

The Leicestershire Records

1743	24.04	James	James	Stockdon	M C	SMLe	LEIC
1740	02.04	Thomas	James	Stockdon	M C	SMLe	LEIC
1739	22.04	James	James		M C	SMLe	LEIC
1380		Robert	Robert				LEIC
1351		Robert	William	De Stokton			LEIC
1330		Robert	William	De Stockton (or Burrow			LEIC
1304		Mrs William	John	De Stocton			LEIC
1300		William		De Stockton (or Burrow)			LEIC
1276		Alice	Robert	Stocton (or Burrow)			LEIC
1246 c		Robert	John De	Stockton (or Burrow)	S		LEIC
1188		Alan	Henry De	Stocton (or Burrow)	S		LEIC

The records often left a lot to be desired. After the demise of Sir William in 1470, there appears to be no other Stockden high enough in the hierarchy to have his own keeper of records. Yet several were found to be of such interest that something was written of what they did but no details of their personal and family life. Sometimes the name was corrupted to 'Stocton' as in the case of Thomas (1848) Stockden born in Bath. When he moved to Bristol he and his wife separated after at least two of their three children died. He lived with Elizabeth Evans and her children for several years before they married. His first wife, Ellen remarried as a 'widow', to a Thomas Wood in Chertsey in 1890. Spelling errors and mistaken Received Pronunciation errors were frequently found in the census records.

Sir William de Stockden

See File "Stockdens 1450 AD"

It would appear from the information on the family above, that even in 1682, the information available to the Visitation Authority lacked sufficient evidence to clearly join Robert Burrow to his probable immediate forebears! His line, if through Robert, called Burrow, who died in 1418, is also not clearly connected to John (1379). Robert, called Burrow, appears to have died in 1418, yet John Burrow, possibly Robert Burrow's brother, was born in 1439 !! His son, Henry Burrow died in 1494, long after Sir William de Stockden. The line from Robert, called Burrow, through John Burrow onwards, (albeit odd due to Robert apparently dying in 1418) is a good line for following as a family tree. One can only speculate how and where Robert Burrow, father of 'William, lord of Burrow, 1451') fits into the inheritance and how William, lord of Burrow became a 'Stockden'.

If they did not know in 1682, it is most unlikely that we shall ever find out in 1999 !.

Lady Margaret de Stockden

There is a stone effigy at the head of the aisle and this is attributed to Margaret de Stockden and dates from the 15th century. Sadly worn by age and misuse, it was once 'treated as rubbish', the effigy still displays a high standard of design work for the period. On either side can be seen the remains of angels supporting her pillow. She wears a high waisted dress,

with ample folds and flowing outer sleeves over tight-fitting ones. On her head she wears a wimple with a goffered frill (indicating her married state). There is also the remains of a small dog at her feet which is also believed to indicate her married state.

Beneath the east end window of the south aisle lays the effigy of Sir William de Stockden. Like his lady wife, his pillow too, is supported by two angels. He wears a helmet and his face and neck are protected by a chain-mail camail. Over his plate armour he wears a shortened surcoat or jupon, probably of leather. He carries his great sword on his sword belt to his left side and on his right side a dagger. A battle axe rests between his legs and his boots are spurred. A shield is borne around the neck of a lion which lies at his feet.

Above the effigy is an illuminated inscription, probably a copy of the original Latin. "Hic jacet WILLIELMUS DE STOCKDEN, quondam dominus de Erdburrowe, et Margareta uxor ejus, filia Johannis Skeffington, qui Willielmus obiit 1470"

Translated it reads, "Here lies William de Stockden formerly Lord of the manor of Erdburrowe and Margaret his wife, daughter of John de Skeffington. William died in 1470."

William was about 38 years old when he died. Was 1470 a significant year in the battles between the Yorkists and Lancastrians? Perhaps he was on the wrong side or just died of a common ailment. However, he had obviously married in 1437, Margaret, daughter of John Skeffington (of the nearby village of Skeffington) and a son was born, also named William. It is somewhat strange that the Visitation should construct an otherwise excellent pedigree, yet the name of William and his son is given as 'Stockden' when clearly they should be 'Burrow'. We shall never know either, how 'Stockton' became 'Stockden' or even if this was the original beginning of the name. However, even today, a Lord may still have a family name whilst known publicly as for example 'Lord Somerset' or 'Lord Pembroke'.

The Stockden shield (see updates) on the plaque has "escutcheon Gules (red) thereon a stock Argent (silver) leaved vert (green)" and is apparently an example of the use of a rebus (a pun on the bearer's name), a red shield bearing a silver tree with green leaves. In heraldry it served to identify the bearer in battle as he would have the shield on his horse or be borne by him in battle. Surmounting the shield is a closed visor helmet indicating perhaps a gentleman rather than a knight. This is surmounted by a wreath or torse of six twists and a cap of maintenance. It also has a much stylised drape or mantling.⁽¹⁾ I also visited nearby Owston church in which, apparently, there should be a similar coat of arms, though I was unable to find it.

It can be seen from the visitation (see page 6) that Sir William's son married Blanche, daughter of John Turkill and he that he died in 1537. To die at 67 years of age must have been unusual for those times. However, nothing more is known of this marriage, such as whether or not there were any children. That being the case then where did the name of Stockden originate or continue from?

Footnote: These details were found in the booklet available from the church.