

The Skyrmes of Pembrokeshire

(1) Manorbier and Penally



David J Skyrme

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The Skyrmes of Manorbier and Penally

Do You Know Your Skyrmes? 10 Interesting Facts

During my research some interesting facts have been uncovered. Here are 10 teasers. You'll find the answers in the text that follows. And if you are interested in finding out sooner, go to the answers on page 41.

1. Which Skyrme went north using one Christian name and came back to Wales with another?
2. Who dropped the surname Skyrme and used a version of their middle name as their surname?
3. Who was the object of an attempted (but failed) murder?
4. Who was shipwrecked just 200 yards off the coast at Whitby and was lashed by gales and high seas before being rescued 50 hours later?
5. Which were the most popular boy's and girl's Christian name up to 1900?
6. Why was a London Metropolitan policeman stationed in Pembroke?
7. Why didn't *HMS Pembroke* go to sea?
8. Which family did two male Skyrmes marry into, who are believed to have descended from a 7th century king?
9. When was the first census where the majority of Pembrokeshire Skyrmes lived outside of Pembrokeshire?
10. What mode of transport did the Skyrme shipwrights from Monkton use to get their job in Pembroke Dockyard?

Cover photos: James Thomas Skyrme and Ellen circa 1908 (left); Edna, Jim and baby David (myself) 1945 (top right); Ellen Skyrme (née Harrison) circa 1914 (bottom centre); James Thomas and Jim circa 1935 (bottom right).

Preface

This document is the first output of my renewed research into my descendents. Although I have always had an interest, this work started in the mid-1990s culminating in the launch of the family history website www.skyrme.info on St. David's Day (1st March) 1995. Further work took a back seat until after retirement, but resumed in earnest in late 2010 following taking out a subscription to Ancestry.co.uk.

Compared with 15 years ago, there are now many more useful records available online. Having a fairly unusual name has had its pros and cons. On the plus side, when finding a Skyrme, you are not faced with scrutinising scores of records to find the right one. On the other hand, being an unfamiliar surname it is frequently mis-read by transcribers, meaning that you struggle to find a record that you are sure should be there. This accounts for quite a few gaps in this document.

Having started research on my direct ancestors, it did not take long to decide to explore collateral relatives – siblings of my direct ancestors and their descendants. And so this document represents those Skyrmes who are descendants of John Skyrme who around 1775 moved from Ludchurch to Manorbier, where five of his six children were born.

It goes without saying that compiling this research is not an individual effort. I would like to acknowledge the work done by others who have researched the Skyrmes of Pembrokeshire, usually as part of their family trees, and who have shared their findings on Ancestry.co.uk and other websites. In particular I would like to thank those who have responded willingly to my enquiries.

It is also a truism that research such as this is never finished. New information comes to light and errors are found. I therefore welcome any feedback or additional information that will help to improve this document.

What next? My next output will concern one of the branches on my mother's side – the Yardys of the Fens. However, I have considerable material on the Skyrmes of Llangwm and this will surely be the subject of a future document.

In the meantime, I hope you find this material as fascinating as I have.

David J Skyrme
Hlghclere
November 2011

Introduction

Researchers of the Skyrmes in Pembrokeshire have found three clusters that they have (so far) been unable to connect. These are:

11. Skirmes (later Skyrmes) of Llawhaden. Of the landed gentry and written about in *The Llawhaden* book, their line seems to have died out in Llawhaden by the early 1800s, though it seems some descendents moved to Laugharne about then.
12. Skyrms of Llangwm. Mostly fishermen and ferrymen, who stayed in the local area throughout the 19th century.
13. Skyrmes of Manorbier / Penally. This is my branch of the family, which started as agricultural labourers but gained trades, mostly as shipwrights, and moved to Pembroke (Monkton) for work in the royal dockyard in the mid 1800s.

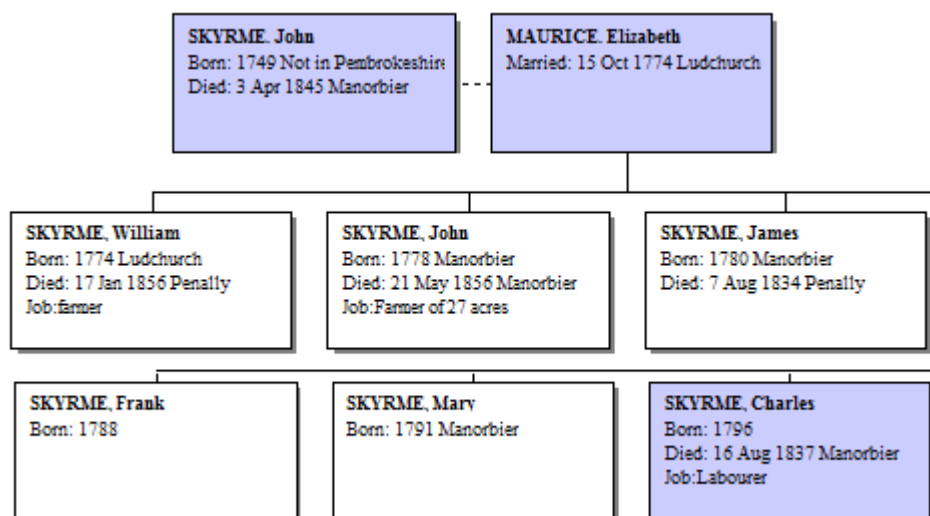
Spelling of the name was quite variable in early Victorian times – with variants Skyrm, Skyrmes and Skyrme all in use. My own ancestor (George Skyrme b. 1819) was spelt Skyrmes in early documents, and one Monkton group retained this spelling throughout the 1800s. Similarly a group around Penally retained the spelling Skyrm.

At the time of the 1841 census, the Skyrmes were concentrated in three locations – Penally (5 families and 19 individuals), Manorbier (3 families and 10 individuals) and Llangwm (2 families, 13 people). My own great great grandparents, George and Eliza, were at Bear in Manorbier. By 1851 they had moved to Monkton on the outskirts of Pembroke.

This document covers the Skyrmes of Manorbier and Penally. Subsequent documents will cover the other branches of Skyrmes in Pembrokeshire.

Skyrmes of Manorbier

Thanks to the work of Clive Pinch in the 1990s, who created Skyrme family trees from transcribing parish records, we think that the earliest ancestor of the Manorbier Skyrmes was a John Skyrme b1749 but “not in Pembrokeshire”. Could he be a missing link to the Herefordshire Skyrmes?



John was over 95 when he died; when he was born the average life expectancy of a man was just over 40

John married Elizabeth Maurice (which would be spelt Morris today) in Ludchurch, about 11 miles north east of Manorbier. After they had their first child William there in 1774, they had their other five children in Manorbier from 1778, of which my ancestor Charles was the youngest.

It seems that James moved to Penally about 1813 followed 2-3 years later by his eldest brother William. Both Johns (father and son) and Charles remained in Manorbier. The eldest three sons had 21 children between them while we think that Charles was father to just one, George (b 12 Dec 1819).¹

You will note that the eldest children of John and Elizabeth were farmers in their own right while Charles (my ancestor) was merely a farm labourer. Their farms were in Manorbier (Green Grove), Penally and Llangan. We'll trace their trees later in this chapter. We know little about Charles as he died at the relatively young age of 41. His wife, Jane, however, survived him by 20 years. Also his father John lived to the ripe old age of 96 as a lodger of John Evans (another farm labourer) and his family of four just a few houses along. In the 1841 census Jane is shown as living with her son George, his wife Eliza and their 9 month old son Charles, next to the Beerhouse. She was no doubt a great help around the household, since George and Eliza had seven children all living at home when she died in 1857.

While his uncles and brothers were farmers, George was the first in the family to become a shipwright, while living at Jameston near Manorbier. He wanted all his sons to learn a skilled trade, and as we shall see, the shipwright and carpentry tradition was strong in this branch of the family from that time. It should also be noted, that quite a few Skyrmes in other branches of the family were also shipwrights (see Occupations).

The rest of this chapter will go through the branches of John and Elizabeth's descendents starting with my branch of the family. As well as my branch there is significant information on the descendents of the first three sons. We have no further information on Frank. Mary married a John Evans from Amroth, had four children and lived at Kilnhouse, Manorbier. Her branch has not been traced.

George Skyrme (1819 – 1876) & Eliza

George (1819-1876) married Eliza(beth) Thomas (1818-1897) of Castlemartin in December 1839, just a week after his 20th birthday. Around 1846, sometime after the birth of their fourth child George Thomas, the family moved to Monkton Lane, that part of Pembroke which was the location of the family home into the 20th century. Altogether, over a period of 20 years from 1840-1860, they had 11 children, three of whom died as young children (Table 1). Perhaps after a succession of 9 boys they were desperate for a girl. Unfortunately both girls – Elizabeth and Maria – did not survive their second birthdays. All but one of the boys that reached adulthood – seven of them – became shipwrights. The family bible gives little snippets on most of the children:

- “Charles went to Sheerness dockyard Sept 1867”

¹ Clive Pinch's research suggested that Charles was also father to a James Skyrme(b 1823 Manorbier), and this error has been propagated in several family trees on Ancestry.co.uk. However, examination of the certificate of his marriage shows that he was the son of John (b 1778).

- “William died 22/9/1864 age 22”
- “David lost overboard July 4th 1901 age 57”

Table 1 – The Family of George and Eliza Skyrme

<p>George SKYRME b: 12 December 1819, Manorbier d: 7 April 1876 +Eliza(beth) THOMAS b: 7 August 1818, Castlemartin m: 15 December 1839, Pembroke St Mary d: 4 June 1897 . . .1 - Charles SKYRME b: 26 August 1840 d: 22 March 1908, Poplar, London . . .2- William SKYRME b: 8 April 1842, Manorbier d: 22 September 1864 . . .3 - David SKYRME b: 12 June 1844, Manorbier d: 4 July 1901 . . .4- George Thomas SKYRME b: 29 December 1846, Manorbier d: about May 1929, Portsmouth . . .5 - James Thomas SKYRME b: 4 May 1849, St Mary Pembroke d: 2 January 1905</p>	<p>. . .6 - Francis SKYRME b: 8 April 1851, Monkton d: 14 August 1853 . . .7 - Francis John (aka Frank) SKYRME b: 27 August 1852, Monkton d: 27 February 1896 . . .8 - John Thomas SKYRME b: 5 August 1854, Pembroke St Mary d: 27 May 1903, Portsmouth . . .9 - Thomas SKYRME b: 14 February 1857, Pembrokeshire d: 17 May 1932 . . .10 - Eliza(beth) Jane SKYRME b: 6 November 1858, Monkton d: 12 August 1859 . . .11 - Maria SKYRME b: 26 July 1860 d: about November 1860, Pembroke</p>
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The average size of a family at this time was 6 or 7 children

- “George Thomas married at Carmarthen 14/11/1871. At 14 yrs old bound for 5 years apprenticeship. Went to Portsmouth 1/5/1879. I James Harrison Skyrme knew great Uncle George in the early 1930s. Date of his death not known by me.”
- “James Thomas went to Jarrow 9/2/82. He died 2/1/1905 age 55.”
- “Francis John known as Frank known as Frank was a good horticulturalist. We had his medallions at Merchants Park where my grandfather lived. He was a Freeman of Pembroke. He died on 27/2/1896 when he was 43”, then over leaf: “Frank was apprenticed on March 18th 1869 when he was 16 years of age. He went to work in Jarrow Nov 23 1874. He came back home in 1876 and died on 27/2/1896. We do not know why he came back home. Perhaps ill health.”
- “John was apprenticed on 21/4/1868 when he was 13 years old. Went to Portsmouth Dockyard 8 April 1874. John went to Portsmouth Dockyard 8/4/1874. Died 27/5/1903. Age 29.”
- “Thomas Skyrme my Grandfather went to W Barrat in his 14th year on 31/10/1871 as an apprentice in Joinery and Cabinet making. Bound 26/2/1872 for 5 years. Paid from that date 1/- per week rising each year by 1/- per week. Out of his time on 31/10/77? according to statement in Uncle George's family bible.”

The Family Bible gives interesting insights and anecdotes, but the facts do not always agree with official records

Of George and Eliza, James Harrison Skyrme writes in the family bible”

“George Skyrme (my Great Grandfather) was a Shipwright. He saw that his sons had a skilled Trade. He died on 7th April 1876 age 56. During the Crimea War he was one of

the civilian guards patrolling the Dockyard. Eliza (my Great Grandmother) died on June 4th 1897 age 78. “

In 1860 the family were living in Bridge Terrace, Monkton and by the time of the 1861 census, after George's mother Jane had died (1857), the family – then a household of 10 – were in Priory Terrace, George and Eliza's home for the rest of their lives. By 1871, only three children were still living at home – Francis (Frank), then aged 18 as a tailor's apprentice, John aged 17 as a shipwright's apprentice, and my great grandfather Thomas, a schoolboy aged 14. Their neighbours were the Phillips family who ran The Grapes inn. In 1861 this was run by pensioner Thomas Phillips, but by 1871 he had died, and it was run by his 62-year old widow Esther who lived with one daughter and two grandchildren. Other near neighbours in 1871 was a baker, shoemaker and stonemason. So it seems that this part of town was an area of trade's people.

Both John and Frank left the family home in 1874, and after George's death in 1876, Eliza remained in the house. The 1881 census shows a household of three – Eliza, David now back home and Thomas John, her son, a tailor. This is mysterious. Who is Thomas John Skyrme? A note in the margin made by the census enumerator says that he “lost use of one leg through rheumatic fever”. So did our Thomas Skyrme (b.1857) suddenly switch trades because of his health problems? Also, Francis (Frank) Skyrme was nowhere to be found, even though we are told (family bible) that he returned to Pembroke from Barrow in 1876, perhaps because of ill health. Thomas John the tailor mysteriously appears only in the 1881 and 1891 censuses. No birth records can be traced for him being born around 1853-5 which would follow from his cited age at the two censuses. The obvious conclusion? After his return from Barrow, Frank John Skyrme wanted to be called Thomas John Skyrme. The clincher is that both Thomas's appear in the same house in the 1891 census – Thomas the shipwright and his brother Thomas John, the tailor, formerly Francis, a tailor's apprentice. Mystery solved.

In fact Thomas the shipwright (my great grandfather) had become head of the household in 1891. Living with him was his wife Ellen, their two young sons George William and James Thomas, Thomas's brother Thomas John (aka Francis) and their widowed 72-year old mother, now listed as Elizabeth rather than Eliza. She died in 1897, aged 78, having outlived Francis who died 15 months earlier. Of her 11 children, five had died before she did. Before we cover the next generation of my ancestors – Thomas, Ellen and their family – now is a good time to fill in what more we know about the ten other children of George and Eliza.

Charles Skyrme (1840 – 1908)

Charles, the eldest son, followed in his father's footsteps and worked as a shipwright in Pembroke Dockyard from the mid-1850s. Around November 1863 he married Elizabeth (unknown surname). As noted above Charles transferred to Sheerness Dockyard and the 1871 census shows them living at 1 Clarence Cottages in Clarence Row, Sheerness. This was about ¾ mile from the dockyard. By 1881 they had moved just around the corner to 28 Victory Street. They lived as a couple and had no children.

1891 sees a change of scene, since by then they had moved to 2 Cotton Street, Poplar in East London. Another couple and two of their lodgers lived at this address, while next door at No. 3 lived another shipwright. Cotton Street remains a main street in Poplar linking the East India Dock Road with the Blackwall Tunnel, whose construction between 1892 and

1897 they would have witnessed. Although there was not a Royal Dockyard in Poplar, the Isle of Dogs was an industrious hive of shipbuilding, particularly iron-clads. There were more than half a dozen shipbuilders including Yarrow at Folly Wall (about 500 yards south of Cotton Street) and the Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company at Learmouth Wharf, near East India Docks, about half a mile east. So there were plenty of options for Charles, but we shall probably never know exactly where he worked.

Charles's wife Elizabeth died in early 1899, but of Charles there seems to be no entry in either the 1901 census or the index of registered deaths. However, his death is recorded as 22nd March 1908 in the register of deaths of the Poplar Union Workhouse. It also records that he was buried in the East London cemetery. More information on these locations is in the chapter on places. The admissions records for the workhouse are missing for the period 1871-1902, and with no entry in the 1901 census, we might presume that Charles entered the workhouse on Elizabeth's death. Although he had worked in naval dockyards, perhaps his naval pension, if he had one, was inadequate. Workhouses at the time held a significant proportion of infirm and elderly people. Certainly he would not have been lonely, since the Poplar workhouse was described as a 'small town' being home to over 1,200 men.

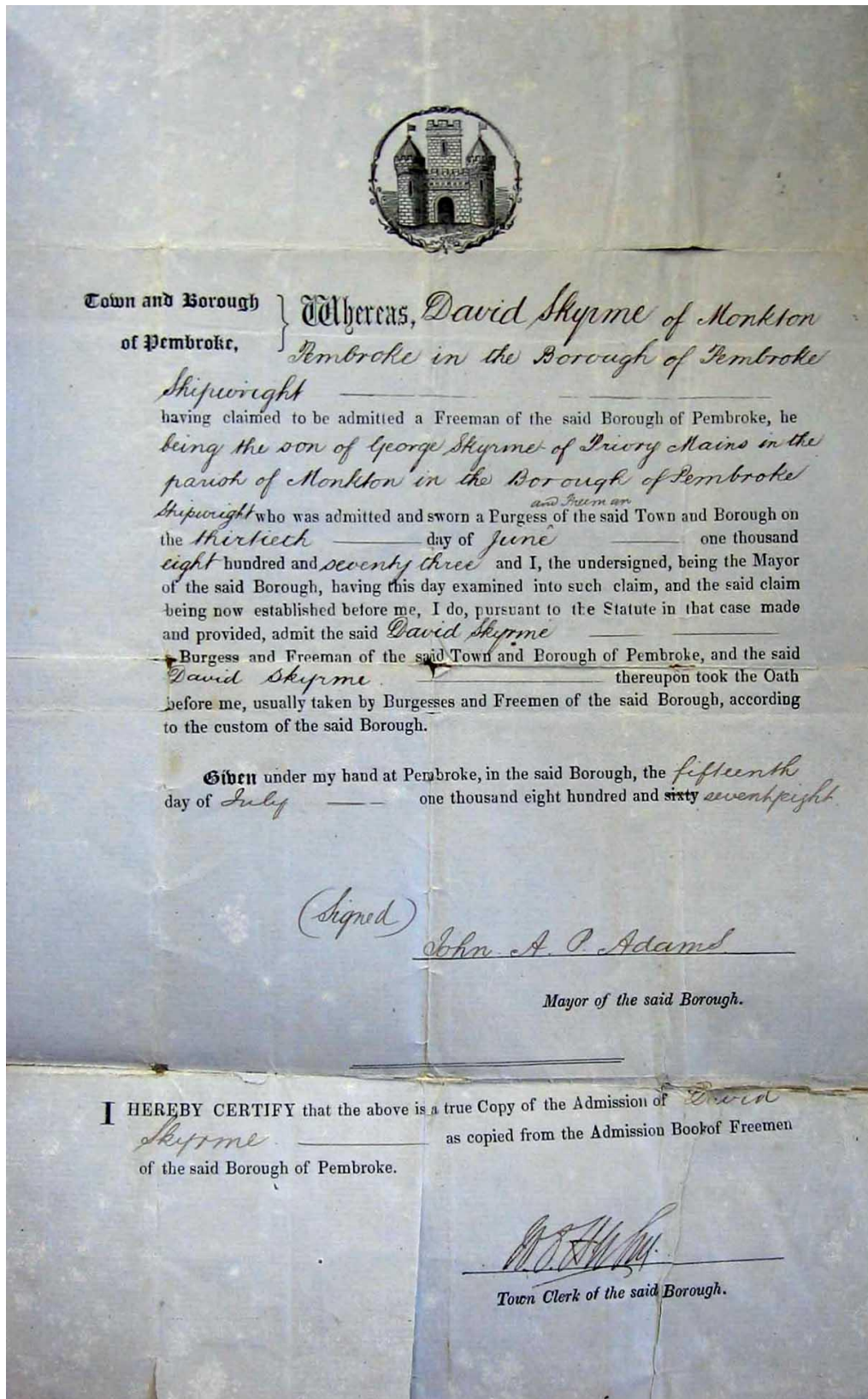
David Skyrme (1844-1901)

David was the third son of George and Eliza, and the third to become a shipwright. We know little of his elder brother William who died when only 22 years old. Born in Manorbier, David moved with the family to Monkton when he was about 4 years old. In the 1861 census he is as a shipwright apprentice, as were his two elder brothers at the time. Apprenticeships typically started at age 14 and lasted seven years. He is not living in the family home in 1871 but makes a re-appearance in 1881 when he was 36 and still single. He then lived with his mother, now a widow, and his younger brother Thomas (formerly Francis).

David's absence from the 1871 census could be for one of two reasons. First, he might have been at sea. Alternatively, there could be a transcription error so that his entry does not appear in 1871 census indexes. In our research we have found Skyrme listed as Skyrne, lkyrme, Skgrme, Skyrine, Shryme, Skyrene, Scarin and more besides. What we do know is that on 30th June 1873 he was "admitted and sworn a Burgess and Freeman of the said Borough and Town" (Pembroke).² This is from a document dated 15th July 1878 in which John Adams the Mayor affirms that he did that day "took the Oath before me, usually taken by Burgesses and Freeman of the said Borough, according to the custom of the said Borough" (see below).

We also know from the Family Bible that brother Francis was also a freeman of Pembroke

² A burgess is someone who has completed their 7 year apprenticeship. Becoming a freeman depended on the specific terms of the town charter. In Pembroke they were one and the same and had certain privileges, including freedom from paying market tolls, the right to drive a flock of street down the main street and the right to vote in Parliamentary elections.



One particular right that the freemen of Pembroke had was that of free rides on any ferryboat. This would have been of particular interest to David as a ferry across Pembroke River was a common that tradesmen from Monkton reached Pembroke Dockyard.³

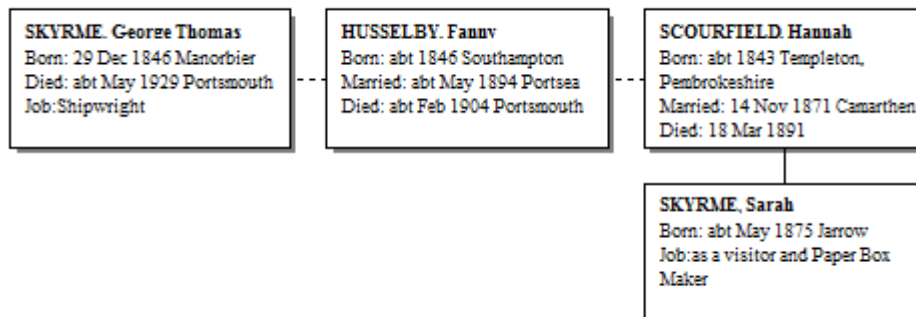
Like his elder brother Charles, the turn of the century sees David living in a workhouse. The 1901 census shows a David Skyrme, age as one of about 130 inmates of Pembroke Poor

³ For more on the Dockyard and ferry, read the chapter 'Pembroke and Pembroke Dock'

Law Union Workhouse. Although he is listed as born in Monkton (not Manorbier) the age his age and occupation suggests that it is indeed our David. It was only three months later that we find the only other reference, the entry in the family bible – “lost overboard July 4th 1901 age 57”. Of this event we can find no record. Those lost at sea are normally recorded in ships logs, not at registry offices.

George Thomas Skyrme (1846 – 1929)

George was the fourth son of George and Eliza and the last to be born in Manorbier. He appears with the rest of the family at Priory Terrace, Monkton in the 1861 and 1871 censuses. In the latter he was aged 14 and listed as scholar, but by the end of the year he was a shipwright’s apprentice, bound for 5 years. Also in 1871 (14th November) he married Hannah Scourfield in Carmarthen. She was the eldest child of Henry and Sarah Scourfield and at the time was living in Dame Street, Carmarthen, although she had been born in Templeton, Pembrokeshire. She was not the first Scourfield to marry a Skyrme. Eliza Scourfield, possibly her Aunt, had married James Skyrme, George’s uncle!



Soon the couple moved to Jarrow, another shipbuilding town. Remember that elder brother Francis moved to Jarrow in 1874 for a couple of years, so it’s probable that one followed the other and that they lived together. While in Jarrow, Hannah gave birth to a daughter Sarah, the name of Hannah’s mother. She was the only child they had. The Family Bible says that George moved to Portsea (that part of Portsmouth near the naval base) in May 1879 and the 1881 census, when he was 34, shows the family living at 8 Aylward Street just a few hundred yards from the dockyard gate. In 1871 their house had been a blacksmith’s shop. Also living with them was younger brother John, then aged 26 (though the census says 29), and a few doors away at number 3 lived brother James (see below). So the late 1870s was the time that three Skyrme brothers moved to Portsmouth while three remained in Monkton, and eldest brother Charles was in Sheerness.

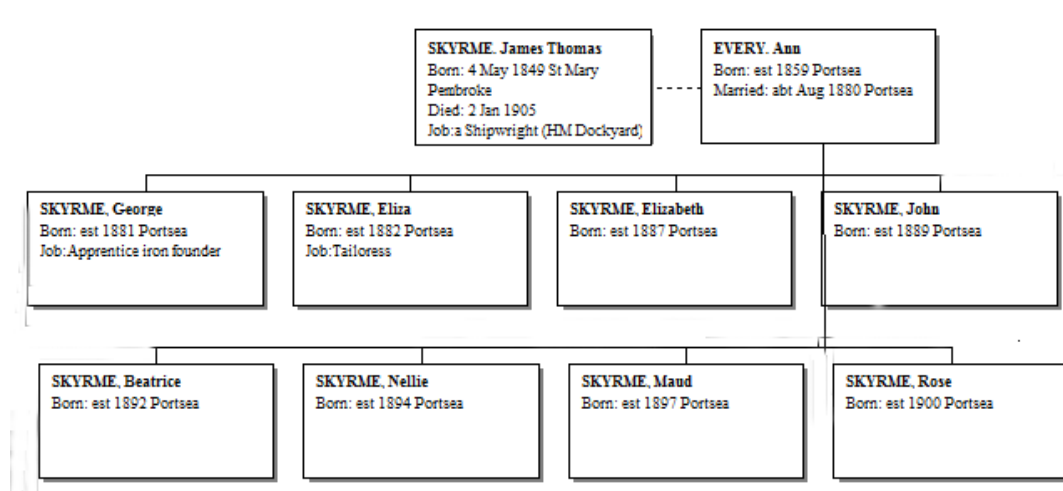
Hannah died just before the 1891 census on 18th March, aged 46. At that census daughter Sarah was 15 and described as a dressmaker. John was still living with her and there was an 18 year old visitor, Ellen Brockway, another dressmaker and presumably a friend of Sarah. Three years after Hannah’s death George married again, this time to Fanny Huselby. Fanny’s maiden name was Fanny Meader. She had married Joe Huselby in 1868 and had two children with him. Joe, a sawyer, died in 1884 when they were living at 2 Frederick Street. This street ran north-south a few hundred yards from Aylward Street on the opposite site of Queen’s road. After their marriage, the 1901 census finds George and Fanny at 29 Orange Street. This street was the fifth of several streets parallel to Queen’s Road and was just around the corner from Frederick Street. Further along Orange Street at number 57, daughter Sarah was visiting Bertha Plankins, another box maker.

Fanny died a few years later in 1904. George lived to the ripe old age of 86 in 1929, having moved to 183 Fawcett Road, Southsea.

James Thomas Skyrme (1849 – 1905)

James was the first of Eliza's children to be born in Monkton, rather than Manorbier. We cannot find him in the 1871 census, when he was 22, but he had left the family home. Like his elder brother he moved to Portsea towards the end of the 1870s (who moved first is uncertain). In August 1880 he married Ann Every, over ten years his junior. Ann was the daughter of Robert, a farrier or master blacksmith and his wife Jane (nee Hammond). They were natives of Portsea having previously lived in Lake Lane (today's B2152 between Commercial Road and Fratton Road) then Cross Street (1861) and 13 Aylward Street (1871).

1881 sees Ann's parents moved down the street to number 3, but now giving living space to James and Ann with their 5 month old son George, as well as Robert's 14-year old nephew Henry Hammond. Over the next 20 years Ann gave birth to 8 children – 2 sons and 6 daughters.



By 1901 the family had moved to 5 Dean Street, which is about 200 yards south of Aylward Street as the crow flies. The eldest son George was then an apprentice iron founder, while Eliza was a dressmaker. James died in 1905, aged 55. Ann survived another 20 years dying in 1925, aged 66.

John Thomas Skyrme (1854 – 1903)

John was apprenticed as a shipwright in Pembroke at age 13. We noted above how John, now a fully qualified shipwright moved from Monkton to Portsea in April 1874, to be followed by his elder brothers George and James. For over 10 years he lived with George and his family. But after George remarried the two brothers went their separate ways, so that by 1901 John was living in another part of Portsmouth at 114 Victoria Road. This was a multiple occupancy dwelling, with a family and three other individuals, including another shipwright living there. Bachelor John died in May 1903 aged 48.

Thomas Skyrme (1857 – 1932) and Ellen (1854 – 1922)

Thomas, my great grandfather, was the 9th and youngest son of George and Eliza. As noted earlier he was apprenticed as a joiner and cabinet maker when he was 14. Just as his elder brothers moved away to other shipyards in the 1870s, Thomas moved to Barrow-in-Furness probably soon after he was "out of time" with his apprenticeship on 31st Oct 1877. Aged 20 he was lodging with the Poole family at 14 Hall Street. This part of Hall Street no longer

In 1881 the only one of the six living shipwright brothers to remain in Pembroke was David, then aged 36

exists, and was in the heart of the residential area across the bridge from the shipyard. Thomas came back to St. Twynnels in Pembrokeshire to marry Ellen Morgan on 30th June.

Certificate of Marriage
Pursuant to the Act 6th & 7th William IV, Caps. 85 & 86.

18 81 MARRIAGE solemnized at the *Parish Church* in the *Parish of St. Twynnell's* in the County of *Pembrokeshire*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
58	June 30 th	Thomas Skyrme	24	Bachelor	Joiner	Barrow-in-Furness Lancashire	George Skyrme	Shipwright
		Ellen Morgan	27	Spinster		St. Twynnell's Pembrokeshire	William Morgan	Labourer

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Church of England*, by *License* by me, *Thomas Skyrme* in the presence of us, *Ellen Morgan* *Thomas Morgan* *James X Thomas* Rector

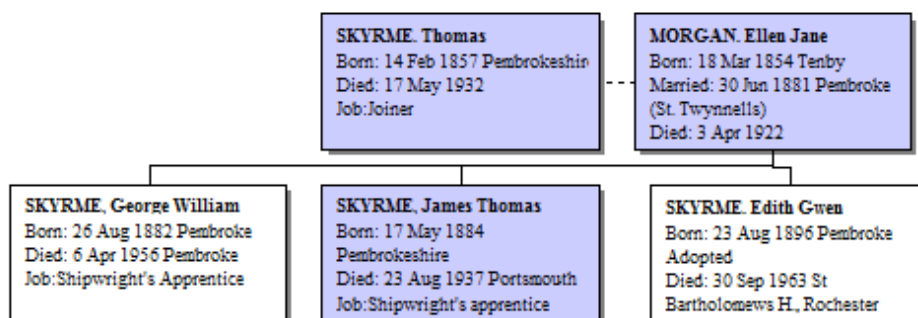
I, *Alfred John Morgan Jones* Rector of *St. Twynnell's* in the county of *Pembrokeshire* do hereby Certify, That this is a True Copy of the Registry of Marriage No. *58* made in the Marriage Register Book of the said *Parish Church*. Witness my Hand this *thirtieth* Day of *June* 18 *81*

By the Act of 6 & 7 Will. IV. c. 85, it is enacted - That every RECTOR, VICAR, or CURATE, who shall have the keeping for the time being of any REGISTER BOOK or MARRIAGE, shall at all reasonable Times allow himself to be made of any Register Book in his keeping, and shall give a COPY CERTIFICATE under his Hand of any ENTRY or Entries in the same, on payment of the Fee hereinafter mentioned: (That is to say,) for every search extending over a period of not more than One Year the sum of One Shilling, and Sixpence for every additional year, and the sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence for every single CERTIFICATE, with any Two Shillings and Sixpence.

Thomas's marriage certificate gives his residence as Barrow-in-Furness

Ellen Morgan was the third child of William Morgan (b1807), an agricultural labourer and his wife Jane (b1813 née Williams). He had come from St. Florence, a few miles west of Tenby and she from Llandewi Velfrey near Narberth. Shortly after Ellen was born the family moved a short way away to Flemingington Mill Cottage, Carew where she was living with her parents in April 1881. However, by June, they were living in the small hamlet of St. Twynnels about 4 miles south of Pembroke.

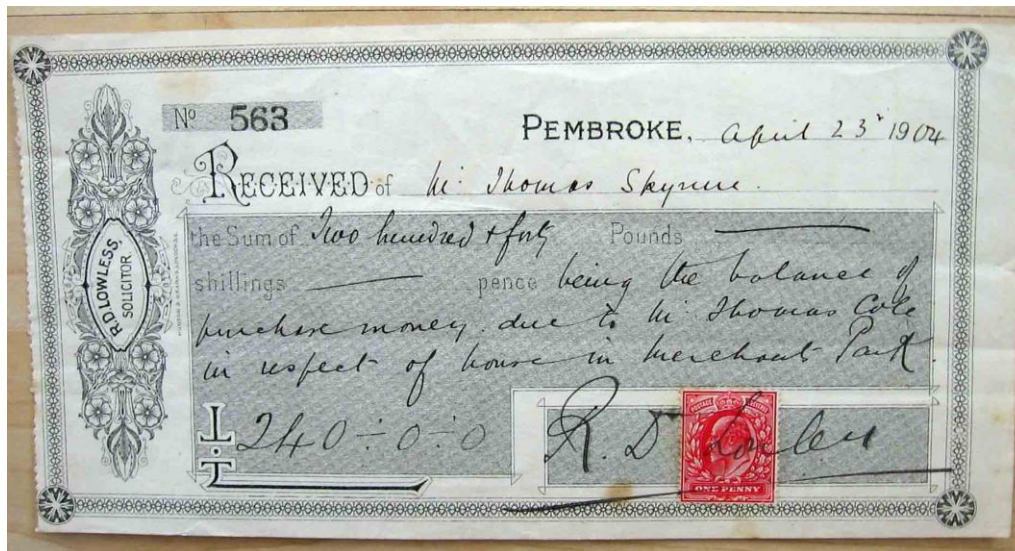
It wasn't long before they were back in Barrow. A Family Bible entry says "Ellen my Grandmother and baby George went to Barrow on 3/11/1882 when Grandad went to get a job in the Shipyards". 'Baby George' was my great uncle George (born 26th Aug 1882) who had an interesting naval career – see below. But perhaps it was tough to get a job in Barrow, since their next child James Thomas was born in Pembroke in May 1884:



But was this the only move? An entry in the Family Bible says "'Went to Pembroke Dockyard from Portsmouth to look after his mother and lost his Pension.'" The next census indeed shows Thomas as head of the family home in Priory Terrace Monkton living with Ellen, their two children, brother Thomas (aka Francis) and his mother Eliza. So, if they were in Portsmouth, it was only for a few years.

Thomas and Ellen had no more children of their own, but in 1896 adopted a girl known to my Dad as Aunty Edie. Things could not have been too bad for the family since they purchased another home not far away at 4 Merchant's Park. Shown below is a copy of a receipt in our possession

The 1911 census suggests that Edie was born Edith Beynon



I vaguely remember visiting Merchants Park as a child in the late 1940s or early 1950s, when I recall 'Uncle George' living there. It was a fairly substantial terraced town house.⁴ It's quite likely that the house was a new one in 1904, since Thomas Cole was a stonemason.

The family continued to live there. Ellen died in 1922 and Thomas ten years later. His estate was valued at nearly £335, a sum whose purchasing power today is around £18,000.

SKYRME Thomas of 4 Merchants Park Pembroke **Pembrokeshire** died 17 May 1932 Probate **London** 6 June to George William Skyrme naval pensioner and Ernest Robert Owen insurance agent. Effects £334 14s. 11d.

Before we move to the story of my direct ancestor James Thomas, we cover the lives of 'Uncle George' and 'Aunt Edie'.

George William Skyrme (1882 – 1956) and Ethel (1881 – 1958)

Like his father and uncles before him George was apprenticed into carpentry. Whereas the previous generation were mostly apprenticed at age 14, for George it was a few days after his 15th birthday according to an entry in the Family Bible:

"George Wm Skyrme, son of my Grandad was apprenticed to J. Mills of Neyland on 30/8/1897. He finished his apprenticeship 30/8/1902. He had some schooling 2d per week in Portsmouth where Grandad was employed."

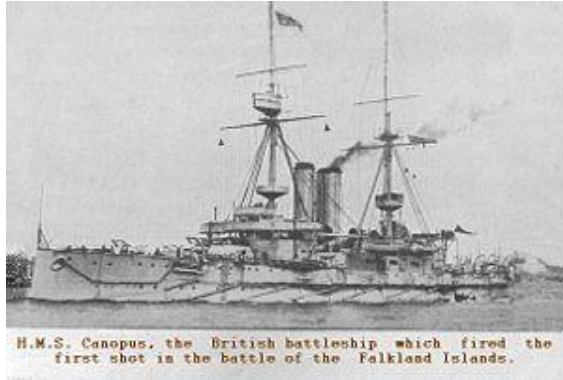
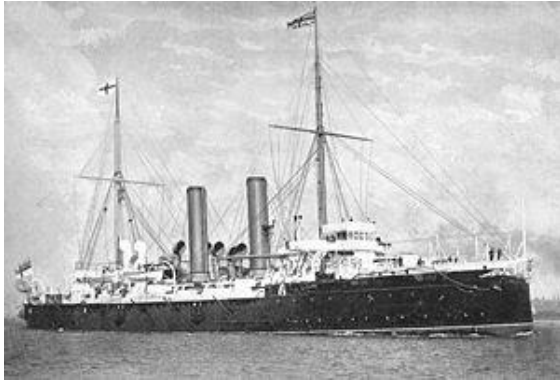
Again there is another reference to Portsmouth where no documentation has been found. The likely period in which the family lived there was between 1885 and 1890, when George was aged between 3 and 8. Just as he was completing his apprenticeship he went to Devonport in May 1902, but less than a year later in May 1903, when he was 20, he enrolled in the Navy for 12 years and was based in Portsmouth dockyard. His naval record describes him as height 5' 4½" (my height at that age!), brown hair, blue eyes and fresh complexion. Yet it erroneously gives his birth date as 20th January 1882. It then lists the ships and shore establishments in which he worked including:

- HMS Vernon – the shore-based torpedo training school, Portsmouth (three times)

The image of George's naval record, being recently scanned by The National Archives is Crown copyright, but the images of ships below are out of copyright and were copied from Wikipedia

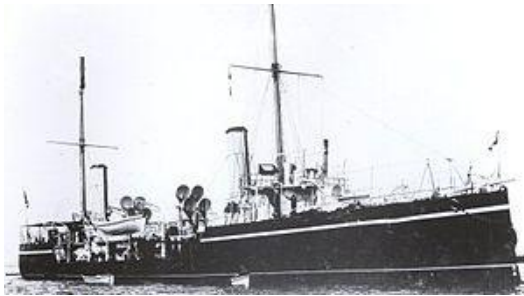
⁴ 4 Merchants Park was last sold in 2007 at £142,000. It was listed as a 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom house

- Battleships HMS Canopus, HMS Jupiter
- Cruisers HMS Imperieuse and HMS Royal Arthur (left photo below)



For many of the ships he served on, he was there only a few months, probably doing some refitting. One of his longer spells (May 1905 to Dec 1909) was on HMS Canopus where he was promoted to Leading Shipwright. It was while serving here that he married Ethel Davies in Monkton on 16th April 1906.

The wages of a leading shipwright in the early 20th century were 4s 3d a day (Kings Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, 1913)



One interesting posting was with HMS Hazard from 13th Jan 1903 to 4th Feb 1904. She was launched as a torpedo gunboat in 1894 but converted in 1901 into the world's first submarine depot ship. On 2nd Feb 1912, she collided with a surfacing submarine in the Solent. All 14 men on the submarine were killed. George would undoubtedly have witnessed this.⁵

At the start of the First World War George was stationed at Victory II, the Portsmouth shore establishment. However, he spent most of the war on newly built (1915) battleship HMS Malaya where he served from 28th Jan 1916 to 29th Nov 1920. It was while serving on this ship that he witnessed the Battle of Jutland on 31st May 1916. He spoke of how terrible it was and how the morning afterwards he was sweeping dead seamen's limbs from off the ship's deck.



George finally left the Navy on 24th May 1925 after 22 years service, seven years longer than he originally enrolled for, partly because of the war. His record shows that he received a war gratuity (a lump sum paid on discharge) and was also in receipt of naval pension no. 22984.

It seems that George returned to Pembroke and a few years later in 1932 he was granted probate on his father's estate. It is likely that he then moved into the family home in Merchants Park, Monkton. We have little further knowledge of George's later life, except

⁵ HMS Hazard was herself the victim of a collision. On 28th Jan 1818 she was cut in two by the hospital ship SS Western Australia off Portland, and sunk while under tow.

from a couple of personal memories and a snippet or two from James Skyrme's diary. In August 1955 the family (including me) spent two weeks with George and Ethel at Merchants Park. I certainly recall a coach trip with them where it rained all day and we hardly got out of the coach to see the sights. James recalls a pleasant day in Angle:

"The children [myself and my sister] paddled and played in the rock pools. It quite reminded me of the times grandfather, and Mum Dad and I had spent there in the 1920s, thirty years or so ago."

And another entry:

"Another day we all went to Freshwater West. Aunt Ethel did enjoy this. It is a lovely bay, still unspoilt. For Uncle, we made a special trip to Freshwater East down all the lanes he used to go and which brought back happy memories for him."

Less than a year later, George was dead (6th Apr 1956). Ethel died a couple of year later (July 1958). They had no children, so it was only James Thomas Skyrme, his brother, that carried on the descendants of Thomas.

Edith (Edie) Skyrme (1896 – 1963)

Edith, as noted above, was adopted. She is recorded as living in the family home at Merchants Park with Thomas and his family in 1911. Later she moved away, possibly initially to Cardiff. She remained a spinster and moved to Rochester. An entry in my father's diary for Sunday 15th September 1963 describes our family making a car journey from Bourton-on-the-Water via Northolt and the A2 to visit her in St. Bartholomew's hospital, Rochester where she had been for more than a week suffering from heart trouble. Apparently "she was so pleased to see us that she gave Jean [my sister] and David [myself] a pound each"! Later her kidneys failed and she went into a coma. My father visited the day she died and being next of kin had to give approval for a post mortem. She had kept her contacts in Pembroke since the previous year she had attended the wedding of a family friend there.⁶

Prior to the Adoption of Children Act 1928, adoption was purely a private affair between two families

James Thomas Skyrme (1884 - 1937) and Ellen (1882 - 1959)

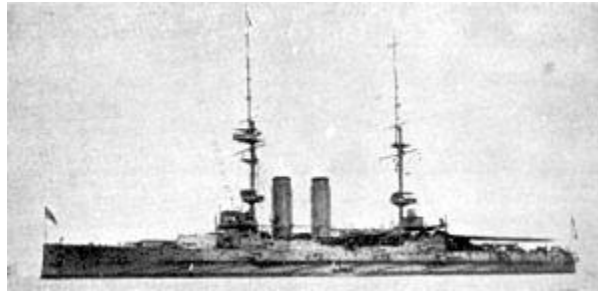
James Thomas my grandfather had a name identical to one of his uncles (James Thomas Skyrme 1849 -1905). As we have noted Thomas and James are recurring names in our family. He was the second son of Thomas and Ellen and born in Pembroke, in between his parents living in Barrow and then Portsmouth.

He grew up in Priory Terrace, Monkton (next to the Grapes Inn) and following in his father and elder brother's footsteps he too was apprenticed as a shipwright, probably around 1898. He enrolled in the Navy at Chatham as a boy apprentice on his 18th birthday on 17th May 1902 for 12 years service. His naval record gives his height as 5' 1½" (shortness is characteristic of our family line!), with brown hair, grey eyes and florid complexion. By July he was back in Pembroke dockyard for a year. In July 1903 he went to Pembroke II, the shore establishment at Chatham. This was his base between postings on ships. He was based there on five separate occasions, usually 3-6 months, though one spell was nearly two years (August 1910 – March 1912). He probably lived in the new barracks completed in

⁶ Jim's diary no. 1 (pp 241-3) describes in some detail the toings and froings at the hospital, but alas there are no earlier entries that tell us more about her life

April 1903. Previously, sailors were accommodated on laid up hulks in the River Medway. The new barracks accommodated 4,600 officers and men.

James's first job at Chatham was working on the finishing of HMS Abermarle, a Duncan-class battleship, which had been launched in March 1903. He joined the ship's complement on 13th Nov 1903, the day after its formal commissioning. He served on it until the end of January 1906, during which time (Oct 1905) he had been promoted to Leading Shipwright. During this time it operated in the Channel and the Mediterranean.



The shore establishment at Chatham – Pembroke II – took its name from one of three hulks in the Medway. This hulk started life as HMS Pembroke in 1812 and became the base ship at Chatham in 1873.



Other ships that James served on in the pre-war period included HMS Resolution, HMS Bulwark (shown left c. 1908), HMS Duncan (battleships) and HMS Shannon and HMS Aboukir (armoured cruisers). On most of these ships, some of his time included refits, e.g. HMS Resolution at Chatham in 1906, HMS Bulwark at Chatham in 1907-8, and HMS

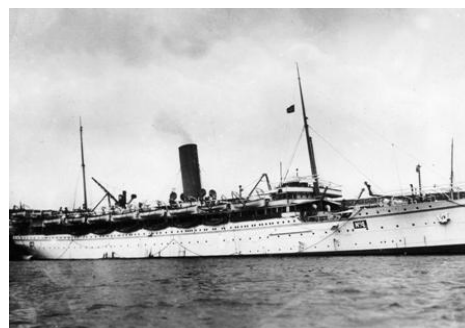
Duncan at Malta in 1908-9. At the end of his term on HMS Bulwark, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, later of Antarctic fame, became its commander, becoming the youngest junior battleship commander at that time. HMS Bulwark had a dramatic end. In November 1914, there was a powerful internal explosion that sunk the ship while moored off Sheerness. There were only 12 survivors from its complement of 750.

While in the Navy James visited Bombay (according to his son's diary), but on which ship?

With the state of world at the end of James's 12 year service, it was inevitable that he was enrolled in the Royal Naval Reserve at Chatham on 17th May 1914. But he was not absent for long. He was back at Chatham on 2nd August, two days before the declaration of war. The next entry in his naval record is the epitome of understatement. It simply says "Rohilla 18 Aug 14 to 30 Oct 14". But there's a much bigger story to tell.

HMHS (His Majesty's Hospital Ship) Rohilla

Originally built for the British Indian Steam Navigation Company in 1906, SS Rohilla entered military service in 1908 as a troopship. Typically it carried troops between England, Gibraltar, Malta and Egypt. Just after the outbreak of war, on 6th August it was requisitioned as a hospital ship and was hastily refitted for its new purpose, including the provision of two operating theatres. It sailed from Southampton on 16th August to Scapa Flow for training where it arrived on 20th August for training. How and when James joined it is unclear. His posting on 18th August may have meant he travelled by land to join it after its arrival – or perhaps he had joined it at Southampton and the naval paperwork was a bit late catching up!



HMHS Rohilla had only two patients while at Scapa Flow. One of them was Prince Alfred – later George VI – who was suffering from appendicitis. The Rohilla took him to Aberdeen where the Prince went into hospital and had his appendix removed by the royal surgeon. Our story involving James started just after mid-day on Thursday 29th October. With a complement of 229 crew and hospital staff, the Rohilla set steam from Leith Docks to Dunkirk, where it was to pick up wounded servicemen from the battle of Mons. With wartime restriction on lighting and navigation aids it steamed down the east coast using ‘dead reckoning’. Just after 4am on the Friday morning, in foul weather, the ship hit rocks near Saltwick Nab by Whitby. Faced with the likelihood of the ship sinking in foul weather the captain decided to beach her by sailing into the shore. She hit the Scar, a large rock ledge, and was stranded broadside on.

The story of the event is told in great detail in Colin Brittain’s book *Into the Maelstrom: The Wreck of HMHS Rohilla*.⁷ After striking the reef the lower decks of the Rohilla flooded quickly, drowning those there. Others were woken abruptly by the noise. Many rushed to the upper decks only in nightclothes. The next two days were a case of “so near, yet so far”. Though only 500 yards from shore, rockets which fired lines for a Bosun’s chair, failed to reach her. In the treacherous seas, local lifeboats could not be launched. One lifeboat was rowed across the harbour then physically moved ¾ mile over land to The Scar and relaunched. At 9.30am it rescued 5 nurses, surgeons and medical staff – 17 survivors in total. It returned rescuing a further 18 people, but it received such a battering that it had to be abandoned.

Following a recommendation after the Inquest into the Rohilla deaths, it became the norm to have rockets on ships, it being easier to secure a line by firing from ship to shore.



During Friday, one by one several survivors had decided to trust their luck by swimming ashore. The ship by now was in two parts. Mid Friday afternoon, the rising tide surrounded

⁷ Published by Tempus Publishing (2002). The writer has had several communications with the author.

the poop deck with some 30 people on it, who one by one fell to their deaths in the pounding waves. Throughout the night more attempts were made to get lines to the stricken wreck without success. During the night other survivors tried swimming to shore but only three made it. The gale continued to rage on the Saturday and the stern section broke away and sank, with the loss of more lives. It was clear that extra help was needed. The following call went out from the local lifeboat committee:

“Please dispatch *motor* lifeboat to wreck of Rohilla at Saltwick. About forty persons remain on board. Ordinary lifeboats have failed to reach her”

James was one of the forty, now out in the hostile elements for over 30 hours. Lifeboats from Scarborough and Teesside tried to reach the Rohilla but failed. Another attempt was made by the Upgang lifeboat just a couple of miles away. It was manually hauled 3 miles by road to Saltwick and lowered down a 200 foot vertical cliff nearest to the Rohilla. But the seas were too heavy for it to be launched. Ultimately it was the motor lifeboat Henry Vernon, which left Tyneside at 4.15pm on the Saturday afternoon that affected the rescue of the remaining survivors.

But before it arrived, the remaining survivors had to endure another night on board in worsening conditions – heavy rain and constant battering by the waves. As Colin Brittain writes:

“Conditions were not getting any better and there seemed little hope that the remaining souls could survive another night after having already spent two dark and stormy nights on the wreck.”

On the Sunday morning, although the survivors knew (by Morse code lamp messages) that help was on its way, they had intended to try to swim ashore at 10am. But the Henry Vernon arrived, did some difficult manoeuvres through the surf to come alongside, and spread oil to flatten the water. It took two hours to complete the rescue and 50 survivors were brought to safety.

Like his fellow survivors, James would have had on little clothing having rushed from his bed and been unable to return. He would have been exposed to the cold and harsh conditions. He would probably have had only a few hours sleep. Around his neck he would have strung some tins to act as floating aids. He would also have seen the spectators on the nearby cliffs, who had been gawking at the scene for the last couple of days, and would have heard their cheers when he was brought ashore.

Although the family bible says of James “he was in the sea for 36 hours before being rescued”, he is listed as one the last 50 rescued in Brittain’s book and therefore his total time in the wreck would have been 50 hours. What an ordeal! When James was brought ashore, he was taken with eight companion survivors to ‘Seaside Home’. Altogether there were 144 survivors, some 60% of the ship’s complement. Of those rescued last Brittain says:

“The happy rescue of the gallant fifty, who had withstood tempest and cold, hunger and thirst for fifty hours, was a relatively happy finish to a long-prolonged period of anguish and stress.”

James's last few years in the Navy were on HMS Maidstone. This was a submarine supply ship operating along the East Coast (Harwich, Yarmouth).

Ellen Harrison (1882 – 1959) and the Harrison Family

James had moved to Chatham in 1903 and was on HMS Bulwark in 1908, so how come he married a person who at the time lived in East Dulwich, not exactly next door to Chatham? Things become clearer if we explore further Ellen's ancestry.

Ellen Jane HARRISON: born 30 Nov 1882 in Bromley, Kent; died 27 Feb 1959 in Portsmouth		
Parents	Grandparents	Great grandparents
Shadrach HARRISON: b. abt Feb 1855: Barford, Norfolk married 28 Feb 1882 in Monkton; died abt Aug 1898 in London	William T HARRISON: born abt 1817 in Barford, Norfolk; married 12 Mar 1854 in Norwich; died bet Jan 1895 and Mar 1895 in Forehoe, Norfolk.	Thomas HARRISON: born abt 1777 in Weston, Norfolk; married 31 Mar 1803 in Weston- Longville, Norfolk; died bet Oct 1863 and Dec 1863 in Forehoe, Norfolk.
		Sarah GUNTON: born abt 1773 in East Tuddenham, Norfolk; died bet Jan 1855 and Mar 1855 in Forehoe, Norfolk.
	Charlotte HARDIMENT: born Dec 1807 in Barford, Norfolk; died bet Jul 1873 and Sep 1873 in Forehoe, Norfolk.	Andrew HARDIMENT: born abt 1765 in Bunfield, Norfolk; died bet Jul 1852 and Sep 1852 in Forehoe, Norfolk.
Ellen E THOMAS: born bet Mar 1854 and Mar 1855 in Pembroke.	John THOMAS: born abt Nov 1833 in Monkton.	Elizabeth SHINKFIELD: born 1771 in Norfolk.
		Lewis THOMAS: born abt 1805 in Pembrokeshire.
	Jane UNKNOWN: born bet 1836 and 1838 in Martletwy, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.	Anne UNKNOWN.

As we can see the Harrison's are a Norfolk family from Barford (8 miles west of Norwich) and nearby villages. Ellen's father Shadrach started life as an agricultural labourer (a very common occupation in rural Norfolk in Victorian times) but joined the Metropolitan Police, based in Camberwell, on 4th Feb 1878, aged 23. His warrant number was 62223.

C A P. CXXXV.
An Act for the Employment of the Metropolitan
Police Force in Her Majesty's Yards and Military
Stations. [28th August 1860.]

Since the Metropolitan police had responsibility for policing HM Dockyards⁸, Shadrach is found in the 1881 census living with about 20 other policemen at No. 2 Police Station, Pembroke Dockyard. It was while here that he met Ellen Thomas, whom he married the following year in Monkton. This is how the Pembroke connection was made. Ellen would have undoubtedly known the Monkton Skyrmes and paved the way for James's later meeting of Ellen Harrison. Shortly after their marriage Shadrach and Ellen moved to 4 Stanley Road, Bromley, where daughter Ellen was born in November.

Ellen gave birth in 1886 to another daughter Edith while living in Bromley. Around 1888 the family moved to East Dulwich (54 Crawthorpe Grove). During almost ten years, Ellen gave

Until 1887 police constables were not allowed to vote in elections. This restriction also applied to those working in the dockyards and was spelt out in clause 5 of the 1860 Act.

⁸ A full copy of the Act can be found at the National Archives website - www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/23-24/135

birth to another three daughters (Lillian, Nora and Mabel) and a son (John Shadrack, born Aug 1897). Police records show that Shadrach left the force on 10th June 1898, probably due to ill health, since he died in August aged only 43. Widow Ellen then moved to East Dulwich. The 1901 census finds her living at 160 Lordship Lane with her five youngest children. It was a large house which was also home to three others, including a nurse and decorator. Ellen's occupation is given as laundress "at home". What happened to her after that we do not yet know.

Eldest daughter Ellen had apparently left her parents when young. In the 1891 census when she was age 8, she is known as "Nellie" and is living with her grandparents John, a 57 year old stone mason, and his wife Jane Thomas at Awkward Hill, Monkton. She was still there a decade later when she was a draper's apprentice. It's possible that she knew James well when she was 18 and he 16 before he moved to Chatham. Certainly when he had home leave, he would meet her when back in Monkton. Presumably she moved to East Dulwich to be nearer James (only 30 miles away) and also close to or even living with her mother. Her address at the time of marriage was 58 Pellatt Road, a road immediately off Lordship Lane.

To Pembroke then Portsmouth

After their marriage in Dulwich, at which time James was on HMS Bulwark, Ellen must have gone back to the home of James's family in Monkton, since that is where my father was born in 1911. But Ellen's next two children were born in Portsmouth in 1913 (Phyllis) and 1915 (Gwen). She was probably staying with her widowed aunt Ann Skyrme (née Every). At the time James was mostly in Chatham. But in 1916 Ellen was back in Pembroke where her two youngest children were born (Thomas and Ellen). As this suggests, a naval wife did not live with her husband but only saw them when on leave.

James completed his naval service and was discharged from Chatham in February 1919. He joined Ellen in Pembroke, where James like his forebears worked in Pembroke Dockyard. The dockyard had seen better days. Although the dockyard was small - it had only one dock and no basins – it "was renowned for the quality of its workmanship and for the sleek lines of the ships that it built" and

"From even the most casual of investigations it is clear that the warships built at Pembroke Dock were the envy of other yards. They were, for a brief and glorious period, so innovative and revolutionary that they changed the whole nature and design of shipbuilding. It can also be argued that they changed the course of naval history."⁹

However, come 1922, and the last of 250 ships it had built since its opening in 1814 was launched. This was the 'oiler' HMS Oleander, a Royal Fleet Auxiliary Tanker. Like other naval dockyards, much of the work was maintaining and refitting the existing fleet, and that was declining. With too many dockyards, the writing was on the wall for Pembroke dockyard, and it closed in 1926. Later, the dockyard became an operational flying boat base, and was the largest such base during the 2nd world war. It so happened that my father's first squadron was a flying boat squadron, though at Calshot and Basra and not Pembroke. He writes about the impact of the closure in the family bible:

⁹ *Pembroke Dockyard Through Time*, Phil Carradice, Amberley Publishing (2009)

“Dad was established so when Pembroke dockyard closed he was posted to Portsmouth and left [Pembroke] in May 1926 during the general strike. I went to see them in Pembroke that summer and then went back to Granddad to finish my schooling.”

So, as with other members of the family at different times, children often lived with a relative while their father moved away for work. James himself lodged with a cousin when he first moved to Portsmouth. According to the family bible “There was a Mrs Dauntlet daughter of James (Dad’s generation) and a Mrs Burgess daughter of a John. I do not know which of these he lodged at.” Probably it was first cousin Beatrice, who was actually the son of James Skyrme (1849-1905) who married Thomas Burgess in 1909.

Although the first Skyrmes in Portsmouth lived close to the dockyard, over time they had spread out. So, the late 1920s sees James and Ellen living in Copnor (13 Piran’s Avenue). James died on 23rd August 1937 at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital.

SKYRME James Thomas of 13 St. Piran’s-avenue Copnor **Portsmouth** died 21 August 1937 at The Royal Portsmouth Hospital
Portsmouth Administration **Winchester** 7 September to Ellen
Jane Skyrme widow. Effects £195 4s.

Ellen remained in Portsmouth with her children. In later life the family lived at no. 81 Wesley Grove, Copnor – on the northern edge of the city and overlooking a large sports ground at the rear. The house was John Markham and Gwen’s but son Tom also lived there. I visited there many times. Ellen was mostly blind and shuffled around the house. She died on 1959 of a perforated ulcer. Dad’s diary notes:

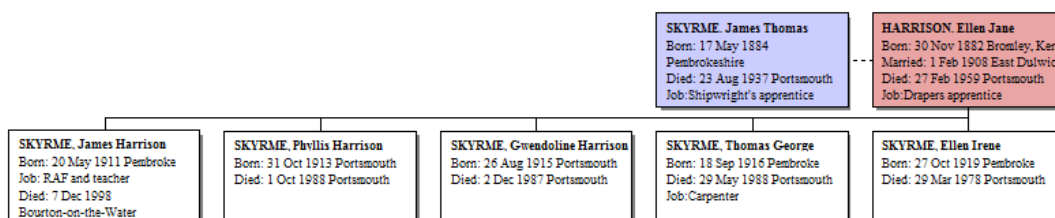
“Just before the end she had seen Gwen drink a cup of tea and said ‘I’ll have one too’. She drank it just before she passed away.”

He commented that we had seen last seen her on Armistice Day in 1958 and that she had stayed with us (at Hornchurch) just before our Austrian holiday that August. And of the burial, he writes:

“We buried her above Dad and we had a nice little family service in the chapel in the cemetery.”

Children of James and Ellen

The eldest child of James and Ellen was my father James Harrison Skyrme (Jim), more of whom later. Of the other children, without access to 20th century census records, what we know is from personal memories and entries in Jim’s diaries.



The second child was Phyllis. She married Portsmouth native Harold Digweed in July 1938, a year after her father James had died. Harold was a civilian who worked in naval stores. Phyllis and Harold did not have children and lived for periods overseas, including Cape Town and Singapore. As a child I remember collecting the stamps from their letters

sent to my Dad. Also in our house is a carved wooden sewing box, which Phyllis bequeathed to my parents (along with a much larger carved tea chest). On returning to the UK sometime in the late 1960s, Harold was based at in the dockyard at Plymouth, where he died in 1971, aged 61. After his death Phyllis moved to Portsmouth, where most of the rest of her family lived. By 1978 she was living on Fratton Road, opposite Kingston Church (St. Mary's) where "she has three rooms nicely furnished and decorated, and has a nice view of the church and park from her sitting room".



James Thomas Skyrme and his 5 children – Ellen and Jim (back row), Tom, Gwen and Phyllis (front). Taken circa 1924 in Pembroke

Like the rest of the family in Portsmouth, she was visited by my parents about once a year. After sister Gwen's death in 1987 she moved into the house at Wesley Grove. She made some improvements, including fitting new kitchen units and moving in some of her mahogany furniture. In July 1988, my mother and father visited her after stopping overnight with us at Newbury. They then took her back to theirs (Bourton-on-the-Water) for a week, where she went out with them on several excursions. She went back to Portsmouth by coach, after my parents had chased it in their car to Cheltenham since it did not stop at Northleach to pick her up as it should have done! She lived at Wesley Grove for nearly another two years. In August 1989 she was in St. Mary's Hospital with cancer that had spread making it inoperable. She was visited

then by my parents and also a month later on 22nd September. A week and a half later she died. Unbeknown to me, she had made me an executor of her estate and a trustee for her half share of the house bequeathed to David Henry's children. However, at the request of cousin David I relinquished this duty shortly afterwards. Phyllis was cremated at Porchester Crematorium, the same place that her sisters Gwen and Ellen, Gwen's husband John, and also brother Tom had been cremated previously.

The third child was (my Aunty) Gwen. She married John Markham in 1945 when she was 29. John was a commercial traveller, and I remember him as someone with strong opinions. He was never wrong, like the time when we lived in Hornchurch and we could only just negotiate our small Ford Popular round a corner in the back alley to our garage. He had a much bigger Ford Zephyr and was convinced he could get it round the corner – he couldn't. In later life John got a job as a civilian at HMS Vernon, a 'stone frigate' or shore establishment at Portsmouth, involved with torpedoes and anti-submarine work. John died in 1979, and Gwen survived him by nearly 8 years.

Gwen worked for much of her life, but I cannot recall where. Gwen and John were childless. Gwen was a very pragmatic person. After her mother died in 1959 it was the trio of Gwen, John and Tom who lived in the family home in Wesley Grove, interspersed from time to time by putting up Phyllis and Ellen while they sought accommodation in Portsmouth. In 1981 she managed to break her arm and wrist while on holiday in Blackpool. Jim writes: "She had stepped on a bed to close a window and slipped. She had two breaks on her right wrist, one on her lower right arm, and one on a finger". In early 1987 she started losing her memory and on a visit by parents in March they found her not eating properly and her freezer full of "food gone wrong". She had let her house insurance lapse and had burnt out four kettles by putting them on the gas stove and forgetting them. Fortunately Phyllis "was a brick" and had gone round and cooked meals and stayed there most of the time. However, by August she seemed to have recovered, such that she and Phyllis travelled to Bourton by coach and stayed for five days. But suddenly on 2nd December she died, having had chest pains the day before. In her will she left the house at Wesley Grove and the residue of her estate shared between her sister Phyllis and her nephew David Henry (son of fifth child Ellen – see below).

The fourth child was Thomas (my 'Uncle Tom'). Tom was single throughout his life and a carpenter. For some of the time he worked for a local yacht builder, and so carried on the 'shipwright' tradition, albeit on a smaller scale! He, too, lived for many years in the family home at Wesley Grove. Easy going and personable, he suffered from stroke sometime around 1980. A diary entry in September 1981 says "we thought that his speech had greatly improved" and in March 1984 "Tom can speak much better now and can manage with his knife and fork without help. He can walk with the help of a walking stick". But by July 1985 he had had a number of small strokes which impaired his speech. He was also confined to sleeping downstairs in the dining room, on a bed loaned by the hospital. He visited the hospital as a day patient twice a week. After Gwen's illness in March 1987 Tom had moved into Henley Court care home, Cavendish Road, in the parish of St. Jude, Southsea. On 27th May 1989 Tom had two severe strokes and was in a coma. He died two days later on the Spring Bank Holiday Monday, leaving Phyllis as the sole surviving member of this branch of the Portsmouth family for a few more months.



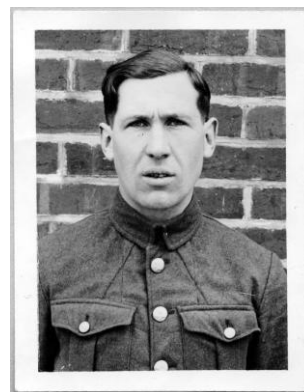
The fifth and youngest child was Ellen. She married Henry Allen in 1942 and they had a child David Henry, born three weeks later than myself (25th August 1943). Her marriage was unfortunate. Husband Henry tried to commit suicide by putting his head in a gas oven. She divorced him on 31st March 1949. Perhaps to forget the name Allen, cousin David was always referred to in the family as David Henry. Ellen remarried seven years later (October 1956) to James Taylor. She lived with him a few streets closer into Portsmouth. A visit from my parents in December 1977 noted how she was thin, and that Phyllis had been looking after her for 5 weeks. She died the following March, on 29th at 11.55pm "at the same time as my mother passed away" wrote Jim in his diary.

The family house at Wesley Grove was in a long terrace near the top end of the road. It is a typical three bedroom house with a lounge at the front, dining room and kitchen at the rear, and a narrow longish garden (see photo). With three breadwinners living there in the 1960s and 1970s, it was well furnished and had several of the latest gadgets. In particular it had a reel-to-reel tape recorder. I experimented with this and recorded some of the family as well as music from the 'radiogram'. However, once I accidentally deleted the voice of my grandmother Ellen, the only recording the family had of her, and was severely reprimanded by John! Another item I particularly remember was an empty brass wartime shell case, about three inches in diameter, kept on the mantelpiece.

Of the five children, only my father Jim and Ellen had offspring. You have to go back three generations, to a child of George and Eliza – John Thomas Skyrme (b. 1849) to find a branch of Skyrmes that lasted into the late 20th century. Also, since I have three daughters and no sons, the name Skyrme was destined to totally disappear from this branch of the family. However, my youngest daughter Vivienne changed her name by deed poll after her marriage to become a Blyth-Skyrme instead of simply a Blyth.

James Harrison Skyrme (1911-1998)

My father, the eldest child of James Thomas and Ellen (Harrison), born in Pembroke in 1911. As well as knowing him during my lifetime, I have learnt a lot through what he has left us – his writings in the family bible, photographs and most of all – a set of 12 diaries covering the period 1927-1994, after which dementia put a lid on them. The most recent 11 diaries are paperback exercise books, ranging in size from 36-80 pages, and were written contemporaneously. The first diary is hard-covered, 260 pages, and covers the period 1927-1964. Much of it was written or copied in retrospect. Over time it is hoped to make transcripts of selected portions of the diaries, perhaps as an expanded history of James, known to others in the family as Jim.



After schooling in Pembroke James enlisted in the Royal Air Force as an apprentice aircraft engine fitter in January 1927, a few months before his 16th birthday. His height at the time was only 4' 10½". He enlisted for 12 years from when his formal service started at age 18, and altogether with the outbreak of World War II was in the RAF for a 18 years. His service record details his various postings:

- Technical Training School, RAF Halton (Jan 1927- Dec 1929)
- Aircraftsman 1st Class, RAF Calshot (Jan 1930-May 1934); promoted to Leading Aircraftsman Aug 1933
- 203 Flying Boat Squadron: Iraq (May 1934), then Aden (Oct 1935)
- India Command, AP (Aircraft Park) Lahore Cantonment/airport (Feb 1936)¹⁰
- Posted home in October 1938 and promoted to Corporal, and in October 1940 Sergeant. During this time he was stationed with Flying Training School No. 7 at Peterborough.
- The unit was moved to Kingston, Ontario as Flying Training School 31 in January 1941.

¹⁰ Lahore is now in Pakistan. It is in Pakistani Punjab and is the country's 2nd largest city.

- Returned home to 44 Bomber Squadron (Rhodesia) based at RAF Waddington near Lincoln in October 1942, where he was promoted to Flight Sergeant.
- Moved to RAF Winthorpe near Newark in Jan 1943 with the newly formed 1661 conversion unit which trained pilots to fly Lancaster bombers. He remained there until his release in March 1945.

Virtually all of Jim's early diary entries were about places he visited in his time off or while on leave, such as Srinagar in Kashmir, so we get only a few tantalising glimpses into his working life:

"Lahore was known as an aircraft park. We had plane fly in from the frontier stations for overhaul."

"Once a month we had a church parade in the Cantonment church [Lahore], when every airman and soldier attended fully armed with five rounds of ammunition.

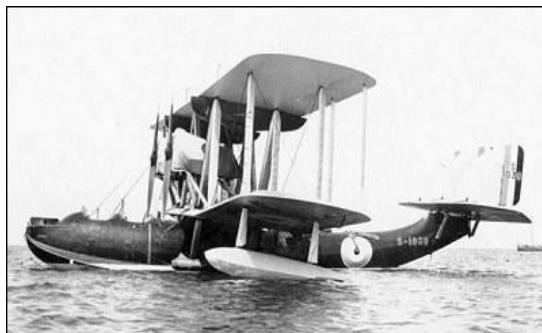
"In January 1937 and early February I had to go with a Squadron Leader who was on the Air Staff on a tour of the Frontier Squadrons. My job was to service the aircraft."

"During my stay at Waddington I was on Night Flying Duty one night when two Lancaster Bombers on a raid to Germany crashed in a head on collision. I had to take a fire crew to the scene of the crash but all 14 crew members were killed"

As well as working on three types of Flying Boats (Southamptons, Rangoons and Singapores), Jim serviced Westland Wapitas¹¹, Fairey Battle bombers and Lancaster bombers. The engines included Jaguar, Napier Lion, Rolls Royce Condor, and later Rolls Royce Merlin and Bristol Jupiter.

There are three intriguing entries in Jim's RAF service record:

- "16/8/40: to pay 45/- towards cost of damage" – to what?
- 1934 or 1935 "volunteered to train as an airman pilot" - we know he was slightly colour blind, so perhaps that is why he was not selected
- 6/11/42 – "recommended for commission" – but he didn't one



Shown on the left is a Westland Wapita, that featured in Jim's service in India. On the right is a Southampton Flying Boat

Before leaving England in 1934 Jim had become engaged to my mother Edna Clarke from Norwich. He writes "so after three years abroad I decided to ask for leave so I could go home and marry. The extra marriage allowance I would receive would help to pay for the cost of the leave". He left Lahore on 22nd March 1937, took the night train to Bombay, arriving on 24th. Then it was on the liner Corte Verde to Venice via Massowa, Eritrea and Port Said. From Venice it was train to Calais, arriving home 15 days after starting out. Jim and Edna married at St. Bartholomew's Church, Norwich on Sunday 25th April. They had a

¹¹ A general purpose 2-seater biplane used as an 'imperial policeman' to patrol India



Edna Clarke, circa 1935

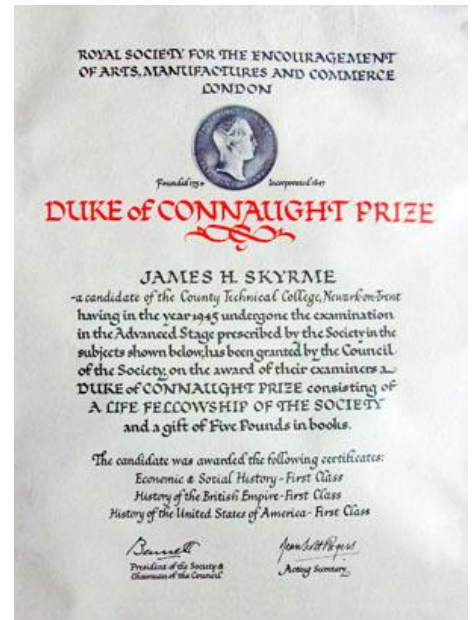
10-day honeymoon in Leicester, after which they visited Jim's family in Portsmouth. They left on 21st May which was the last time he saw his Dad (James Thomas) who died on 21st August.

While serving abroad, Jim studied for various education qualifications. He took exams at in 1935 at Lahore (RSA certificates), and 1938 at Toronto University (University of London matriculation exam). As the war drew to a close the pace quickened. In 1945 he took several RSA exams, and did so well that he won the Duke of Connaught prize for that year.

After discharge from the RAF he worked for nearly two years as a costing clerk in Norwich. Then he took the opportunity of a Ministry of Education emergency scheme to train teachers

because of the shortage after the war. He was in the first cohort at the new Wymondham College in March 1947, formerly the site of a US military hospital, then a transit camp. Teaching practice in Norwich and Ipswich was followed by a post at Morpeth School in London's East End. The family moved to live temporarily with Edna's sister Iris in Kenton. Middlesex, until moving to 67 Saunton Road, Hornchurch. This was the family home for Jim, Edna and their two children (me and my sister) from January 1949 until they moved to Bourton-on-the-Water in 1963.

While in Hornchurch Jim taught at several schools in London's East End (Stepney and Bethnal Green), and later at a secondary school in Hornchurch. After moving to Bourton he taught at the local secondary school (Bourton Vale) and a few years before retirement took a less stressful clerical job at an insurance company in Cheltenham.



When they first moved to Bourton-on-the-Water they rented a small cottage in the middle of the village. They bought some land just over half a mile down the Rissington Road, where a field had been divided into four building plots. They had a bungalow designed to their specifications and moved into it in summer 1964 (the photograph shows it near completion). It was named 'Pembroke', after Jim's birthplace.



A key feature of family life was the holidays. Edna and Jim were careful with money, and every year saved for a good summer holiday. From the 1960s these often involved trips abroad in the car, for example to Austria. After retirement Jim and Edna travelled further afield than

they ever had before, such as taking a Norwegian coastal cruise, and a tour of National Parks in America. They also enjoyed the pace of life in Bourton-on-the-Water where they enjoyed visiting local villages and walking locally. In his later years Jim suffered from dementia and needed constant care from Edna. He died in Dec 1998. Edna continued to live alone in the family bungalow until her death in November 2008, aged 99½.

Farming Skyrmes of Penally

We now return to the other children of John and Elizabeth Skyrme (nee Maurice) as shown on page 1. As noted there, the eldest son William (b1774 In Ludchurch) and his younger brother James (b.1780 in Manorbier), moved from Manorbier to Penally in the years around 1815. The other children remained in Manorbier, and although many of their descendents moved to Pembroke and other parts of South Wales, there were still 3 Skyrme families in 1881, though all had moved on (or died) by 1891.¹²

Descendants of William Skyrme (1776-1856)

William, John's eldest son was born in Ludchurch, Pembrokeshire in 1774 and moved with his parents to Manorbier around 1776. There on 13th October 1798 he married Elizabeth John. They had four daughters and three sons. All three sons were named John. Each John was named after an earlier son who had died (the eldest born 1799 reached the age of 11). The youngest John was born on 15th May 1814 and it is his line that propagates the name Skyrme. William was a farmer and he and Elizabeth moved to Penally around 1816. At the 1851 census their daughter Martha was living with them along with her husband Benjamin Harris and their three children. William was described as a labourer on parish relief. He was then aged 77. He died in 1856 aged 86, whilst Elizabeth survived him a further nine years, reaching the age of 90.

John married Phoebe James from Llanion, Carmarthenshire, in Penally on 18th Sept 1855. A summary of three generations of their descendants is shown below. Their first two children, who did not survive, were born in Penally. Their later children were born in Manorbier.

1st Generation	2nd Generation	3rd Generation
William b1836 d Feb 1836	--	--
Jane (1836-7)	--	--
William (1838-1914) agricultural labourer m Margaret Griffiths (1831-69) moved from Manorbier to Mount Sion, Castlemartin about 1862	Elizabeth (b1859-1924) m William Daye in Neath	4 children
	Thomas (b1860) agricultural labourer (poultry man) lived at Narberth Bridge	Thomas (b1884) Sarah A (b1888) William Benjamin (1890-1) Albert George (b1891) William Benjamin (b1893) Arthur (b1897)
	Alfred (b1862) railway stoker m Jane Griffiths in Pontypridd moved to Cardiff by 1891	Albert (b1889) Fred (b1890)
	Evan (1864-1928) railway porter m Elizabeth Thomas moved from Pembrokeshire to	Beatrice (b1892) William (b1895) Alice (b1900)

¹² Joseph (b. 1805) died in 1882; James (b.1847) moved his family to Wolferow, Herefordshire (see p.); John (b.1814) died in 1886.

2 nd marriage in 1870 to Mary Rees (1845-1924)	Blaenllechau, Glamorgan c1890	
	William (b 1865) dockyard labourer m Martha Teague moved around Pembrokeshire – Carew etc.	Sarah Jane (b1886) Elizabeth (b1889) Thomas (b1894) Martha (b1897) Flora (b1899)
	George (b1867) mason, worked for council m Mary Curnick moved to Pontypridd c1890 then Margam	Ada H (b1893) Emma (b1895) William A (b1897) Herbert J (b1900)
	John (1867-1871)	--
	Jane (1873-1951) m John Davis (plate layer) moved to Herefordshire c1899	5 children
	Mary (b1874)	
	James (1879-1951) m Mary Ann Jones moved to Rhoscrowther c1900	
	John (b1991) Teamster on farm m Mary Ann Williams	William (b1896) Thomas (b1900)
	Arthur (b1883) - horseman on farm m Sarah Jane Gwyther Moved into James's former place at Rhoscrowther c1908	Arthur John (b1908) Mary Ann (b1910)
	Martha (1886-1975) m Thomas Powell	
	John (1862-1882)	
	George (1863-1917) - ag labourer, later bailiff m Margaret Ellen Hier (b1863)	Mary Anne (b1887) John (b1889) Frederick (b1892-1975) Francis (Frank) (b1897-1985)
Thomas (b1840) - ag labourer m Mary Jones (1841-1932) Moved to Axton Hill, Monkton c1859 (often spelt Skyrmes)	James Henry (1865-1945) - gardener m Margaret Reynolds (b1865) moved to Llandefalle, Breconshire bt 1881 and 1891	Ernest (b1892) Frederick Thomas (b1893) Constance Ruth (b1897) Oliver Margaret (b1898) Ethel Mary (b1902)
	Arthur William (b1868) - tailor m Sarah Skone (b1868) moved to Aberdare bt 1881-91	Ada Mary (b1897) James Thomas (b1900)
	Benjamin (1870-1950) - police constable m Harriet Aquilla Howe moved to Glamorgan by 1881, then Porth, Rhondda after marriage in 1896	Adelaide Mary (b1897) Bessie Frances (b1900)
	Margaret Jane (b1872) m John Brickle, cowman (1901) with children they lived with Margaret's mother in 1911	5 children in 1911 (William, Lewis, Arthur, Benjamin, Caroline)
	Charles (1874-1951) - platelayer M Jane Evans (b1872) Moved to Merthyr T. c1899	Caroline Rachel (b1909)
	Gilbert (1875-1965) - labourer, later for council M Camella Poyer	Laura Howard Woodward (1905-97) Hilda (b1907)

	Moved to Castlemartin c1904	Reginald (1909-1958) Elsie (b1910)
	Hubert Thomas (1881-1935) - teamster then gardener M Edith Margaret Price Later moved to Llanelli	Melville Mary (1904-1993) John Price (b1908) Elizabeth Clara (b1908 – twin) Alice Gwendoline (b 1910)
Jane (b1843)		
John (1850-1943) Farmer (40 acres in 1881) m Barbara John Moved to Llanfihangel Abercowin c1870, then Llangan (both Carmarthenshire), then Broomhill Farm, Angle, Pembrokeshire	Alice (b1871)	
	Ward (b1877) – horse carter	
	Lily (b1878) m Henry Davies	
	Rose (b1882)	
	Edwin Rowlands (1882-1964)	
	Edith (1884-1894)	
	Ernest (b1885)	
	Agnes Lizzy (b1886)	
	Emily (b1889)	
	Kate (b1893)	
	Vernon (b1899)	

As can be seen from the table above, William was the most prolific of John's sons (just). Altogether he had 13 children from his two marriages: six sons and a daughter between 1859 and 1867 from his marriage to Margaret Griffiths and three sons and three daughters between 1873 and 1886 from his marriage to Mary Rees. All William's children were born at Castlemartin, where he lived in one place - Mount Zion - for over 30 years.

Several of William's sons called themselves Skyrmes rather than Skyrme. One of the most interesting is Evan. In the late 1880s he followed his elder brother Alfred to Glamorgan, and like him was a railwayman. But in 1891, while Alfred was a stoker at Cardiff, Evan was a porter at Blaenllechau in the Rhondda. In May 1894, the *Western Mail* reported a murder attempt on Evan:

"John Bufton a Railway Porter was in custody before Cymmer magistrates charged with attempting to murder another Porter Evan Skyrme at Ferndale railway station."

The next main branch of the family is that of Thomas. He had nine children from his marriage to Mary Jones. About the time of his marriage in 1859 he moved from Manorbier to Axton Hill, Hundleton, not far from Monkton. Several of his children followed their cousins to other parts of south Wales, notably Glamorgan and the Rhondda. Outside of labouring and gardening, their trades were varied – platelayer (a railway trade), tailor and police constable. Thomas's youngest son Herbert moved to house nearby after his marriage by which he had five children, one of whom died when young. Two, John and Elizabeth, born in December 1908 were twins.

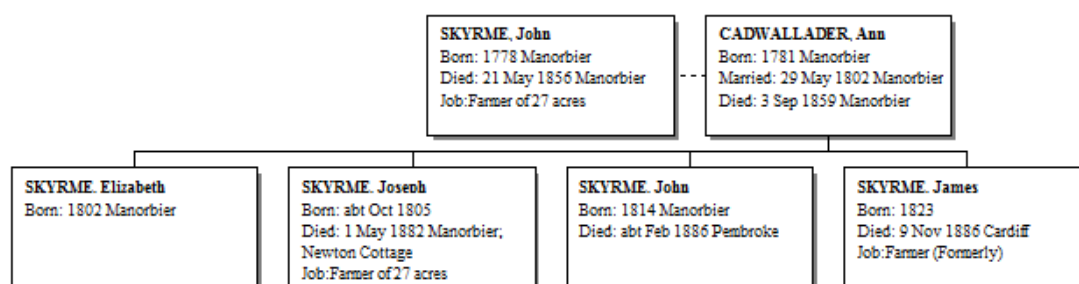
John's next child Jane is recorded in the 1861 census as one of 8 servants in the household of her great uncle John John. He was a farmer with a substantial acreage – 200 acres – at Lamphey, a few miles to the east of Pembroke. After this date we lose track of her.

Finally, and out-fathering Thomas, was John's youngest son John, born about May 1840. He was a farmer and married another farmer's daughter Barbara John from Llanginning near St. Clears, Carmarthenshire. They had 11 children, although two died when very young. Immediately after their marriage, they lived at Llanfihangel Abercywyn (a couple of miles SE of St. Clears), where their three eldest children were born. Around 1880 they

moved to Llangan, a few miles north west of St. Clears and in the mid 1890s to Broomhill Farm at Angle in Pembrokeshire. Barbara was a younger sister of Phoebe, who married John's second cousin John Skyrme, born in Manorbier three years earlier than this John (in 1847). Barbara's father, David John, was a farmer of some means. In the 1871 census he is recorded as a farmer of 233 acres at Lower Court, Llanfihangel Abercywyn. When he died there in 1894, his estate was valued at £886 3s 6d.

Descendants of John Skyrme (1778-1856)

John was William's younger brother and the first of John Skyrme's five children to be born in Manorbier in an 18 year period starting in 1778. He married Ann Cadwallader. The Cadwalladers were of ancient lineage, some say descendents of King Cadwaladr of Gwynedd who reigned c. 655 – 682.¹³ Anne's lineage has been traced back by other Ancestry.co.uk researchers four generations to Thomas Cadwallader (born 1687) and a further two generations back from his wife Hannah Merchant to Lewis Bishop (born 1639).



A Cadwallader relation also features in this branch of the family. John's eldest son Joseph married Ann's niece, his cousin, Ann Beddow (also spelt Beddoe).

John and Ann farmed 27 acres at Green Grove, Manorbier from before 1841 until John's death in 1856. They had four children. The eldest, Elizabeth, married Lewis Griffiths from St. Florence in 1824 and went on to have four children – Sarah, James, Thomas, Anne and Elizabeth – between 1828 and 1839. Joseph, as mentioned above, married his cousin Anne Beddow in Penally in June 1840. He and his branch of the family usually spelt their surname Skyrme, without the e. By 1851 Joseph and Ann had moved with their then five children to Newhouse where they farmed 3 acres. Dorothy Beddow (nee Cadwallader), Ann's widowed mother, also lived with them until her death in 1855. After John's death in 1856, Joseph inherited



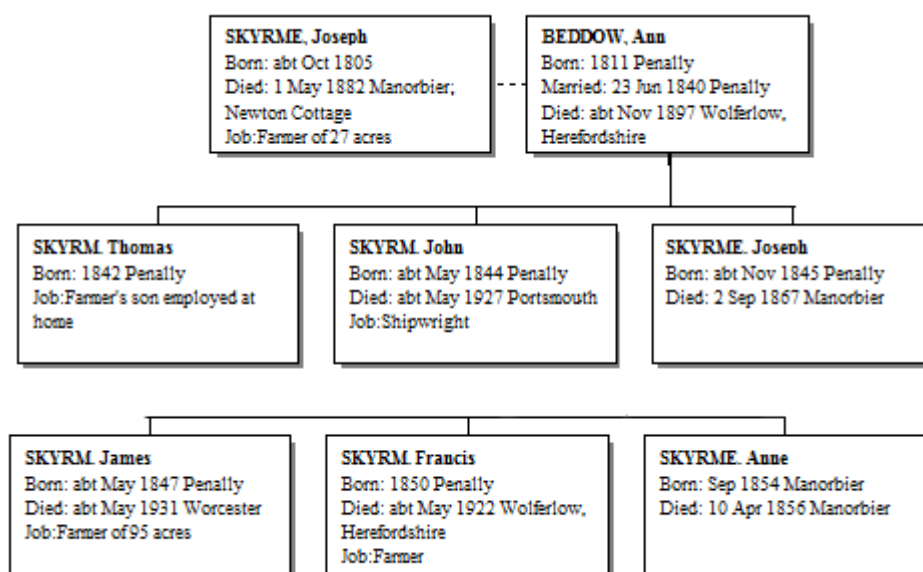
Green Grove, Jameston, Manorbier, 2010 (?). From the website of Grove Grove Bed and breakfast (Ray and Chris Hughes) - www.greengrovebedandbreakfast.co.uk. Photo credit: Gareth Davies, Tenby www.garethdaviesphotographytenby.co.uk.

¹³ See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadwallader> and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadwaladr>. One more recent member of this family was John Cadwalader of Philadelphia, a descendant of a 1697 US immigrant. He was a general during the revolutionary war.

the family farm at Green Grove where he lived until some time in the 1870s when the family moved to Manorbier Newton on a larger farm of 59 acres. At the time of the 1881 census the household comprised 7 people: John (now aged 75) and Ann; two married sons Thomas (age 39) and Francis (age 31); Francis's wife Mary (age 31) and their son George (aged 2); and another grandson William (age 15), he being the son of John Skyrme. Joseph died in May 1882 leaving an estate worth £145.

Family Branch: Joseph Skyrme (1805-1882) and Ann Beddow (1811-1897)

All the adults are listed as farmers. The chart below shows the children of Joseph and Ann.



As can be seen, only two of their children remained in Manorbier. Two died relatively young – Joseph aged 21 and Anne before her second birthday. The eldest son Thomas stayed at the family farm until at least 1881. At that census he is reported as being married, but no index record can be found. One researcher suggests in 1866 to Mary. However, he is often confused with his second cousin Thomas (b1840 in Manorbier), the son of John (b1814) and Phoebe James. Further research is needed here to pin details down.

The second son John moved with the family to Manorbier when he was six. About a mile down the road is Slade Farm, where two families named Gwyther, probably brothers, lived. The eldest Peter, born in 1790, married Martha Ormond, who had eight children. The sixth child, Louisa, born in 1843, moved to Poplar, London some time after 1861 and married John on 30th March 1864. What took her to London is unknown. At the time John was living in Deptford, Kent where he was a shipwright, presumably in one of HM dockyards. The couple lived there for a short while after their marriage, since that is where their first child William John was born. The family were quite mobile having moved back to Manorbier by 1867 when they had their second child, Anne Martha, and then living at three different addresses in Saundersfoot between 1871 and 1891 - Railway Street, Moreton Road and Picton Cottage in the High Street respectively. Between 1869 and 1880 they had four more children – Louisa, Thomas, Lidia and Maria. By 1901 the family had moved to Portsmouth. John, Louisa and three of their grown up children lived at 79 Percy Road. The boys followed

their father's footsteps as shipwrights. Thomas, single, lived with his parents, whilst William, who had married Sarah in Saundersfoot in 1889, also lived in Portsmouth at 14 Eton Road, a couple of streets away.

The fourth and fifth sons, James and Francis, both farmers, moved within a short time of each other to Worcestershire around 1882. James had married Frances Beddoe (Beddow), a cousin in 1872. As noted earlier, more than one Skyrme married a Beddoe. Just as Skyrmes had married Gwythers and Cadwalladers, so also had Beddoes. There was thus quite a lot of intermarrying between these long established families from Manorbier and locality. James and Frances had eight children. Five were born while they lived in Manorbier – Margaret, David, Francis, Annie and William. Their youngest three were born after they had moved to Hat House Farm at Lower Sapey, Worcestershire – Ellen, Ira and Eva. James outlived Frances by 8 years, dying in 1831, aged 81.

Francis, like James, married a local Manorbier girl, Mary Jones, in 1874. The 1911 census records them as having two children, one of whom had died. The one then living, George Thomas Skyrme, was born in Manorbier in 1879. After 1882 the family moved to live with Mary's widowed father Henry Jones, and her younger single sister, Elizabeth, aged 34. Also living with them was Francis's mother, Ann Skyrme (nee Beddow). It's likely that they all moved at the same time. Henry was a farmer of 15 acres at Newton Hill, Manorbier from before 1861. Henry died in 1894 and Ann three years later. So by the 1901 census, Elizabeth, now 44, is listed as the head of household and a farmer. James, Mary and George (now 22) are shown as farm workers.

Lower Sapey was in Wolferlow's registration district. Both are near their county borders – Wolferlow in Herefordshire and Lower Sapey in Worcestershire

Who or what instigated the move of three households from Manorbier to the Hereford/Worcester border is unknown. This part of Herefordshire is somewhat distant from the centre of the Herefordshire Skyrmes, who mainly came from the Lugwardine area, just a couple of miles NW of Hereford. It was at a similar time that Francis and James brother John and his family moved to Portsmouth.

There is an interesting newspaper snippet from about 100 years ago. A photograph of Clifton-on-Teme (near Lower Sapey) from the same period is shown below:¹⁴

ACCIDENT

On Monday evening Mr Ernest Skyrme met with a somewhat serious accident. He was leading a colt which was being broken from Ham Farm to the Hill when the animal became restive and kicked Mr Skyrme in the face and back. The kick he received on his back was delivered with such force as to cut the whole of his clothing through to his flesh. Happily Mr Yarnold happened to be driving from the Ham Mill Weir towards Clifton when, lying in the road, an hour after the accident, he found Mr Skyrme in a semi-conscious condition. With the assistance of Mr E. Haywood he was raised into the trap and driven to the Hill Farm where he was attended by Dr. Hinings.



¹⁴ The photo and newspaper snippet are courtesy of the website of Clifton-on-Teme, The Shelseys and Lower Sapey. www.clifton-upon-teme.co.uk

We now return to the remaining two children of John and Ann Skyrme shown in Figure 2. Of their third child John, there is little to add. He remained single and lived with his parents for 50 years or more, helping on the farm at Green Grove, until he died aged 82 about February 1886. The youngest child was James, and here we have a sizeable branch to follow.

Family Branch: James Skyrme (1823-1886) and Eliza Scourfield (1819-1897)

James was born into a farming family, and like his brothers carried on this tradition. He is recorded as a worker on the family farm at Green Grove in the 1841 census. He married Eliza Scourfield in Llanddewi Velfrey on 29th October 1844. Eliza was a dairy maid working on the Trewen estate, one of the large estates in the village. She came from a very prestigious family in the county. Her father was a farmer, James, whose lineage has been traced back over 10 generations to William Scourfield (born around 1325) and his wife Elizabeth Wyard. The family seat was New Moat, about 20 miles further north in the country and after the dissolution of the monasteries, the Scourfields owned over 50 significant properties in the county.¹⁵

After their marriage they remained in Manorbier for a few more years, moving to Henllan, Llanddewi Velfrey, near St. Clears, close to the Pembrokeshire-Carmarthenshire border. The 1851 census lists James as a farmer of 133 acres, a sizeable farm. As well as their first four children, also living in the household were six servants – two male servants working on the farm, a dairy maid and three house servants. Henllan is described in various sources as being one the main estates of the area, and owned “since at least 1637” by the Lewis family, prominent farmers in the area.¹⁶ The Skyrmes were most likely tenant farmers. In 1854, the owner John Lewis demolished the family home and built a new mansion.

Thus by 1861 we find the Skyrmes now farming at Pontefinon (Pantyffynon), Llangan, across the border in Carmarthenshire. By now they had seven children and four servants. Based on when the children were born it seems that they moved from Llanddewi Velfrey about 1858. The 1871 census sees them moved yet again, to Pant-dwfn just south of St. Clears near the River Taf. Now they farm 350 acres, with James employing five men and two boys. They presumably were relatively prosperous, since by the age of 58 James had retired and he, Eliza and their 7th child Francis, were living in New Road, St. Clears. In Henllan Amgoed church, close to their 1871 residence is recorded: “James Skyrme, late of Pantdwfr in the parish of Llanfihangel Abercowin died at Canton Cardiff Nov 9 1886, aged 64years. Also his wife - Eliza Skyrme widow of the above who died at her residence Keiffe House, St. Clears Sunday Dec 12 1897 aged 79 years.”¹⁷ James was most likely visiting his

The name Llanddewi Velfrey is pre-Norman. Llan is a church, dedicated to St. David (Dewi Sant), while Velfrey comes from Efelffre, the earlier name of a pre-Norman settlement.

¹⁵ For further details of the Scourfields of Pembrokeshire see ‘An examination of the Scourfield pedigree’, Derek F Williams, *Journal of the Pembrokeshire Historical Society*, Vol. 6 (1994-1995); accessible at <http://welshjournals.llgc.org.uk>. The author suggests that the family settled in the county in the 16th century. However, Archives Wales says “The Scourfield family had lived at the Mote, New Moat, Pembrokeshire, from the time of Edward I” (1272-1307).

¹⁶ The Lewis of Henllan papers 1581-1920, Pembrokeshire Record Office. Ref GB 0213 D/LEW. A short description of the Lewis’s as ‘local gentry’ is in the Llanddewi Velfrey leaflet, downloadable at www.experiencepembrokeshire.com

¹⁷ Recorded by Yvonne Reid, Rootsweb (2002).

son James (their 5th child), a police constable, who at the time was living in Cardiff (see below).

The table below shows the children and grandchildren of James and Eliza

Children	Grandchildren
Nathaniel Rowland SKYRME b: 25 Aug 1845, Manorbier m: Martha SUTTON , about Nov 1867 Bedwelty, Monmouthshire d: about 1880, Ireland?	James Henry R SKYRME b: 1870, Shorncliffe, Kent Mabel S SKYRME b: about 1878, Hythe, Kent Ernest Scourfield SKYRME b: about August 1871, Clifton d: about Nov 1943, Plymouth
John SKYRME b: about August 1847, Manorbier m: Phebe James cAug 1876, St. Clears	Unknown
Elizabeth SKYRME b: 1849, Manorbier m David Williams, Carmarthenshire (1879) lived at Trenewydd, Crunwere	Eliza Williams, b1882 Annie Williams, b1885 Kate Williams, b1887
Ann SKYRME b: about February 1851, Llanddewi Velfrey	
James R SKYRME b: about 1854, Llanddewi Velfrey M: Annie S R Morgan, abt May 1877, Cardiff d: about May 1920, Cardiff	Nathaniel Rowland SKYRME (b: 1879) Louisa SKYRME (1883-1955) Abraham SKYRME (1886-1953) James Scourfield SKYRME (b: 1890) George Thomas SKYRME (b: 1891) Daniel Rowland SKYRME (b&d: Aug 1892) Ernest SKYRME (b: 1893)
Louisa SKYRME b: about February 1855, Llanddewi Velfrey m: Daniel Saer, abt Nov 1874, Cardiff	
Francis SKYRME b: about August 1856, Llanddewi Velfrey	
Thomas SKYRME b: abt Aug 1859, Llangan, Carmarthenshire	
Daniel SKYRME b: abt Nov 1861, Llangan, Carmarthenshire	

Their first child was the first Skyrme to take the name Nathaniel. Later (in 1879) one of Nathaniel's nephews would also take the same name. Nathaniel was both a medical man and a military man. By the time he was 15 Nathaniel had moved to Merthyr Tydfil and became an apprentice druggist (pharmacist) to a Mr John Evans of 94 Penydarran Road. At age 22 he married an Essex girl, Martha Sutton, who came from Heydon. They were married in Bedgellty, a couple valleys East of Merthyr. They were fairly mobile, since their first and third children were born in Kent, whilst their middle child was born in Clifton near Bristol. The Kent births occurred while Nathaniel was stationed at Shorncliffe, near Hythe. Shorncliffe was an extensive training camp, where infantry tactics were refined and as well as barracks had a camp hospital. This is undoubtedly where Nathaniel served. The 1871 census finds him as a sergeant in the Army Hospital Corps in Clifton. It is believed that he died while serving in the Army in Ireland around 1880.

A druggist was a dispensing chemist who made up the mixtures as prescribed. They often also created their own concoctions.

His wife Martha, now widowed, had moved to Didcot in Oxfordshire by 1891. Living next to the rectory, with children James and Mabel, she was a teacher at the National School. At this time we find youngest son Ernest, age 9, living at the London District Orphan Asylum in Watford. By 1891 he had dropped his surname, and changed his name to Scofield (a shortened version of Scourfield), which is how his descendents are now known. This is said to be after he joined the Royal Marines, an occupation of which his mother and siblings (all teachers) disapproved.¹⁸ In the 1891 census his name is spelt Schofield and he is a Lance Sergeant in the Royal Marine barracks, East Stonehouse, now a district of Plymouth. He married in 1903 and died in 1943, in Plymouth.

A lance sergeant was a rank which could be removed by the soldier's commanding officer, unlike a full sergeant, who could only be demoted by court martial. (Wikipedia)

Before the Education Act 1902 the training of teachers was largely carried out under a pupil-teacher system, first established in 1846. For three years they were both learning and training.

Mabel was staying there as a pupil-teacher. This was the way that teachers were trained at the time. Mabel later taught in West Ham. James married Minnie Hilton from Bury, Lancs in 1893 and taught at Combe St. Nicholas in 1901, by which time they had three children. They subsequently had three more.

We now go back to the second child of James and Eliza. This was John, born 1847, who in 1876 married Phebe John from Llanginning, near St. Clears in Carmarthenshire. Phebe was from a reasonably well-to-do farming family. She was the eldest of nine children of David and Sarah (nee Harries). From some time in the 1860s David lived at Lower Court, Llanfihangel Abercywyn, and farmed 233 acres, employing three labourers in 1871. David died in July 1894 and left an estate of £886 3s 6d, worth over £100,000 today. David and Sarah's fourth child Barbara also married a Skyrme, John's second cousin, another John. Searching for the whereabouts of John and Phebe after their marriage has drawn a blank.

The next child Elizabeth married a David Williams when she was 37 in 1879. After marriage they lived at Trenewydd, Llanteg (Crunwere parish), where David farmed 300 acres and employed 3 boys. At the time of the 1901 census, they had three children and four servants / farm labourers, three of whom were Scourfields (from Lampeter and Carew). And in 1911, the two eldest daughters were still at home working on the farm. Incidentally mother Elizabeth was the only bilingual member of the family, speaking Welsh as well as English. Trenewydd was in the late 17th century the home of the Rev James Howell, a graduate of Trinity College, Oxford. In 1670 it had six hearths which made it the most valuable property in Llanteg.

The fourth child Anne was the first to be born after James and Eliza moved to Llanddewi Velfrey. In the 1881 census she was still single and visiting a friend in central Pembroke. After that we can find no record.

¹⁸ Contributor to Ancestry.co.uk.



James, the fifth child, had left home by the age of 17. Whereas six children of James and Eliza were living in the household at Pant-dwfn in 1871, including three older siblings, James was to be found in Swansea, working as a shopman in Edward Gregory's grocery shop at 37 High Street. Next he moved to Cardiff, where in 1877 he married Annie Morgan. Over the next 16 years they had seven children. James changed career several times. Next we find him as a police constable (in 1881) at 24 Romilly Crescent, then in 1891 a clerk in the Dock office while living at 44 Pembroke Road. And in 1901, he returns to shop-keeping running a confectionery shop at 99 Clifton Street. At the time the household was 9 strong with all the children living at home.

Photo of James Skyrme (b 1854) courtesy of Bryn Heulog via Ancestry.co.uk

James and Ann's first child Nathaniel was given the middle name of Rowland. It is quite likely that James's middle name is also Rowland, since that was the surname of his maternal grandmother. Rowland was also the middle name given to sixth child Daniel, who died shortly after his birth. As noted above, another Nathaniel Rowland Skyrme was this Nathaniel's uncle. This Nathaniel started as an iron founder's clerk. He married a Gwen Meyrick around November 1903 in Merthyr Tydfil, but she died about May 1905, aged just 23, most probably in child-birth. He remarried in 1908 to Janet Gravell and later served in the Army Service Corps in World War I.

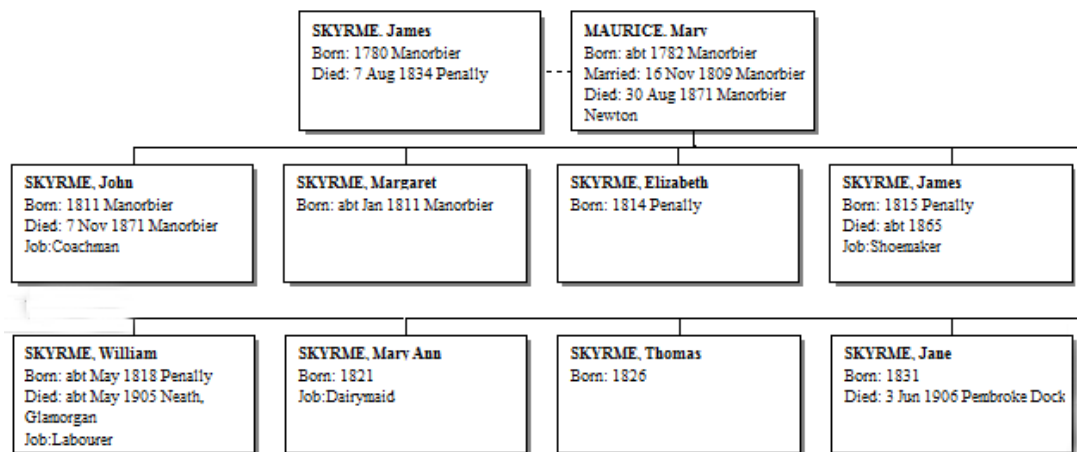
The maternal mortality rate in the UK was around 1 in 200 in 1900. After 1930 it declined dramatically and today is less than 1 in 10,000.

We have not traced their other children beyond the 1901 census. At that time Louisa was a draper's assistant and Abraham a steam engine fitter. A descendant of this family branch reports that James Scourfield served in the Royal Field Artillery and that Ernest married Ada Bridges and had one leg shorter than the other.

Returning to the remaining children of James and Eliza (Scourfield), Louisa married Daniel Saer, whose family came from Llanfihangel Abercowin, which is where Louise lived with her family at the time. They actually married in Cardiff, mirroring the move of her older brother from the Pembrokeshire / Carmarthenshire border. While Francis remained in St. Clears (he is listed as a student and housekeeper, age 24 in the 1881 census), younger brother Thomas also moved to Cardiff, where in 1881 we find him as one of 50 draper's shopmen living at 11 St. Mary's Street. At the same time the youngest child Daniel lived with brother James and his family at Romilly Road, Cardiff and is listed as "unemployed farmer's son". But after the 1881 census, we can find no records of the future of any of these three youngest children, most likely due to transcription errors in online databases.

Descendants of James Skyrme (1780-1834)

We now return to James, the third son of John and Elizabeth Skyrme of Manorbier. He married Mary Maurice, probably a cousin, in Manorbier in November 1809. They probably preceded James's brother John and his wife Elizabeth in moving from Manorbier to Penally, based on the birth dates and places of their children.



Although James died in 1834, Mary survived him by over 35 years, and brought up their children on her own. She is shown as a widow and farmer in the 1841 census, living at Park House, Penally. Later she went to live with daughter Mary at Manorbier Newton, which is where James's uncle Joseph farmed. She died at age 89.

Family Branch: John Skyrme and Margaret Griffiths

Eldest son John married Margaret Griffiths from Carew in January 1835. In the following 20 years they had seven children as shown in the table below.

First Generation	Second Generation / Notes
Jane, b1835 Penally. Died 1857?	Living with parents 1851 census (age 14)
Mary Ann, b 1837 Penally D abt 1924 (age 84)	In 1861 she was a cook at Lydstep House Manorbier
James, b1842, Penally; d1920 m Martha Richards 1864	David John, b: Nov 1865, Pembroke Dock William James, b: June 1867, Pem Dock Elizabeth Ann b: 1869, d 1870, Monkton Edith Mary b: Oct 1871, Pembroke Dock James b: Aug 1876, Pembroke Dock Alice Jane, b: Nov 1879, Pembroke Dock
John, b Aug 1845, d Sep 1845, Penally	
Rebecca, b 1846, Penally M Alfred Richards 1866	
Margaret, b1849, Penally	Had illegitimate child Isabella, b1867 who married Jacob Williams in Penally, Mar 1888
Emily, b1854, Penally M Thomas Thomas 1881	Moved to 27 Park Road, Tenby after marriage

John and Mary lived at the Bower House on the Common at Penally from around the time of their marriage until John's death in July 1888. His occupation is listed in various censuses as gardener, coachman and farmer. Mary was a laundress and seems to have died in April 1881 in Manorbier. However, John had remarried, to Lydia Page, in 1878 with whom he lived at the Bower House in 1881. We can only speculate why this happened, since Mary was living with John in 1871. Or possibly the death recorded belonged to another Mary. Lydia who was 20 years John's junior carried on her work as a laundress at Bower Cottage and died in 1904.

Of John and Mary's children, we have the most information about their first son and third child James. He married Martha Richards in 1864 and moved to Bridgend Terrace in Pembroke. He was a cabinet maker and by 1881 employed three apprentices. They moved around different location in Pembroke Dock (Dimond Street, Apley Terrace, Hawkstone Street). We know from the 1911 census that they had eight children, five of whom had died by then. Earlier records identify six children, all born in Pembroke Dock:

1. David John b: Nov 1865. By the time he was 15, he was a cabinet maker's apprentice. By 1891 he had become a railway clerk at Corwen in North Wales. There in 1894 he married Sarah George from Bradford. Their first two children William and Edith were born in Corwen. They moved to Market Drayton in Shropshire around 1896 where they had two more children – Martha and George. and their next, Pembroke Dock. David died in March 1936 in Chester.
2. William James b: 24 June 1867. He remained in Pembroke Dock throughout his life, marrying Elizabeth Wilkins in 1890 with whom he had five children – Arthur, Philip, Hugh, David and Doris. They started married life in Law Street, living with Elizabeth's parents, whose father was a house builder and plasterer. This situation was reversed by 1901 when Elizabeth's father, now a 77-year old widower lived with William and his family in Argyle Street. William started out as a shipwright, though by the time of his death in 1924 he was an insurance agent. His boys also followed trades being respectively
3. Elizabeth Ann b: 1869 d: about August 1870, Pembroke
4. Edith Mary b: about October 1871. She married William Thomas, a shipwright and draughtsman in 1893. By 1911 they had three children – Frederick, Florence and Edith.
5. James SKYRME b: about August 1876. He married Rose Vaughan in 1897. By 1911 they had six children – James, Wynford, Ronald, David, Martha and Daisy. James was an engine fitter.
6. Alice Jane b: about November 1879. She married another William Thomas in 1902 and moved to Pontypridd, where William carried out trade as a grocery salesman.

Other Branches

After John, the next two children of James and Mary were Margaret (born 1811 in Manorbier) and Elizabeth (born 1814 in Penally). Margaret married John Bittle, a shoemaker, in 1834. They lived in Jameston and had six children. We do not know what happened to Elizabeth.

James and Mary's fourth child was James, who usually spelt his name Skyrme. He was a shoemaker who moved to Abergavenny where in 1843 he married Deborah Ferris, a dressmaker, from Hartbury near Bristol. Their first five children (Agnes, Emma, Timothy, William and Frederick) were born in Abergavenny but around 1860 they moved back to Penally where Deborah had their sixth child, Jane. At the time of the 1861 census, they had three lodgers – a builder, a stonemason, and a lantern keeper, presumably for the lighthouse at Giltar Point. Agnes and Timothy died when young – 12 and 2 respectively.

Emma married Frederick Trill from Southwark. William remained single and is listed in the 1891 census as a labourer at Purfleet Garrison in Essex, where he died in 1899, age 46.

Next in line was William born in 1818. For the first half of his working life William was a labourer in Tenby, but by the 1871 census he is recorded as a licensed victualler at The Victoria Inn, also in Tenby. Sometime in his 60s – in the 1890s – he moved to Swansea as a gardener. He married twice and had children by both marriages. At age 24 he married Priscilla Allen. Their children and descendants were:

- John (1843-1904) – in 1880 aged 37 he married Ann Garland Davies, a widow, in Pontypridd. She was born Ann Garland, near Bristol and had married David Davies in 1861 with whom she had four children. After marrying John, she had three more children – William (born in 1880 just a few months after their married), John (b. 1882) and William (b1883). In the 1881 census John was listed a miner in the Rhondda, and as well as William two of Ann's children by her first marriage lived with them. Third son William was also a miner. The 1911 census shows him age 33 and single living with his mother at 114 Ystrad Road (Pentre, Rhondda).
- Sarah (b1845) – born in Tenby, she married William Green in Penally in Dec 1888. The 1891 census shows them living in Tenby with a 1-year old son Arthur but by 1901 there were only a family of lodgers living with them.
- John (b1847) – after leaving Tenby in the 1860s, John was first a butler at household of Edward Evans, magistrate and landowner, in Gwaestedy, Radnorshire. But by 1881 when he was 33, he was living as a boarder with Brother John and his family. He too was a miner at Treherbert. He remained single and later censuses show him as a lodger at other addresses in the Rhondda.

We now have to jump to James and Mary's 8th child Jane since we have no further information on Mary Ann or Thomas. Jane, born 1831, married George Pinch, a shipwright five years younger, in 1836. George's parents had moved from Plymouth to Pembroke in the 1820s. It was one of George's ancestors Clive Pinch who in the mid 1990s provided some of the most publicised family trees of the Skyrmes of Pembrokeshire. Jane and George lived in Pembroke Dock. They went on to have several children - Fanny (b1865), Annie (b1867), Mary (b1869) and John (b1872). Jane died in June 1906.

This completes our excursion through the various branches of the descendants of John Skyrme (1749-1845) who lived in Manorbier from about 1775. In the rest of this chapter we provide an analysis of their movements away from Manorbier, family names and occupations.

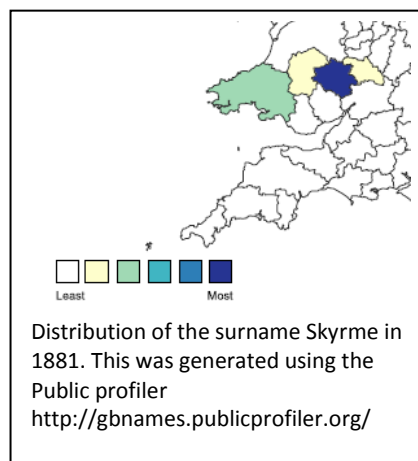
Dispersion from Manorbier

The table on pages 42-43 gives a snapshot of the places of households at censuses from 1841 to 1901. For each date there are two columns. The first (H) gives the number of households at a given location, while the second (D) gives the number of descendants, both male and female. As the children moved away from their parents only the Skyrme(s) were counted. Thus girls who married were no longer counted.

The first migration was to Penally around 1814. By 1841 ten households of John's male descendants were clustered at these two places – Manorbier and Penally. The next 20 years saw four households moving to other nearby places in Pembrokeshire and

Carmarthenshire. Migration further afield started around 1870, with forays into England following work – shipbuilding and the military, with a larger movement to Glamorganshire and the Rhondda for jobs in the mining industry.

The period between 1871 and 1891 saw the most significant movements. While the majority of households (11 out of 15) were in Pembrokeshire in 1871, twenty years later they were a minority (12 out of 31). As far as we can tell, by 1881 there were no Skyrme households in Penally, and by 1891 none in Manorbier, with the largest number of families (mostly shipbuilders) living in Monkton and Pembroke. By the turn of the century, the Skyrmes were quite well dispersed through southern Wales and England, with clusters in Pembroke, the Rhondda and Portsmouth. The Skyrmes in England accounted for over a third of the households.



Did You Know Your Skyrmes?

These are the answers from the questions on page 3:

1. Francis John (b 1852), later known as Thomas John (see page 8)
2. Ernest Scofield, born Ernest Scourfield Skyrme in 1871 (see page 36)
3. Railway porter Evan Skyrmes was assaulted by a fellow porter in 1894 (see page 30)
4. James Thomas Skyrme was shipwrecked on HMHS Rohilla in October 1914 (see page 17)
5. For boys - James, William and John. For girls – Elizabeth (see page 44)
6. An Act of 1860 made the Metropolitan Police responsible for HM Dockyards (see p20)
7. It was a shore based establishment at Chatham Dockyard (see page 17)
8. The Cadwallader family, said to descend from King Cadwaladr c. 655 – 682 (see page 31)
9. 1891 with clusters in Glamorgan, Herefordshire and Portsmouth (see page 42)
10. They took a ferry across Pembroke River (see page 10)

Table: Movement of Skyrme descendents of John Skyrme (1749-1845) of Manorbier

Location	1791		1811		1821		1831		1841		1851		1861		1871		1881		1891		1901	
	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D
<i>Pembrokeshire:</i>																						
Manorbier	1	7	5	11	2	5	4	11	5	12	4	17	4	13	3	6	3	12				
Penally					4	17	3	16	5	13	3	6	3	11	1	2						
Monkton											1	6	2	10	3	13	2	10	4	13	2	8
Pembroke															1	3	3	8	4	6	4	12
Tenby											1	4	1	4	1	5	1	4				
St Issells															1	3	1	5	2	9		
Castlemartin															1	7	1	7	1	5		
Llanddewi Velfrey											1	5										
Pwllcrochan																	1	1				
Narberth																			1	4	1	4
Cosheston																					1	5
Angle																					1	7
<i>Carmarthenshire</i>																						
St Clears / Llangan													1	9	2	15	2	6				
<i>Wales (Other):</i>																						
Abergavenny											1	4										
Cardiff																	2	4	2	9	1	8
Swansea																			1	2		
Glamorgan																	1	1	7	11	6	15
Mid-Wales																			1	1	1	5

Table: Movement of Skyrme descendents of John Skyrme (1749-1845) of Manorbier (cont)

Location	1791		1811		1821		1831		1841		1851		1861		1871		1881		1891		1901	
	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D
<i>England:</i>																						
Bristol / Clifton															1	1						
Sheerness															1	1						
Portsmouth																	2	4	3	7	5	17
Barrow																	1	1				
Herefordshire																			2	11	2	9
Shropshire																					1	5
Didcot																	1	2				
Somerset																			1	2	1	5
Purfleet, Essex																			1	1		
Poplar, London																			1	1	1	1
Totals	1	7	5	11	6	22	7	27	10	25	11	42	11	47	15	56	21	65	31	82	27	101

Most Popular First Names

In South Wales less than 10% of the population had Welsh-derived names. In 1841 four boys' names accounted for 60% of all boys - John, William, Thomas and David. For girls the top three were Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah in that order followed by Margaret or Sarah dependent on region. How do the Skyrmes stack up against the wider population? The table below shows the statistics for all given names in censuses from 1841 to 1901.

Boy's Names	No.
1= James	17
1= William	17
3. John	16
4. Thomas	11
5. George	10
6. Francis / Frank	7
7= Frederick	4
7= Ernest	4
9. David	4
Others	30
Total people	120
Total names	31

Girl's names	No.
1. Eliza(beth)	13
2= Jane	6
2= Mary	6
4. Ann(e)	5
5= Edith	4
5= Margaret	4
5= Sarah	4
8= Alice	3
8= Louisa	3
Others	46
Total people	94
Total names	46

For Skyrme boys, James was equally popular with William, while David was way down the list. For the girls, Jane was more popular than the norm while Sarah was down some way. The table shows a much wider range of names used for girls even though there were significantly fewer girls than boys.

Occupations

The majority of ordinary workers were "ag labs" – agricultural labourers – in the 18th and early 19th centuries. As the country industrialised and urbanised, there was a growth in trades and later retail and clerical jobs. The Skyrmes were mostly landowners or trades people, with far fewer than the average being labourers. The following is a quick partial analysis of occupations recorded in censuses. For a few individuals, two occupations were recorded if they changed substantially during their lifetime.

Male occupations	No.
Shipwright	15
Farmer	8
Clerk	4
Agricultural labourer	3
Other labourer	3

Shipwrights (including joiners and cabinet makers) and farmers dominated male occupations. Others with more than one mention included miner, railway worker, and servant. Those mentioned once include druggist, iron founder, fitter, police constable, shoemaker and tailor.

Far fewer female occupations were recorded. Three dressmakers and two teachers were followed by shop assistant, laundress, paper box maker and dairymaid. Several Skyrme wives were also dressmakers or worked on their

husband's farms. When widowed some were described as farmer in their own right.
None were shipwrights!

More information on these occupations will be covered in a separate chapter.

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