November 1867 in Trimble County. He served (with his brother) as a Second Sergeant in Company A of Jesse's Battalion of Mounted Volunteer Rifles in the Confederate Army. He later reenlisted on 10 September 1862 in Trimble County as a private in Company A of the Fourth Regiment of Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry. He was pensioned in 1912 by the state of Kentucky and his widow was added to the rolls in 1921. They lived in 1880 in Antioch District, Trimble County, Kentucky, and in 1900 in Barrows District of the same county. Had issue,
   1. George Jesse, born December 1869. He married Kate ______ and was living in Trimble County in 1910.
   2. John, born 1875. He probably died young.

18. John R., born 1844. He and his brother Frank L. Skidmore enlisted on 10 September 1862 in Trimble County in Company A, Fourth Regiment of the Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry in 1860. On the march down the Shenandoah Valley they were overtaken by General George B. Crosby riding an inferior horse; John R. Skidmore was riding a superb charger. According to Mosgrove's Kentucky Cavaliers the General said “Soldier that's a fine horse. How'll you trade?” Skidmore replied “Couldn't trade horses, General, but I'll trade you my haversack for your hoss.” He was captured in July 1863 while with General John Hunt Morgan on his famous raid into Indiana and was kept a prisoner at Indianapolis for the rest of the war. He married Jennie Ristine on 27 January 1870 at Covington, Fountain County, Indiana. They returned soon after to Kentucky where they were enumerated in his father's hotel in the 1870 census. He was dead by 21 December 1888 when she married 2ndly Solomon Maddox in Henry County. His widow (called Skidmore) was living in 1900 at 7 East Street, Tipton, Tipton County, Indiana, with her twin children. Had issue,
   1. Joseph Ristine (Honorable), a twin, born 20 March 1874 at Covington. He was educated at St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum at Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and later (1902) at Bethany College at Lindsborg, McPherson County, Kansas, and (1905) at Drake University at Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa. He worked for several railroads and was Vice Chairman of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen for the Santa Fe system. He married Dora A. Kiefer on 29 November 1900 at Tipton and they were living at Raton, Colfax County, New Mexico, on 7 November 1911 when he was elected to the House of Representatives of the first State Legislature of New Mexico.
      1. Sarah, a twin, born 20 March 1874. She was living with her mother in 1900.
      1. Martha P., born 1834. She died in February 1850 of fever.
   2. Ruthy Ann, born 1836. She married Russell Colbert on 8 March 1855 in Trimble County.
   3. Isadore J., a daughter, born 1 September 1853. She married 1stly James H. Colbert, a farmer, on 28 December 1876 in Trimble County, and 2ndly Hampton Callis on 2 February 1886.

The 6th son of William Skidmore by his wife Mary Criswell, **FGO [7]**. **ELZA SKIDMORE**, born 1807. He married Elizabeth Allen on 21 June 1831 in Henry County, Kentucky. They were living in 1880 with their son James H. Skidmore in Carroll County, Kentucky. Had issue,
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1. William Thomas, born January 1833. He married Ann McGuire on 10 December 1856 in Henry County and they were living in 1900 at Port Royal with their daughter Julia, wife of John Marshall.

2. John B. Skidmore, born August 1834. He and his brother James H. Skidmore enlisted on 26 September 1864 at New Castle in Company B, 54th Regiment of Kentucky Volunteer Mounted Infantry of the Confederate Army. He married 1stly Martha J. _______ about 1856 and 2ndly Nancy C. Davis on 8 January 1882 in Henry County and was living at English, Carroll County, Kentucky, in 1900. John B. Skidmore was a widower in Spencer County, Kentucky, in 1910.

3. James Henry, born 28 February 1838. He married 1stly (about 1855) Louisa Cook; they had separated by 1860 when she was living with her son James W. Skidmore (born 5 June 1856) at Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana. They had returned to Bedford, Trimble County, by 1870. James Henry Skidmore married 2ndly Anna R. Dyke on 6 February 1860 in Henry County (she married 2ndly John Tingle on 5 January 1888 in Carroll County). They were living in 1880 at Carrollton, Carroll County, Kentucky; she was living as the widow of Tingle in 1910 at Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, with her son Robert Skidmore.

1. Nancy Ann, born 1832. She married Alexander Prewitt on 26 November 1847 in Jefferson County, Kentucky. They were living in 1860 at Port Royal in Trimble County, Kentucky, where he was a carpenter. He was a widower in 1870 in Henry County.

2. Jane, born 1845.

The 7th son of William Skidmore by his wife Mary Criswell, FGO[8].

JEPtha SKIDMORE, born 1812. He married Eleanor, a daughter of David Smith, on 9 November 1833 in Henry County. They were living there in 1850 in a household adjoining that of his brother Elza Skidmore. Jeptha Skidmore and his family had moved by 1860 to Florence in York Township, Switzerland County, Indiana. Had issue,

1. William David, born November 1848. He married Lavina Jackson on 6 November 1868 in Switzerland County. They were living in 1900 on High Street in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County, Indiana. His widow Lavina was living at 535 Slack Street in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1920.

2. Jeptha B., born 1856. He married Laura Bromwell on 9 October 1881 in Switzerland County. They were living in 1896 on West 6th Street, Cincinnati, Franklin County, Ohio. His widow married 2ndly (by 1900) Henry Richardson of York Township.

1. Mary, born 1835. She married James McCorkhill on 7 December 1853 in Switzerland County.

2. Nancy, born 1837. She married Reuben Ellis, a Quaker, on 14 February 1860 in Switzerland County. They lived near Jackson, Tipton County, Indiana, in 1880 in Wildcat Township.

3. Rachel Jane, born 1839. She married 1stly Levi Ellis (born 1836, died 1880) on 14 February 1860 in Switzerland County, and 2ndly Thomas Ooten.


5. Martha, born 1844. She married William Givens on 26 November 1865 in Switzerland County.


7. Lucinda, born 1851.

8. Sophia, born 1854.
RALPH SKIDMORE OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY,
A CASE HISTORY.

by Warren Skidmore

I first came across the name of Ralph Skidmore of Hampshire County way back in 1943 in a (then) recently published list of Virginia soldiers in the Revolution. He had enrolled in Dunmore's War in 1774 and served under Captain David McClure and Lieutenant Francis McClure presumably from Hampshire County. Ralph's name appears on a list of men who were paid at Pittsburgh in 1775 after Point Pleasant, and on still another roll of the survivors paid finally at Romney in Hampshire County. The men on this later list mostly transferred over to service in the Revolutionary Army, and Ralph Skidmore served soon after in the 12th Regiment of the Virginia Continental Line.

It was clear, early on, that he was not kissing kin of my Skidmores who had come into Virginia through the gap at Harper's Ferry in 1749. However I was still curious to know where he fitted into the family even so. In 1943 I was was into Sherlock Holmes in a big way, so to unravel his story I put on my deerstalker cap, assumed a proper British accent, polished up my four inch magnifying glass, and starting looking through the records of several of the earlier American colonies. Eventually I found that almost everything remembered, said, or on record about Ralph proved to be a misapprehension, an error, or a deliberate falsehood.

His family believed that he was born in London, England, lost both of his parents in childhood, roamed the streets with a lot of other Cockney orphans, was sold as an indentured servant to Virginia for $1.00, and survived to finally (and more importantly?) marry some relative of the plantation owner. A highly romantic tale you think? In fact, like a good many stories that come down to us as hearsay, there are some large kernels of truth in this account of Ralph's early years! It does seem likely, however, that this story does combine bits of the lives of both Ralph (born 1734) and his eldest son William (born c.1768).

The earliest known official record that Ralph generated was his enlistment on 30 March 1758 by Captain Thomas Arrowsmith on Staten Island to serve in the French and Indian War. He reenlisted in 1759 and 1760 and 1761. His age on the muster rolls varies between 19 and 21, but this has to be understated unless he married as a youth of 15. In point of fact it now seems certain that he was a few months shy of 24 years of age at the time of his first enlistment. Ralph Skidmore told his captain that he had been born on Staten Island (which was duly recorded), and this untruth consumed a good deal of time to prove that there was simply no father to be

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1 John H. Gwathmey, *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, 1775-1783* (Richmond, 1938) 716. Still a very useful book, but Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck's *Virginia Colonial Soldiers* (Baltimore, 1988), 143-4, has a distinct advantage in listing the men in the companies at Point Pleasant together under the names of their captains.

2 Letter from Timothy Martin Blomquist, 7 August 1982, about the recollections of Arabella Skidmore, then aged 93 and living in Irving, Texas. She was a great, greatgranddaughter of William Skidmore (c.1768-1814).
found for him there at the proper period. He was also listed as a laborer, varying in height from 5' 7 1/2" to 5' 9" and with a brown complexion, brown eyes, brown hair, and much of this is likely to have been true.¹

An unofficial record shows that he had married Hannah Owin as his first wife at the other end of Long Island on 31 September 1755. We have this from a private list of marriages kept as a kind of hobby by William Salmon (1684-1759) of persons who lived in and around Southold in Suffolk County, Long Island.² What happened to Hannah Skidmore for the four years that her husband was off with the army is unknown, but it seems likely that she had either died before his enlistment or they had parted company. We hear nothing more of her.

When Ralph Skidmore removed to Hampshire County is unknown. He turns up with a wife Mary and at least three known children who were probably born between 1768 to 1775 at a place or places unknown. Ralph Skidmore made absolutely no impression on the Hampshire records, not even an appearance as a witness. He never acquired any land, so he may have had some useful trade other than agriculture. Checking his neighbors in the tax lists suggests that he and his sons after him lived about the mouth of the South Branch where it empties into the Potomac River. Nothing more is known of Ralph after the war and he may very well have died while in the Revolutionary army.

As for his children, William (the eldest), was born about 1768. He was bound out briefly as a young boy to Peter Peters until 14 June 1778, and then afterwards was to serve Isaac Dayton who may have been his uncle temporarily absent from the county.³ He appears on the first list of tithables of Hampshire County in 1787.⁴ On 28 April 1790 both he and his brother Ralph appear on a muster roll of the Hampshire County Militia in Captain John Blue's company.⁵ William went soon after to Mason County, Kentucky, where he married Mary Criswell on 23 July 1792. They were living in 1799 in Shelby County, Kentucky, and are enumerated in the 1810 census of Henry County, Kentucky. He had died there by March 1814 when his estate was appraised. His widow Mary was the head of a family as late as 1830 in the Lower Division of Henry County. They had a family of eleven children, including seven surviving sons (all of whom save one in turn produced large families). We need not deal here with the posterity of Ralph Skidmore, Senior, since a full history of the family is promised by Timothy M. Blomquist, a descendant.⁶

² *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, 49 (1918) 159. Salmon collected his vital records from local hearsay, and occasional errors are found there.
⁴ Netti-Schreiner-Yantis and Florence Speakman Love, *The personal Tax Lists for the Year 1787 For Hampshire county, Virginia (now West Virginia)*, Springfield, Virginia, 1987. This pamphlet edition gives the date (as required by a law later revoked) when the householder was visited. This makes it easy to check William Skidmore's neighbors enumerated on 20 July 1787.
⁶ Readers may want to express their interest in his book to Mr. Bloquist at 701 E. 23rd Street, Farmington, New Mexico 87401-4226.
Ralph Skidmore, Junior, the second son, was born about 1774. He was added to the list of tithables in Hampshire County in 1792 at the age of at least 16. On 28 April 1790 both he and his older brother William appear on a muster roll of the Hampshire County Militia. He married (undoubtedly in Hampshire County) Mary Ross, a near neighbor, who survived him. He was living as late as 1800 in Hampshire County, but went to Monongalia County for a time, and then to Ohio. He served there from Greene County in the War of 1812, but by 1820 he and his wife were living in Wayne County, Indiana, with their five daughters all aged 16 to 26. He had gone by 1834 to St. Joseph County, Indiana, with his son-in-law Theophilus Case and may very well have died there. In the census of 1850 Polly Skidmore was living aged 73 with her daughter Nancy Tweedy and her husband in Edgar County, Illinois.1 Mary Skidmore, aged 82, died in November 1859 in Simms Township, Edgar County, Illinois.2

William and Ralph Skidmore appear to have at least one sister, Cresey, who went across the Potomac to marry William Fisher on 8 September 1803 at the Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church at Cumberland in Allegany County, Maryland. The Fishers disappear soon after.3 It is time now for the grand denouement, the last few paragraphs of the mystery where you haven’t peeked since you know that all will be made perfectly clear to Doctor Watson by your sham Sherlock! Eventually (while looking for someone else) I found the origin of Ralph Skidmore at New London, Connecticut, where I had not thought to look for him. He was not, genetically speaking, a Skidmore at all! His mother, Elizabeth Scidmore, was a daughter of Joseph Tooker (by his wife Mary Ogden?) and the first wife of Joseph Scidmore of Huntington, Long Island.4 She was a member of the First Church at Huntington in 1726, but sometime after this date she deserted her husband and went across the Long Island Sound to New London, Connecticut. Joshua Hempstead (1678-1758) of New London most fortuitously recorded the gossip about her in an entry in his diary on Sunday, 7 July 1734: "Joseph [widow] Skidmore died yesterday in childbed with her 3rd child by Ralph Fergo. She was the wife of one Skidmore of Naharagansett and had Eloped from him and Ralph Fergo having no wife took her in."5 Part of Hempstead’s facts are basically correct, but Elizabeth was not a widow and her Skidmore husband did not live in Rhode Island. She had issue, as known, by Ralph Fargo (who had been born in 1693),

1. A child, perhaps born about 1730 of whom nothing else is known.
2. Benjamin, "son of Elizabeth Skidmore" (no father is mentioned), was baptized on 25 June 1732 at Groton, New London County. Nothing more is known of him, but he may possibly have been brought up by another family whose name remains to be found.
3. Ralph, presumably the child born at New London, New London County, on 16 July

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1 The 1850 census of Edgar County is one of the few which gives the county of birth as well as the state. Both Polly Skidmore and Nancy Tweedy gave Hampshire County as their birthplace.
2 Mortality Schedule, 1860 census of Edgar County, Illinois.
3 They are not found in the 1810 census of either Maryland or Virginia.
5 Joshua Hempstead, Diary of Joshua Hempstead, from 1711 to 1758 (1901), reprinted 1970.
1734, the subject of these notes.

It is both curious and confusing that Ralph was never known by the name of his real father or that of his mother's family. Instead he had the name of mother's estranged husband. No probate has been found for Ralph Fargo, and his son Ralph seems to have been sent to Long Island perhaps to live with the Tooker family. His grandfather Joseph Tooker, Senior, settled late in life at Elizabeth, Essex County, New Jersey, where he left a will dated 31 December 1753. It provided for the unnamed children of his deceased daughter Elizabeth.

Ralph Skidmore married secondly Mary [Dayton?] who was living his widow in Hampshire County, (West) Virginia 1784 when she appears on a tax list taken by Michael Cresap (who lived on the north side of the Potomac where it is joined by the South Branch). There are several clues that suggest that she might have been a Dayton from Long Island. Ralph Skidmore had seven half brothers and sisters at Huntington. Peter Skidmore, the youngest of these, was still about eight years older than Ralph. He married Mary, a daughter of Hezekiah Dayton, as his second wife.¹ It is probably too much to expect that Joseph Skidmore (whose will was proved in 1773) would take any interest in his wife's son born on the wrong side of the blanket. It is possible, however, that some part of his children (who were certainly more prosperous than Ralph Skidmore) may have been kind enough to do so. Possibly they found him a new wife and perhaps even a new home with a kinsman in Virginia.

Mary (Dayton?) Skidmore disappears after this date and may have remarried. It is certainly tempting to identify her as the relative of the plantation owner remembered by descendants, possibly Isaac Dayton? And of course we now know that our orphaned Ralph did not come from London, England, but New London, Connecticut. Possibly his completely enigmatic history will offer a clue or two for others trying to make some sense out of another unprovable hearsay story.

¹ She is said (correctly) to have borne Peter Skidmore 15 or 16 children, and to have had a brother Spencer Dayton of St. George's Manor. The Daytons were numerous or Long Island, but the name was previously unknown in Virginia. I am not familiar with any major effort to untangle this family in Connecticut or on Long Island.