

# SKIDMORE AND SKITMORE FAMILIES OF OXFORDSHIRE 1600-1900

by Linda Moffatt ©, Joan Skidmore and Carole Skidmore

*To protect the privacy of living descendants: individuals born after 1911 - the year of the last British census to be released - are not included, nor are marriage details after 1911 unless with express permission of descendants. Please contact Linda Moffatt via [skidmore@one-name.org](mailto:skidmore@one-name.org) if you wish your 20th century family to be included.*

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The material is to be used for private research only.*

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*Linda Moffatt, August 2012*

## GENERATION 1

*For the purposes of this account John Skidmore of Deddington and his wife Bridget are considered Generation 1.*

*Their descendants can be identified with the prefix OXF in databases of the Skidmore/Scudamore One-Name Study. Thus John immediately below is found as OXF [1].*

*Civil registration was introduced in 1837 and records were archived quarterly; hence, for example, born 1840Q1 means the birth took place in January, February or March of 1840. Where a baptism only is given for post-1837 dates, assume the birth was registered in the same quarter. (LM)*

**1. JOHN<sup>1</sup> SKIDMORE.** Right in the heart of England and on the edge of the Cotswolds is found the parish of Deddington, which comprises the three villages of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton. Deddington itself lies on the road from Banbury to Oxford, with the large parish church dedicated to St Peter and St Paul dating in its oldest parts from the early 13th century, and with parish registers surviving from 1631. In the 16th century the traders of Deddington still claimed freedom from tolls as tenants of the Duchy of Lancaster. At an unknown date before 1611 shops and stalls had been built by townsmen out of the revenues of charitable estates; 15 shops belonging to the former guild were listed in 1591, but by then there were also two whole rows of shops described as decayed. In 1623 the male inhabitants included 9 tailors, 5 mercers, 4 glovers, 2 weavers, a fuller, and a collarmaker; there were also 5 carpenters, 4 slaters, 4 smiths, 2 masons, 2 joiners, a glazier, and a wheelwright<sup>1</sup>. Five Deddington tradesmen, including two mercers and an apothecary, are known to have issued tokens in the 17th century<sup>2</sup>.

John Skidmore was head of the single Skidmore family using Deddington parish church of St Peter and St Paul from around 1640 to 1670. He was recently arrived in this bustling community since no Skidmore is mentioned

<sup>1</sup> *The Bill of the Inhabitants of Dadington, 1623 [C (A) 3226] in the Northamptonshire Record Office, as described in an article in the Deddington & District History Society, ISSN 1479-5884, issue no 18, March 2004.*

<sup>2</sup> *Victoria County History, A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 11.*

there in 1623. At his death in 1662 he was described in the burial register as a chapman, an obsolete term for a dealer or merchant, especially an itinerant one<sup>3,4</sup>.

He married Bridget \_\_\_\_\_ and at the time they were raising their first children, the Civil War was raging around them. In 1642 the Earl of Northampton was quartered in Deddington. Six miles to the north, Banbury was held by a Royalist garrison but the townspeople favoured the puritan cause and in December Northampton's scouts told him that a rebel force with 300 horse and peasants brandishing pitchforks was converging to relieve the town. The Parliamentary force arrived and, having entered Banbury, spent all Christmas Eve bombarding the castle with cannon. Other Parliamentary units engaged the Earl of Northampton's forces near Deddington and were only forced back towards Banbury by the arrival of Prince Rupert and Sir Charles Lucas, whose troops had marched through the night. Prince Rupert marched on to chase the enemy from Banbury and then rode back to Oxford to spend what was left of Christmas at the King's court at Christ Church. During 1643 Royalist units were often billeted around Deddington and Adderbury. In May forty-six cart-loads of Royalist arms trundled past escorted on their way from Banbury to Oxford by the Earl of Northampton. Royalist forces were in Deddington again in 1644 after the battle of Cropredy Bridge, when the King himself was billeted at Castle House<sup>5</sup>.

His widow (or perhaps his daughter Bridget) married John Kerhood on 3 November 1662 at Stoke; Bridget Kerhood was buried on 14 January 1676/7. Bridget Skydmore, perhaps his widow or his daughter, was buried at Deddington on 23 March 1686/7 - Penelope Cellar made oath, presumably a reference to the Burial in Wool Act<sup>6</sup>.

**The children of John and Bridget Skidmore, baptisms and burials at Deddington,**

- i. John, buried on 12 August 1643, an infant.
- ii. Bridget, baptised 12 May 1644.
- iii. George, baptised 1 February 1645/6. He is styled a gentleman in a lease for lands at Barford St Michael (which adjoins Deddington) purchased for £155 from his brother-in-law John Spicer. This property had been devised by Edward Spicer, his father-in-law, to John Spicer charged with certain legacies to be paid from it. On 23 October 1676 George Scudamore sued Rebecca Spicer and James Turpin in chancery on matters concerning the leasehold. His burial has not been found.
- iv. Joan, born 20 February 1647/8 (her baptism date is not stated in the register). She was perhaps buried on 25 January 1673/4, 'daughter of John and Bridget Skidmore'.
2. v. JOHN, baptised 26 October 1650.
- vi. Aster, a son baptised 18 August 1653.
- vii. James, baptised 4 June 1655.

<sup>3</sup> Warren Skidmore describes in his paper *The Skydmores In The Environs Of Stratford-On-Avon, Warwickshire* one John Skidmore, a yeoman of Long Itchington, Warwickshire, and his wife Elizabeth Cleaver. John Skidmore the son was devised two houses and a close in Southam, Warwickshire held in chief of King Charles I according to the inquest post mortem of his father in 1638; John had by that year gone down 'to Lankeshire'; he is *perhaps* John Skidmore who appears later in Deddington.

<sup>4</sup> An insight into the work of chapmen is found in *Ossett - the history of a Yorkshire town* at [www.ossett.net](http://www.ossett.net)  
'In the seventeenth century, Wakefield became the great wool market of the clothing area. Wool growers and dealers sent wool from all parts of England to be sold at the Wakefield market to the local clothiers in the surrounding villages like Ossett. Many families in Ossett made their living by weaving cloth. In 1650, the wage, including food (meat), for a weaver was 3d. per day and only 1d. per day for spinning. If the wool spinner provided his own food then the wage was 4d. per day. Small manufacturers, making only one or two pieces a week, took their finished cloth to the market at Wakefield where they were bought by middlemen or "chapmen" to be sold at a profit in places like London or Cambridge'.

<sup>5</sup> The Newsletter of The Deddington & District History Society ISSN 1479-5884, issue no 21, December 2004.

<sup>6</sup> The Burial in Woollen Acts 1666-80 were Acts of the Parliament of England which required the dead, except plague victims, to be buried in pure English woollen shrouds to the exclusion of any foreign textiles. It was a requirement that an affidavit be sworn in front of a Justice of the Peace (usually by a relative of the deceased or some other credible person) confirming burial in wool, with the punishment of a £5 fee for noncompliance. Parish registers were marked with the word affidavit or with a note A or Aff against the burial entries to confirm that affidavit had been sworn, or marked "naked" for those too poor to afford the woollen shroud. Some affidavits survive. This legislation was in force until 1814, but was generally ignored after 1770. These related records are generally regarded as a source of genealogical information, and can help provide evidence of economic status and relationships that may be unavailable elsewhere or ambiguous. Notes of burials and affidavits along with fees paid may be found in Churchwardens's accounts or vestry minutes.

## GENERATION 2

**2. JOHN<sup>2</sup> SKIDMORE/ SCUDAMORE**, son of John [1] and Bridget Skidmore, was baptised on 26 October 1650 at Deddington. He married Margaret \_\_\_\_\_ who was buried at Deddington on 24 August 1673. It appears he married secondly Elizabeth Matthews on 24 May 1680 at Deddington, by banns. He died on 19 April 1694 and was buried the next day at Barford St Michael. Administration of his estate was granted on 20 April 1694 at Oxford to his widow Elizabeth Scudamore and an inventory was taken by Martin Tyms and Samuel Goodwin on 23 April 1694; it totalled £290 16s 8d and included a lease of yard land, 100 sheep, his cows, corn growing, among other items.

The two known surviving sons of John [1] appear to have lived later in the adjoining parish of Barford St Michael, where George Skidmore had purchased a lease of land from his father-in-law. Their name is usually found as *Scudamore* in the parish registers there, which date from 1643. Any land at Barford St Michael passed into the hands of George's nephew Robert Skidmore, son of John [2], who died unmarried. The three sons of John who married and had offspring went to live in three separate parishes and little is known of two of these - David and Samuel. The third of John's sons, Jonathan Skidmore, with his wife Mary heads the family line at Tackley [for general information on Tackley parish, see Appendix 1] and later at North Leigh, Oxfordshire. In the 18th century their name is frequently found spelled *Skitmore* and occasionally *Skipmore*. The form *Skitmore* was retained by a few families into the 20th century<sup>7</sup>.

Elizabeth Skidmore was buried on 20 May 1720 at Barford St Michael.

### **Children of John and Margaret Skidmore,**

- i. Mary, baptised 4 May 1673 at Deddington, buried there on 14 September 1673, 'daughter of John Scidmore'.

### **Children of John and Elizabeth (Matthews) Skidmore, baptised (where found) at Barford St Michael,**

- 3. ii. DAVID.
- 4. iii. JONATHAN.
- iv. Robert. He was a yeoman at Barford St Michael where he had the lease of a messuage for 21 years from the Principal and Scholars of Brasenose College, Oxford worth £60. He had died unmarried before 2 February 1728 when an inventory totalling £76 was taken of his estate. From his will dated 11 August 1727 it would appear that he was survived by his brothers David, Jonathan, William, Samuel and John, and by sisters Elizabeth and Mary.
- v. Matthew, buried 20 May 1694 at Barford St Michael as Matthew *Scudamore*.
- vi. Elizabeth. She married by licence, as Elizabeth *Scudamore*, Joseph George, a cordwainer of Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire at Steeple Aston on 17 September 1718. She was living there in 1750 when she and her children were remembered in the will of her sister Mary.
- vii. Mary. She was buried as Mary *Scudamore* on 12 May 1751 at Steeple Aston. She left a will dated 25 December 1750 remembering her brothers Samuel and John and her sister Elizabeth.
- viii. John, baptised 26 May 1689. He was still living in 1750 when he had the remainder of the years specified in the leasehold from Brasenose College under the terms of the will of his sister Mary.
- ix. Rebecca, baptised 26 May 1689. She was buried on 31 July 1693 at Barford St Michael.
- x. William, baptised 5 April 1691. He is perhaps the William Skidmore who married Martha Bowery at Kirtlington on 6 September 1722. William *Scudamore* was buried at Barford St Michael on 30 November 1727.
- 5. xi. SAMUEL, baptised 9 October 1692.
- xii. Richard, baptised 17 June 1694, (son of *Richard* Skidmore - no other documentary reference to the family of a Richard Skidmore has been found - this can probably safely be considered an error on the part of the clerk). Not remembered in the will of Robert Skidmore in 1727.

<sup>7</sup> As an example of how the name varies in documents, Margaret Emma Skidmore's birth was registered as *Skidmore* but she was baptised as *Skipmore* on 25 March 1851 and buried 5 February 1853 aged 2 at North Leigh. Her death was registered as Margaret Emma *Skitmore*.