THE SKYDMORE FAMILY OF CHEWTON MENDIP, SOMERSET, AND EYAM, DERBYSHIRE

by Warren Skidmore

These notes are based on an earlier account of the families in the 17th century at Taddington, Derbyshire and at Wellow and Chewton Mendip in Somerset first published in May 1991 in a very small edition of my book Thirty Generation of the Scudamore/Skidmore Family in England and America. It came as a considerable surprise to find, after Colonel William F. Skidmore started to sort out the various branches of the family by comparing their DNA that the Derbyshire family came beyond doubt out of the family in Somerset.

There is nothing more difficult for a family historian to prove than a removal. When I cast about trying to find the kinship between the two families, Chewton Mendip in Somerset soon appeared to be the most likely. It was encouraging to find that two rather uncommon given names, Arthur and Simon, were both used there and in Derbyshire at the proper time. Final proof was the discovery that Chewton Mendip in Somerset and Eyam in the Peake district of Derbyshire were the two largest producers of lead in the 16th century. An improved method of smelting the lead ore was developed in Somerset, and there was soon after a sizable migration of men who had mastered this new technology to Derbyshire.

If now seems clear that the senior branch of the family was at Eyam and that Taddington was a cadet branch, and that both of these large Derbyshire families were associated with lead mining. The case was now proven to my satisfaction.

Mrs. Linda (Skidmore) Moffatt has already announced her intention to do a major history of the family in Derbyshire. She is the founder and principal researcher for the Skidmore Family History Group in England. She has transcribed many of the British census records, and found that the Derbyshire family is currently the second largest Skidmore family in England. Her chief deputy enrolled in this project is Velma Skidmore of Manhattan, Kansas, the wife of Dr. Edward Skidmore, and the mother of several Skidmore sons. She read and made notes from the books on lead mining quoted later, and did the still bigger and more difficult job of deciphering the

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1 The Somerset product was rated as inferior to “the best leade in England which was Peake Leade in Derbyshire” according to the Lansdowne Mss. 31, no. 62 (folio 164) at the British Library, a reference found and quoted by J. W. Gough in The Mines of Mendip, (Revised edition, New York, 1967) 178.

2 The largest is Mrs. Moffatt’s own family from Kingswinford in Staffordshire. Her immense history of that family, done almost entirely by her own labor and at her own expense, was published in 2004 as SKIDMORE, Families of the Black Country and Birmingham 1600-1900.
Chewton Mendip parish registers and the Taddington transcripts, both surviving but in disastrous condition. In England, Linda Moffatt spent four days at the Derbyshire Record Office, and has done an intensive search of the Eyam parish register (now transcribed and available on a CD) and sorted out the references to the family in the Taddington registers which are also in very poor condition.

My own contribution to this new project has been minimal. I have combined and revised my original notes from Dunkerton, Chewton Mendip, Eyam, Taddington, and Sheffield which were published earlier in my Thirty Generations.

I must also single out the help I found in the work done several years ago, but new to me, by Dr. Glen Trezza of Boston, Massachusetts who descends from the Skidmore family and several other early families once found at Eyam. Many of his useful comments on several early Derbyshire families can be found posted on the internet.

This article should be considered as an advertisement for the forthcoming book by Mrs. Moffatt. It will no doubt be better organized and contain most (if not all) of the Derbyshire family living in 1901 with a full index. Descendants must await further bulletin from her. (WS)

The family at Wellow descends from a John Skydemor who was living at Dunkerton on 25 April 1441 when he was amerced [fined] 4d. for default of rent on a tract of copyhold land he held [presumably at Carlingcott] in Dunkerton according to a view of frankpledge taken that day. His origin is currently unknown.3 This revision begins with:

ROBERT SKYDMORE, the elder, of Carlingcott in Dunkerton, Somerset, was born about 1540, and was left a minor at the time of his father's death in 1554.4 He had an estate at Carlingcott which he still held in 1609 from his nephew Thomas Skydmore, the heir of his elder brother, on extremely lenient terms paying only an annual rent of £1. His lease, presumably made in 1561 for 99 years, had a further 61 years to run and his son Robert was named by the terms of the lease to succeed him there. Robert Skydmore was living as late as 9 June 1609, a very old man, when he is mentioned in the inquest post mortem as a tenant of his nephew Thomas. Robert Skydmore, the elder, had issue doubtless with others,5

1. ROBERT, his heir, of whom further.
2. William, of High Littleton, Somerset. He was a husbandman and copyholder at Peters Cloudhill in High Littleton, where he left a will dated 10 June 1632. He had died before 31 January 1632/3 when an inventory was taken of his estate, and left issue,
   1. Francis, the executor of his father in 1633.
   2. Elinor, who married and had two unnamed children who were each left a lamb in the will of their grandfather William Skydmore.

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3 The Skydmores at Dunkerton (and Wellow) are now known from DNA extracts not to be nearly related to the family at Westerleigh, Gloucestershire as I once suggested.
4 Richard Skydmore (1502-1554), died testate at Twinhoe in Wellow, Somerset. See this family on the Scudamore/Skidmore CD-ROM, an account that badly needs revision.
5 Another son was probably the Thomas Skydmore, noticed later, who is found soon after at Chewton Mendip.
3. Mary. She was unmarried in 1632 and was to have, according to the terms of her father’s will, the lease of his land at Peters Cloudhill. She appears to have died soon after leaving a will written in 1632 at Hallatrow, another hamlet in High Littleton. Her will was unfortunately lost in the German bombing of Exeter in 1942 and its provisions are unknown.

3. Tomasin. She married Laurence Hedges of Bunnet [Burnett], Somerset on 19 May 1606.

4. Margaret. She was buried on 11 January 1607 as the daughter of Robert Skidmore “the elder.”

His heir,

ROBERT SKIDMORE, the younger, of Carlingcott. He was a churchwarden at Dunkerton as early as 1603, and is last noticed there when he was assessed in the Lay Subsidy of 1628. He had issue, perhaps with others,

1. Robert (perhaps). He may be the man of this name who was exempt from the Hearth Tax in 1665 as he was “not rated to Church or [was] poore by reason of his poverty.” He was exempted again in 1670 and 1674.

2. James, buried 24 December 1609.

3. James, born about 1611. He was apprenticed to William Hulett, a merchant taylor, of Fleet Street, London, on 25 September 1626 for seven years and was admitted a freeman on 11 April 1636. He died at Limehouse in Stepney, called “a citizen and a merchant taylor” leaving a will (signed as James Scudamore) dated 11 May and promptly probated 13 June 1656. It remembers his wife Joane, his brother Thomas, and his brother’s two children Thomas (to whom he left £5 and two fowling pieces [guns] and Elizabeth Scudamore. His widow Joane may be the Jane Scudamore who married Hugh Lewis in 1657 at St. George’s, Southwark.

4. Thomas, noticed next above. He may also have lived at London.

5. Joseph, baptized 18 September 1615 (twin). He married Joan [_______] who was buried at Marksbury, Somerset as his widow on 19 February 1678/9, where their three daughters had been christened. He was also exempted from paying the Hearth Tax in 1670-4. Had issue,

1. Sara, baptized 3 September 1643.

2. Hester, baptized 24 November 1644.

3. Mary, baptized 4 January 1645/6 and buried on 19 July 1647.

1. Mary, baptized 18 September 1615 (twin), buried 11 February 1615/6.

THOMAS SKYDMORE, the first of his name at Chewton Mendip, was born perhaps about 1565 a son of Robert, the elder, of Dunkerton. He was probably drawn to Chewton (which is hard by Dunkerton) since in the late sixteenth century lead was mined intensively only at two places, in the Mendip Hills in Somerset, and in the Peake District in Derbyshire. Thomas Skydmore married and

6He was also a churchwarden, as known, in 1607, 1609, 1613 and 1623.

7Public Record Office, PROB 11/256. His will was witnessed by John Minthorne and Sir Ralph Outlaw.
had issue christened at Chewton Mendip, but seems to have died either elsewhere or intestate. No mention has been found of him in the surviving index to probates, or in the file of early copies of the wills lost in 1942 collected by the Somerset Record Office. Such very negative information as we have suggests that he (and perhaps his wife) might have died in Derbyshire. He did have issue however, christened at Chewton Mendip.  

1. Joan [Johane], baptized 1 July 1588. Probably died young.
2. Simon, baptized 1 November 1590 (twin). He was buried 21 October 1595.
3. ROBERT, of Chewton Mendip, baptized 1 November 1590 (twin), of whom further.
4. ARTHUR, baptized 4 August 1593, probably the first of his family to settle at Eyam, Derbyshire, of whom later.
5. Richard buried 16 October 1595.
6. THOMAS (probably), of Taddington, Derbyshire, to whom we will eventually return.
7. A son [illegible, but probably SIMON], baptized December 1600.  
8. Mary, baptized 11 October 1601. She is probably the lady of this name buried 11 April 1626.

The eldest surviving son, ROBERT SKIDMORE, was baptized 1 November 1590 (a twin) at Chewton Mendip. He had a lease for three lives of a certain messuage there (containing only a half acre) from Philip Bridges of Stone Easton on 17 June 1619. At the time of his death in 1634 he was a copyholder at Stock Hill in Chewton Mendip with a house “newly builded by me.” He married Mary, perhaps a daughter of [______] Lane, who apparently survived him. His will dated 1 May (and proved 2 July) 1634 gives his occupation as “mineral man,” and named his brother-in-law William Lane as one of the overseers of his estate. He was buried in the churchyard at Chewton Mendip on 20 May 1634. Had issue,

1. Thomas, baptized 22 January 1612/13. He was buried 4 May 1616.
2. Mary, eldest surviving child. She was baptized 29 January 1616/7 and was living on 17 June 1619 when she (as the first child then born) was named as the third party with her parents in the tripartite lease for three lives from Philip Bridges. She died an infant soon after.
3. Mary, baptized 15 September 1620. She married Morgan Hopkins on 5 February 1641/2.
4. JAMES, probably the eldest surviving son, of whom further.
5. Lewis. He was a blacksmith and lived first at Nailsea, Somerset (where he owned two houses), but died at Almondsbury, Gloucstershire. His will is dated 31 July (and

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8Extracts from register of Chewton Mendip (1554-1689) have been made by Mrs. Velma Skidmore of Manhattan, Kansas, using microfilm (no. 1526507) from the Family History Library at Salt Lake City. The earliest registers are in wretched condition. They were read by Mrs. Skidmore through 1689 (an enormous chore), together with what survives of the bishop’s transcripts for the parish. There are extracts from the register, found earlier at the Society of Genealogists in London.

9This name is impossible to read, but the surviving smudges look more like Simon than any other likely alternative.
proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 17 October 1677) when probate was
given to his sister Elinor Hulbard, the executrix named.

7. Elinor, baptized 3 November 1622. She married Edward Hulbard [Holbert] of Weston,
   Somerset.

His eldest son,

JAMES SKIDMORE, of the Burrough in Wedmore, Somerset. He was a minor at his father’s
dearth, and he and his brother Lewis were “to be put to be apprentices” according to their father’s will.
He married firstly Jane Hooper by whom he had issue, a son,

1. James, baptized 19 May 1650 at Wedmore. He died young.

James Skidmore, the elder, then married secondly Christian Taylor on 3 February 1652/3 by whom he
had issue (the first three christened at Wedmore,

2. James, baptized 18 November 1653. He was living in 1677 when he was remembered
   in the will of his uncle Lewis Skidmore.
3. Robert, baptized 31 January 1654/5. He was buried at Wedmore on 7 November 1657.
4. Lewis, baptized 2 April 1657. He was living in 1677.
5. Thomas, living 1677.
6. Mary, living 1677.

James Skidmore seems to have disappeared from Wedmore after 1657, and no probate has yet been
found for him.

The second son of Thomas Skydmore, the elder, of Chewton Mendip,

ARTHUR SKIDMORE was baptized there on 4 August 1593. He appears to have been the
first of his name in Derbyshire where he became a lead miner at Eyam. The miners in Somerset, as
noticed earlier, had devised a superior method of smelting lead with a fixed ore hearth on the ground.
This greatly improved productivity and profits for the owners, and an increasing number of Somerset
migrants, Arthur Skidmore among them, took the new process up to Derbyshire and did not return.10
He died at Eyam, untimely it would seem, before 15 July 1629 when an inventory totaling £30 6sh 4d
was taken of his estate by John Sheldon, Thomas Wilson, and Thomas Cowper of that place.11 The
administration on his estate was granted a week later on 22 July 1629 to his widow Anne (or Annis)
Skydmore, and Simon Skydmore of Eyam (doubtless his brother) became her bondsman. Anne
Skydmore remained Arthur’s widow and was buried at Eyam on 2 April 1654. They had issue three
children, minors at their father’s death,

1. THOMAS. He was ancestor of a large family at Eyam, to whom we will
   eventually return.
2. Ellen. She married Francis Thornley of Eyam on 8 October 1638 and was

10 David Kiernan, The Derbyshire Lead Industry in the Sixteenth Century (Derbyshire Record
   Society, volume XIV, 1989) 171-2. It was said in 1581 that “The beste leade in England is Peak leade
   in Derbyshire, The second [best] is made at Mendiff nere Bristoll.”
11 Appraised were his purse, apparel, a grey mare, two kyne, a heifer, a weaning calf, saucers,
   basins, kettles, pots, sheets, blankets, chairs, and an acre of grass. His inventory also mentions debts
due from Thomas Willson and John Andrews.
buried as his wife on 28 June 1657. Thornley married secondly Elizabeth Chapman, a widow, and had a number of children by his first wife who died of the plague at Eyam in 1666.

3. Mary. She married George Parks (died 1701), a widower of Wardlow.

The third son of Thomas Skydmore, the elder, of Chewton Mendip,

THOMAS SKYDMORE, THE YOUNGER, probably later of Taddington, Derbyshire. He married Agnes Von [perhaps Vaughan?] on 24 November 1617 at Chewton Mendip, who is probably the Agnis Skidmore buried there on 6 April 1626. In 1578 the manager for George Talbot (1522-1590), the sixth earl of Shrewsbury, reported that he was smelting about 54 loads of lead a week from Shrewsbury’s mines at Taddington and Brassington. Thomas Skydmore seems to have become an early communicant at the chapel of St. Michael and All Angels in the western part of Taddington, Derbyshire. His presumptive son Richard Skydmore, who died in 1660 or 1661, requested in his will to be buried inside the church at Taddington “as neer conveniently be to the burial place of my Ancestours.” He left presumptive posterity born at Taddington, no doubt with others,

1. RICHARD, of Taddington, of whom further.
2. ARTHUR, of Wardlow, Derbyshire, of whom later.

The elder son,

RICHARD SKYDMORE, was apparently born about 1625. He became a substantial yeoman later at Taddington where he purchased land in 1658, and requested to be buried there inside the church in his will. It was dated 5 May 1660, but was not proved until 6 August 1661. He mentions his “groves and meares of ground” in his will, and it is clear that if he did not mine lead himself he did own some seams that were otherwise worked. Richard Skydmore was survived by his wife Elizabeth (who was buried on 23 January 1664/5 at Taddington), and the six children remembered in his will.14

1. RICHARD, the elder son, of whom further.

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12The sixth earl, and his father Francis Talbot (1500-1560), the fifth earl, were intimates of the Skydmores at Holme Lacy and, Kentschura Court in Herefordshire, and also of Sir Philip Scudamore (ca. 1545-1611) of Burnham in Buckinghamshire. Philip had loaned money to the sixth earl, a difficult man, and was repaid. Shrewsbury, whose seat was at Sheffield Castle, had bigger and better interests than his lead mines elsewhere. It is most unlikely that he knew any particulars about the Skydmores in Derbyshire, or connected the name with his associates in Herefordshire. See also G. R. Batho, *Gilbert Talbot, seventh earl of Shrewsbury (1553-1616); the great and glorious earl*, Derbyshire Archaeological Journal, vol. XCIII (1973), 23-32. The seventh earl was the last of the Talbots who maintained an interest in lead mining.

13The parish register of St. Michael and All Angels in Taddington begins in 1642/3. It has been seen by Mrs. Linda (Skidmore) Moffatt of the Skidmore Family History Group (along with much more), on a four day field trip to the Record Office at Matlock. The register is most curiously set down for some years with the entries arranged in one chronological list, with the symbols “B, M & S” (for Bapisatus, Matrimonis Conjuncti, and Sepulta) in the left margins. The bishop’s transcripts for Taddington, Priestcliff (and Thorpe) have also been read by Mrs. Velma Skidmore using microfilm (no. 0428945) borrowed from the Family History Library.

14See the NOTES to this paper for a full abstract of his will.
2. John, of Taddington. He was left £20 (but no land) in the will of his father. He married Margery [_______] by 1661, and was living a husbandman at Taddington in 1685 where he was perhaps the only surviving son of his father. He was buried in January 1668/9 at Taddington, having had issue,
   1. Elizabeth, baptized 2 February 1661/2. She married George Lomas on 7 April 1687 at Tideswell, Derbyshire.
   2. Mary, baptized 19 May 1664.
   3. Nathaniel, of Tideswell, baptized 18 November 1666 at Taddington. He married firstly Joan Harrison (who was buried at Wormhill Chapel in 1714) on 23 November 1699 at Tideswell. He had by her, a son,
      1. Edward, baptized 8 September 1700 at Tideswell.
      Nathaniel perhaps married secondly Mary Hulmes on 4 August 1715 at Chelmorton. If so, they had presumptive children,
      2. Mary, baptised 8 July 1716.
      3. Nathaniel, baptized 13 May 1726. He was buried at Tideswell on 16 March 1727 as a son of Nathaniel Skidmore.
   5. Martha, baptized 23 June 1729.
   4. Margaret, baptized 14 March 1669 (posthumous), called a “daughter of Margery Skidmoor, widow.” [She may have have married George Oldfield at Tideswell on 4 May 1690.]
      1. Elizabeth. She married [_______] Oldfield, and was left £10 in the will of her father, which was to be paid to her within three years of his death.
      2. Margaret. She was left £10 in the will of her father, and her children (unnamed) were left 20sh in the will of their grandfather.
      3. Helen. She married [_______] Knowles, by whom she had a son Thomas Knowles remembered in the will of his grandfather.
      4. Dorothy. She married Edward Rowland in 1645.15

The elder son,

RICHARD SKIDMORE, of Taddington, He was left his father's house and lands at the Shippons, and in addition (after the death of the widow) a house and lands called Staley House, and still another house and lands purchased from a Mr. Eyre. He had deeds at Taddington in 1666 and 1668, and was assessed on two hearths in 1670.16 He was buried there on 22 November 1675. His widow Margaret Skidmore was buried at Taddington on 8 October 1684, and an administration on her estate was granted 3 March 1684/5 to her son John Skidmore. They had issue,

   1. Richard, baptized 10 June 1656 (as a son of Richard Scidmore and “Margardta’ uxoris”).
   2. William. He was buried an infant on 4 April 1657.

15 The Rowlands had a daughter christened the same day (2 February 1661/2) as Elizabeth, a daughter of her brother John Skidmore and his wife Margery.

16 Derbyshire Hearth Tax Assessments, 1662-70, edited by David G. Edwards. (Derbyshire Record Society, 1982), 20. The usual tax was on a single hearth.
3. George, baptized 22 November 1657. He had a base [illegitimate] son William by Alice Stafford who was baptized 5 February 1678/9 at Taddington. George appears to have died, perhaps elsewhere, between 1679 and 1685.
   1. William, perhaps known as Stafford, of whom nothing more is known.
4. John, baptized in November or December 1658. He married Mary [_______] who was buried on 20 February 1723. He was living, a husbandman at Taddington in 1685 apparently his father’s eldest surviving son, and was buried there on 13 November 1727. They had children christened at Taddington,
   1. RICHARD, baptized 10 October 1689 He and his younger brother called (in Latin) in the transcript as “two sons” of their father but not twins were both christened on the same day. He was buried 4 April 1742 leaving posterity not traced here.
   2. Thomas, baptized 10 October 1689.
   3. John, baptized 5 April 1692.
5. Simon, baptized in February 1660 (or March 1661) at Taddington. 17 He married Helena _____, whose family name is unknown. He is probably the Simon of Taddington whose will (not seen) was dated 26 May 1733 and proved at Lichfield. They had issue, christened at Taddington,
   1. Elizabeth, baptized 9 August 1684 as a daughter of Simon and Helena, his wife. She was buried 6 July 1685.
   2. Margaret, baptized 6 February 1686.
   3. Thomas, baptized 2 March 1691.
7. Arthur, baptized 18 September 1664. He married Mary Moult at Bakewell (but probably both of Taddington) on 11 June 1688.

The second son of Thomas Skydmore, the younger, of Taddington,

ARTHUR SKYDMORE, of Wardlow, Derbyshire whose christening has not been found. He paid £1 at Easter Roll in 1658 and was assessed on one hearth between 1662-70. He married an unknown wife by whom he left at least two sons at Wardlow,

1. Richard Skidmore of Wardlow. An unidentified “Skidmore de Wardlow of Hope dist[ric]t” was buried in 1685 at Great Longstone, Derbyshire who could be either this Richard or his brother Nicholas. Also unidentified is an Alicia Skidmore of Wardlow (presumably the wife of one of the brothers) who was buried on 14 April 1690 also at Great Longstone. This Richard Skidmore was ancestor to the proprietors of the business firm of Skidmore Framework Knitters at Ashford, Derbyshire. He had issue, christened at Tideswell, where only the father's name was given in the register at this time,
   1. Thomas, baptized 23 December 1673.
   2. RICHARD, baptized 22 October 1676. He married and left posterity, not traced here.

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17 The March 1661 date is taken from the International Genealogical Index which does not name the parents.
presently traced further.

3. Joshua, baptized 18 May 1679.18

A second son,

NICHOLAS SKIDMORE, of Wardlow. He had issue christened at Tideswell, by an unknown wife,

1. Samuel, baptized 4 January 1674. [He is perhaps the man who married Ann Bagshaw at Bakewell on 22 November 1703.]
2. Ruth, baptized 16 July 1676.
3. Henry, baptized 22 December 1679.19

It is now necessary, at last, to return to the fourth son of Thomas Skydmore, the elder, of Chewton Mendip, who left a numerous posterity at Eyam, Derbyshire.

SIMON SKIDMORE, [probably the illegible son of his father christened in December, 1600] who went to Eyam along with his brother Arthur, and was left 20sh in the will of his brother Richard of Taddington in 1660. He married Elizabeth Eyre at Bakewell on 8 September 1619, where they are called “both of this parish.” She survived her husband by about three months and was buried at Eyam on 13 June 1663, while Simon Skydmore had been buried at Eyam on 14 March 1662/3. They had (as known) three children,

1. George, of Eyam. He married Katherine Simson (perhaps Samson?) on 12 May 1653, and was buried on 22 December 1666 at Eyam. His wife was buried there as “old Catherine Skydmore, widow,” on 13 September 1696. He had issue by her,

1. Simon, baptized 5 February 1653/4 at Eyam. He married Alice, the daughter of John Taylor, on 25 January 1703/4 at Eyam. He had clearly died before his brother John, and must be the Simon Skydmore buried at Eyam on 2 January 1722. His widow Alice Skidmore was remembered with five guineas in the will of her brother-in-law John Skidmore in 1728. He left issue, christened at Eyam,

1. Simon, baptized 6 April 1704. He was married on 15 June 1727 at Whittington, Derbyshire, to Mary, the daughter of Zachary Robinson, who was buried there on 29 September 1755 according to the parish register.20 Simon Skidmore was left four guineas by his uncle John Simon Skidmore. He survived his wife and was buried on 26 January 1764 at Eyam, having had six sons and one daughter.

2. John, baptized 4 July 1706. He was married on 12 June 1730 (at Carsington in Derbyshire) to Ellen Crocker. John Skidmore had a house, garden, bed and table as specified in the will of his uncle John.

18This Joshua Skidmore left eventual posterity whose DNA does not match that of the earlier family at Eyam.
19Mrs. Linda Moffat suggests that he may be the man of this name who settled at Folkingham, Lincolnshire.
20There is a monumental inscription for her which gives her date of death as 10 October 1755 “aged 55.” Dr. Trezza points out in his comments that parish registers are invariably more accurate than tombstones.
He had four sons and two daughters.

2. JOHN, baptized 25 March 1654/5 of whom further.

3. Anne, baptized 15 June 1656. She married her kinsman Arthur Skidmore (as his second wife) about 1680, and was living in 1728 (called Anne Skidmore) when she was left a guinea in the will of her brother John Skidmore (who also remembered her son Samuel Skidmore).

4. Richard, baptized 2 October 1658. He was buried an infant on 27 June 1659.

5. Elizabeth, baptized 9 June 1660. She was buried an infant on 21 August 1660.

6. Ezra, baptized 13 October 1661. He was buried on 27 June 1662.

7. George, baptized 1 March 1663. He married Elizabeth Fox on 6 November 1687 at Eyam and was buried there on 27 April 1691. Had issue,
   1. John, baptized 13 October 1688.
   2. Elinor, baptized 6 April 1690. She was buried at Eyam on 15 April 1691.

8. Mary, baptized 15 October 1665. She married Thomas Ellis on 6 September 1691 at Bakewell, Derbyshire. She was living in 1728 when she and her daughters Mary Ashford and Helen Parkin are remembered in the will of her brother John.
   2. Mary, buried 29 March 1633 as “a daughter of Simon Skydmore.”
   3. Anne, buried 20 March 1645 as a daughter of Simon and Elizabeth Skidmore.

The second son,

JOHN SKYDMORE, baptized 25 March 1655 at Eyam. He married Elizabeth Dakin (who was buried as his wife on 12 July 1692) on 27 April 1679 at Eyam. He was buried 15 March 1727/8, “aged 73” in the churchyard at Eyam called a pauper, but left however a substantial will dated 7 March 1727/8 that was proved at Lichfield on 11 April 1728.21 As a widower with no surviving children it gave legacies to his sisters and a number of nephews and nieces. He had issue, all of whom died before their father,
   1. George, baptized 24 October 1680. He was buried on 31 March 1687.
   2. Thomas, baptized 24 June 1683. He was buried as “the son of John Skydmore” on 28 July 1806 at Eyam.
   3. Anne, baptized 7 March 1685/6. She was buried on 15 September 1690.
   4. An infant, buried 1 August 1688 at Eyam.

It is now necessary to return to the only son of Arthur and Anne Skydmore,

THOMAS SKYDMORE, of Eyam, born about 1615-20. He married Anne Allyn, a daughter of Anthony Allyn, who survived him, on 31 August 1640. Eyam suffered heavily from the great plague of 1666 which is said to have been introduced into the parish in a box of materials sent up from London to a tailor at Eyam. A servant who opened the box complained that the contents were still damp and was told to put them by the fire to dry out. He was the first to die, and had infected the tailor’s family from who the distemper spread to the entire community. The widow Skydmore was buried at Eyam on 24 June 1666, a few days after the deaths of her daughter Mary and her son

21His will is abstracted briefly in the NOTES.
Anthony had died of the plague. Thomas Skydmore was buried earlier at Eyam on 4 August 1657, having had nine children,

1. **ARTHUR**, of whom further.
2. Richard, baptized 25 December 1642. He was buried an infant on 12 January 1642/3.
3. Mary, baptized 15 March 1645/6. She was buried an infant on 21 May 1647.
4. Mary, baptized 19 March 1648. She was buried on 17 June 1666 of the plague as a daughter of Anne Skydmore, widow. Her mother followed her in death a few days later.
5. Elizabeth, baptized 13 May 1649.
6. John, baptized 21 March 1650/1. He was buried 11 September 1670 at Eyam.
7. Thomas, baptized 11 April 1652. He was buried an infant on 8 November 1653.
8. Francis, baptized 2 October 1653. He was buried an infant on 18 May 1656.
9. Anthony, baptized 27 April 1656. He had his name from his maternal grandfather, and was buried on 12 June 1666 a victim of the plague.

The eldest son,

**ARTHUR SKYDMORE**, of Eyam. He was baptized on 23 May 1641, and died there on 8 November 1694. He married firstly Elizabeth Walker of Eyam on 15 April 1667, by whom he had,

1. Thomas, baptized 28 November 1669 as “a son of Arthur Skydmore.” He was buried on 7 January 1675/6.
2. Anne, baptized 17 March 1672. She was buried on 10 July 1684. [She is called a daughter of Arthur and Elizabeth in the register, but Elizabeth was later struck out and Anne inserted (in error).]
3. Arthur, baptized 10 March 1675.
4. Elizabeth, buried an infant on 9 October 1676 as a daughter of Arthur Skidmore.
5. Elizabeth, baptized 5 May 1678. She was buried on 30 June 1678 “aged 1 month.”

Arthur Skydmore married secondly Anne Skydmore by 1678, a kinswoman (born 15 June 1656 and a daughter of George Skydmore) who was buried on 6 February 1730/1 at Eyam. He had by her seven additional children christened at Eyam,

6. George, baptized 8 June 1679. He was buried on 14 October 1702 as a son of Anne Skydmore, and was clearly named for his maternal grandfather.
7. John, baptized 25 September 1681 as a son of Arthur and Anne Skidmore. He was buried on 18 May 1682 at Eyam.
8. Mary, baptized 6 May 1683. She was buried 21 February 1686.
10. **SAMUEL**, baptized 27 September 1685, of whom further.
11. Joshua, baptized 5 February 1687/8. He was buried at Eyam on 30 May 1688.
12. Katherine, baptized 7 July 1689. She was buried on 20 July 1707 at Eyam.
13. Arthur, baptized 25 October 1691. He was buried at Eyam on 27 November 1708

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22 An excellent account of the suffering in the parish will be found in William Wood’s *History and Antiquities of Eyam; with a minute account of the Great Plague which desolated that village in the year 1666.* (3rd edition, 1859)
called a son of the widow Anne Skydmore and “killed in a grove.”

14. Margaret, baptized posthumously 20 January 1695, as a “daughter of Anne, relict of Arthur Skydmore.”

His only surviving son,

SAMUEL SKIDMORE, of Eyam, baptized 27 September 1685. He married first Dorothy Baddaley of Stoney Middleton, Derbyshire on 8 May 1715, who seemingly died soon after in childbirth. He married secondly Elizabeth (christened 22 September 1695 at Hope, Derbyshire), a daughter of Martin Wilson (and his wife Elizabeth Poynton), of Little Hucklow on 25 October 1716 at Eyam. He was left six guineas in the will of his uncle John Skidmore who died at Eyam in 1728. Elizabeth Skidmore survived him, and was buried as a widow and pauper on 14 October 1762 at Eyam. He had issue, christened at Eyam, 

1. George, baptized 16 September 1717.
2. Arthur, baptized 3 November 1719.
3. Thomas, baptized 20 May 1722. He married Anne (baptized 11 April 1708), a daughter of Francis Townsend of Bretton, Derbyshire, and previously the widow of Thomas Stephenson of Stoney Middleton, on 1 April 1743. Thomas Skidmore was 14 years her junior. His burial is not found, but his widow married thirdly George Townsley (who was about 40 years younger than Anne Townsend. Thomas Skidmore had by her two daughters, 

1. Elizabeth, baptized 7 February 1744/5, and buried at Eyam on 10 July 1772.
2. Mary, baptized 1 October 1747 at Eyam. She married firstly John Hallam of Stoney Middleton on 23 April 1767, and secondly a maternal cousin Joshua Townsend, a widower, in 1780 at Stoney Middleton.

4. Anne, baptized 19 July 1724. She married Reginald Turner of Foolow, Derbyshire on 11 November 1756 at Eyam.
5. Samuel, baptized 26 January 1726/7. He married Elizabeth Lomas on 12 November 1765 at the Cathedral Church of Ss. Peter and Paul, at Sheffield.
6. Mary, baptized 12 July 1729. She was buried at Eyam on 28 February 1744.
7. John, baptized 11 April 1732. He was apprenticed at Sheffield to John Beal, a scissor smith in 1766. He was married three times, firstly to Ann Stones on 8 August 1757, and secondly to Ann Newland on 14 January 1765, both at Sheffield Cathedral, and thirdly to Elizabeth Hutchinson on 20 May 1782 at All Saints Cathedral at Rotherham, South Yorkshire.
8. Martin, baptized 13 April 1734. He was buried at Eyam on 23 February 1735/6.
9. Robert, baptized 25 March 1737. He married Mary Brooks on 26 September 1765 at Sheffield, Cathedral. He was buried on 29 November 1800 and leaves an immense

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23 A groove was the local name for a shallow mine, and Arthur presumably died in a mining accident.
24 Sheffield Cutlers Apprentices Records. This record was posted on the homepage of Eric Youle of Australia, a descendant.
25 See Thirty Generations, on the Scudamore/Skidmore CD-ROM. According to Pawson & Brailsford’s Sheffield Directory (1787) Robert Skidmore was a “Manufacturer of common Sissors,
posterity, largely in the state of Utah.

10. Joshua, baptized 9 December 1739 and buried at Eyam on 1 February 1740/1.

NOTES.

CHEWTON MENDIP, SOMERSET

Probates.

WILL OF ROBERT SKIDMORE OF CHEWTON MENDIP, MINERAL MAN.\textsuperscript{26}

Dated 1 May 1634.

To be buried in the churchyard of Chewton.

To Mary, Grace and Elinor, my 3 daughters, 20/- apiece.

To son Lewis Skidmore, £6.13s.4d.

To son James Skidmore, £6 13s.4d.

To be put to interest for the use of my two sons until they are able to be put down to be apprenticed and that my overseers to pay or lay out to bind them apprentices their aforesaid legacies of £6 13sh. 4d.

I bequeath a certain indenture of lease bearing date of 17 June 17 James I [1619] which was demised granted and to farm let by Philip Bridges of Stone Easton, gent., unto me Robert Skidmore and my assigns one parack or piece of ground in Chewton called Stock Hill containing half an acre with a house newly builded by me for the term of nineteen years if I, the said Robert, Mary my wife, and Mary my daughter should so long live, which the said house and ground I give and bequeath to the use and occupation of unto my wife Mary Skidmore for life with remainder to my son James.

Residue to wife Mary who is to be executrix.

Overseers: My brother-in-law William Lane and Robert Conistre \textit{alias} Allen.

Witnesses: Francis Vowles, Thomas Phelips [Phelps].\textsuperscript{27}

Proved 2 July 1634.

EMBORROW, SOMERSET

MARY SKIDMORE of Emborrow, Somerset, a spinster aged 23, had a licence to marry Thomas Freulsan of Litton, Somerset, on 6 August 1687 at either Emborough or Chewton Mendip.

NAILSEA, SOMERSET.

Register.

3 August 1651. FRANCIS, a son of JOHN SKIDMORE, buried.

\textsuperscript{26}The original of this will was lost by German bombing during WW2. This abstract was copied before the war and later deposited in the Somerset Record Office.

\textsuperscript{27}In 1657 Thomas Bushnell (1594-1674) addressed a letter on lead business “for his very loving Friends John Phelps, Thomas Voules, William Cole, Alexander Jett, William Betten, Robert Radford, and Thomas Wood, with the rest.” J. W. Gough, noticed earlier, reports that some 28 miners responded. He reprints their letter, but unfortunately not their names. (\textit{The Mines of Mendip}, 158.)
14 April 1653 THOMAS, a son of GEORGE SKIDMORE baptized.

Probates.
The will of Edward EVANCE of Nailsea proved 15 December 1649 (not seen) mentions his daughter MARY SKIDMORE.

Marriages.
JOAN SKIDMORE, a widow of Nailsea, married John PLAYSE of Portbury, Somerset, according to a Quaker certificate of 22nd day of the 2nd month (22 April) 1663.

Hearth tax, 1670-4.
HENRY SKIDMORE, of Nailsea. Exempted.

ALMONDSBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Marriages.
10 February 1696/7. Thomas NEAL of Redland, sailor, and HANNAH SCUDAMORE of Westbury-on-Trym, had a licence to marry at Almondsbury.

ASHFORD, DERBYSHIRE
11 July 1710. SAMUEL SKIDMORE, of Monsale Dale in Ashford, listed as a Religious Dissenter.

Probates.
JOSHUA SKIDMORE, will proved 19 October 1798.

BAKEWELL, DERBYSHIRE.
Marriages.
11 June 1688 ARTHUR SKIDMORE and Mary MOULT.
6 September 1691. ANNE SKIDMORE and Thomas ELLIS.
2 March 1730. JOS. SKIDMORE and Mary SHAW.

Probates.
SAMUEL SKIDMORE, will proved 29 April 1748.
JOSEPH SKIDMORE, will proved 19 October 1771.
WILLIAM SKIDMORE, will proved 14 April 1815.
JOHN SKIDMORE, will proved 16 October 1818.
JOSHUA SKIDMORE, will 15 October 1824.
SIMEON SKIDMORE, will proved 7 June 1831.
GEORGE SKIDMORE, will proved 17 June 1852.
JOSEPH SKIDMORE, will proved 22 June 1854.

BEELEY, DERBYSHIRE
Marriage.
1783. MARY SKIDMORE and Thomas BLACKWELL,

BUXTON, DERBYSDHIRE (ST. JOHN)
Marriage.
1828. ANN SKIDMORE and Thomas HYDE
DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE
Marriages.
1755. JOHN SKIDMORE and Elizabeth WILDGOOSE.
1836. JOHN SKIDMORE and Mary SYBRAY.

DERBY (ST. PETER)
Marriages.
1698. SAMUEL SKIDMORE and Ellen THORP
1799. SAMUEL SKIDMORE and Mary HARRISON

DERBY (ALL SAINTS)
Marriage.
1807. MARTIN SKIDMORE and Sarah WAIN.

ETWALL, DERBYSHIRE
Marriage.
1827. JOSEPH SKIDMORE and Rebecca BAKEWELL

EYAM, DERBYSHIRE.
Register.
GEORGE SKIDMORE, buried at Eyam on 22 December 1666.
ELIZABETH SKIDMORE, daughter of ARTHUR Skidmore, buried 9 October 1676 at Eyam.
An unnamed infant of JOHN and ANNE SKIDMORE was buried at Eyam on 1 August 1688.
ARTHUR SKIDMORE was killed in a mining accident at Eyam on 27 November 1708.

Probates.
JOHN SKIDMORE, of Eyam. His will of 7 March 1727/8 provided for the discharge of his debts and funeral expenses. Then to his nephew John Skidmore, a house, garden, bed and table. To his sister Anne Skidmore, five guineas. To his sister-in-law Alice Skidmore, five guineas. To his nephew Simon Skidmore, four guineas. To his nieces Mary Ashford and Helen Parkin, one guinea each. To his nephew Samuel Skidmore, six guineas. To his sister Mary Ellis, one guinea. Residual heirs, John Skidmore to have two guineas, then a division among his previous heirs in proportion. Executors to be Francis Drabble, Thomas Middleton, and Robert Rigby all of Eyam. Proved 11 April 1728.
SIMON SKIDMORE, will proved 2 May 1764.
EDWARD SKIDMORE, will proved 14 October 1802.

GREAT LONSTONE, DERBYSHIRE
Marriages.
5 April 1708. ANN SKIDMORE of Wardlow and Abraham BROOM.
8 May 1715. SIMON SKIDMORE and Dorothea BADDALEY.

Probates
RICHARD SKIDMORE, will proved 7 June 1831.

HOPE, DERBYSHIRE.
Probate.
SARAH SKIDMORE, will proved 11 March 1853.

MORTON, DERBYSHIRE
Marriage
1668. ANN SKIDMORE and James HANLEY

MATLOCK, DERBYSHIRE
Marriages
1779. JOHN SKIDMORE and Mary SADLER.
1800. SAMUEL SKIDMORE and Elizabeth ANNABLE
1805. JOHN SKIDMORE and Elizabeth BODEN

Probate.
SAMUEL, will proved 17 October 1812.

PEAK FOREST, DERBYSHIRE
Marriages.
1753. JOHN SKIDMORE and Elizabeth FURNISS.
1754. MARY SKIDMORE and Paul HADFIELD.

TADDINGTON, DERBYSHIRE
Probates.
WILL OF RICHARD SKYDMORE OF TADDINGTON, YEOMAN.
Dated 5 May 1660.
“And my body to be buried in the church of Taddington as neer [convi]ently be to the buriall place of my Anncestours.”
Debts, legacies, and funeral expenses to be paid out of my whole goods by my executors.
To Elizabeth, my wife, or her assigns, all my mansion or dwelling house where I now live and the chippens and barn thereunto belonging during the term of her natural life and after her decease to my son Richard, his heirs and assigns.
To Elizabeth, my wife, the third part of all my freehold lands and tents. [tenements] during her life, the other two parts to my son Richard, his heirs and assigns forever.
To Richard, my son, all that mansion or dwelling called by the name of Staley house.
To Richard, my son, all the interest and title which I have of Mr. Eyre.
To Elizabeth, my wife, one third of my goods, chattles and catles whatsoever.
To my second son John the sum of £20 of English money to be paid within one year after my decease.
To my three daughters Margaret, Hellen and Dorothy each of them the sum of £10 to be paid within the space of two years after my decease.
To the children of my daughter Margaret the sum of 20sh to be equally divided among them.
To Thomas Knowles, the son of my said daughter Hellen, the sum of 5sh.

Joshua Annable Skidmore of Wakefield, Yorkshire made his will on 20 March 1838. It gave an annuity to his mother Elizabeth, and provided for his wife Sarah and their infant children. He appears to have been a wine merchant.
To the children of my daughter Dorothy the sum of 20sh to be divided equally among them.
To [his daughter] Elizabeth Oldfield the sum of £10 of current English money to be paid within three years.
All my groves and meares of ground to loving wife and son Richard, between them.
To my brother Symon the sum of 20sh.
Residue to wife and son Richard to be equally divided, and they are to be executors.
Witnesses: Anthony Buxton, Nicholas Heathcott.
Probated 6 August 1661 in the Peculiar Court of Taddington.
ADMINISTRATION OF MARGARET SKIDMORE OF TADDINGTON.
Granted 3 March 1684/5 to her son John Skidmore, husbandman of Taddington. Richard Roe was the bondsman.
SIMON SKIDMORE, will proved 3 May 1734.
RICHARD SKIDMORE, will proved 29 April 1748.
THOMAS SKIDMORE, will proved 30 April 1773.
THOMAS SKIDMORE, will proved 16 April 1830.

TIPTON, DERBYSHIRE.
Probate.
THOMAS SKIDMORE, will proved 15 May 1837.

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