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“SKIDMORES VISIT THE HOME OF THE SCUDAMORES”

This article by the late Tim Woodman was published in the *Wiltshire Times* a few days after our visit. (WS)

About 40 members of the Scudamore family who spell their name “Skidmore” spent a day at Upton Scudamore on Saturday [11 May 1991].

Among them were 11 Americans who travelled from their hotels in London via Avebury and Stonehenge in a mini-coach provided by Wynaway Travel Agency, Westbury, and a New Zealand nurse who stayed locally with friends.

They were shown round the church by two of St Mary's churchwardens, Mrs P. Bridel of Norridge and Admiral Grenier who lives at Keyford in the village.

Before lunch they had a conducted tour of the village and the history of the Scudamores was explained to them.

These visits will undoubtedly become more frequent as Mrs Linda (Skidmore) Moffatt, of 2 Burley Road, Winchester, has formed a Skidmore Society and she joined them for the visit. Many Scudamores have also visited and will continue to do so.

This all came about when Tim Woodman, who lived at the Old Rectory in the village, started to research the history of the Scudamores and the parish in 1963.

He was joined by the late John Lucas-Scudamore of Kentchurch Court, Herefordshire, where the Scudamores have held an estate since before 1085, and Lady Patricia Lucas-Scudamore who as the heiress of the 12th Earl of Chesterfield is a descendant of the Holme Lacy Scudamores.

The main researcher, however, was Warren Skidmore, of Akron, Ohio, who flew across for the visit.

The first known spelling of the family name was Scudemmer, that of Reginald de Scudemmer (born c.1075) son and heir of a Norman knight named Ralf. He had come over, possibly before the Norman Conquest, to help rebuild Ewyas Castle in the Welsh Marches and man the defences with his men.

The family were given a number of fees of the barony of Ewyas, making Upton Scudamore the caput of their fief. This included Norton (Bavant), Fifield (Bavant), and other manors in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Herefordshire.

The heiress Alice Scudamore married the baron Adam de Bavant, hence the change of the villages names.

The male succession ended at Upton Scudamore in 1382 with the death of a Sir Peter Scudamore. His heiress daughter, Katharine, married Sir John Reynes.

Through her three children her descendants can be traced down to the present Marquis of Ailesbury and his son, the Earl of Cardigan. The original family still survives in Herefordshire, the Scudamores of Kentchurch Court, descendants of Walter Scudamore who was a younger brother of Reginald.

He did the guard duty at Ewyas Castle and the original charter for this is part of the Hastings Deeds Collection in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Tim Woodman has also researched and produced a history of the Giffards of Fonthill Giffard, together with the Earl of Halsbury FRS who is the senior member of the Devon branch of this family.

Walter Giffard, of Fonthill, was a Scudamore knight, using the Scudamore arms of three stirrups as his own. His son, Peter Giffard, fought with "Strongbow" in Ireland and was rewarded with an estate there and also the manor of Chillington in Staffordshire..

This is still held by the family, Peter Richard de Longueville Giffard being the 28th in succession there. His sister, Diana Giffard, married Airey Neave (assassinated by the IRA) and she is now Baroness Airey of Abingdon.

Roster of Visitors to Upton Scudamore in 1991:

Charles G. & Joyce Skidmore, 12812 Mt. Royal Lane, Fairfax, Virginia 22033

Hilary Edwards, 117 Heath Lane, Oldswinford, Sturbridge, West Midlands DY8 1RG

Earle & Frances Reuther, 14854 Wallingford N., Seattle, Washington 98133 (206 362-3791)

Samuel Adkins Milliner & Leone Harris Milliner, and daughter Clare Milliner Batholomew, 75
Wawaset Road, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382

Jean Anne Skidmore, 12 Rocombe Close, Watcombe Park, Torquay, Devon TQ2 8QF

Karen Jane Heath, 41b Lawn Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP3 9HL

William F. & Betty Skidmore, 502 Winter View Drive, Bel Air, Maryland 21014 (301 487-4016)

Kathleen B. Skidmore, 49 Queensbridge Court, Kent Street, London E2 8PO

Leonard & Nancy Todd, 3207 S.2700E., Salt Lake City, Utah 84109 (801 487-4016)

Don Skidmore, 73a Cockle Bay Road, Howick, Auckland, New Zealand (5344840)

Jean Atkins, 162 Farm Road, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B68 8PL

Margaret Scarrott, 14 Mushroom Hall Road, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B68 8JL

Richard Charles Skidmore, 38 Goldsdown Close, Brimsdown, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 7RR (081
804-3397)

Peter & Heather Skidmore, 169 Carrhouse Road, Doncaster DN4 5DP

Mary Skidmore Barnett, "Wolverton," Moorend Grove, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL5 30EX

John R. & May Skidmore, "Roses," Shaw, Lancashire

Ian & Celia Skidmore, Aberbraint Lodge, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, Anglesey, Gwynedd

Peter & Hazel Skidmore, 2 St. Catherines Close, Bathwick Hill, Bath BA2 6BS, Avon (464409)

Linda Moffatt, 2 Burley Road, Winchester, Hampshire S022 6LJ

Tim Woodman, 14 Fore Street, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3AX

Warren Skidmore, 171 Goodhue Drive, Akron, Ohio 44313-6167 (216 864-2787)