

The STOCKDEN NEWSLETTER

No 13.

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New Years Greetings

Lets start off with a 'Happy New Year' to you all ! Its a year since I last wrote you a newsletter. Time flies we all know so it would be nice to know what has been happening in the Stockden world. It is a big world. Although there are only about 200 of you born to the ancient and honourable name of Stockden - you are spread all around the world. While most of you are in Australia, and some numbers in Engalnd and Wales, pockets of Stockdens live in Canada, South Afica and a descendant lives in New Zealand.

With all that area to get to know I am sure that there are many of you with a little story to tell. Something I can put in the next newsletter, helping you all to get to know what the country you live in is like and whether you would change!

There are of course several ways of communicating with me, no no, forget the carrier pigeons - please !!. There is the ordinary postal mail by surface or air, better still these days is the e-mail through the Internet system, much cheaper and

already have e-mail connections with Stockdens in Canada and South Africa. So why not join in ?

I can happily keep up to date with the news coming in as it happens or if you prefer, as indeed, some of you already do, send me an update at Christmas. You know after six months have gone by it is easy to forget as you will see later on below.

This is Newsletter Number 13, so why not help to keep YOUR newsletter

The UPDATES on what we have been doing.....

going for while....

What news has come in - well lets say where a few people have been for holidays.....

Avril and Bruce went Rhodes (Rhodos) Island in the Mediterranean to catch some of the sun that failed to show up in the U K. We quite

Holidays at home and abroad..... for us and a few of you.....

We took tours around the island visiting all the places of interest and testing local wines. It was very hot, so several of the afternoons was spent in the swimming pools. Around the harbour of Rhodos (local spelling) town was a good harbour with lots of boats making good backdrops for our photographs.

As this island was a medieaval stronghold of the Knights of St George, there was also museums to visit. In one we found that a 'Rayner' (ancestor ?) was a Knight who died there in 1495. Although he was of French origin, his tomb inscription read in Latin his name 'RAYNERIUS'. We were pleased to see that, now I have some 23000 Rayners on my computer, including many hundreds of Australian ones.

In Canada, Bob and Audrey Stockden of Mississauga, Ontario, were on a cruise liner for their 50th wedding anniversary, early last year.

From Safety Bay in Western Australia, Kevin and Cynthia Stockden went to Broome, in the north of the state for a nice long and I am sure, well-earned holiday.

Now on to the next column which will give you the latest on the Stockden family information. In the summer of last year I found that Hayley Stockden was in London and I had a few words on the telephone to see how she enjoyed being in the UK.

In September I received a letter from Emily Tamaki Stockden of Perth. Emily is the daughter of Raymond John STOCKDEN (1923-1986) and his third wife, Chieko SHIRAKAWA (b 1950). Ray married Chieko in Papua New Guinea in 1974 and they had two children - both of whom were born in Singapore:

Emily Tamaki (b 1975) and
Michael Madoka (b 1976).

It appears that Emily had been to the U K on a working holiday and when she returned to Australia, decided that she would like to know more of her family origins. Through the good services of my Perth genealogical friend Rob Nelson, she is now aware of the Stockden family tree and its beginnings in the ancient English countryside.

Last November I found in the Kew Records Office in London, a listing of crew members of ships that were sunk in the Battle of Jutland. This battle occurred in the North sea in May 1916 between the two great naval fleets of Britain and Germany.

HMS Defence was sent to the bottom with all hands, 865 men. One of these men was Thomas George STOCKDEN, Royal Marine Artillery.....To find out more about him, as I did not know until that moment that he had existed, I wrote to the Commonwealth War Graves Commision and received a reply which gave facts that I needed to identify him. He was 23 years old and the son of the late E Stockden of Stapleton, Bristol.

So those of you with a book - look at page 85 to fill in the details. Thomas George was the son of Emily (1858) Stockden. And although I had been through the parish records for the church of Holy Trinity, Stapleton, I had not found him there.

Now to insert the latest Births, Deaths and Marriages at this point:

Births:

To Wyatt and Brenda Stockden of Mackay, Queensland: a son :-

Rhett Jacob, born 19 July 1998.

Deaths:

In Perth, Western Australia:

Ronald John Robert Stockden aged 83 yrs
Son of Robert Thomas and Annie Gertrude STOCKDEN. Ronald died 7 October 1998.

Also in Perth:

Kathleen Etta Baker aged 71. Widow of the late Albert William Baker. Daughter of Felix William and Gertrude Winifred Stockden. Kathy died on 16 April 1998.

(by letter from daughter Judy at Christams)

Marriages:

At Jindabyne, N S W, Australia, on 19 September 1998:

Amanda Jane Stockden to Mark William Whittaker.

Amanda is the daughter of Kevin Ronald and Cynthia Dawn Stockden of Safety Bay, Western Australia.

Engagement:

On the 22 January 1999. The engagement was announced between Joanne Stockden aged

23 years, daughter of Geoffrey George and Julie Stockden, of Dunvant, Swansea, Wales to Mark Collins of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, U K.

Not a lot happening in the U K in this line of interest..... but as I shall be in London on 7 April I can have a look to see if there is anything that I have not heard about.

Now, in the coming few weeks I shall be preparing the next part of the Stockden History. This will not - for obvious reasons be as detailed as The Stockden Family History was because it covers the Stockdens from 1450 onwards and I cannot get the details without an enormous lot of travel and costly acquisition of ancient records.

However I have many Stockden names and they cover a lot of the UK. This should enable me to make something of interest for you to add to the Family History.

The Stockden name was quite a common name in the 1500 to 1800's, when many apparently went abroad too. These have lost their (lives?) original identity, as in the case of the American branch, which is now known as StockDON. There are no Stockdon in the U K now, indeed not since the late 1700's.

There are 1279 names in the Stockden Family History at present. Actual born to the name Stockdens and names of family members to whom the Stockdens have married. There are 506 marriages listed. All this to keep for future reference and to let growing youngsters know when they ask 'where did I come from?' Easy question to answer now isn't it!!

So, remember my address:

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Best Wishes to you all,

