

The STOCKDEN's

Newsletter for 2009

Hello to any readers on the Internet and those receiving this by e-mail.

As is usual these days, there is very little to tell you as older members of the Stockden's cease to communicate (see below) and few if any of the younger ones have little, if any, interest in family history. The younger members of the Stockden Clan appear to be tied up with such as Facebook and Twitter. Some 83 names can be found on Facebook according to a friend!!!!

As most of my Stockden contacts are of the older generation I do rely on them to let me know if and when there are births, deaths or marriages in the family or even in the extended family. Someone often asks for information when they are a generation or two sideways to the main line name. At the beginning of the work on this study of Stockden, adding the extended family did seem at first a lot of extra work and possibly somewhat irrelevant. This is because family history - if correctly done - follows the male line back, while children of Stockden daughters, for example, adding Stockden would be tracing a family off of their natural named line. Surprisingly I find many people still wish to trace the 'sidelines' of their main family name.

As the known Stockdens born to the name, by direct line all come from one couple who lived in Westerleigh (just north of Bristol) and married in 1741, are connected by that blood line, it is perhaps surprising how little they know of each other. As time passed, sons and daughters left home, moving to the (then) Dominions of Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand and in the cases of where there was no issue from a marriage, contact would be lost with those elsewhere. It even happened in the UK, where in the late 1880's and early 1900's sons moved from Gloucestershire to the developing Welsh coal and iron mines and the docks of Barry in South Glamorgan. These siblings, in many instances, apparently lost touch with each other and their children were also unaware of where their relatives had moved to. I was fortunate to bring together some first cousins and even more distant relations while compiling The STOCKDEN FAMILY HISTORY.

DEATHS:

Dr Alan Keith BATER (1947 – 2009) (son of Bessie BATER – nee STOCKDEN)

Alan was a veterinary surgeon living in Freeport, Bahamas. He graduated with a BSc from the University of London in 1968 with a 1st class honours degree. A full obituary can be read on the Internet. Alan was born on 12 April 1947 in Barry, South Glamorgan, was a nephew of Ronald STOCKDEN (see below) and a cousin of my wife Avril. Alan died on 16 August 2009.

Ronald STOCKDEN (1915 – 2009)

Ron was born in 1915 in Barry, South Glamorgan, and ran away from home at the age of 16 yrs and joined the army. He was in Quetta, India by 1938 – just after the big earthquake which hit in that year. On returning to the UK he transferred to the Glider Pilot Regiment (GPR), learned to fly in a De Havilland “Tiger Moth” at R.A.F. Benson in Oxfordshire and became a Second Pilot of a Horsa Glider in the GPR. As his squadron was part of Operation Market Garden, he landed close to Arnhem in the attempt to capture the bridge over the river there. He was one of a fortunate few to cross the river to safety after ten days of hell. He had to make his own way back to the airfield at Down Ampney, Oxfordshire, where he found he was the only one of his billet to return. Ron died on 22 September and was predeceased by his wife Ena, who died in September 1995.

Bessie BATER (nee STOCKDEN) (1912 – 2009)

Bessie died on 29 October 2009 and was a sister of Ronald (above) and mother of Alan Keith BATER. She was born in Barry, South Glamorgan in 1912 and lived there all her life. Her husband Bert BATER died in 1989 and she is survived by her remaining two children, daughters Brenda and Gillian.

~~~~~

For now,

Best Wishes,

Bruce L RAYNER

~~~~~