MILITARY SURVEY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

IN 1522.

Extracted by Warren Skidmore.

[Anything mentioning the Skydmores in the 16th century is of great interest! (WS)]

In 1522 a great survey was taken for the whole of England of country's resources in the event of war. A copy of the report for Gloucestershire survives as Select Book 26 once preserved at Berkeley Castle. There were only two able bodied men of the name Skydmore in Gloucestershire. On folio 35 we find:

Pucklechurch, Westerleigh and Wick.
The bishop of Bath and Wells is lord there and it is worth £110 10sh 0d.
Sir Amyas Pollet [Paulet] is steward there.¹
At Westerleigh, William Weston was curate there, has for stipend £6.
Richard Skydmore, lands valued at £4. He had splints & a sword.

Richard Skydmore had a friend and neighbor John Rogers with lands worth £5. Rogers had a sallet & [dagger, canceled] gorget. We have met Rogers elsewhere in the manorial records, and in his will which survives. A splint was armour for the outer arm, sometimes extending down to the back of the hand. Rogers’ sallet was a light, rounded helmet, and a gorget protected the throat.

Elsewhere in the county at Siddington [Langley], page 107r, on the border with Wiltshire we find Edward Skydmore, whose lands were worth £20. He was the youngest son of Philip Skydmore (1416-1488) of Holme Lacy, Herefordshire. Edward Skydmore had no prospects as a younger son, but managed to find a widow in middling circumstances. He married (in or after 1506) Isabel, a daughter and coheiress of Edmund Langley of Siddington, Gloucestershire. She died on 7 March 1540/1 at the age of 66, leaving posterity named Skydmore who continued at Siddington.

This survey (Select Book 26) has been printed as THE MILITARY SURVEY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1522, edited by R. W. Hodge, Gloucestershire Record Series VI (Bristol and Gloucestershire Archeological Society, 1993). A somewhat later document (Select Book 27) was taken in charge by Stephen Tomlinson and the staff of the Department of Western Manuscripts of the Bodleian Librarian. It has been microfilmed and a print is at the Gloucester Record Office (not seen). Fortunately neither survey was sent up to London as few of these for the other counties of England remain at the Public Record Office.

¹ Sir Amias Paulet (died 1538) of Hinton St. George, Somerset, and several members of his family will be found in the Dictionary of National Biography.