

## **LINDA (SKIDMORE) MOFFATT, A FAMILY HISTORIAN PAR EXCELLENCE.**

This article below from the *Express and Star* for 5 November 2004 does not begin to tell enough about the accomplishments of Linda Moffatt. She is the founder and chief officer of the Skidmore Family History Group. Her first *News Sheet* for the group appeared in January 1988. It has been followed by 35 more issues with pieces and illustrations on the family, and the results of new or current research in hand. All of this is an immense body of useful information. There are (at last count) 171 current or former members of the group from all over the world, and many of them have participated in the visitations made to the places and houses associated with the family. Mrs. Moffatt has two big projects in hand at the moment: an index to the Skidmores and Scudamores in all of the U. K. censuses, and an exhaustive history of other branches of the family, notably that which came out of Derbyshire who she believes are (after her Skidmore family from Kingswinford in the Black Country) the next largest branch in all of England. She runs the Skidmore/Scudamore One-Name Study via the Guild of One-Name Studies, and as such, researches all references to these surnames worldwide. Linda is still a young woman and when these chores are squared away there can be no doubt that they will be followed up by a continuing search after the family and their migrations around the world. More information on the Skidmore/Scudamore Family History Group can be found at [www.skidmore-family-history.co.uk](http://www.skidmore-family-history.co.uk). (WS)

Retired teacher writes book based on history of her relatives

### **Linda uncovers 300 years of families life**

By Sol Buckner

Retired Black Country teacher Linda Moffatt knows everything about her family history - all 300 years of it. The mother-of two, who is originally from Hillside Road on the Wrens Nest Estate, Dudley, has just launched her book entitled *Skidmore Families of the Black Country 1600-1900*.

Linda, who was born a Skidmore in 1947, had always been fascinated by her family history and started out on her epic adventure 30 years ago. Her tireless efforts to trace the family name took her to the 17th-century.

After years of trawling through libraries and record books, Linda discovered her earliest ancestor as William Skidmore who came to Amblecote in 1625 to marry widow Joyce Bache.

From there on Linda was able to trace her colorful family history just like many celebrities on the BBC2 documentary service *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Famous Skidmores include two mayors of Wolverhampton, Fred Howard Skidmore in 1913 and Arthur Charles Skidmore from 1915 to 1917.

Other notable family members include metal worker Francis who worked on Hereford Cathedral and Prince Albert's Memorial.

## **Industry**

And there were local captains of industry too including John Skidmore, former manager of The Round Oak steelworks in the 19th century, and Henry Park Skidmore manager of Atlas Tubeworks in Netherton.

Linda and who now lives near Winchester, Hampshire, has sold 80 books and hopes to sell more by Christmas.

She said “It is important you know where you came from and what part your family played in a local community and industry.

“As you get older you tend to get more interested in family history.

“I have been interested in the BBC programme but it does not give you a good idea how to do the research. I would like to think it would inspire many people to do the same.

“Family trees were my hobby and it turned into a fascinating journey for me.

“Now anyone who is a Skidmore from the Midlands can learn where they originally came from.”