

THE SKYRMES OF HEREFORDSHIRE



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PREFACE

This is the third in my series of publications on Skyrme families. The first two were on the Skyrmes of Pembrokeshire, which is where my direct ancestors originate.¹ However, the Skyrme family name is more prevalent in Herefordshire and the first Skyrmes in Pembrokeshire originated from Ludlow just across the Herefordshire border.

Having got as far as I could with my the history of my own family a few years ago I widened my genealogical research to study Skyrmes in general. This is what is called a One-Name Study (ONS): " a project researching **all occurrences** of a surname, as opposed to a particular pedigree".²



Since it took nearly two years each to research and write up the two publications on the Pembrokeshire Skyrmes, I am adopting a slightly different approach with the Herefordshire Skyrmes. Rather than focus on one cluster at a time (e.g. the Vowchurch cluster which is where I started the research), I am looking at the Herefordshire Skyrmes in their totality. This is because there are many commonalities and also movement between the various localities.

The other thing that I am doing differently is to publish incrementally rather than wait until I have a complete draft. This publication will therefore continually evolve with regular updates.

I am also trying to make it more of a 'story' of the Skyrmes in their historical and geographical context,

¹ The two publications were respectively 1) *The Skyrmes of Penally & Manorbier*; and 2) *The Skyrmes of Llangwm* (both accessible at www.skyrme.info)

² This definition and a further explanation can be found on the website of The Guild of One-Name Studies(www.one-name.org)



rather than being a genealogical litany. Those readers who want the genealogical detail can either wait until I publish trees on the skyrme.info website, or ask me for specific ancestor and/or descendant charts and narratives for their own branches which I shall be pleased to do. I have made a tentative start, which you can see in the Appendix for the Skyrmes who settled in Vowchurch. However, this is liable to correction in future.

The sources I have used for my research include both well known sources, such as the main genealogical websites, but also lesser known online sources, such as the websites of specific archive collections. During the summer of 2015 I also made a couple of trips to Herefordshire, both to get a sense of place, but also to visit the newly reopened Herefordshire Archives and Record Centre which gave access to material not readily available elsewhere,

Finally, I would like to thank the various individuals whose own researches I have drawn upon or who have contacted me directly with relevant information.

As always, I welcome corrections and feedback so that the study can become as useful as possible to those interested in the Skyrmes.

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September 2015

(Registered with the Guild of One-Name Studies, member 6232)

1 WHERE'S THAT NAME FROM?

Skyrme is a relatively rare name. There are only 954 instances in an analysis of surnames in a 2002 database, ranking it 6,881 in terms of popularity.³

Over the last few centuries it has had various spellings before becoming standardised today mostly as Skyrme, or less frequently as Skyrm. It's pronunciation is **skə:m** (rhymes with term, firm) so common earlier spellings that sound the same are Skirme, Skirm, Skerm and Skerme.

Origins

Because of its relative rarity the name Skyrme does not feature in most books of surnames. One online source lists the name Skirme as being derived from the medieval French *eskirmer*, a fencing master. Skrimshire, Skermer, Skirmer are given as alternative spellings. While the link to a "fencing master" seems a bit far-fetched, it is not too far removed from what seems a more credible source, the Internet Surname Database, compiled by Michael Brook. Here it states that it derives from the Middle English "skirme(n)" meaning "to fight," "to defend." He cites instances of Skurmere, Skirmer, Skerme from the late 13th century in Oxfordshire, Lancashire and Sussex. Searches of early parish records (16th and 17th centuries) in these counties show only a single isolated baptism reference to a John Skyrme born in Chichester, Sussex in 1597.

Early Locations

It is indeed Herefordshire that shows the largest number of early references to Skyrme. The main early clusters in England are as follows:

- **Lugwardine, Herefordshire** - Over 130 parish records from 1540 to 1766. In the early days the spelling was exclusively Skirme, with Skyrme appearing periodically in the mid-1600s, and becoming the standard after 1700. Skyrmes appeared in Brockhampton from the mid 1600s while in the 18th century Skyrmes are found in several Herefordshire locations.
- **Ludlow, Shropshire** - Scores of references to Skirme in this town just over the Herefordshire

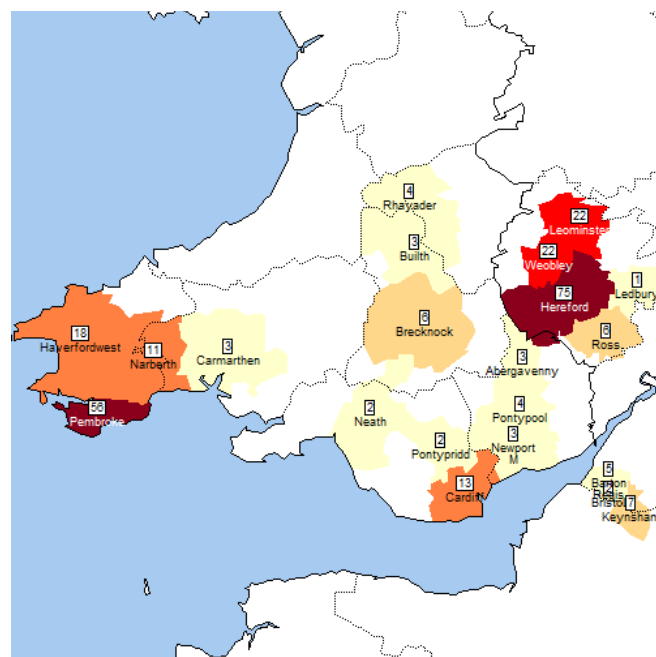
border. In the 1640s, one Thomas Skirme, an attorney, moved to Llawhaden, Pembrokeshire. This was the start of the spread of the family into Pembrokeshire.

- **Spalding, Lincolnshire** - scores of references to Skirme (occasionally Skirm) from 1587-1770 in the Spalding area; also several references to Skerme in the same area.
- **Meopham, Kent** - a few references to Skirme in the early 1600s. There is also a larger cluster of Skormes in Gillingham.
- **London** - there are several records to Skyrme in the early to mid-17th century.

There were also two early clusters of Skyrmes in the United States:

- **Henrico County, Virginia** - Skerme from 1655
- **Trenton, New Jersey** - Skirm from 1714.

Coming more up to date, the map below (generated by *Surname Atlas*) shows the main distribution of Skyrme (and its variants) in 1881. The dominance of the Herefordshire cluster is apparent.



Over time the early spellings of Skirm(e) and Skerm(e) have virtually disappeared, except for Skirm in the USA. The relative frequency of different variants through the 19th and early 20th century in both the UK and the USA is covered more fully in another article.⁴

³ *Surnames of England & Wales, The Office of National Statistics database*. Accessible at www.taliesin-arleyn.net/names/

⁴ *Skyrme: from a Family History to a One Name Study*, Journal of the One-Name Society (July-Sept 2015).

2 LUGWARDINE - THE EARLIEST SKIRMES



The earliest recorded Skirmes in Herefordshire are those at Lugwardine, a village just over 3 miles NE of Hereford on the main Hereford-Worcester road. To the south of the village lies the river Lug from which the village derives its name. As the 6" to the mile OS Map of 1886 shows (above) it is very rural in character. The photo below is a current view from the main road looking south.



The earliest record is of the burial of Elizabeth Skirme, wife of Edmund on 11th July 1539. In fact, the name Edmund (or Edmond) is repeated many times over the years until 1757. Other commonly repeated names are those of Richard, William and John. Altogether the current database lists over 130

birth, marriage and burial records for the period 1539-1766 of which 63 are in the period 1539-1599, 48 for 1600-1699 and 24 for 1700-1766. After that there are no instances of Skyrme in Lugwardine. In the future it may be possible from a closer analysis of family names to find where the Skrymes of Lugwardine then settled.



Without census records it is not easy to build up a clear picture of where the families lived and what they did. No doubt many were agricultural labourers

but there are indications that some were in a higher strata of society. The parish registers show a succession of Skyrmes as churchwardens at the local church, St. Peters:

- Thomas Skirme (1606)
- John Skirme (1608, 1614, 1620, 1623)
- Richard Skirme (1639)
- Edmund Skyrme (1632)

Also a burial record in 1667 is for a Richard Skyrme (gent) of Hemhill whose location you can see to the north of the village on the map.

The most interesting insights come from two early 17th century wills. They show that certain Skyrmes were not short of money. Extracts from the transcripts follow.⁵

William Skyrme - the Elder of Lugwardine co. Hereford, Yeoman, 19 Oct 1616. (*when sick in body*) to be buried in the parish church of Lugwardine; 12d to Hereford Cathedral; 10/- towards the repairs of the bells and bell-ropes in Lugwardine Church; to my daughter Elizabeth Wellington (widow of James Wellington) - £72 towards paying off his debts; my grandchildren Elizabeth Wellington, Ellinor Wellington, Anne Wellington, Mary Wellington, Katherine Wellington, James Wellington and John Wellington (children of my said dau Elizabeth) - £10 each staggered year by year until all paid; to my daughter Elizabeth - £10 p.a. for life after 7 years have elapsed; all my lands etc to my son-in-law [step-son] Thomas Skyrme, son of Margaret Skyrme my late wife by her former husband and of my blood and name.

Executor/Overseer: my son-in-law [step-son] Richard Skyrme +20 sheep.

Other bequests: to the children of John Skyrme my son-in-law [step-son] - 20 sheep; Anne Godsall my maid servant; to the poorer sort of people in Lugwardine and Tupsley - 12d. per house.

Debts due by me and owing: Richard Wahome(?) gent £100; Nicholas Skyrme and the said Thomas Skyrme; David Lewis; Thomas Williams; Elizabeth Vaughan, widow - £6 in trust for the poor of Lugwardine, now in my hands; Anne Godsall my servant her wages until All Saints next - 58/-; my servant George Whetstone; John Best; Richard Skyrme; John Skyrme; William Rawlings; Abraham Hopkies.

Probate: London 8 Mar 1616/17 by Thomas Skyrme (Exor.)⁶

William was obviously fairly wealthy. The average labourer's wage at the time was about 10/- a week

(£25 a year), but paid only when they worked. A yeoman was typically the owner of a farm of around 50 acres and would have earned £40-50 a year. They were not considered of the landed gentry, since they would have worked on the farms themselves, whereas a 'gent' would not.

The reference to William's servant's wages are a bit puzzling. She would have only earned a few shillings a week, and All Saints Day is 1st November, only a couple of weeks away. So 58/- would have represented several month's wages.

William died a few days later, since his burial is recorded in the parish registers on 20th October. His wife Margaret has died in 1612.

The second will is that of John Skyrme (gent).



Based on preliminary analysis of parish records, it is likely that John is one of William's older brothers.

John Skyrme - 8 Jul 1627. Memorandum that the day yere aforesaid that John Skyrme gent did pronounce and make his will to the the effect following: to the church of [probably Lugwardine] 3s 4d and to the poor of that parish 13s 4d; that his wife Elizabeth Skyrme should enjoy his house &c. in Lugwardine for her life then to son Richard Skyrme - he to be sole Exor.; if Richard dies without issue then to testator's son William Skyrme; the wife and children of Richard Whooper to have the clothes of the testator's daughter Elizabeth Skyrme not already disposed of.

Signed John Skyrme with witnesses Thos Crump; Wm Skyrme, Rich. Whooper; Rich. Skyrme.

Probate: London 15 Nov 1627 by Richard Skyrme (son & Exor.)

A Richard Hooper of Ashperton married Frances Skirme 22nd April 1619. Much work remains in trying piece together family connections from the numerous parish records. The popularity of the names Edmonds, Richard, William, John, Elizabeth and Margaret do not make this task easy. There are no parish records for Skirme or Skyrme after 1766 so where did they go?

Footnote. More information on this cluster has recently been collected and will be added at the next update.

⁵ Abstract of Wills of Herefordshire
<http://willsdb.gukutils.org.uk/HEF/WillsS.html>

⁶ Before adoption of the Gregorian Calendar in 1752, the New Year started on 25th March. Thus 1616/17 refers to what was 1616 at the time but which we would today consider 1617.

3 SETTLING FURTHER AFIELD

After the presence of Skyrmes in Lugwardine we start seeing from 1583 children of Richard Skyrme of **Ludlow**, just across the border in Shropshire. Unlike the Skyrmes of Lugwardine, the name was spelt Skyrme almost as frequently as the variant Skirme. While no definitive link with the Lugwardine Skyrmes has been proven, the presence of such an unusual name in two places just 25 miles apart, implies that they are related.

We know that around 1640 a Thomas Skirme and his son William practiced as attorneys of the Council of Marches in Ludlow. This Council was a regional administrative body that operated from Ludlow Castle from the 15th to 17th century.



(Credit: Ian Capper. Source: Wikipedia. Licence: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

Sometime in the mid-1600s they moved into Pembrokeshire where they bought the manor at Llawhaden. This branch of the family prospered for around two centuries and feature in many wills and court papers.⁷ As far as Ludlow is concerned, the remaining Skyrmes seem to have died out by the end of the 17th century.

There is no doubt that many of the early Skyrmes of Herefordshire were quite wealthy. **Brockhampton-by-Ross**⁸ is a third location where a wealthy family of Skyrmes resided from the 1660s. The first record is of a marriage in 1663 between Thomas Skyrme and Catherine Church. The most likely Thomas is that of Thomas Skyrme, born in Lugwardine in 1636, the son of Richard and Elizabeth. They had several children including a son John, born in 1672.

⁷ The full story of the Skyrmes of Llawhaden is told in *The Llawhaden Book*, Mary Houseman, Llan Aidan Press (2004)

⁸ Not to be confused with another Brockhampton in Herefordshire or the larger settlement near Gloucester.

He and his descendants are referred to in *The Mansions and Manors of Herefordshire and their Memories* (Longman & Co., 1873) the Rev. Charles Robinson writing about Brockhampton in the Manor of Woolhope says::

"From the Court Rolls it appears that in the seventeenth century the principal landowners in the parish were and a family named Skyrme. The Upper House belonged to the last-said for at least four generations, and at the death of Thomas (son of Anthony and grandson of John) about the year 1788 passed to his daughter and heir, Hannah wife of Thomas Protheroe. Their son Thomas Skyrme Protheroe sold it in 1833 to William Stallard ...".

Hannah had married Thomas in Bristol in 1780. He was a successful merchant. Whether they used the house as their country retreat or let it to tenants is not clear. What is clear is that Thomas remained in Bristol and with Hannah had eight children. He and his son Thomas Skyrme Protheroe are recorded in 1819 as part owners (a quarter share) of a ship *The Lucy Ann*. The Protheroe's were obviously proud of their Skyrme roots, since when Thomas Protheroe Skyrme married and had a son, his name was also Thomas Skyrme Protheroe. Alas, he died when only aged 1 in 1818.

In the second half of the 18th century we start to see the presence of Skyrmes in various places around the county, such as **Abbey Dore, Dewsall, Hereford City, Norton Canon, Stretton Sugwas, Vowchurch, Weobley** and **Yazor**. At the same time the number of registered events in Lugwardine has dropped sharply. Further analysis may reveal the precise links from the Lugwardine Skyrmes to these other locations. Occasionally a marriage entry gives a clue that connects two places, e.g. Richard Skyrme of Weobley married Elizabeth Eckley at Norton Canon in 1763. Similar entries for people "of Lugwardine" are marriages in **Hampton Bishop, Hereford** and **Stoke Edith**.

As we move into the early 19th century, one place is home to the largest concentration of Skyrmes in Herefordshire, and that is **Vowchurch**. It is this branch that has been studied the most to date and is covered in the next chapter.

4 VOWCHURCH AND THE GOLDEN VALLEY



View towards Vowchurch Common (on the hill) from the road to Pontypinna and Chanstone Court

Vowchurch is a small village about 10 miles south west of Hereford. It lies on the River Dore, which flows in a north east - south easterly direction through the villages of Dorstone, Peterhouse, Vowchurch and Abbey Dore, This section is called the Golden Valley after the Welsh name *Afur Aur* "the river of gold".

There is a significant Skyrme presence from around the 1780s to the early 20th century, though there is the record of a marriage of a Thomas Skerm to Mary Thomas in 1722.

For much of the late 18th century and all the 19th century, the Skyrmes lived and farmed on Vowchurch Common. This is up a narrow winding lane to the north east, some 100 metres higher than the valley below. The photo below shows pasture on the Common at the top of the hill.



So far most of the Skyrmes living in Vowchurch in the 19th century have been linked to two family groups. Work continues to try and find the link between them.

[Samuel Skyrme/Margaret Seabourne](#)

The first family for which there is a reasonable amount of information is that Samuel Skyrme (1747-

1822) and his wife Margaret Seaborne who came from the neighbouring village of Peterchurch. This was just one of several marriages between Skyrmes and Seabo(u)rnes in the area. So far it has not been possible to trace Samuel's ancestors came from.

Samuel and Margaret had two sons (John and Samuel) and five daughters. In his will of 1818 he is described as a yeoman and as well as his own dwelling he owned another one in which his daughter Mary lived with her husband Thomas Griffiths. The 1845 tithe apportionment for Vowchurch indicates the extent of the family holding. His eldest son John owned 4 acres of land including arable farmland and an orchard. His other son Samuel owned just over an acre, also of arable and orchard.

Most of Samuel and Margaret's descendants remained in Vowchurch and stayed on the land. However, one of sons John (1778-1857) became a tailor and married a girl from Blakemere. They had two sons, John and William, who both became tailors. Although John and Mary moved to Vowchurch some time after 1810, son John married and lived in Moccas for a while in the 1840s. Moccas is the next village south from Blakemere and is about 5 miles north of Vowchurch and close to the River Wye. Around 1845 John junior and his family moved back to Blakemere. It seems that William moved back to Vowchurch with his father where first he and then his son Alfred were tailors in the mid-19th century.

[James Skyrme / Eleanor Seabourne](#)

This is another Skyrme-Seabourne marriage. Unlike Margaret, Eleanor was born in Abbey Dore so their relationship to each other is uncertain. Although James himself was born in Hereford in 1742, six of his eight children (all boys) were born in Abbey Dore,

while the two youngest were born in Hereford and Vowhchurch respectively. Over three of his children had moved to Vowchurch by the 1841 census.

James's parents and grandparents were born in Hereford. His paternal grandfather was Thomas Skyrme who married Dorothy Philpott in 1708.

So far descendants of three of James' and Elanor's eight children have been traced. The eldest of these three - James (b.1789) - also married a Seabourne, Alice in 1808 at Eaton Bishop. The other two were William (b.1792) and John (b. 1795). Between the three of them, they had 17 children, all born in Vowchurch, the eldest around 1817. In turn most of their children remained in Vowchurch, hence the significant numbers of Skyrmes found in Vowchurch throughout the 19th century,

Two of James and Eleanor's grandchildren, did however, move out of the area. George (1833-1912), son of William, moved to St Arvans, Monmouthshire about 1875 and became a labourer on the roads. Another of William's sons, Benjamin, found himself in Australia, and not out of choice!

Transportation to Australia

Benjamin (1827-1897) first fell foul of the law at age 16 when he was charged, but acquitted, of larceny. A year later, in October 1844 (the court records give his age as 18) he was found guilty of the same offence and sentenced to 3 months imprisonment and whipped twice. The final straw came 2 years later when he was convicted of felony and shooting with intent to cause bodily harm. He was sentenced to 15 years transportation to Australia. From Australian records we find him after his release as a carpenter and marrying Mary Duckworth at Green Ponds (now Kempton), Tasmania in 1866. They had three children, but Benjamin still brushed with the law. He was accused alongside Edward Duckworth (no doubt an in-law) of possessing 7lbs of mutton at Edward's premises. Edward was fined £20 but Benjamin acquitted.

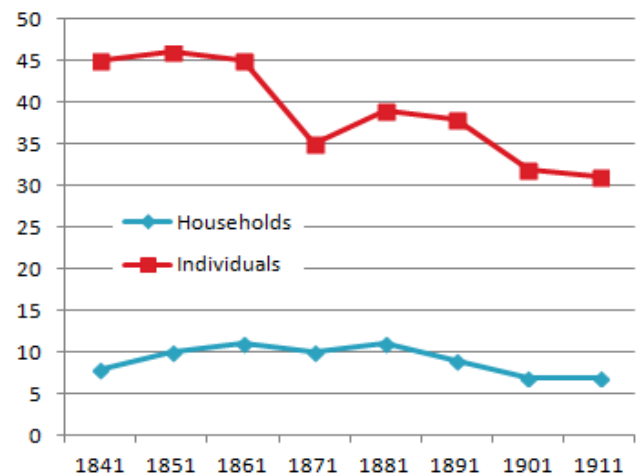
Benjamin was not the first Herefordshire Skyrme to be transported. At least two other Skyrmes preceded him as unintentional emigrants - see Chapter 8.

The Common and Beyond

The chart in the next column shows the number of households headed by a Skyrme in various censuses. There were also other Skyrmes living as servants or labourers in other families.

Throughout the 19th century the majority of Skyrme families lived around the common at places such as Park Gate and Lunnon Farm. In most censuses there

were individual Skyrmes living in other households down in the village. Most were servants or labourers on the large estates such as Vowhchurch Court, Monnington Court, Chanstone Court and The White House.



One Skyrme family that did have a farm down in the valley from around 1875 was Arthur Skyrme (great grandson of James and Eleanor). He appears as a farmer at Stall House in the 1881 census onwards.

Clearly the Skyrmes were much involved with farming and there is much more to learn about their daily lives. There are also certain mysteries. Three young siblings were all buried within days of each other in December 1856. Was it an accident or did they catch something infectious from each other?

The Lewis Carroll Connection

The Skyrme families in Vowchurch would have been baptised, married and buried at the parish church of St Bartholomew's.



The vicar there from 1895-1910 was the Revd. Skeffington Dodgson, the brother of Charles Dodgson, aka Lewis Carroll, author of *Alice in Wonderland*. The parish record transcripts that have been collected so far are from 1722-1891, before he arrived. However, inside the church is a display about the Revd. Skeffington Dodgson and it includes a photo of the page from the parish register that covers the burial of Skeffington in May 1919. On the same page are no fewer than three burial entries for Skyrmes and two for Seabourne.

Page 78.

BURIALS in the Parish of *S. Bartholomew Vowchurch* in the County of *Hereford* in the Year *1919*.

Name	Abode	When buried	Age	By whom the Ceremony was performed
Emma Skyrme No. 617.	Fin Cottage Vowchurch.	Septem. 2. 1917.	84. Years.	E.A. Whitfield. Vicar.
Evel Seabourne. No. 618.	Ham House. Vowchurch.	Janu. 16. 1918.	71. Years.	E.A. Whitfield. Vicar.
Matthew Seabourne. No. 619.	Ham House. Vowchurch.	Janu. 16. 1918.	70. Years.	E.A. Whitfield. Vicar.
Emily Skyrme. No. 620.	Holby Tunn. Vowchurch.	May. 29.	35. Years.	E.A. Whitfield. Vicar.
Benjamin Froster. No. 621.	No. 3. Edgar Street Hereford.	June 1st 1910.	76. Years.	E.A. Whitfield. Vicar.
Elizabeth Skyrme. No. 622.	de Tump. Vowchurch.	July 21st 1910.	92. Years.	E.A. Whitfield. Vicar.
Skeffington Dodgson. No. 623. (late Vicar)	de General Hospital Hereford.	May 6. 1919.	82. Years.	E.A. Whitfield. Vicar.
Catherine Powell. No. 624.	Parulydun. Langaydun Beaufort.	May 20. 1919.	77. Years.	E.A. Whitfield. Vicar.

It is therefore highly likely that Lewis Carroll's brother performed baptism, marriage and burial ceremonies for many Skyrme families over his 15 year tenure,

Also in the church is the 'Roll of Honour' for the two World Wars. That for WW1 has five entries. After the entries for two Seabournes (Edgar and William) is:

Charles Skyrme, Royal Fusiliers, son of Charles and Matilda Skyrme of Slate Cottage, Vowchurch; died 29 Mar 1918, age 19.

Another source lists him as serving in the 4th battalion (City of London Regiment) having enlisted at Swansea. He died of wounds in the Western Europe theatre of war. This would have been in the second battle of the Somme, where between 21st March and 3rd April, the Royal Fusiliers suffered over 350 casualties including 37 dead near the river Oise at Manicamp. One description of the intense fighting involving the 4th Royal Fusiliers that started in foggy conditions on 21st March 1918:⁹ "

"The early hours of the 25th March were devoted to sorting out the hopeless tangle of units which the battle had caused."

In the grounds of the church are several Skyrme gravestones. The inscriptions have been transcribed by the Herefordshire Family History Society and these with other records will help me expand and validate the trees of the Vowchurch Skyrmes which is an ongoing task.

Before leaving Vowchurch, there is one mystery surrounding the records. Familysearch.org gives transcripts for parish records that give the same events as happening at two places - Dorstone as well as Vowchurch. For the late 19th century and early 20th century, transcriptions for Vowchurch residents are listed as pertaining to Dorstone only. My first thought was that the parish records were duplicated, perhaps through a common vicar. However, although combined today, the parishes were separate then with different rectors. The other possibility is that Familysearch.org has incorrectly assigned the records to Dorstone in error. This will only be resolved with a further visit to Herefordshire Archives to view original images.



The Vicarage at Vowchurch, built 1879

⁹ The War History of the 4th Battalion, the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) 1914-19, F Clive Grimwade (1922)

Other Villages in The Golden Valley

Outside of Vowchurch there is only the occasional reference to Skyrmes in the Golden Valley. Around seven Skyrmes of Vowchurch families were baptised in Turnastone. This happened mostly in the 1870s and 1880s. Turnastone is just across the river Dore from Vowchurch. The 1901 census records two young Skyrme men working at the farm opposite Turnastone Court.



The bridge over the River Dore at Vowchurch. Turnastone is a few hundred metres along the lane (right of picture)

Further afield there are two instances worth mentioning. The first is that of Louisa Skyrme a single woman from Vowchurch who was an inmate at the Abbey Dore Union workhouse in both 1881 and 1901 when aged 35 and 55 respectively. However, no other records that identify her have been found.



Abbey Dore workhouse, 2 miles north of the village. Now converted into cottages and called Riverdale.

A similar distance south of Abbey Dore is the village of Ewyas Harold. Here, at a bend in the main road is Merton Lodge. This was specially built for an interesting character called Dr William Morgan who was in general practice both at nearby Longtown and

Ewyas Harold.¹⁰ The Skyrme connection is that his architect was a Hubert Skyrme, who was first called on to design this new house in 1922. Herbert's practice was in Hereford, but his ancestry has not yet been determined. Herbert had already made an impact through his design of Bromyard Post Office, built 1911, a building that still serves the public in its original capacity today.



Merton Lodge, Ewyas Harold - architect Hubert Skyrme

With a large number of records for Vowchurch and the surrounding area yet to analyse, there will no doubt be more insights to emerge of the Skyrmes of Vowchurch.

¹⁰ You can read about Dr Morgan at the Ewyas Harold website - <http://www.ewyaslacy.org.uk> (search Herbert Skyrme)

5 FARMERS OF REPUTE

Compared to the Skyrme of Pembrokeshire where a variety of trades were practiced, the predominance of agriculture is evident from 19th century trade directories. For example, the 1873 Post Office Directory lists by name 9 prominent Skyrmes of whom 7 were farmers (one of the others was Samuel Skyrme of Vowchurch, a tailor). Neither it, nor the 1881 census describes precisely what sort of farming, but analysis of other records suggest four common activities - cattle breeding, apple growing (for cider) and hop growing.

Hereford Cattle

No discussion of the farming community of Herefordshire would be complete without reference to Hereford Cattle. This breed of beef cattle, with characteristic white face and reddish brown body is now well known across the world. There are an estimated 50 million pedigree cattle in 50 countries.



Hereford bull (Photo: Robert Merkel on en.wikipedia - US Department of Agriculture)

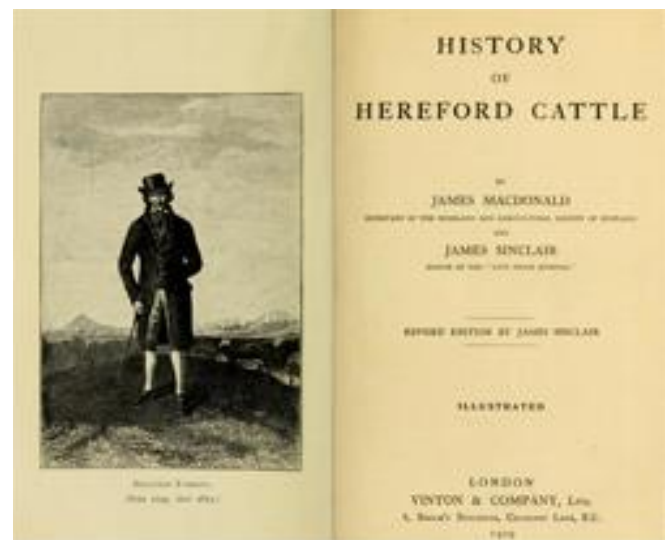
The involvement of the Skyrmes in the early history of Hereford cattle is covered in a 500 page book of the history of the breed published in 1909.¹¹ It says that no history of the breed would be complete without reference to the Tulleys and Skyrmes:

"The Tully and Skyrme cattle formed the foundation of a large number of other herds, as will be shown when the proceedings of later breeders engage attention."

Elsewhere it notes:

"The cattle of Mr. Skyrme of Stretton, of which records are still more scanty, were of a light red

colour inclining to yellow, with the faces occasionally faintly ticked or speckled. William Skyrme of Dewsall, who died in 1804, aged 65 years, had a somewhat noted herd. His daughter, then in her 86th year, informed us that her father's cattle were red with white face and had wide horns. But it is from the herd of Skyrme of Stretton that the most famous animals of this strain are descended. It is a misfortune that so little can be ascertained as to the material they used, and their method of breeding."



Analysis of records show Skyrmes at Dewsall only from around 1760. A William and Mary Skyrme of Dewsall Court had at least 10 children, the eldest of whom was William Gwatkin Skyrme born in 1781.¹² William (the elder) was the son of John Skyrme who married Joyce Watkin in March 1738 in Hereford Cathedral. Further analysis of records suggest that this branch of the family was from Woolhope which was the manor that contained Brockhampton-by-Ross mentioned earlier.

"Mr Skyrme of Stretton" was, in fact, John Stretton, a yeoman, of Stretton Court. There is a lease dated 23rd May 1792 in which Guy's Hospital leased some 678 acres to John (and possibly others) for 21 years at an annual rent of £473.13s.6d, a considerable sum. The reason that Guy's Hospital was involved is that in 1731-2 it acquired the Herefordshire estates of James Brydges, Duke of Chandos. As well as the Stretton estate Guy's owned the manor of Dewsall and had property in Vowchurch. Several leases relating to the Skyrmes are at Herefordshire Archives and are currently being analysed.

¹¹ *History of Hereford Cattle*, James Macdonald and James Sinclair, Vinton & Sons, London (1909). Accessible at www.archive.org

¹² *Their second son Amos Jones Skyrme seem to have had a colourful life. See Chapter 9*

John's departure from cattle breeding is recorded in *The History of Hereford Cattle* thus:

"In April, 1805, the whole of the cattle belonging to Mr. Skyrme of Stretton were sold by auction when he retired from business. He had from the first been an exhibitor at the shows of the Herefordshire Agricultural Society from 1797, and had been successful. The sale bill described the stock as being "without exception some of the finest sorts of breeding cattle in the Kingdom.""

In fact, at the June 1802 agricultural show he earned the honour of having the best heifer with highest price premium. A fellow very successful exhibitor, Thomas Knight of Downtown remarked that John "at that time possessed, in his opinion, by far the best breed of cattle in the county." A year later he won the prize for "the best lean ox worked that summer".

Unlike William, the pedigree of John is less certain, It is most probable that he is William's younger brother (born 1742). Both were wealthy occupiers of Guy's Hospital estates. There is also a link back into Hereford City. A death notice in the *Hereford Times* of 3rd May 1851 says:

"29th ult [29th April 1851] at Widemarsh-gate without, aged 69, Mrs Harriet Rudge, fifth daughter of Mr John Skyrme, Stretton Court, much respected. She was ever kind to the poor, and a truly good neighbour."

Widemarsh Street was the place in Hereford where William's brothers ran a tannery - Edward in 1822 and Amos Jones in 1828.

Hop Growers of Herefordshire



Hops (Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hops>)

When one thinks of hop growing, Kent is the first place that comes to mind. But the British Hop Association reminds us that after their introduction of hop growing in England in the late 15th century

"Later hops were grown in almost every region of the UK." Today hop growing is mostly confined to the South Eastern counties (including Kent) and the West Midlands (including Herefordshire).¹³

It was only an analysis of 19th century directories that revealed the association of Skyrmes with hop growing. Amongst the many entries for farmers was the occasional "farmer and hop grower". Here are some of the instances recorded:

- Thomas Skyrme, Rectory Farm, Pudleston (Post Office Directory 1879)
- William Skyrme, West End, Docklow (ibid.)
- Thomas Skyrme, Handmore Farm, Staunton-on-Wye (Kelly's Directory 1895)
- James Skyrme, The Hot House [sic], Sapey Pritchard (now Lower Sapey), Worcs (Kelly's 1900)

The "Hot House" is actually Hat House Farm. And James is not one of our Herefordshire Skyrmes but a Pembrokeshire Skyrme, born in Penally.

There are additional instances of "farmer and hop grower" up to an Edward Skyrme at Docklow in 1913. Hop growing continues today in the area, albeit on a smaller scale. The website of the Bromyard hop festival (started in 2011) says:

"The first half of the 19th century saw the highest acreage of hops ever in the Bromyard district, with 4,251 acres in 1835. However, hop growing was an erratic business and over-production, blight and competition from foreign markets led to a drop of 65% by 1860. A gradual rise then occurred until the turn of the century, when the acreage was at 2,050."

"Hop yards were a familiar feature of the countryside around Bromyard and along the Frome and Teme Valleys with a few acres on many farms being devoted to hops up until the late 1950s."

Of the Skyrme sites, Pudleston and Docklow are near each other and about 5 miles from Bromyard while Lower Sapey is in the Teme Valley. Like many farmers, there were ups and downs. The Gloucester Citizen of 20th September 1894 reported:

"Hop growers in Herefordshire are much concerned at the state of their crops, owing to the protracted wet and cold, with a phenomenally early appearance of frost. The hops in some places .. are hardly worth picking. The district generally will not yield than half it did last year.. A frost which occurred on 10th inst. did a lot of injury."

¹³ British Hop Association "the home of British hops" <http://www.britishhops.org.uk/>

Cider Making

Herefordshire has a strong tradition in cider making going back several hundred years. In fact it was the nation's most popular drink for part of the 16th century. And for much of the time since Herefordshire has been responsible for about half the country's cider production. In 1883 there were 27,000 acres of apple orchards.¹⁴



Redstreak apple - the variety that established Herefordshire as the finest cider producer in the 17th century.

(Source & copyright: Orange Pippin
www.orangepippin.com/apples/herefordshire-redstreak)

No specific records have been found that state that Skyrmes made cider. However, this is not surprising it was common practice that most farmers made cider. They would make it one Autumn to be supplied to their farm labourers the following year, especially at harvest time. There also grew something of a practice of giving labourers part of their wages in cider. This system of "truck cider" which was described as 'pernicious' by one outraged correspondent in *The Hereford Journal* of 4th February 1857:

"This is a main cause if not *the* cause of the abounding of crime in this county. If the adult population be immoral and drunken, no wonder if the children born in sin and neglected in infancy, grow up in crime."

There is no evidence that Skyrme farmers used this system. We can only infer that like many other farmers, they grew apples on part of their land and made cider from them.

The way that it would have been made was chopping apples into small pieces in a 'mill', then placing them in cloths piled on top of each other and applying

pressure to release the juice which was then fermented. The cloths themselves known as hairs, since traditionally they were made from horsehair.

That the Skyrmes grew apples and made cider is evident from several types of document. We noted earlier that the tithe apportionment for Vowchurch showed that Samuel Skyrme and his son both had an orchard.

Just to underline the ubiquitous nature of apple growing, orchards feature in the first document picked out at random of about 30 indentures that I photographed at Herefordshire Archives. This is an 1838 surrender and release of "a messuage, farms and lands in the parishes of Staunton-on-Wye and Momington". One of the parties was George Skyrme. The first two items in the schedule are:

1. "A dwelling house called The Red Door¹⁵ with the outbuildings, gardens and orchard thereunto".
2. "An inclosure of arable land and orcharding called The New Orchard adjoining the Garden and Orchard above mentioned - 4 acres 2 roods 18 perches."

and item 4 is another orchard (Weaver's Orchard) of over 6 acres.

Yet another instance comes from one lot in the sale of a freehold estate near the northern border of the county (Orleton, Brimfield and Wyson Common) as announced in *The Hereford Journal* of 22nd July 1835:

"Lot 17: A FARMHOUSE, Barn and other Buildings, Malthouse, Cider Mill, Garden, and 2A 3R 23P of ORCHARDING, adjoining thereto, and 3 Acres, part of the Moors, part of which is Orcharding, occupied by Mr Thomas Skyrme".

Farming in British Columbia

We cover emigration of Skyrmes from Herefordshire more fully in Chapter 8. Here we make note of one particular group that established themselves in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, Canada. I am grateful to the Okanagan Historical Society whose annual reports provided useful background material as well as specific details of one Ernest Skyrme.

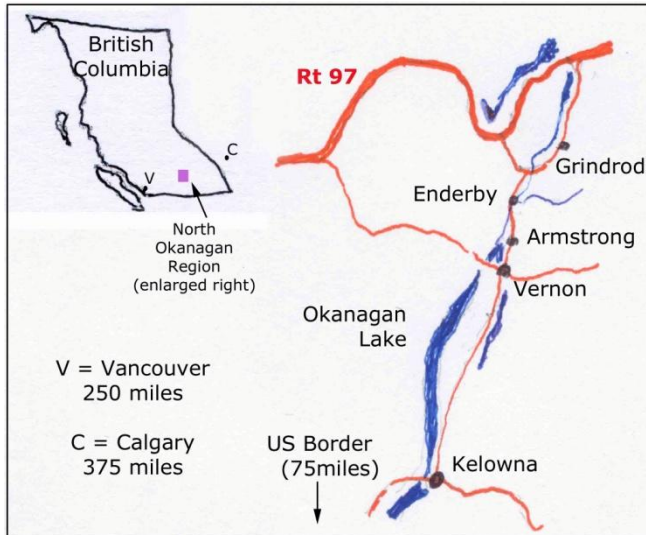
Ernest was the grandson of Thomas Skyrme mentioned above. One of my correspondents has traced this line of Skyrme back to Richard Skyrme of Norton Canon (born~1735). Ernest emigrated to

¹⁴ See *Cider at Herefordshire Throgh Time* at <http://htt.herefordshire.gov.uk/534.aspx>; also *History of Cider in Herefordshire* on the Cider Route wesbite <http://www.cideroute.co.uk/site/history.html>

¹⁵ Possibly this is Red Ley, next to Handmore Farm, a residence of a Skyrme family for several decades in the late 19th and early 20th century.

British Columbia in 1895 when aged just 19. His younger brother Thomas followed him four years later.

Analysis of censuses and poll books from around 1920 show them both as farmers at Grindrod (an unincorporated township at the north end of the valley beyond Enderby). Later Thomas lived north east in an adjacent valley at Revelstoke.



In 1906 Thomas married 24-year old Edith Turner, originally from Lancashire. Both were living at Armstrong at the time. Sadly Edith died in 1915 aged only 33, along with 8-year old daughter Olive in a drowning accident in the river at Grindrod. A few years later Thomas remarried. His new wife was Emily Hardcastle, originally from Surrey, the daughter of a bootmaker. The *Enderby Press and Walker's Weekly* describes the marriage at St. George's Church on 2nd October 1918 thus:

"The ceremony was not of a public nature, but, in the beautiful surroundings of the Harvest decorations, it was one of the prettiest ever held in the church. The groom has long been a popular figure in the Armstrong-Enderby district, and their many friends will be delighted to see Mr And Mrs. Skyrme at home on old Hazelmere, by the sleepy, soft-flowing Spalluncheon."

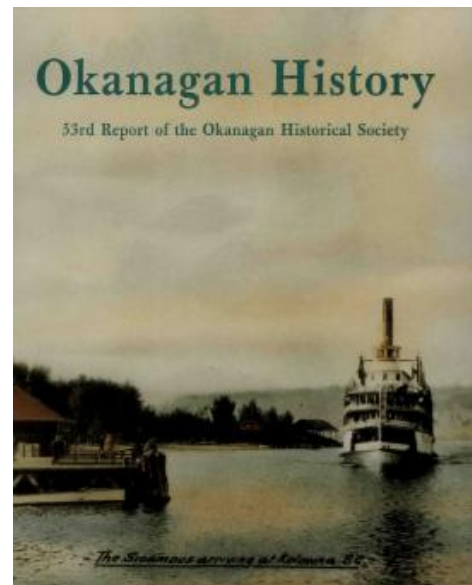
Thomas is described as "one of the district's most successful farmers and stockmen".

In 1913 Thomas's brother Ernest married Edith's 33-year old sister Isabella who had moved from England in 1912. The marriage certificate says: "married in the house of Thomas Skyrme [Hazelmere, Enderby] according to the rights and ceremonies of The Presbyterian Church". Ernest's religion was given as Presbyterian while Isabella's was Church of England. Ernest's occupation is rancher. This was probably at

the L and A ranch in Vernon, where Ernest was foreman in 1914. In 1918 he moved north to Grindrod, where he lived for the rest of his life. In the Okanagan Historical Society's *Report No 26* (1962) Ernest and Thomas are mentioned as working at The Stepney Ranch near Enderby. This is in the obituary of George Heggie who hailed from county Antrim, Northern Ireland.:

"Some of the men who worked for Mr. Heggie on the Stepney Ranch were ...Thomas and Ernest Skyrme. He affectionately called them "his boys".

Thomas's daughter Alice Emeny writing in a later edition (*Report No. 51*) describes how the area was cleared in the early part of the 20th century to create arable land. The wood from the felled trees was used to build homes, barns and fences. There was a tradition of 'barn raising' in which the able-bodied people from the neighbourhood all worked together for the final assembly of the building. Tommy and Ernest helped at many such 'bees'.



In a later report (No. 53) is a full tribute to Ernest and Isabel's son Ernest Archibald Skyrme (1914-1989). It describes how his father Ernest created a farm and how Ernest junior worked on the farm full-time from age 13. Judy Reimche writes:

"Right from the beginning, Ernie, like his father, was an innovator. And, again like his father, farming was his life."

"on Ernie's 13th birthday, his father bought him one of the first milking machines seen in the North Okanagan."

At its peak in the 1940s, Ernie's farm was over 300 acres with a herd of dairy cows. Descendants of Ernest and Thomas still farm in Canada today, some in the Okanagan area and others in Alberta.

The Successful Vigneron¹⁶

No story of farming Skyrmes would be complete without reference to George Skyrme, a successful vigneron from Great Western in Victoria, Australia.

We cannot be sure that George, who was born around 1835, came from Herefordshire, but two potential candidates are a George Skyrme of Vowchurch and another from Letton. There is a record of a George Skyrme doing the 140 day voyage from Liverpool to Melbourne in October 1857.

We learn most about George from newspaper articles. In his early days he kept a store in partnership with a Stephen Williamson in Stawell, about 170 miles north west of Melbourne. Stawell was founded in the Victoria gold rush of 1853. After an initial slow start good deposits of gold were found at nearby Great Western in 1857 which was then worked by over 9,000 prospectors. This must have led to good business for George and Stephen. But as the activity in the gold field declined, other activities were started, notably the vineyards and winery of Joseph and Henry Best, founded in 1865.

We know from land records that in 1872 George acquired land on the west of Concongella Creek at Great Western. Newspaper articles indicate that he initially tried to grow grain but that this was unsuccessful. An article in 1888 talks about Great Western being a prosperous district due to its vineyards:

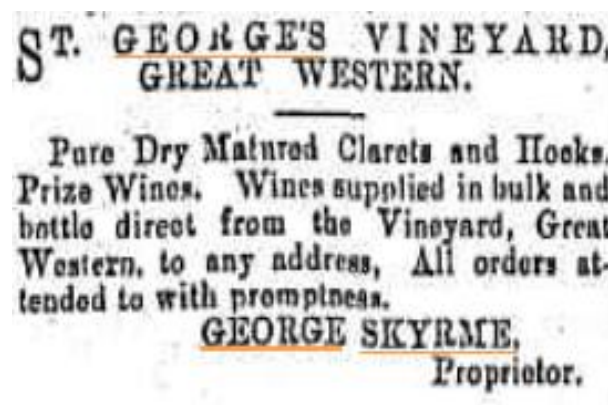
"The Great Western vineyards, owing to enjoying a moderate rainfall and occupying an elevated position, naturally produce a wine of medium strength. Their hocks and clarets are certainly generous for such wines, but they can be fairly so classed, and they possess an excellent flavour, a fine colour, and a delicate bouquet."

From this and other articles we learn the George ran a 25-acre vineyard and small winery called St George's which was close to the 50 acre Concongella Vineyard of the Bests:

"Mr. Skyrme's wines are admirable, being sound, pure and pleasant, with medium strength."

His yields were described as very good being 300 gallons an acre and up to 400 in some parts of the vineyard.

From 1890-3 George advertised weekly in the *Avoca Mail*:



An article in *The Australasian* of 6th May 1893 gives some insight into George's character:

"It is always a pleasure to call on Mr. Skyrme, no matter at what time of the year. The steading and vineyard are always in excellent order, and there is a neatness about the place that makes it very attractive. Mr. Skyrme has a model cellar for a small vineyard. It is the outcome of years of careful study by an intelligent and practical man, and has been copied by many who have gone into the business of viticulture with but little knowledge of what is required in a cellar."

There is a vivid description of the work going on in St George's vineyard in the *Geelong Advertiser* of 27th April 1897:

"In the morning, boys and men, youth and old age, provided with shears and wooden buckets, go merrily along to the plantation, followed by a horse and dray full of empty casks to hold the grapes. The casks, which hold from one and a half to two hundred weight of grapes, are deposited at the end of the rows of vines. Into these casks each picker puts his bucketful, taking care to leave on the vines any grapes of the second growth. Load after load of the filled casks are taken up to the cellar, where they are conveyed by a block and tackle to an upper storey. Here the grapes are put through the crushing mill, from which descends a chute leading to the sifter, where stalks and skins are taken out, and, the juice goes into the vats for fermentation. After the fermentation the liquor is run off into a large underground tank. When it has boon in the tank for some time, it is drawn off by a rotary pump, and run into large casks and labelled."

By this time George was producing some 13,500 gallon on 45-acres of vines.

He won prizes in competitions both local and national, both for white and red wines. In 1893 the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria awarded George a silver medal, second prize for a red wine, light dry,

¹⁶ A vigneron is someone who cultivates grapes for wine making

1893 vintage. This medal is in the collection of Victoria Museums collections:



Both sides of the silver medal awarded to George Skyrme.
Top - reverse: Victoria surrounded by the heads of a horse, sheep and cow, a plough, wind mill and stables. In the background a ship powered by steam and sail leaves port and a light-house.
Bottom - obverse text around circumference: THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
Around edge (not shown): SECOND PRIZE, RED WINE LIGHT DRY, 1893 VINTAGE
(Copyright Museum Victoria; License - Creative Commons CC BY. Accessible at <http://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/79181>
Photographer: Jon Augier)

Rather than this silver medal, George probably regarded his finest achievement as gaining a bronze medal in the Australian wines section of the Grand Prix Brussels exhibition of September 1897.

In April 1906, after roughly 50 years of growing grapes, the vineyard was sold to Hans Irvine on George's retirement. Hans was well known in the Victoria wine industry and was said to be buying up to two thirds of the grapes from Great Western vineyard, much of the crop being distilled into brandy. At the time of his purchase he had just the year before become the first president of the Vitivulrual Society of Victoria. The vineyard was described as being 1000 acres in extent, "permanently watered by the Concongella Creek, and comprises some of the best land at Great Western... This plantation is one of the oldest and best known vineyards in the district."¹⁷

In his private life George was married to Charlotte Morris. They had at least five children, three daughters and two sons. The sons were George Villiers Skyrme who died in 1897 aged 28, and Charles Alfred who died in 1905 and was a vigneron like his father. George himself died in 1912 and Charlotte in 1915.

¹⁷ *The Leader* (Melbourne), Saturday 12th May 1906

6 SERVANTS AT COURT

It is inevitable that with large manors in a mainly agricultural county that many Skyrmes found themselves working as servants at the manor or on their estates. In Herefordshire many of these manors are called Courts. We noted earlier that some Skyrmes were actually owners or heads of households in such manors, These included Thomas Skyrme of Upper Court, Brockhampton and John Skyrme of Stretton Court. Another Skyrme worth mentioning is Richard Skyrme a farmer of 308 acres at Old Court, Kinnersley.

From 19th century censuses we get a glimpse of more lowly Skyrmes who nevertheless lived at Court.

Courts in and around Vowchurch

There were several courts in the Manor of Vowchurch but no building as such called Vowchurch Court. However, there is a Vowchurch Court Farm along the road from the church with several buildings around the complex (see photo):



The 1861 census show farmer Arthur Jones farming 240 acres and employing seven men and two boys. One of the boys was 15-year old Herbert Skyrme who was a plough boy. Herbert was the son of Emma Skyrme and probably illegitimate. Emma was a grand-daughter of James and Eleanor Seaborne (see page 9).

In 1901 After a gap of 40 years and a change of head of household we find two more Skyrmes at

Vowchurch Court Farm. These are 19 year old Albert Skyrme as a farm servant and his 14-year old cousin Mabel as a nurse.

On the outskirts of Vowchurch is Chanstone Court and here in 1881 we find 16-year old William Skyrme as a "farm servant (indoor)". Head of the household was William Fowler, a farmer of 352 acres employing two men and one boy. William was probably needed around the house since there was only him and a female servant for the household of nine family members. William was the son of William and Mary, also descendants of James and Eleanor. There is a record of William entering the Vowchurch National School on 26th June 1876 yet leaving only a month later.

A mile or so SE of Vowchurch is Monnington Court. At the 1891 census we find 21year old Emily Skyrme as a general domestic servant in the household of farmer John Jones. Emily was the daughter of Herbert mentioned in the previous column.

Courts further afield

One of the most intriguing census entries is that for Moccas Court in 1851. Servant Elizabeth Skyrme was one of about 20 serving the household of 17 year old Velters Cornwall. In *The Mansions of Herefordshire and Their Memories* (Rwv. Charles Robinson, 1873) it traces the Cornwall family's ownership of the manor back to the mid-16th century. Velters is the 4th baronet and a magistrate. Of the building (now a hotel) Robinson writes:

"we can only say that it reflects little credit upon the invention of its architects- the brothers Adam"
[architects of the Adelphi Terrace in London]

Velters later became Sir Velters Cornwall and there is a portrait of him in the National Portrait Gallery. Living in the household of bachelor Velters in 1851 were three sisters, his widowed mother, his brother-in-law (a magistrate for Gloucester), two nieces and a nephew. The full gamut of servants included ladies maids, housemaids, nurse, cook, butler and under butler, governess, housekeeper, footman and five grooms. So it was obviously a huge household. Like many Skyrme servants, Elizabeth had left the household by the next census.

7 NOT EVERY SKYRME WAS A FARMER

Being an agricultural county it is not surprising that many Skyrmes worked the land, either as farmers or agricultural labourers. But every now and then we come across families and descendants that follow other occupations. Some of these are covered below.

Building Trades

There is a line of Skyrme, starting with Samuel Skyrme of Vowchurch (b. ~1783) who were masons. Son John carried on the tradition and had moved to Hereford by 1841 where in turn his son became a bricklayer and later a builder.

Some time later three sons of farmer John Skyrme (b. 1870) of Pudleston - Leonard, Harold and Bernard - were in related building trades. While Leonard was a bricklayer, Harold and Bernard were carpenters. The family emigrated to the USA in 1910 and whereas Harold and Bernard remained carpenters, a fourth son Vincent became a machine press operator in Chicago.

Clothing Trades

Another Vowchurch family we have already met in Chapter 3 were tailors. These were John Skyrme (1778-1857) and his two sons John (b. 1807) and William (b 1812). A probably related individual, Arthur Skyrme, was initially a tailor, then an outfitter who by 1901 had moved to Keynsham near Bristol.

Thomas Skyrme born in Bromyard c. 1758 was a glover in 1791 as was also a Samuel Skyrme in Worcester about the same time. No doubt they were related. As we follow the descendants of the Worcester Skyrmes we find the girls also in related trades, such as milliner, hosier and hatter. From trade directories we also find men as practising hatters in the 1820s. Thomas Skyrme was a hatter and furrier in High Town, Hereford while William Skyrme was a hatter and hosier at 36 High Street, Worcester. Later in the century (1892) we find another Thomas Skyrme as a draper in the High Street, Droitwich.

Other Retail Trades

There are a smattering of other retail occupations. Often one individual who did not follow his or her

siblings as farm workers. For example, Ernest Skyrme (b. 1874) and son of Vowchurch agricultural labourer George Skyrme became a grocer. Another example is that of Arthur George Skyrme (b1870 in Cleeve, Somerset, son of gardener Arthur Skyrme of Moccas, who was a baker.

One family where the retail tradition carried down the generations was that of Edward Skyrme, the tanner who we met in Chapter 5. His son Edward became a grocer and in turn four of his sons were in retail - Henry and Harold were Chemists, Charles was a pharmacist and William an ironmonger. In 1888 Henry the chemist qualified as a medical practitioner and he practiced as a medic and later a surgeon in Cardiff. Another son Frank Elcho Skyrme became a vicar. He had an eventful career. This and the story of his descendants will be covered in the next edition of this document. For now, we shall follow the career of Harold the Chemist.

From Chemist to Vet

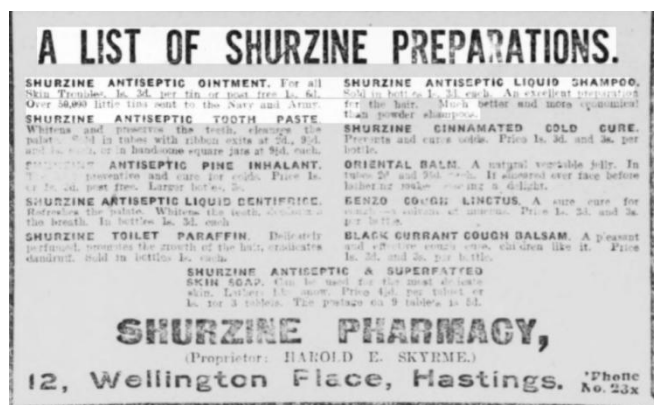


the service.

As just noted, Edward's children bettered themselves in moving from retail and gaining professional qualifications. Harold Edgar Skyrme was born in Cardiff in 1877. He married Ethel Hayter at Compton Pauncefoot, Somerset in 1902 where his brother the Rev. Frank Elcho Skyrme conducted

Initially he was apprenticed to his elder brother Charles (a chemist) who had moved to Sussex in the mid-1890s and ran Neve & Co., Chemists in Hastings. He then studied at the London Pharmaceutical School and became a qualified chemist and druggist in 1899. After returning to Hastings he opened another branch of his brother's business. In 1904 he applied for a licence to sell wine "to be drunk or consumed off the house and premises, thereupto belonging, situate at No. 12 Wellington Place." After his brother retired Harold took over both businesses which became known as the 'Shurzine Pharmacy'.

He is best known for developing the 'Shurzine preparation' an anti-septic healing ointment. In the first World War this was used extensively by the Army. He advertised weekly in the *Hastings and St. Leonards Observer*.



The advert states: "over 50,000 little tins sent to the Navy and Army". During the War, Harold joined the Hastings Special Constabulary in which he served with distinction. He later became a chief inspector and served until the year before his death in 1930.

Harold and Ethel had eight children, three of them boys. Their eldest son Edward took over the family business. Their youngest son Harold Percy Skyrme married Lancashire girl Raineach Rowly in 1946 and in 1951 they emigrated to New Zealand with their two young children. Their descendants live in New Zealand today.

Harold Percy Skyrme had started studying to be a veterinarian when World War II interrupted. After serving as a captain in the Royal Artillery, he resumed his studies at The Royal Veterinary College in London and qualified in 1949.¹⁸ He became an respected practitioner in the Gisborne area, near Wellington. In 1960 he joined the New Zealand Agriculture Department where he developed a successful advisory service to farmers and had a regular radio broadcast to them.

From Tea to Tobacco

We now return to Harold Edgar's father Edward (1830-1894) and follow his story and that of his brother Henry Amos Theophilus Skyrme. Their father, Edward the farmer and tanner, and his wife Ann had moved around 1827 to Monmouthshire, not far from where Ann's family lived.

Son Edward had started work as one of eight shop assistants in Blaenavon, Glamorgan at the premises of tea dealer/taster Israel Morgan. For a few years in the early 1860s he was in partnership with brother Henry at the Pentre Stores near Pontypridd. However, the partnership dissolved in 1866 as announced in *The London Gazette* of 11th September 1866:

"July 28th, 1866. NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership lately existing between Edward Skyrme and Henry Amos Theophilus Skyrme, as Grocers and General Dealers, at Pentre, Ystodyfodwg, in the county of Glamorgan, under the style of E. and H. Skyrme, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent."

While Edward continued at the store, Henry went onto different things. In March 1870 he married Mary Evans at Tredunnock not far from Newport, Monmouthshire. They had two sons, both having names fairly unique in the many Skyrme families:

- Theophilus Garfield Skyrme (1881-1960)
- Charles Ralph Skyrme (1873 - 1921)

The 1891 census sees the family in Saint Woollos, a suburb of Newport where Henry is listed as a tobacco manufacturer. He was obviously successful in that the family employed two servants. By 1901 he is the managing director. of The South Wales Tobacco Manufacturing Company whose factory was in Newport High Street. An article in the *South Wales Argus* of 28th October, 1893 says that the company has:

"recently introduced a new feature into their business, which is likely to be popular with the public, and will be profitable to the concern, namely: the manufacture of cigarettes. When the company was formed four years ago, cigarettes were not offered for sale, only tobacco and cigars, but after due consideration the directors decided to experiment in the manufacture and sale of cigarettes, as carried out in other large towns. The result has been highly satisfactory, not to say remarkable."

In the 1911 census Henry is described as a "gentleman" and director. The *London Gazette* reports the voluntary winding up of the business in April 1913. When he died in 1922 his estate was valued at £17,405 1s 11d, which included shares in the Great Western Railway Company. Probate was granted to son Theophilus "gentleman". He had obviously done well from the family business since he was then resident at the Manor House Stanford

¹⁸ Some details in this paragraph are from his obituary in *The New Zealand Veterinary Journal*, Vol 22, No. 5 (1974).

Dingley in Berkshire.¹⁹ One source indicates that Theophilus had managed a tobacco factory in Bulawayo (the Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe) in the early 20th century. In WW1 he served in The Rifle Brigade and when he left he had the rank of major, a title he used for the rest of his life. While serving in WW1 he had lost a leg as a result of injuries and gangrene. In later life he became a school bursar at Ascot in Berkshire.

The Infamous Solicitor

This is the story of John Henry Skyrme (1837-1873). Although John was born in Roath, a suburb of Cardiff, his father was John, a farmer from Ross and his mother Elizabeth née Jones from Sellack in Herefordshire.

After his father's death in Roath in 1843, the family moved back to Herefordshire since we find John living with his mother and sister at Sellack in 1851. By 1861 John had established himself as a solicitor in the High Street at Ross. Several leases and indentures at Herefordshire Archives and Records bear his signature. All above board so far. But after his death an extraordinary fraud came to light. *The Birmingham Post* reports that on 26th April 1873:

"The death of John Henry Skyrme, a solicitor in extensive practice at Ross, in Herefordshire, has caused great excitement in that locality... In two days he was buried, and the town, out of respect, partly closed all its shops."

It goes on to explain how he was a pillar of the community, holding various offices including Clerk to the Commissioners and Lieutenant of the Volunteers. He was apparently rich owning property around the town, as well as a landed estate near Ross and another, Court St. Lawrence, near Usk. The newspaper report continues:

"Scarcely had the grave been closed, however, before a strong revulsion of feeling ran through the town. People began to find that they were victims of fraud. Forgeries turned up at once of an astounding character - sham mortgages, suppression of deeds, sales of property previously mortgaged, involving ruin to numerous families."

The tradesmen of the town who had extended him credit were also cheated. There is conjecture that he might have poisoned himself since he made a will the

day before and he had had a fraught meeting with some creditors in Gloucester earlier in the day.

After his death rumours grew that he might not really be dead, that the burial might have been a sham and even that he may have gone to America. These rumours were put to rest when two years later when his wife died, the opportunity was taken to open and inspect his coffin. His body had only partially decomposed and his face was very recognisable.

There are no doubt other documents to find that will fill in more details of this infamous character.

Other Occupations

A future edition of this document will give more analysis of the occupations of Skyrmes and their changes over time. This will undoubtedly show the move towards office based jobs in the 20th century, such as clerks. Scanning through records already in the database, here are some of the other occupations that feature:

- Shirt manufacturer
- Commercial traveller
- Horse dealer
- Hurdle maker
- Printer
- Surveyor
- Teacher
- Timekeeper
- Traffic Acts consultant
- Victualler / inn keeper

¹⁹ This property was on the market in Autumn 2012 for £3.25m

8 EMIGRATION - BY INTENT AND OTHERWISE

We have noticed in passing Skyrmes who have migrated to Canada or been transported to Australia. Here is a brief round-up of some of the main migrations that have been identified to date.

USA

At least two Herefordshire families emigrated to the USA in the 19th century.

The first was that of Arthur James Skyrme (b 1864) who was initially a famer in Norton Canon. After moving with his family to farm in Radnorshire in the late 19th century, by 1910 he is farming in Garfield Nebraska. He died in 1934 in Charles City, Iowa.

The second is John Skyrme born in Pudleston around 1870. After marrying and farming in the area, and then near Leominster, he moved with his wife Annie and their seven children - Leonard, Harold, Doris, Mabel, Vincent, Bernard and Amy - for a new life in Wauconda, Illinois. They left Liverpool for New York on 23rd April 1910 on *RMS Carmania*. After settling in Illinois the boys moved to Chicago some time later and their occupations in 1940 were carpenter, bricklayer and machine press operator.



RMS Carmania (Source: wikipedia.org)

As well as these two immigrant families one person whose name appears regularly on transatlantic passenger lists was Charles George Skyrme (1865-1943). He was first mentioned on page 20 as the chemist brother of Harold Edgar Skyrme. After his first wife Catherine (née Sayles) died in Hastings in 1901 he married Kate Meta Smith from Maryland. One of his first voyages to the USA was by himself in 1909 where he sailed on *SS Corsican* from Liverpool

entering the USA at Vermont, giving his final destination as Seattle. There is then a gap until 1923 when we find him travelling with Kate. Between then and 1936 the couple travelled to many other places including Tangiers, Honolulu, Lisbon and Sudan. A 1910 record give his residence as Baltimore but London electoral registers give their address in the 1920s and 1930s as the fashionable 24 Thorney Court, overlooking Kensington Gardens. Such travel and residence exude wealth, so did he achieve this through his business interests or did he marry into money? The occupation given on his voyages in the 1920s and 1930s either say "independent" or "gentleman". In 1943 He died a month after I was born close to where I live now (Newbury). His estate was valued at probate at £33,844 14s 8d.

Another migrant to the USA was George William Skyrme (b 1894) from Canon Pyon. There is a passenger record of him travelling as a 27-year old single salesman in 1921 via Canada to California. Little more is known as yet of his ultimate destination and future career.

Canada

The emigration of Ernest Skyrme, another farmer from Pudleston, to the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia, along with his brother Thomas, has already been covered (pages 15-16).

Another migrant to British Columbia was Albert Victor Skyrme (1892-1964). He was the son of Richard Skyrme a farmer from Canon Pyon. He emigrated in 1911 when a farm labourer and just 18, travelling from Southampton to Quebec. Canadian poll books from the 1930s to 1950s show him married and a mill worker living in Port Alberni. His death certificate describes him as a former labourer in a lumber mill.

Australia

The forced transportation of Benjamin Skyrme in the first half of the 19th century has been mentioned in Chapter 4. We also noted the sterling work of vigneron George Skyrme in Victoria during the latter part of the 19th and early 20th century.

But Benjamin was not the first Herefordshire Skyrme to be transported for misdemeanours in England. There is a record of Edward Skurm being one of 158 convicts transported on the ship *Lord Sidmouth* on 20th September 1818. The 36-year old "tavern waiter" from Hereford was convicted to 7 years transportation at The Old Bailey on 14th January. In the record of his trial he is accused of stealing one watch, worth 20 shillings from Samuel Crane a coffee shop keeper in London on 12th December 1817.²⁰ He then asked Ann White to pawn it for him, and received 10 shillings. He was found guilty of grand larceny. On the transportation record his height is given as 5ft 3½in and his complexion ruddy.



On board a convict ship (Source: vcp.e2bn.org)

In today's terms this could be called quick justice. It is quite sobering to read one page of the records of Hereford Assizes in 1822. In it one James Skyrme along with Benjamin Green are accused of cutting down a timber fence. There are four columns in the right hand page of the book are Death - Transportation - Imprisonment - Acquittal. Whereas James and Benjamin were acquitted, there are eight death sentences out of the 17 entries. The crimes were burglary and stealing.

Another conviction around that time was that of Richard Skyrme from Eaton Bishop. Aged 21 he was convicted at Herefords Assizes on 12th July 1826 for stealing two hog pigs. He was transported for 7 years.

In terms of voluntary migration, so far the following emigrants have been found:

- Robert Skyrme, a brother of Albert Skyrme who emigrated to Canada, is listed as a 24-year old single

farmer travelling to Freemantle on *SS Ophir* in October 1914.

- Arthur Skyrme of Bredwardine, 28-year old farm worker travelling from London to Sydney in 1922.
- Archibald Godfrey Skyrme, who may be the son of Joseph Skyrme of Bodenham. The 28-year old emigrated to Queensland, travelling from Plymouth to Brisbane in 1918.

There are a few other Skyrme passenger records, but these either seem to be visiting relatives or cannot definitely be linked to the Herefordshire Skyrmes.

²⁰ *Proceeding of the Old Bailey* accessible at <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

9 SOME COLOURFUL CHARACTERS

As ever more newspaper archives come online one comes across many references to Skyrme.²¹ The usual family notices of births, marriages and deaths help in the building of family trees. But it is the stories that provide context of their lives. However, being news media, everyday life is hardly new but court proceedings and scandals are. In this section we start with some reports of relatively minor offences and continue with stories of a more interesting nature.

Straying from the straight and narrow

In September 1867 Joseph Skyrme, a farmer from Norton Canon was fined 3 shillings with 8s 6d costs for allowing sheep to stray onto the roads. Just a few months earlier he had been charged with moving cattle along the highway without a license. A police constable had seen his son driving two cows along the road from Norton Canon to Hurstley, Letton and then through the toll gate at Kinnersley. When asked to produce a licence the son said that there was one at home but it was not filled in. Joseph was fined 20s with 9s 6d costs.



The road at Calver Hill, Norton Canon

In the same year a "young" John Skyrme and "an aged white-haired man" Walter Terry, both labourers from Canon Bridge, were hauled in from of the River Wye Conservators accused of catching salmon using a net of too small a mesh. The quite detailed report²²

there was discussion as to whether they were really fishing for salmon since only pike and roach were found in their boat. In their defence a Mr Langwarne stressed to the magistrates that they should not be convicted without definitive proof. So the pair were then charged with "fishing in the private water of the Lord of the Manor of Eaton Bishop". But there was then heated discussion as to whether this was correct since another local landowner had given them permission to fish in Bugwall Pool and other places:

"Mr Gowland: Then you dispute the Bishop's right?

Mr Langwarne: Most assuredly we do"

After many more exchanges in court about who had what rights and precisely where, the four magistrates deliberated and concluded:

"On the first charge, that of using a net having an illegal mesh, to be proved upon very probable evidence."

As a result the pair were fined the maximum amount £5 with 8s costs. On the second charge the magistrates did consider that they had jurisdiction but only fined them 5s each. The pair had two weeks to pay the fines or else they would be imprisoned for two months for each offence.

'Clelonger Farmer's Dangerous Driving' ran the headline in the *Gloucester Citizen* of 4th July 1930. Joseph Henry Skyrme a farmer at Gethfield, Clelonger was summoned for driving a car in Belmont Road, Hereford "to the danger of the public". Joseph's car was seen zig-zagging along and knocking over a cyclist who was then covered in a pool of blood. The car then drove on for over 100 yards before stopping. Joseph was fined £50 and his license suspended indefinitely, a "life disqualification". Apparently he had received 13 previous motoring convictions. On one previous occasion he had been fined £20 with a 15 months suspension for being drunk in charge of a car.

Disappearing Amos

As noted in Chapter 5 Amos Jones Skyrme (b. 1788) was the second son of William and Mary Skyrme of Dewsall Court. He initially trained as a surgeon in Alcester Warwickshire, this profession being listed in

²¹ The source of most of these stories are from the *British Newspaper Archive* at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk accessible at www.findmypast.co.uk

²² *Hereford Journal* 30 June 1847

the 1818 Hereford poll book. However, a later Pigot's Directory (1830) lists him as a tanner and glue manufacturer at the family tannery in Widemarsh Street mentioned earlier. But In March of that year he was declared bankrupt. In this matter he appears in no less than five entries in *The Gazette* in the next few months where he is described as a tanner, dealer and chapman.²³ The various mentions relate to calling creditors to come forward, the holding of creditors meetings and determining final dividend pay-outs.

After his bankruptcy Amos seems to have taken flight to America as the following extract from a notice in the *Hereford Journal* of 30th August 1854 indicates:

"Whereas Amos Jones Skyrme, in or about the year 1830, being then about 47 years of age, left the City of Hereford for America; and was last heard of there in 1839; and whereas his wife Frances Anne Skyrme, late of Wear-End in the parish of Bridstow, died July 29th 1851, having made her Will in which she has named her said Husband a Legatee...And any person who will give any satisfactory information to the said solicitors as to where the said Amos Jones Skyrme is now, or, if dead, when and where he died, shall be rewarded."

Deserter and Bigamist

'Capture of a notorious criminal; ran the headline in the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* of 23 Feb 1881. It refers to Mark Skyrme who was charged with being a deserter from the 34th brigade depot at Exeter. Mark, born in 1850 in Madley, was the son of Joseph Skyrme of Vowchurch and Harriet née Preedy of Little Birch. He had enlisted in 1876.

Two days later more information came out. He had apparently deserted his wife and two children in Herefordshire. The paper notes:

"While in the regiment the prisoner was an extremely troublesome fellow, and frequently broke out of barracks, and stayed away without leave for days together."

He had deserted on the 9th August 1880 and was being sought by the police since then. He married bigamously in December 1879 and after desertion his second wife lived with him for a while in Warwickshire, but had to seek police protection from his beating. He had earlier been convicted of several

offences in Herefordshire including a house breaking in Abbey Dore and a theft in Vowchurch. After his desertion his first wife was found living "in service" and described Mark as "a respectable and industrious person". The paper goes on to describe how he was tracked down, despite rumours of him having travelled to America. The trail took the police to Devonshire and Monmouthshire before finally capturing him in Exeter. Mark was sent to jail but the papers do not say for how long. However, the Hereford quarter sessions record of April show him as being acquitted of housebreaking and stealing. But at the Worcester sessions in August he was convicted of 3 months hard labour for receiving stolen property. He was originally indicted for breaking in and stealing a watch at Little Kyre, near Tenbury, the previous November, while a deserter. But since the evidence was circumstantial on this count the court found him guilty of the receiving offence.

Who was Trixie Skyrme?



This story of intrigue was printed in the magazine section of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* of 26th September 1926. A "dashing" Josephine O'Dare was nicknamed the "Racing Queen" because of her knowledge of the turf. She had claimed to be the daughter of a rich banker from Mayfair in London.

²³ The term chapman typically referred to a pedlar or itinerant seller. However, it could mean someone who bought in raw materials and used freelancers to turn them into finished goods. It's not clear which sense is used here.

She was described as "an alluring young girl of about twenty one or twenty two who rode every morning in fashionable Hyde Park". Her high life style often saw her at the tables of Monte Carlo. But after crashing into bankruptcy it became clear that she was not all that she claimed to be. The Official Receiver produced a birth certificate that showed that she was not the daughter of Irish aristocracy but of a British labourer, and that her real name was Trixie Skyrme!

There are several court documents in 1927 under the name Josephine O'Dare indicting her for obtaining sums of £650 each from two people under false pretences and also passing forged cheques (one apparently signed by John Skyrme). A 1928 "List of Persons coming within the provisions of section 5,7 and 8 of The Prevention of Crime Act 1871" lists her as Josephine O'Dare alias Theresa Agnes Skyrme, born Hereford 1898. From this information we ascertain that she was the daughter of John Skyrme of Canon Pyon and Mary née Riley. The 1901 census lists her as being born in the village of Wellington, while the newspaper article says Homer Cottage, Hereford.

In court she spun a story about being born in Shanghai, and coming to Ireland or England when about three and took the Skyrme surname from her adopted mother. She confirmed in court that she went to live at Barton Manor in Hereford when she was fourteen but denied being known later as Mrs Houghton. At a second court case she pleaded guilty to several charges.

The 1928 list shows her being sentenced to 4½ years imprisonment on 17th May 1927, and being released on 20th June 1930 from Walton Prison, Liverpool. Her co-conspirator in her fraud was sentenced to 12 years.

What happened to her after her release was initially unclear as no normal records used in research were found. In the words of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* after the first court case:

"The beautiful racing queen remains as much a mystery as ever."

However, the interest in her exploits has sparked interest by other researchers, most notably Matt Houlbrook, Professor of Cultural History at the

University of Birmingham.²⁴ He reports, for instance, that she was stopped from leaving the country on a false passport in 1926. She subsequently used the name Miss Joan Brooks after being adopted around 1931 Arthur Brooks. She died in August 1951 apparently from an overdose sleeping tablets. The *Yorkshire Evening Post* of 11th September describes her as a "martyr to insomnia and nerves". The official verdict was "death from hypostatic pneumonia and acute bronchitis consequent upon barbituric poisoning self-administered and taken in circumstances not fully disclosed by the evidence".

Ever in the limelight, after her prison release, she took to suing the owners of *Reynolds Illustrated News* for libel for publishing an article in 1933 'My Life and Lovers'. She was awarded a farthing in costs with each side being asked to pay their own court costs.

²⁴ There are several blog entries about Josephine O'Dare in Matt Houlbrook's blog *The Trickster Prince* at <https://tricksterprince.wordpress.com/>

10 NEXT STEPS

As stated in the Preface this One Name Study is an ongoing process, and this publication is a first edition, in order to get some information into the public realm in a timely fashion.

Some of the tasks to be tackled in the near future include:

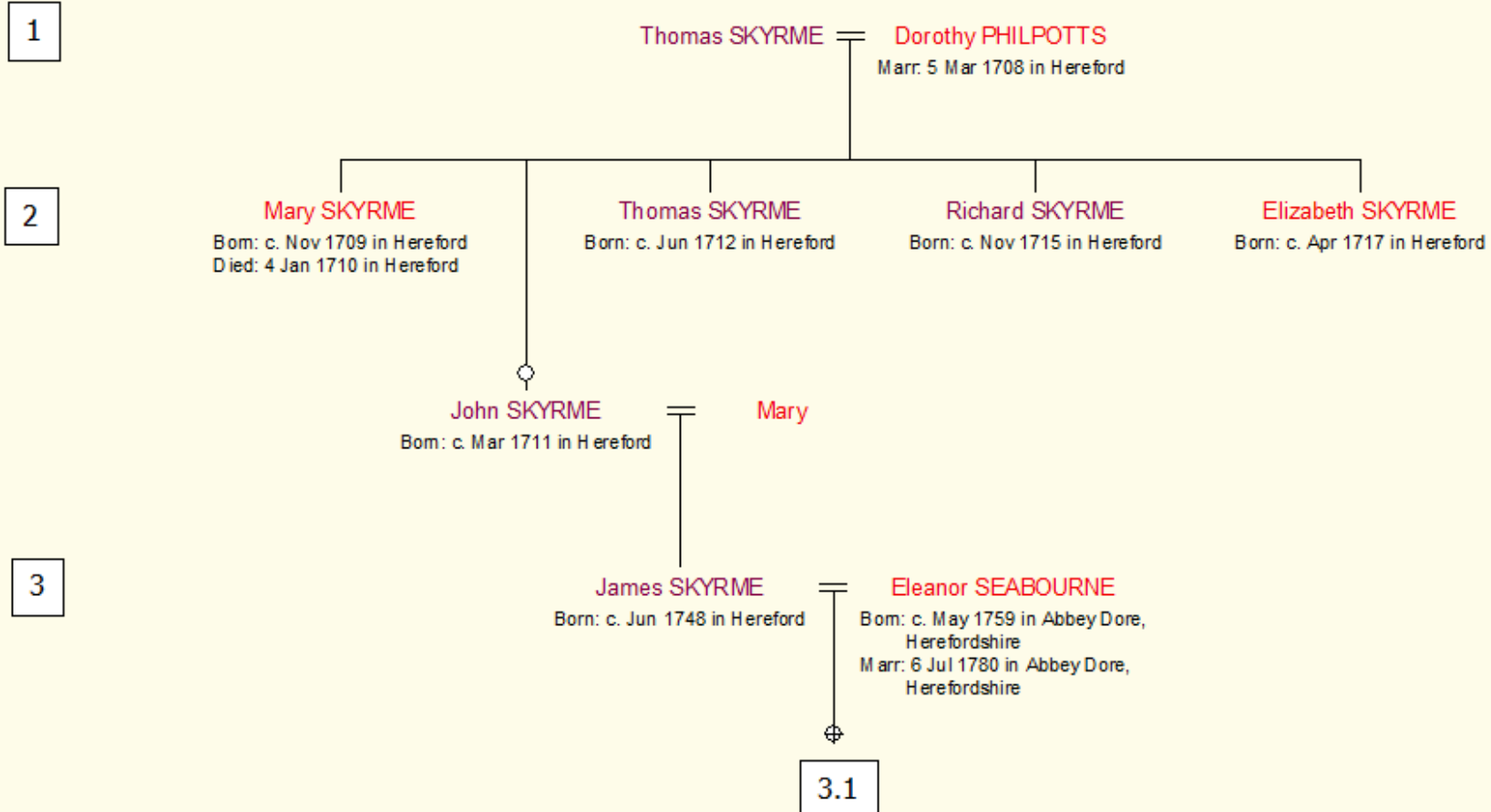
1. Constructing family trees from the raw data. The Vowchurch tree is the one most advanced so far and extracts from this are included in the Appendix.
2. Making connections, where possible, between the clusters of Skyrmes in different locations, e.g. how are the Skyrmes of Ludlow connected to the Skyrmes of Norton Canon? This may not be possible with a high degree of certainty due to the limited information pre-19th century and the recurrence of popular names, such as John and William.
3. Filling in more contextual detail from less accessible sources, such as wills, leases, trade directories and newspaper reports.
4. Developing trees for the USA descendants of Herefordshire Skyrmes.
5. Carrying out various analyses, such as migration patterns, occupation analysis, life span analysis.
6. Providing more localised distribution maps, such as that shown in Chapter 1.

There is no set timetable for when the next edition will be published, but hopefully the next major update will be available within 6-12 months. If readers provide corrections or more substantive material on people and places mentioned, then minor updates come sooner.

The author's immediate next task is to update *The Skyrmes of Pembrokeshire (1) - Penally & Manorbier*. Since its publication in 1911 significant new material has been collected and readers have contributed new and corrected information.

APPENDIX - VOWCHURCH TREE (PARTIAL)

This is a partial family tree extracted from the database. Numbers in boxes on the left refer to generation numbers. Numbers at the bottom refer to family group numbers which are continued on other pages



3.1

James SKYRME
Born: c. Jun 1748 in Hereford

Eleanor SEABOURNE
Born: c. May 1759 in Abbey Dore, Herefordshire
Marr: 6 Jul 1780 in Abbey Dore, Herefordshire

Thomas SKYRME
Born: c. Jun 1782 in Abbey Dore, Herefordshire

Samuel SKYRME
Born: 25 Dec 1784 in Abbey Dore, Herefordshire

James SKYRME
Born: 30 Jul 1787 in Abbey Dore, Herefordshire
Died: Oct 1788 in Abbey Dore, Herefordshire

James SKYRME
Born: 19 Jul 1789 in Abbey Dore, Herefordshire

Alice SEABORN
Born: c. 1786 in Eaton Bishop, Herefordshire
Marr: 21 Dec 1809 in Eaton Bishop, Herefordshire

William SKYRME
a.k.a. William SKYRM
Born: 12 Nov 1792 in Abbey Dore, Herefordshire
Died: c. Aug 1861 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire
Occup: Agricultural labourer 1851

Mary
Born: 1791 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire
Died: c. Feb 1869 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire

John SKYRME
Born: 7 Mar 1795 in Abbey Dore, Herefordshire
Occup: Agricultural labourer 1861

Margaret LLOYD
Born: 1799 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire

Benjamin SKYRME
Born: c. Jan 1800 in Hereford

Joseph SKYRME
Born: c. Mar 1804 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire

4.2

James SKYRME
Born: c. 1821 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire

Joseph SKYRME
Born: c. May 1822 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire

Harriet PREEDY
Born: c. Jun 1816 in Little Birch, Herefordshire
Marr: 13 Jun 1843 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire
Occup: Agricultural labourer 1851

Emma SKYRME
Born: c. May 1824 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire

Mark SKYRME
Born: c. 1827 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire

Emma SEABORNE
Born: 1835 in Peterchurch, Herefordshire
Marr: 4 Feb 1856

William SKYRME
Born: c. 1835 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire

5.1

5.2

William JOHNSON
Born: 1820 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire
Marr: 7 Feb 1841 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire
Occup: Agricultural labourer 1861

5.3

Harriet SKYRME
Born: c. Mar 1820 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire

John SKYRME
Born: c. Aug 1823 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire

5.4

Elizabeth CHRISTOPHER
Born: 1824 in Tiberton, Herefordshire
Marr: c. Nov 1846 in Hereford

Stephen SKYRME
Born: c. Jan 1827 in Dorstone, Herefordshire
Died: 29 Apr 1866 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire
Occup: Woodman 1861

5.5

Elizabeth JOHNSON
Born: 1829
Marr: c. Aug 1847
Died: 14 Mar 1905 in Vowchurch, Herefordshire
Occup: Seamstress 1871

4.2

William SKYRME
a.k.a. William SKYRM
Born: 12 Nov 1792 in Abbey Dore,
Herefordshire
Died: c. Aug 1861 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Mary
Born: 1791 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: c. Feb 1869 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

William SKYRME
Born: c. Nov 1817 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: c. Nov 1879 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Mary PRITCHARD
Born: c. 1821 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Marr: c. Feb 1849 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Thomas SKYRME
Born: c. Apr 1820 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

J JOHNSON

Emma SKYRME
Born: c. Feb 1824 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Benjamin William SKYRME
Born: c. Jan 1827 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: 1897

Mary Ann DUCKWORTH
Born: 1849
Marr: 26 Nov 1866 in Kempton,
Tasmania

James SKYRME
Born: c. Nov 1829

Charles SKYRME
Born: c. Sep 1830 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

George SKYRME
Born: c. Sep 1833 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: Jan 1912 in Pwllmeyric,
Monmouthshire

Maria E BOWKER
Born: c. 1843 in Bodenham,
Herefordshire
Marr: c. Nov 1863 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: c. May 1923 in Chepstow

John SKYRME
Born: c. 1834 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Jessie SKYRME
Born: c. May 1839 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Sarah SKYRME

Born: c. 1849 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: c. Jan 1857 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Jane SKYRME

Born: c. Oct 1850 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Ephraim SKYRME

Born: c. Aug 1859 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: c. Jun 1860 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

William SKYRME

Born: 18 Feb 1864 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Herbert SKYRME

Born: c. Jan 1846 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

William John SKYRME

Bap: 22 Jul 1869 in Richmond,
Tasmania
Died: 1935 in West Wallsend, NSW

Clara SKYRME

Born: 8 Mar 1887 in Jerusalem,
Tasmania

Herbert George SKYRME

Bap: 3 Aug 1871 in Richmond,
Tasmania

5.5

5.1

Joseph SKYRME
Born: c. May 1822 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Harriet PREEDY
Born: c. Jun 1816 in Little Birch,
Herefordshire
Marr: 13 Jun 1843 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Mark SKYRME

Born: c. May 1850 in Madley,
Herefordshire

5.3

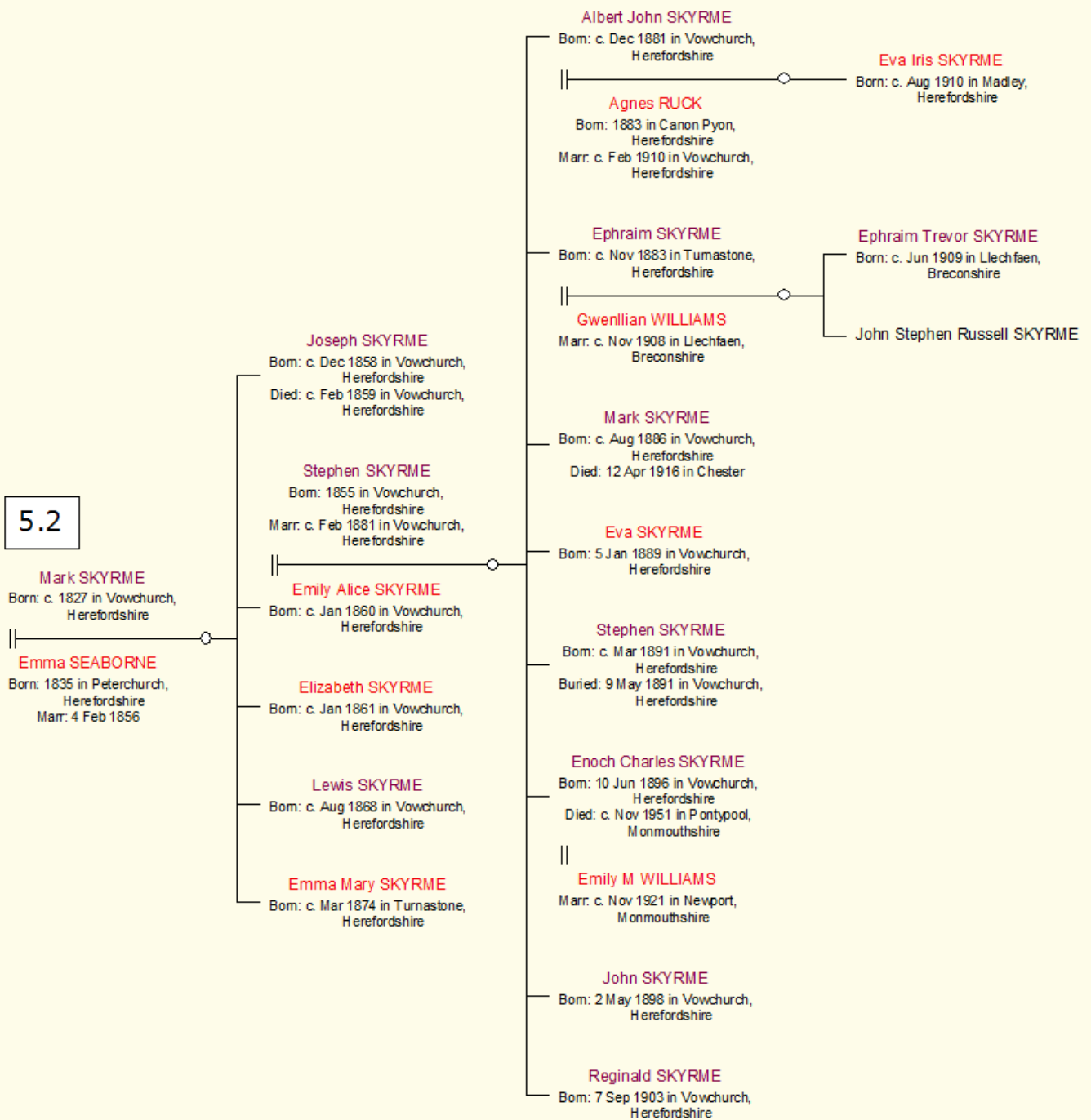
William JOHNSON
Born: 1820 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Harriet SKYRME
Born: c. Mar 1820 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Marr: 7 Feb 1841 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Francis JOHNSON

Born: 1843 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

5.2



5.4

John SKYRME
Born: c. Aug 1823 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
||
Elizabeth CHRISTOPHER
Born: 1824 in Tiberton, Herefordshire
Marr: c. Nov 1846 in Hereford

John SKYRME
Born: 1848 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Arthur SKYRME
Born: c. Feb 1851 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
||

Louisa
Born: 1857 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Marr: c. Feb 1879 in Herefordshire

Stephen SKYRME
Born: 1855 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
||

Emily Alice SKYRME
Born: c. Jan 1860 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Marr: c. Feb 1881 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Julia SKYRME
Born: 1857 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Eliza SKYRME
Born: 1860 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Charles SKYRME
Born: 1864 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
||

Sophia GRIFFITHS
Born: 1868 in Llandilo, Monmouthshire
Marr: c. Aug 1886 in Hereford

6.1

Albert John SKYRME
Born: c. Dec 1881 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
||

Agnes RUCK
Born: 1883 in Canon Pyon,
Herefordshire
Marr: c. Feb 1910 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Ephraim SKYRME
Born: c. Nov 1883 in Turnastone,
Herefordshire
||

Gwenllian WILLIAMS
Marr: c. Nov 1908 in Llechfaen,
Breconshire

Mark SKYRME
Born: c. Aug 1886 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: 12 Apr 1916 in Chester

Eva SKYRME
Born: 5 Jan 1889 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Stephen SKYRME
Born: c. Mar 1891 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Buried: 9 May 1891 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Enoch Charles SKYRME
Born: 10 Jun 1896 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: c. Nov 1951 in Pontypool,
Monmouthshire
||

Emily M WILLIAMS
Marr: c. Nov 1921 in Newport,
Monmouthshire

John SKYRME
Born: 2 May 1898 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Reginald SKYRME
Born: 7 Sep 1903 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Mabel Grace SKYRME
Born: 6 Jun 1886 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Bertha SKYRME
Born: 1889 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Olive SKYRME
Born: 1890 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

5.5

George SKYRME

Born: c. Sep 1833 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: Jan 1912 in Pwllmeyric,
Monmouthshire

Maria E BOWKER

Born: c. 1843 in Bodenham,
Herefordshire
Marr: c. Nov 1863 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: c. May 1923 in Chepstow

Lewis SKYRME

Born: c. Aug 1864 in Turnastone,
Herefordshire

Dora BURFITT

Born: 1868
Marr: 5 Feb 1891 in Bathurst, NSW

Albert George SKYRME

Born: 18 Oct 1866 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire
Died: c. May 1940 in Bridgend,
Glamorgan

Elizabeth Mary BOYCE

Born: c. Aug 1874 in Cardiff
Marr: 3 Jul 1893 in Mitchel Troy,
Monmouthshire
Died: c. Nov 1943 in Pontypridd

Olive SKYRME

Born: c. Oct 1868 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Howard SKYRME

Born: c. Jan 1872 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Ernest Henry SKYRME

Born: c. Nov 1874 in Vowchurch,
Herefordshire

Absalom SKYRME

Born: c. Nov 1878 in St Arvans,
Monmouthshire

George SKYRME

Born: c. May 1880 in St Arvans,
Monmouthshire

Olive Elsie SKYRME

Born: c. Nov 1893 in Tynewydd,
Glamorgan

Olga Ethel SKYRME

Born: c. Nov 1894 in Tynewydd,
Glamorgan

Edith Estella SKYRME

Born: c. Nov 1895 in Blackmill,
Glamorgan

Bertha SKYRME

Born: c. Feb 1898 in Tynewydd,
Glamorgan

Hilda SKYRME

Born: c. Aug 1901 in Abersychan,
Monmouthshire

Rhoda SKYRME

Born: 1903 in Abersychan,
Monmouthshire

Ralph Reginald SKYRME

Born: 1907 in Abersychan,
Monmouthshire

Albert George SKYRME

Born: 1910 in Abersychan,
Monmouthshire

6.1

