

THOMAS SKIDMORE, OF LONDON, WATCHMAKER.

[There are three interesting articles found in *The Pennsylvania Gazette* about Thomas Skidmore, a watchmaker, newly settled in America. Nothing more is know of him after the end of 1767. However if he stayed in the American colonies it is possible, like other vagabonds, that he changed his name.]

November 20, 1766

The Pennsylvania Gazette

“WANTED, an Apprentice to a Watch maker; he must be a Lad of Genius, and of creditable Parents; he must serve Seven Years, and notwithstanding he will have an Opportunity (which is not very common in America) of making the Movement, and finishing the same, the Apprentice Fee (if small) provided the Boy suits, will be accepted. Any Person having such a Boy to put as an Apprentice, may send to THOMAS SKIDMORE, Watchmaker, in Lancaster, who is the Person that wants the Boy.

N.B. The said Skidmore learnt his Business in London.”

September 24, 1767

The Pennsylvania Gazette

“THOMAS SKIDMORE, WATCH FINISHER, from London, Now living opposite the Court house door, in the Borough of LANCASTER, UNDERTAKES to make good, sound, and neat silver watches, for £12 currency; and as many people have been under the necessity of importing good watches from England or Ireland, he now assures those who would incline to have good watches, that he has, besides himself, two regular bred workmen from England; the one a movement maker, and the other a motion maker: Therefore any person who wants a watch, he will warrant it for three years, without mending, to the purchaser, and whatever size the purchaser chooses, from the size of a half dollar, to a larger, they may have, and in three months time from bespeaking of it. He also repairs watches after the neatest and best manner, and at a reasonable price.

N.B. He also makes wheels, pinions, verges, &c. for watchmenders, which he will sell low. Any person wanting a watch of Twenty Guineas price, may be here supplied as in London.”

December 31, 1767

The Pennsylvania Gazette

“Lancaster, December 22, 1767.

RUN away from his bail, on Friday last, a certain man, who called himself THOMAS SKIDMORE; he is a watchmaker by trade, is about 5 feet 3 or 4 inches high, and well set; has brown hair, and carries a very bold countenance: Had on, when he went away, a London brown cloth coat, and velvet waistcoat of near the same colour; he took with him a grey gelding, belonging to Dr. Stuber in this town. He has made himself known in this province, by advertising himself by the name of Thomas Skidmore, watch maker, from London, and by that means has become personally acquainted with many of the inhabitants in this province. Whoever takes up said Thomas Skidmore in this province, and brings him to his bail, shall have

Ten Pounds reward, but if taken in another province, Fifteen Pounds reward, paid by

CHRISTIAN VOGHT.”