

The Other STOCKDENs

.....that cannot be attributed to those listed in
an earlier publication on this old family name....

The Stockden Family History
(1741-1997)

by Bruce L RAYNER

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The Other  
STOCKDENs

**1450 - 1917**

## The Background to the Stockden name.

This little follow-up publication to 'The Stockden Family History (1741-1997)' is intended to give an idea of the changes that have taken place over the centuries to the Stockden Families and we can but wonder why there are now so few (about 200) actually born to the name through direct descendancy.

I have collected as much information as possible to piece together the way in which the name spread across the country from its earliest known origins. In what is now Burrough-on-the-Hill, in Leicestershire, the chart on page 6 shows where the name of Sir William de Stockden first appeared in the family tree of the Stockton Lords of the Manor of Burrough-on-the-Hill. This small town has seen many changes to its name from its early origins. Some years after the English civil war was a time when the clergy of the day conducted 'Visitations' in which they listed all the local hierarchy of established families in the counties. It was in this manner that the 'Pedigree of the Family of STOCKTON, or STOCKDEN, afterwards called BURROW, of BURROW' was written up in the year of 1682 AD, with possibly later additions from the Chetwynd manuscripts..

Burrough was formerly known as Erdeburgh (which means Earthworks), Castle Borough, and Burrow and it is in High Leicestershire. Today, indicating its position on the high ridge of land it is finally called Burrough-on-the-Hill. The parish church of St Mary the Virgin lies on a knoll south of the original village. There is sufficient evidence in the structure of the church to suggest that it was first built in the 12th Century. Repairs, rebuilds and additions have of course been necessary over the years and the most extensive restoration took place in 1860. A more detailed history of the church is available on site, but I will restrict my observation to that which refers to the Stockden origins.

The earliest records for the Stockden name appear to begin as 'Stockton' in Leicestershire from the year 1188 AD (see below). The name Stockton has been well documented and several associations for the name have been formed although usually allied to a particular area. These records are for Leicestershire up to 1743 and cover some variables of the name. The easiest way to find your way around the genealogy of a name is to use the International Genealogical Index (I.G.I), produced by the Church of Latter Day Saints of Salt Lake City, Utah, U S A. This is where I started and was guided by what I found in the Churches Family History Centres. With these details you can search further, in depth, at local Records Offices, (R.O's).

To try and find continuity in the Stockden Family History, I travelled to Cheshire R O at Chester, Bath and Taunton R O's for Somerset, Bristol and Gloucester R O's for Gloucestershire, Newport and Cwm R O's for Gwent then finally to Aberystwyth University Library, Cardiff and Swansea R O's for South Wales.