

NEW ZEALAND SKIDMORE AND SCUDAMORE FAMILIES

Minor amendments were last made to this account by Linda Moffatt on 7 March 2015.

by Linda Moffatt ©2013

To protect the privacy of living descendants: individuals born after the 1911 census are not included, no marriage details are given after 1911 unless with express permission of descendants.

In the opening decades of the 19th century Māori contact with Europeans, while increasing, was still rare. By the early 1830s there were perhaps 200 permanent European residents in New Zealand¹. In 1898 the Otago Witness ran a piece on the history of the South Island. This points out that a lucrative whaling trade was established along the coasts of the South Island very early in the 19th century². The whaling stations in Otago preceded the arrival of the first settlers. The men who established the whaling stations (at least those such as John Jones mentioned by the Otago Witness) came from Sydney and became very rich on the proceeds of the oil and whalebone. In some cases they purchased large tracts of land from the Māoris, paid for in goods. These early purchases were not recognised when New Zealand became a Crown colony in 1840³. Some of the whalers took Māori wives and were married in the Māori fashion. See references to Henry Skidmore and George Skidmore below.

The Otago Witness in 1898 stated:

'When the first ships arrived [in the Otago region] in 1848 there were still a good many of the whalers and those associated with them boatbuilding, storekeeping, etc., living. The following is a list as complete as we have been able to make it from those still living who knew them at that time:-' [full list can be seen in Appendix 1, which includes] 'At Moeraki - Mr and Mrs Skidmore.'
See references to John Skidmore below.

John Jones had his whaling station at Waikouaiti. He applied to the Methodists of Sydney for a missionary and in 1847 Mr Creed came to Waikouaiti. The first missionaries to New Zealand, sent by the Church Mission Society, arrived in the Bay of Islands in 1814 and were followed by the Wesleyans in 1828 and the Roman Catholics in 1838. Some registers may still be held by the parish church in question, while older material may have been deposited at the appropriate diocesan archive. Please note that I have not used any church registers in the preparation of this account and there is doubtless more of interest yet to be discovered in the years before and after the start of civil registration of births, marriages and deaths in New Zealand in 1840.

The first Skidmore marriage registered after the start of civil registration in New Zealand took place in 1850, the first birth in 1874. The 1874 birth was the only birth registered until 1891, after which Skidmore children were registered regularly. The first Scudamore arrived in 1888.

There is, however, evidence of Skidmores being in New Zealand from the 1830s. This is a story of land purchased from the Māori people, of a 'half-caste' Skidmore who was interpreter to a Māori king, of a man shipwrecked for six months in the Southern Ocean, of another who left his family behind in England and prospered in the Auckland gold fields and of his near neighbour who died alone in his hut. So grab an atlas or Googlemaps and I trust you find reading about them as interesting as did I doing the research. I am aware that as a Britisher I will probably have made wrong assumptions in

¹ <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz>. 'Frontier of chaos? - Māori-Pakeha contact pre-1840', (Ministry for Culture and Heritage).

² OLD OTAGO. (Otago Witness, 17 March 1898). Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/11894834>.

³ The Treaty of Waitangi is a treaty first signed on 6 February 1840 by representatives of the British Crown and various Māori chiefs from the North Island of New Zealand. The Treaty established a British Governor of New Zealand, recognised Māori ownership of their lands and other properties, and gave the Māori the rights of British subjects. The English and Māori versions of the Treaty differed significantly, so there is no consensus as to exactly what was agreed to. From the British point of view, the Treaty gave Britain sovereignty over New Zealand, and gave the Governor the right to govern the country. Wikipedia.

places and should, of course, be glad to receive amendments and additions to the information on any of the people or places mentioned here.

LM November 2013

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HERE, LISTED ROUGHLY CHRONOLOGICALLY ACCORDING TO THEIR DATE OF MIGRATION OR THEIR APPEARANCE IN RECORDS, ARE THOSE FOUND IN NEW ZEALAND RECORDS BEFORE 1920.

HENRY SKIDMORE, land owner of Otago district, 1830s.

The first known land transaction was by Henry Skidmore, who bought land in the late 1830s from the Māoris, though no record of this transaction seems to have survived. He sold this land in 1839 to one James Bruce of Sydney and might himself have come from there.

'James Bruce, of Sydney, Claimant.

10 (ten) acres, more or less, situate at the River Otago, adjoining preceding claim. Alleged to have been purchased from certain Native chiefs by Henry Skidmore, who sold to claimant in June, 1839.


Consideration given to the Natives: Not stated. Nature of conveyance: Not stated.¹⁴

On 7 June 1839 Henry Skidmore witnessed the conveyance of a large piece of land which illustrates the general area in which he was then living (a full transcript of this indenture can be found in Appendix 2):

'.....All that District piece or parcel of Land at New Zealand from the Point called by the Natives Island Point to the North Head and Ten Miles extending back including the Sweep of the Bay at 'Wikowhite.'¹⁵

JOHN SKIDMORE of Wanganui, Wellington province, was Master of a schooner trading around the coast of New Zealand in the 1840s. This ship was owned by the Wallace, White and Wallace Company⁶.

For Wanganui direct,
To sail on Saturday next,



THE fine fast sailing schooner *Enterprise*, 30' tons, John Skidmore master; has excellent accommodation for passengers. For freight or passage, apply to
WALLACE, WHITE, and WALLACE.
 April 25, 1842.

The following quotations are from Weller's Journal⁷:

'Tuesday, November 17, 1840: The Catholic missionary schooner *Sancta Maria*, Bishop Pompallier, arrived here.'

'December 10th, 1840: Skidmore's schooner discharging potatoes on the *Sancta Maria*, having sold them to the captain.'

and again, Skidmore's schooner *Enterprise* arrived in Wellington from Poverty Bay on 24 April 1842⁸.

John is presumably the 'Skidmore' mentioned in the Otago shipping news in April 1854, bound for Moeraki⁹.

April 15th, the *Sarah*, Skidmore, for Moeraki, with sundry goods and stores for the settlers.

25th, the *Brothers*, Williams, for Taieri. 1 hhd. and 1 case brandy—M'Niel. 20 pkgs. furniture—Maitland; and sundry stores for settlers.

26th, the *Endeavour*, Joseph, for the Clutha. 1 hhd. brandy—M'Niel. 20 pkgs. furniture—Maitland; and sundry stores for settlers.

Same day, the *Scotia*, Blueskin, for Waikawaiti, with sundry stores for settlers.

April 17th, the *Endeavour*, 16 tons, Joseph, from the Clutha. 17 bales wool—Macandrew & Co. 8 pkgs. baggage—Shepherd. 1 box do.—M'Niel. 1 keg butter—Healey.

21st, the *Brothers*, Williams, from the Taieri. 16 bags oats—George Smith. 1 keg butter—Mansford.

24th, the *Annie*, Thompson, from Moeraki. 25 bags wheat—M'Glashan.

25th, the *Scotia*, Blueskin, from Waikawaiti. 45 bags wheat—Jones. 1 keg butter—Mansford.

26th, the *Sarah*, Skidmore from Moeraki. 27 bags wheat—M'Glashan. 1 basket bacon, 1 keg butter—Healey. Passengers—Mr and Mrs. Berry and child-

⁴ A compendium of official documents relative to native affairs in the South Island, Volume One. <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz>. No. 1. Return showing the whole of the Cases heard by the original Commissioners, and the nature of their Awards in each case; also the Decision of the Governor, and how the Claim was originally disposed of.

⁵ Maori Deeds of Old Private Land Purchases in New Zealand, From the Year 1815 to 1840, with Pre-Emptive and Other Claims. Waikouwaiti Block, Otago District. <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz>.

⁶ Page 1 Advertisements Column 1 (New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator, 27 April 1842). Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/2702425>. Other of their ships were advertised in the same journal.

⁷ Maori and Missionary: Early Christian Missions in the South Island of New Zealand, by T. A. Pybus, Reed Publishing (NZ) Ltd, 1954, Wellington. <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz>.

⁸ SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. (New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator, 27 April 1842). Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/2702574>.

⁹ Otago Witness, Issue 154, 29 April 1854, Page 2.

Mr and Mrs Skidmore of Moeraki were associated at this time with the whaling station at Waikouaiti belonging to John Jones². Octavius Harwood, storekeeper for the Wellers' store at Moeraki, tells in his diary that on 8 April 1843 a party from Moeraki, headed by John and Harry Skidmore, armed with bludgeons, assaulted Harwood in his house. The matter seems to have arisen from a grievance nursed by one of the Skidmores¹⁰.

John Skidmore the schooner master appears to be different from the following man.

JOHN SKIDMORE, born about 1800 in Birmingham, Warwickshire.

He was a labourer, living alone in a house opposite the Railway Hotel, Woodend, just north of Christchurch, New Zealand, when he died there aged 84. His death was reported in the *Star* on 23 April 1884.

'This morning a report was made to the police at Kaiapoi, that a man named John Skidmore had been found dead in his hut at Woodend. The discovery was made by Mr J. Rickus, who, having had occasion to call at the hut, found the body. It is presumed that the man has been dead for some days, as he has not been seen since Sunday last. The police at once proceeded to Woodend to make enquiries, but up to the present no further particulars are to hand.'

A local police officer provided the information for John Skidmore's death certificate, based presumably on enquiries locally, since Mr Skidmore had no relatives in New Zealand. The certificate states that John Skidmore was born in Birmingham, England and had been in New Zealand for 2.56 years [?56 years]. No particulars of his parents were known. He had married in Wellington at the age of 63 though the name of his wife was unknown. No marriage of a John Skidmore around 1863 has been found. His wife was reported elsewhere to have died around 1882¹¹ - again, no death registration has been found. He was buried on 24 April 1884 at Woodend Wesleyan Cemetery.

The following two marriages are known, which, despite the age discrepancy, would *appear* to be one and the same man, and, further, apparently the John Skidmore mentioned above who died in 1884.

JOHN FRANCIS SKIDMORE, a carpenter and a bachelor, born about 1803, was married at his home in Moeraki, Otago district, New Zealand, to Miss Sarah Tyrol Stocoe on 31 January 1850. They were married by Charles Creed, a Wesleyan Missionary. Sarah Skidmore's death registration has not been found but it might be possible to locate her burial in the Otago district.

ST. ALBANS WESLEYAN CHURCH.—A tea meeting, which was largely attended, was held in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, St Albans, last evening, the object being to liquidate the debt on the above church, Mr Garrick having promised to contribute the sum of £100 to the fund, provided the debt was paid off by Dec. 31. Trays were given by the following ladies:—Mesdames Richardson, Jones, Skidmore, Pattrick, Quaike, Fee, J. T. Smith, W. Broughton, and Bonnington. After tea, a gift auction was held. The articles offered consisted of various goods which remained from a recent bazaar, together with some donations of farm produce, the gifts of some farmer friends. Mr J. L. Wilson officiated as auctioneer. It is hoped that about £80 will be realised by the whole affair. It may be noted that the schoolroom has recently been lighted with gas.

John Skidmore, a carpenter and widower, born about 1812, married Elizabeth Pakeha, a widow (born about 1820) on 24 January 1855 at the Wesleyan Chapel House, Lyttelton, New Zealand¹².

He was presumably John Skidmore, a shipwright who was a leaseholder and householder in Pigeon Bay, Christchurch district, from 1854 through to 1858¹³.

On 19 September 1860 Mr J. Skidmore gave 5 shillings to the Taranaki Relief Fund¹⁴. He appears in the list of subscribers in the Port Albert district, which appears amongst other districts of Christchurch.

It is worth noting a Mrs Skidmore involved with the St Albans Wesleyan Church, Christchurch in 1880, as reported here in the *Star* of 25 May 1880.

Elizabeth Skidmore, so far unidentified, was a dressmaker of Campbell Street, Wanganui in 1905-06.

JAMES SKIDMORE, born about 1841 in Kingford (?Kingsford) parish, Forfar County, enrolled at Sydney on 11 September 1863 with the 2nd Waikato Regiment. This regiment was composed mainly of men from Otago, Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland for the New Zealand Land Wars of the 1860s. James Skidmore deserted on 16 August 1865¹⁵.

¹⁰ Harwood's Diary is in the Early Settlers' Museum, Dunedin. From *White Stone Country, The Story of North Otago* by K.C. McDonald.

¹¹ Tuapeka Times, Volume XVII, Issue 1036, 26 April 1884, Page 3, Interprovincial [news].

¹² Printout from New Zealand Marriage Registration No 1855/48.

¹³ New Zealand, Electoral Rolls.

¹⁴ Page 5 Advertisements Column 4 (Lyttelton Times, 19 September 1860). Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

¹⁵ www.angelfire.com/az/nzgenweb

Reg No., Surname, First Name, Enrollment, Place Enrolled, Born (Parish), County, Trade, Age, Size Ft ins, Ship, Variation Page No., Date and cause of becoming Non-effective, General Observation, Comment.

He was presumably related to George Skidmore of Waikato described next below.

GEORGE SKIDMORE, trader and householder of Taupiri, Auckland province.

The New Zealand Electoral Rolls for Auckland contain a George Skidmore, trader and householder of Taupiri, Waikato between 1855 and 1858. In 1855 George Skidmore of Taupiri gave £1.0.0 to the Patriotic Fund¹⁶. Unlike John Skidmore, the carpenter and shipwright of Moeraki, there are no references to George Skidmore in the civil registration indexes of births, marriages or deaths. **He is perhaps one and the same man as the George Skidmore described next.**

GEORGE SKIDMORE, native interpreter of Churchill, Auckland province, 1887-88.

One of the early settlers had a child by a Māori lady. The child was named George Skidmore and is first found in archives held at Wellington, dated 1851. On 18 September 1851 Daniel Lorigan at Auckland reported to magistrates that he had purchased wood from Natives and was forbidden to take it by George Skidmore¹⁷. On 13 October 1851 at Auckland, George Skidmore applied to the Colonial Secretary, Auckland for permission to occupy native land at Remuera¹⁸.

Unfortunately, I do not know at the time of writing the names of George Skidmore's parents, nor whether he had children, though one newspaper article dated 1863 states that he married¹⁹. The registration of Māori marriages did not become compulsory until 1911 and Māori births and deaths were registered from 1913.

There are mentions of George Skidmore in his capacity as interpreter for Māori chiefs. On one lengthy trip to England in 1884, he accompanied Tawhiao, King of the Māoris.

(HOME NEWS.)

Among the persons on board the Orient Company's Royal Mail steamship Sorata, which arrived at Plymouth on May the 31st from Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, were Tawhiao, King of the Maoris, Topia Turoa, a Jalthi Wanganui chief, who subscribed £1000 towards the expenses of the visit to England, Wiremu Patara te Tuhi, son of the chief Maisha, who acts as secretary to His Majesty, has had considerable experience in public matters among the Maori, and was editor of the Hokoi, a paper started to advocate the King's cause, Hori Ropia, a chief hailing from Poranghan in the Wellington district, and Major Te Wheoro, whose name is said to be almost a household word in New Zealand, and who has for some time past had the honor of a seat in the New Zealand House of Representatives. Mr George Skidmore, who accompanies the party as interpreter, is a half-caste, a native of the Bay Islands, and speaks both English and Maori fluently. The Sorata was timed to arrive early in the day, but she was not sighted off the Stone until four o'clock in the afternoon, and nearly one hour and a half had elapsed before the Great Western Railway Company's powerful steam tender Sir Walter Raleigh, Captain Buckingham, came alongside. Here Mr Jones, the examining officer of Customs, elicited from the surgeon on board the fact that there had been two deaths on board, one a poor fellow, who died shortly after leaving Australia of consumption, and the other a woman, who it is said died from typhus; both were buried

This newspaper article KING TAWHIAO IN LONDON appeared on 24 July 1884 in the Wanganui Herald.

Later that year The *Star* newspaper reported its disquiet at Skidmore's treatment on this trip. The *Star's* London correspondent wrote of 'The Māoris and Their Doings'.²⁰

'I have not seen very much of Tawhiao and his followers this week, as on Monday they journeyed to Windsor Castle, and for the last three days they have been away from town. The Colonial Office have at last appointed a gentleman to take charge of the party. The lucky man is the Rev. F.H. Spencer, who has for some time past been acting as interpreter in lieu of Skidmore. Mr Fuller, an assistant Secretary to Lord Derby, has also been deputed to look after the Maoris, and these two gentlemen now have entire control over the movements of their protégés....

..... On Thursday morning the whole party prepared to start for Portsmouth, with the intention of crossing to Osborne to see the Queen. At 10 o'clock Mr Fuller arrived in a carriage, and Mr Spencer and the Maoris got in. Skidmore, arrayed in his best, prepared to follow them, but Mr Spencer interposed and, saying there was no need for him to accompany them gave the order to start, leaving the unfortunate Skidmore thunderstruck at being

856, Skidmore, James, 11 Sep 1863, Sydney, Kingford, Forfar,, 22, 5 4, Charlotte Andrews, 369, 16 Aug 1865 Deserted, CTC.

¹⁶ Daily Southern Cross, Volume XII, Issue 847, 10 August 1855, Page 4.

¹⁷ www.archway.archives.govt.nz. This record (R23521311) is held in Archives New Zealand, Wellington Office.

¹⁸ *ibid*, record no. R23521311.

¹⁹ RAGLAN. (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.) July 23, 1863. (Daily Southern Cross, 29 July 1863). Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/2789947>

²⁰ *Star*, Issue 5112, 20 September 1884, Page 3. OUR LONDON LETTER.

left behind in this fashion. On getting indoors again Skidmore announced his intention of leaving the King as soon as he returned, and working his passage back to New Zealand. I don't think he will do this, but I must say he has been treated in a very shabby and heartless manner. I know for a fact that up till now the Maoris have not paid him a single penny of what he has earned. Nobody will deny that his case is a very hard one. Ever since the party left Auckland, Skidmore has been working hard for them, translating, to the best of ability, the petition, and doing numerous other things. As soon, however as the pleasant part of their trip begins, he is ousted from his place by Spencer, and left at home. Everybody knows that Skidmore is not a well-educated man, but he has been engaged as the King's interpreter, and in that capacity has a perfect right to accompany him wherever he goes. On reaching Portsmouth the party were shown over the dockyard, but did not cross to Osborne. Today they are going to Spithead, and I very much doubt if they will see Her Majesty at all.'

The Major (too unwell to travel) and George Skidmore were still in England in November, after the rest of the Māori party reached home. Money was raised to bring them back to New Zealand²¹ and they duly returned in January 1885.

GEORGE SKIDMORE, carpenter of Churchill, Auckland province, 1878-79.

In the late 1870s through to the late 1890s there were apparently two men called George Skidmore living in Churchill. Taupiri is sufficiently close to Churchill to think that one of these men is the George Skidmore found earlier in Taupiri, or his son or nephew. A study of church registers should provide this information.

On 24 February 1873 G. Skidmore of Churchill applied for permission to lease a reserve of 10 acres on the bank of the Waikato River²². George Skidmore, a carpenter and perhaps the same man, appears in Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory, 1878-1879 for Churchill, Auckland Province.

There are two further references to men called George Skidmore but their identity is not clear on present evidence.

George Skidmore, butcher of Churchill, 1887-88, 1892-93, 1898-99.

George Skidmore, labourer of Whangape, 1881 and 1890²³.

We now turn to men whom I can identify in England before their emigration. Firstly, a member of the Skitmore families of Norfolk,

JOHN SKITMORE, born about 1833, son of Miles Skitmore, a shepherd of Bowthorpe, Norfolk, and his wife Frances (Tallowin). His death certificate states that he had been in New Zealand since around 1865, though I have yet to find him in any passenger lists. Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directories between 1901 and 1910 list John Skitmore, amongst a handful of miners at Table Hill. He died on 13 November 1909 at Table Hill, aged 76, and was buried on 15 November at Fairfax Cemetery, Milton by Rev. W.H. Hawes, the Presbyterian Minister. No marriage or issue were entered on the death certificate.

The Fairfax Cemetery was officially established in 1860. On 9 April 1860, it was resolved to reserve from public sale, six quarter-acre sections adjacent to the Presbyterian Church at Fairfax for use as a public cemetery. When Milton became a borough in 1866, the first Mayor was James Elder Brown. Mr Brown, with his father, had settled on 105 acres on the Tokomairiro in 1856. In 1860, he sold half an acre on the main south road to one Mr Mansford on which to erect a store. This proved the beginning of the township of Milton. Shortly after, the nearby goldfields discoveries led to much activity on the plains and in Milton, so much so that it was proclaimed an incorporated township by 1866²⁴.

²¹ Waikato Times, 11 November 1884.

²² <http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz>. Inwards letters - this series contains correspondence received by the Agent for the General Government - Auckland in the course of his duties from 1865 to 1878. This record (R21574704) is held in Archives New Zealand, Auckland Office.

²³ New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1880-81, Waikato. Whangape settlement became an important timber port in the late 19th and early 20th century. There was a large mill on the foreshore and numerous houses on the hills. Ships, initially sailing ships and later steamers, loaded the kauri timber and transported it to markets elsewhere.

²⁴ www.cluthadc.govt.nz.

The next two men were first cousins from the Skidmore families of Cornwall, both being grandsons of Samuel Skidgemore of Goonamarris, St Stephen in Brannel, a clay labourer (1798-1865), and his wife Catherine (Grigg).²⁵

SAMUEL SKIDMORE and WILLIAM H. SKIDMORE, both brickmakers from Cornwall, both single men and aged 23, were assisted migrants who left Plymouth, Devon on 16 July 1873, arriving at the port of Lyttelton, Canterbury region, New Zealand aboard the *Adamant* on 17 October 1873. Each paid £4 for their passage, with a promise of a further £8 each to the Government. Beginning in 1871 the New Zealand Government began to offer assisted passages to selected immigrants and those people nominated by relatives. The migration of the 1870s was the most significant in New Zealand history. In the year 1874 thousands of assisted immigrants arrived in New Zealand, forming the greatest level of migration ever. Almost half of the new immigrants came with government assistance. Three-quarters of these sailed directly from the United Kingdom.²⁶

They are both listed on the Public Record Office, Victoria, Index to Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria 1853-1923 as Mr S. Skidmore aged 30 and Mr W. Skidmore aged 29 (these ages should be both 23/24), arriving at Melbourne in March 1874 on the *Claud Hamilton* from New Zealand.

SAMUEL HENRY SKIDMORE was born in 1850 at St Stephens, a son Samuel Skidmore [3rd son of Samuel of Goonamarris] by his first wife Sophia (Trethewey). With his cousin William Henry he travelled to Australia in March 1874. In April 1881 Mr S. Skidmore left Victoria, age 27 (he was 30), a passenger on the *Lusitania* which left Melbourne bound for London via Adelaide, Suez, and Naples²⁷. In 1882 in Devon he married Amelia Ann Roberts and they lived in Quick Cottages, Cornwood, Devon, near to his father. Samuel Skidmore of Headon Clay Works died on 8 November 1913 in South Devon Hospital, Plymouth, Devon, leaving a will of which his wife was executor. Mrs Skidmore died on 15 May 1942 in Cornwood and they are buried in Cornwood Churchyard. 5 children.

WILLIAM HENRY SKIDMORE was born on 17 December 1849 at St Columb Minor, Cornwall, a son of William Skidmore [2nd son of Samuel of Goonamarris] and his wife Elizabeth (Kent). William Henry was a china clay labourer at Morley Clay Works at the time of his marriage on 30 September 1871 at Shaugh Prior to Elizabeth Bettes. Elizabeth Skidmore died of typhoid fever on 28 March 1873 at Lee Moor, Shaugh Prior and three months later William Henry and his cousin Samuel Henry sailed for New Zealand. A year later in March 1874 they moved on to Victoria, Australia, where William Henry settled.

There appears to have been a different William Henry Skidmore in New Zealand in 1874.

WILLIAM HENRY SKIDMORE. He married Elizabeth Jane Bennetts and they had a son in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1874. Neither their marriage nor their deaths in New Zealand have been found. He is *perhaps* the farm labourer listed in the 1896 Electoral Roll at Waikari and the farmer in 1930 at Styx, 7 miles north by rail of Christchurch. W. Skidmore of the Waikiri Oddfellows Lodge is mentioned in 1895, when he was elected one of the officers for the ensuing term²⁸.

A son of William Henry and Elizabeth Jane (Bennetts) Skidmore,

- i. **WILLIAM HENRY**, born 16 September 1874 at Knights Town, Christchurch. The birth was registered by M. Bennetts (who made her mark, being unable to write), grandmother, of Knights Town. William Henry was a ship's fireman and engineer. At the age of 23 he was listed as a fireman with the crew of the ship *Anglian* in December 1897. Again in 1903 he was aboard the *Zealandia* when his birthplace is specified as Christchurch, New Zealand. These ships went between Auckland, New Zealand and Sydney, New South Wales.

²⁵ See *Skidmore and Skidgemore Families of Cornwall and Devon 1650-1900* by Alan Skidmore and Linda Moffatt at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com.

²⁶ New Zealand, Immigration Passenger Lists, 1855-1973, index and images, <https://familysearch.org>.

²⁷ PRO Victoria Index to Outward Passengers to Interstate, UK or NZ and Foreign Ports.

²⁸ Star, Issue 5293, 25 June 1895,

He is presumably the William Henry, engineer of Campbell Street, Napier in 1905-06. He married Eliza Ness Seales in 1911. He was an engineer in 1911, when their home was in North Road, Belfast, New Zealand. Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory from 1913 until 1926 lists William Skidmore, fireman of Belfast.

William H. Skidmore was a gardener from 1936 through to 1942, living at 139 Sawyers Arms Road, Papanui. William Henry Skidmore died in 1942 aged 68. Eliza Ness Skidmore died in 1964 aged 84.

Children of William Henry and Eliza Ness (Seales) Skidmore,

- i. Henry William Dickens, born 25 March 1912. Died in 2002.
- ii. Arthur James, born 17 December 1914 at Belfast, New Zealand. He was educated at the Belfast School, Canterbury, and the Christchurch Technical College²⁹. He had some flying experience in Canterbury and was one of a party of 18 men who left New Zealand on 6 April 1938 to take up a short service commission with Royal Air Force in England. He obtained his pilot's licence on 8 August 1938³⁰. He died aged 25 in an aeroplane crash while on active service in England on 13 March 1940 and is buried at Catterick Cemetery³¹. He married Ruth Foster of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire, in 1939. No children known.
- iii. A stillborn child, born 1920.

WILLIAM GEORGE SKIDMORE, survivor of the wreck of the *Strathmore* in 1875.

William George Skidmore was born in Princes End, Staffordshire, on 18 February 1851 and was baptised on 28 December of that year at All Saints' Church, Sedgley. At the time of the 1871 census George was a roll turner, living at 61 Ash Street, Coseley in the home of his parents. He was the eldest child of John Skidmore, a butcher, and his wife Mary Ann (Hadley). His father trained as a butcher but became licensee of the Commercial Inn in Highfields, Bilston.

George Skidmore was one of the survivors of the wreck of the *Strathmore* in 1875. The *Strathmore*, under Captain Alex. Macdonald, left London on 17 April 1875 for Dunedin with a total of 88 people, including 38 crew. In June, when the ship was in the Southern Ocean, the weather was very foggy, and the captain set a course that he thought would take him south of the Crozets but in the early morning on 1 July, the ship drove onto the rocky coast of one of the Crozet Islands (a sub-antarctic archipelago of small islands in the southern Indian Ocean). Two full and interesting accounts of the privations faced by these people, shipwrecked for six months before rescue came, can be found online³².

A Reuters Cablegram of 3 May 1876:

'Sydney, May 2. R.A. Wilson, W.G. Skidmore, Joseph Ward, George Ward, William Wilson, William Rooke, William Handling, and James Wright, survivors of the *Strathmore*, arrived here by the mail [steamer]. Subscriptions have been opened to assist them to reach New Zealand.'

Otago Daily Times, Issue 4464, 9 June 1876, Page 1

'George Skidmore (one of the survivors of the *Strathmore*) is now in Dunedin, and is desirous of obtaining Employment in an Iron Foundry, or as Warehouseman, or in any similar capacity. He is by trade a Roll Turner. Address G. Skidmore, office of Daily Times.'

George was presumably unsuccessful in finding work, since by mid-1878 he was back in Staffordshire, when he married there Hannah Kettle Tandy. She was born in Newport, Shropshire in 1851, daughter of Henry Tandy, a grocer, and his wife Mary Ann, of Penn, Staffordshire. They were living at the time of the 1881 British census with their son George (Ralph Strathmore George Skidmore) at the Royal Oak, 83 Salop Street in Wednesfield, Staffordshire, where George Skidmore was publican.

²⁹ Date: 19-03-1940, Publisher: Evening Post.

³⁰ Great Britain, Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificates, 1910-1950.

³¹ Commonwealth War Graves Commission. www.cwgc.org.

³² <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz>, New Zealand Electronic Text Collection. White Wings Vol II. Founding Of The Provinces And Old-Time Shipping. Passenger Ships From 1840 To 1885.

<http://natlib.govt.nz>, THE STRATHMORE. Otago Witness, 13 May 1876.

Two years later George and Hannah Skidmore emigrated to Australia, arriving on 17 January 1883 on board the *Sorata*. No further children of this couple are found in the Australia Birth Index. William George Skidmore died in 1918 in Launceston, Tasmania, his wife a year later³³.

A child of William George and Hannah Kettle (Tandy) Skidmore,

- i. Ralph Strathmore George, born in Bilston in 1879Q3. He died at the age of 12 on 9 February 1892, registered at Launceston, Tasmania.

FREDERICK SKIDMORE, according to his death certificate, was a painter, born about 1860 in London, who came to New Zealand in about 1886. Details of his parents were not known by Alice Orr, who registered his death in 1916. He appears to have been Horatio Frederick Skidmore, born in the autumn of 1859, the son of Joseph Skidmore, a cab driver of St Marylebone, London, and his wife Mary Ann (Goodwin).

Frederick Skidmore was living in 1890 at 71 Manchester Street, Christchurch. By 1896 and again in 1900 he is listed on the roll for Wellington at Plimmer's Steps but by 1911 he had moved to 91 Federal Street, Auckland. His death certificate shows that he died of heart disease at the General Hospital in Auckland on 12 March 1916, aged 56 and was buried at Waikumete Cemetery by the Anglican Minister.

[A different?] Frederick Skidmore, a labourer, was living in 1890 at Twelve-Mile.

HENRY SKIDMORE, a miner from England, born about 1821, was in New Zealand by 1880 and perhaps much earlier. He was the eldest son of George and Sarah (Parrock) Skidmore, baptised at St Mary's, Oldswinford, Worcestershire on 29 August 1822. He was born in Withymoor, Amblecote and raised in Brierley Hill and then Hart's Hill and Holly Hall. His father, who died when Henry was in his early twenties, was a chartermaster collier and left a house, pits and iron boats to his wife, the estate to be divided between his six surviving children in the event of her death (which took place only two years after that of her husband). Henry and his brother Joseph appear to have used their inheritance to set up in business as publican and maltster respectively at The Malt Shovel public house, in Hart's Hill, Dudley where they are found in the 1851 census. Henry married by licence Ann Maria Westwood on 26 May 1853 at St Thomas', Dudley. Ann Maria was baptised on 2 June 1830 in Dudley, the daughter of John Westwood, a gasometer maker, and his wife Ann (presumably Ann Wright, married 26 January 1818 at St Thomas', Dudley).

Henry and Ann Maria later separated, apparently around 1860 - Ann Maria Skidmore is always recorded as married in censuses up to 1901. She and the children lived with her brother William Henry Westwood, (a boiler and gas holder maker, born 1822 in Dudley) at Hart's Hill and later at Field Cottage, Glasshouse Hill, Stourbridge. Mrs Skidmore died at Field Cottage on 29 August 1902, aged 72, leaving a will (not seen).

I have not been able to find Henry Skidmore in British censuses between 1861 and 1891. He was certainly in Thames, Auckland by 1880 but the following newspaper report in 1867 suggests he was there before that date.

'AUCKLAND GOLD FIELDS. - The new gold-field at the Thames appears to be promising great things, and although the gold is obtained entirely from quartz crushing, the extraordinary richness of some of the samples seems to compensate amply for the trouble..... On Skidmore's Hill ten claims, which have only been in existence three weeks, have from two to ten tons each ready for crushing...'³⁴

In the late 19th century Thames was one of New Zealand's largest towns, built on the pioneering industries of gold and kauri logging³⁵.

'There was a time when no place in New Zealand was more talked of throughout the colony and beyond it, than the Thames. The cause of this was the extraordinary richness of the goldfield which was opened in 1867 and almost at once acquired a world-wide celebrity. The first claim which became famous was the Shotover, owned by Messrs Hunt and Party. Some of the picked quartz from this mine yielded half its

³³ Australia Death Index, 1787-1985.

³⁴ Taranaki Herald, 9 November 1867.

³⁵ <http://www.azdirect.co.nz/coromandel/attractions.asp>

weight in gold, which was eventually counted by tons. Within three years eleven thousand miners' rights had been taken out for the field. The Golden Crown mine, the Long Drive, the Moanataiari, the Manukau and the Alburnia mines all yielded splendid returns, and the Golden Crown paid £200,000 in dividends in one year. It was, however, the Caledonia mine which scored the most brilliant success, for in twelve months it yielded fully ten tons of gold, and paid within the same period dividends amounting to £600,000.¹³⁶

Henry Skidmore was one of the petitioners to the Thames County Council concerning rates they were obliged to pay to the Waiotahi Highway District. His property had an annual rateable value of £5.10s³⁷.

He was a miner living in Moanataiari Creek, Thames in 1880 and 1881, 1886 and 1890³⁸. The name Skidmore [presumably Henry] appears in the Gold Returns reports in New Zealand newspapers in the 1870s.

Thames Star, 7 October 1880:

'...a number of Canadian Gully miners applying for a road to connect their mines with the Moanataiari Creek. Messrs Skidmore, Hunter and Brown... urged the claims of their locality for assistance...'

The Thames Star of 19 September 1874 reported

'Skidmore's Tribute crushed 33 tons of quartz at the Prince Alfred battery, but the result is much poorer than usual, the gold only weighing, before melting, 11 ounces 15 dwts.'



The same paper on 9 April 1877 reported:

'Coma - Skidmore and party completed their crushing from this mine at the Piako Company's small mill on Saturday for the return of 9ozs 2 dwts gold. The parcel crushed amounted to 10 tons. Latterly the shareholders have been employed opening up the old workings, and it is to be hoped that the ground may prove payable.'

Further details of the gold mining companies can be found online, from The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Auckland Provincial District], The Cyclopedia Company, Limited, 1902, Christchurch.

Showing the Victoria Battery, Moanataiari Creek, Thames.

Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 4-8718.

[Gold processing plants were known as batteries, as the quartz was battered into powder by massive stampers. This released the gold particles so they could be chemically recovered using cyanide].

Henry Skidmore sailed from Lyttelton, New Zealand on 25 July 1891, at the age of 70, bound for London on the *Awara*. At the time of the British census of 1901 he appears to be the 77-year old Henry Skidmore lodging with the Vinson family at 3 Waterloo Road, Torquay, Devon. Henry Skidmore, gentleman, aged 78, died in 1901 at Melita, Torquay, naming John Harmshaw jnr, accountant, and Miss Ethel Annice Drury, his executors.

Henry Skidmore above had a younger brother **Joshua Skidmore (1812-1883)** who, with his sons, was a pot and crucible maker of Stourbridge, Worcestershire, England. **Joshua's eldest son Elijah Skidmore (1836-1886)**, had four sons, three of whom arrived in New Zealand with their younger sister Harriet in the late 1880s. For the ancestry of Elijah their father see *Skidmore Colliers and Furnacemen of Brierley Hill, and pot makers of Stourbridge 1750-1910* by Linda Moffatt at www.skidmorefamilyhistory.com. Elijah was part of the sixth generation descended from William Skidmore (c.1590-

³⁶ The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Auckland Provincial District].

³⁷ Page 4 Advertisements Column 3, Thames Star, Volume VII, Issue 2568, 31 March 1877.

³⁸ New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1880-81, 1885-86, 1890 Coromandel district.

1664) of Kingswinford parish, Staffordshire, and his wife Joyce (Hawkes) - the founders of the West Midlands family of Skidmores. For the early generations of this branch see *Skidmore Families Of The Black Country, the first five generations* by Linda Moffatt, on the same website.

Children of Elijah and Ann (Barratt) Skidmore, born in Stourbridge,

- i. Eliza, born 1856. Married Elijah Wilcox, a blacksmith, in 1879. They are said to have kept the Birch Tree public house at Amblecote Bank, near Stourbridge. Mrs Wilcox died in 1889 aged 32, leaving four sons.
- ii. Francis George, born 1862. Frank Skidmore, a 29 year old pot maker, left from Liverpool in September 1893, landing at New York and intending a 'protracted sojourn' in Ohio. Nothing further known of this man at present.
- iii. **JOSHUA SKIDMORE** was baptised at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, Worcestershire, on 5 February 1865, son of Elijah Skidmore and his wife Ann (Barratt). He was raised in Portobello, Stourbridge, at 83 Birmingham Street. His eldest brother Frank (Francis George) was, like their father Elijah, a crucible pot maker. In James Joseph's early years his father went to Japan to help develop the glass industry there. It was perhaps this spirit of adventure and travel, together with presumed contact with their great-uncle Henry Skidmore in New Zealand, that was conveyed to Frank (who left for Ohio in 1893) and to Joshua and James Joseph the younger sons, who were both in New Zealand by 1888.

At the time of the British census of 1881 Joshua was a coachman, living with his family in Stourbridge, though he later helped his father run the '*Old Star*' at 27 Coventry Street, Stourbridge. Joshua Skidmore, a brewer, and a bachelor aged 22, left from London on board the *Aorangi*, of the New Zealand Shipping Company on 10 March 1887, landing at Wellington on 24 April 1887 and destined for Napier.³⁹

J. Skidmore was a member of the Albion Lodge (No.159) U.A.O.D., Napier, and was elected an officer in 1895⁴⁰. He married Ellen McCarthy in 1896 in New Zealand. They are listed in the Masterton electoral roll of 1896 at Eketahuna, where Joshua was a locomotive fireman (also at Princes Street, Dunedin in 1896). In 1898 he made a lucky escape when his train capsized.

'A Press Association message gives further particulars of the accident to the train near Pigeon Bush. The bridge which has given way is near Barton's woolshed, and it subsided owing to material being washed out. The engine bumped and threw the driver (McNally) clear of the engine into the water. He had a narrow escape from drowning. When the engine capsized the fireman (Skidmore) was penned in his compartment, and had to break the glass of the window and crawl out. The night was pitch dark, and it was raining in torrents. The engine is apparently not much damaged.'⁴¹

In 1905-06 and again in 1911 Joshua and Ellen are listed at Waipukurau on the Waipawa electoral roll. Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory for 1910 reveals that Joshua ran the Leviathan Private Hotel in Waipukurau, as late as 1920. He appears to have been retired by 1923, since the hotel was thereafter in other hands.

Ellen Skidmore died in 1921 aged 53. Joshua Skidmore died in Waipukurau on 3 June 1933 aged 68, styled a 'gentleman' and leaving a will.

Children of Joshua and Ellen (McCarthy) Skidmore,

- i. Joshua Elijah, born 1899. Nothing further is known.
Note the Joshua Elijah, listed in the New Zealand death index, who died in 1911 aged 4.
- ii. Mary Ann Eileen, born 1902.
- iii. James John, born 2 April 1905, died in 1988. He married Eileen Mary _____.
Perhaps others - the New Zealand birth index is closed for people born more than 100 years ago.
- iv. **JAMES JOSEPH SKIDMORE** was baptised on 31 May 1868 at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford,

³⁹ Otago Daily Times, 25 October 1887, Page 2, reported the arrival at Port Chalmers of the Coptic, from Plymouth, via Cape Town and Hobart. Amongst the passengers, bound for Napier, were 'Misses Skidmore (3)', so far unidentified.

⁴⁰ Daily Telegraph [Napier, serving Hawke's Bay], Issue 7382, 4 June 1895.

⁴¹ Evening Post, 19 November 1898.

Worcestershire. At the age of 20 James Joseph, a butcher, left Plymouth on 4 June 1888 aboard the *Arawa* (of the Shaw Savill & Albion Company Limited), arriving at Auckland on 4 June 1888 and bound for Napier.

He was the first of the two brothers to marry, at the age of 22. His bride Ada Hayter was born on 19 January 1870 at Onehunga, Auckland, New Zealand, daughter of William and Eliza (Macey) Hayter. The marriage took place at the Baptist Church, Taradale, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand on 27 September 1890⁴².

James Joseph and Ada were on the electoral roll for Napier in 1890, resident in Craven Street - he is described as a 'settler'. In Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory for 1904 and for 1907 he is listed as a carter, living in Craven Street 'right side from Carlyle Street', the second of four houses before the intersection with Thackeray Street. By 1910 they had moved to 16 Wellesley Road, Napier, on the left side from Thackeray Street; *James* Skidmore was then a butcher and remained at this same address until his death in 1929 aged 61. Ada Skidmore was a widow when she was listed on the electoral roll in 1935, living at 68 Kennedy Road. She died in Napier on 30 August 1937 aged 67, leaving a will.

The author would be glad of information on Skidmore, Conroy & Co., mentioned in the Dailey Telegraph [Hawke's Bay] in 1900.

Children of James Joseph and Ada (Hayter) Skidmore,

- i. Annie Eliza, born 1891. She received a prize for General Proficiency at the Napier Infant School prize-giving in 1897⁴³. Nothing is presently known of Miss Skidmore's life. She died unmarried in 1918 aged 27.
- ii. Harriet, born 1892, named presumably after James' younger sister.
- iii. James Joshua, born 1895. He was in the field artillery in World War 1 and left on one of the three troopships from Wellington on 9 October 1915 bound for Suez⁴⁴.
He married Airline Elizabeth Mary Jones (born 10 July 1902) in 1924 and was a draper and clothier of Waipukurau. He died on 5 September 1966 aged 71, his wife on 28 June 1996 aged 93; they are buried at Waikumete Cemetery, Glen Eden⁴⁵.
- iv. Muriel Lillian, born 1896. She married John Walden in 1927.
- v. Lila Maud, born 1898. She died at 4 months old.
- vi. Ada Kathleen, born 1912.

Perhaps others - the New Zealand birth index is closed for people born more than 100 years ago.

- v. Elijah, born 1872Q2 and baptised on 15 September of that year. He travelled to New Zealand with his older brothers, where he died in 1889 aged 17.
- vi. Harriet, baptised 27 December 1874. She witnessed her brother James' wedding in New Zealand in 1890.

RICHARD SKIDMORE was in New Zealand in 1872 and perhaps as late as 1881. He was born in 1846 in Oldbury, Worcestershire, son of George and Sarah (James) Skidmore. He was a blacksmith who married Elizabeth Fleming in 1869Q1 at St James', West Bromwich, Staffordshire. They were living in 1871 at 3 Pardoe's Lane, Darlaston, Staffordshire but left soon after for New Zealand - their son Elias was born at Invercargill in about 1872. I have so far been unable to find them in the British 1881 census. By 1882 Richard and his family had returned to England and later had various addresses in Smethwick, Staffordshire.

GODWIN SCUDAMORE, born 19 December 1863, baptized 18 January 1864, son of John Scudamore, a farmer of Abenhall, Gloucestershire, and his wife Mary Ann (Buston). He emigrated to New Zealand in 1888 sailing on the *Ironie*.

The following is taken from The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Otago & Southland Provincial Districts]
Clarksville

⁴² familysearch.org

⁴³ Daily Telegraph, Issue 9048, 22 December 1897.

⁴⁴ Auckland War Museum website, <http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases>.

⁴⁵ Online Cemetery Search - Auckland Council.

'Mr. Godwin Scudamore, who is the third son of Mr. John Scudamore, farmer, was born in Gloucestershire, England, in 1863. He was educated at Taunton, Somersetshire, and indentured to the profession of civil and mechanical engineer, which he followed until he left England in 1888, by the s.s. 'Ionic,' for Port Chalmers. In consequence of not being able to secure employment at his own calling, he entered the firm of Messrs Strachan and Co., brewers, Dunedin. There he learned the art of brewing, and in 1893 he became proprietor of the Milton brewery. In 1891, Mr. Scudamore married a daughter of Captain F. Mathieson, of Dunedin and Fortrose.'

Godwin Scudamore married Elizabeth Campbell Matheson (1869-1945) in 1891 in New Zealand. He was a gardener at the time of his death at Dunedin on 8 November 1945.

Godwin's brother Henry Buston Scudamore was in New Zealand by 1900, also a brewer in his brother's business in Milton. He later lived in Cambridge, Waikato district. He died in New Zealand in 1936 aged 70.

Children of Godwin and Elizabeth Campbell (Matheson) Scudamore,

- i. Gladys Mary, born 1893. She was living in 1914 at 3 Ramsay Street, N.E. Valley, Dunedin North. She died unmarried in 1918.
- ii. Winifred Elizabeth, born 1894. She died unmarried in Oamaru in 1967⁴⁶.
- iii. Constance Mabel, born 1896. She was living in 1919 at 16 Albert Street, Dunedin West. She died unmarried in 1943.
- iv. John Godwin, born 1898, died 1957. He worked in a flourmill in Clarksville, Otago province. He married Christina Ellen _____. 2 sons and 2 daughters.
- v. Eunice Evelyn, born 29 January 1902. She lived at Oamaru, North Otago, New Zealand and died unmarried on 9 July 1985.
- vi. Emily Blanche, born 1907. She married Robert Alfred _____.
- vi. Joseph, born 1909. He died at 5 months old that year.

LAWRENCE TOKE SCUDAMORE, a labourer, born in 1890 England, sailed in 1911 from London to Wellington, arriving 13 November 1911 on the *Ramuera*. He was the third son of Rev. Henry Toke Scudamore of Westrop, Wiltshire and later Studham Vicarage near Dunstable, Bedfordshire, and his wife Emily (Webber). Scudamore

He married, in 1915 in New Zealand, Elizabeth Cicely Davies (born 6 December 1887) and was an accountant in Wellington. She was living in 1911 a spinster at West Beach, Island Bay, Wellington province and Crieff Street in 1914⁴⁷.

Corporal Scudamore of 42 Garden Road, Northland, Wellington, of C Company, 3rd Battalion the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, embarked with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in 1916. He was killed in action in France on 15 September 1916 and his name appears on the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery Memorial, Longueval⁴⁸. His widow died in Devon, England on 22 December 1975.

The only child of Lawrence Toke & Elizabeth Cicely (Davies) Scudamore,

- i. Pamela Lawrence Toke, born 1916. She married Geoffrey _____.

CHARLES SKIDMORE was a son of Charles and Sarah Ann (Thomas) Skidmore, born in 1870 in Dudley, Worcestershire. His father Charles Skidmore (1839-1905), was raised in Queens Cross, Dudley and became a moulder in brass. He married Sarah Ann Thomas (born about 1844 in Dudley, probably daughter of anvil maker Benjamin Thomas of Dock Lane and his wife Sarah) in 1860Q3 and they lived in the Dock area of Dudley. Like his younger brother Albert he moved in the 1880s to Farringdon Street, Leicester, where they were both labourers in an iron foundry at the time of the 1901 census.

⁴⁶ New Zealand, Probate Records, 1848-1991.

⁴⁷ New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1853-1981.

⁴⁸ Commonwealth War Graves Commission, cwgc.org

Charles Skidmore the son presumably learned his trade of last making in the Leicester shoe trade, though I have yet to find him in British censuses of 1891 or 1901. He described himself as a 'shoelaster' when he left England, sailing from Liverpool in 1906 aboard the *Dorset*, bound for Auckland. He was a bootmaker at 46 Courtney Place, Wellington in 1911. He married Sarah Ann Peacock in 1916. She was born in 1877 in Taranaki, New Zealand, daughter of John Peacock and his wife Sarah Ann (Newbold). Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory for 1916 lists Charles Skidmore in Heretaunga Street, Hastings [right side from Maraekakaho Road, No.900, the house before the Quarry Road intersection].

Sarah Ann Skidmore died in 1947 in New Zealand aged 82. Charles Skidmore returned to Britain the following year, at the age of 78, arriving in London on 17 December 1948 and headed for 78 Mornington Street, Leicester. This house had been occupied by members of his family since 1901. Charles Skidmore died in Leicestershire in 1960 aged 90.

APPENDIX 1

List of inhabitants of the whaling stations in the Otago region in about 1848.

Living at Otagau, as the Maoris called the Heads and neighbourhood, were—Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Beal and five children, Mr. and Mrs. David Carey and five children, Mr. and Mrs. Dugald Anderson and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roebuck and daughter, Geo Palmer (nephew of Mr. Roebuck), Mr. and Mrs. Ben. Coleman and five children, Mr. and Mrs. William Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. William Scott, Geo. Smith, Captain Peter Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and two children, Mr. and Mrs. John Sutton, John Tompkins, Richard Driver (pilot), Jas. Ricketts, Mr. and Mrs. William Barry and three children, John Hunter, William Gairy, John Murray, French Charley (Lourdon), Watson (known as Oamaru Watson), Gibbs (carpenter), Simon McKenzie (blacksmith), Mr. and Mrs Charles Windsor, Black Isaac (a negro), John Bull (Robt. Williams), Angus Cameron (shepherd to Mr. Stokes), Mr. Stokes, Robt. Hitchcock, Antonio Joseph, Octavius Harwood, G. P. Levatt, Mr. Crook, James Fowler, John Phillipin, James Loper, Charles Hopkinson, Thomas Ferguson, Black Bill (Williams), John Farrell, Joseph Hollesforth, Thomas Curts, Black Andy (N.S.W. native), David Scott, a youth named Bill (who afterwards went to Sydney), John Logan, Tom Brown (Old Tom).

At Moeraki—Mr. and Mrs. Skidmore, John Hughes, J. Hollesforth, Thomson, Wm. Isaac Haberfeld, Donaldson, John Neimo (a Trafalgar seaman), Jamieson, McKewen, John Duff, Peter Chevatt, Mr. Russell.

At Waikouaiti—Rev. Chas. Creed, wife and son; Dr. Crocombe, Mr. and Mrs John Jones and family, also William, Thomas and Edward Jones; Mr. and Mrs. Kennard, Ned. Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Glover and family, Stephen Smith, Tommy Tandy, Mr. and Mrs. McLachlan and family, Wm. Apes, Joe Shag, Geo. Davis, Andrew Moore, Scotch Bob, Dutch Harry (Wickson), Mr. and Mrs Wood and family, John Ludlow, Mr. Trotter, Mr. and Mrs. R. Sisemore and family, John Williams.

At Port Chalmers—Mr. and Mrs. McKay (first inn), Mr. and Mrs. Wyllie (sawyer) and French Peter.

At Molyneux Bay—Willsher and Russell.

At Jacobs River—Captain Howell, Geo. Stevens, William Stevens, Ned the Nailer, John Owens, Daniels.

At the Bluff—William Starling, Davis, Dellis, Spencer, Paddy Gilroy, Geo. Prince,

APPENDIX 2

Maori Deeds of Old Private Land Purchases in New Zealand, From the Year 1815 to 1840, with Pre-Emptive and Other Claims. Waikouaiti Block, Otago District.

1839. 7 June. Otago District. Waikouaiti. John Jones. This Indenture made the Seventh day of June in the year of our Lord 1839 Between Jackey White and Tyroo of the first part John Jones of Sydney Merchant of the second part and James Bruce Commander of the Barque 'Jessie' Master Mariner of the third part Now this Indenture witnesseth that an consideration of Sealing Boat one Tierce of tobacco and ten doz. cotton shirts in hand well and truly paid by the said James Bruce for and on behalf of the said John Jones to the said Jackey White and Tyroo Boundaries. Doth give grant and confirm to the said John Jones his Heirs and Assigns All that District piece or parcel of Land at New Zealand from the Point called by the Natives Island Point to the North Head and Ten Miles extending back including the Sweep of the Bay at 'Wikowhite' To have and to hold the said District piece or parcel of Land with all rights privileges advantages and appurtenances whatsoever unto and for the use and behoof of the said John Jones his Heirs and Assigns for ever And the said John Jones hath nominated constituted and appointed and by these presents doth nominate page 427 constitute and appoint the said James Bruce his true and lawful Attorney for him and in his name to receive and take from the said Jackey White and Tyroo full and sufficient possession of the said district parcel or tract of land and hereditaments by these Presents granted and confirmed or any part thereof in the name of the whole to take and have And such possession being so taken and had to hold and retain to and for the use of the said John Jones his heirs and assigns for ever according to the purport and effect and true intent and meaning of these presents In Witness hereof the parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals.

John Tyro his x mk. Jackie White his x mk. John Towack his x mk.

Signed Sealed and Delivered by the within named Jackey White and Tyroo the same having been explained to them in the presence of James Bruce and Henery Skidmore—J. Lewis.

We acknowledge to have received on the day of the date of the above written Receipt. Indenture of the above named James Bruce for and on behalf of John Jones the full consideration above mentioned for the Sale and Conveyance of the said District parcel or tract of Land and hereditaments above described.

John Tyro x his mk. Jackie White x his mk. John Towack x his mk.

Witness— J. Lewis. Henery Skidmore.

True Copy. E. Shortland. No. 124.O.L.C. Received in Court, 6 Oct., 1843. E. L. Godfrey, Commr.