

The STOCKDEN FAMILY HISTORY 1741 -1997

STOCKDEN NEWS UPDATE August 2016

Re : The Stockden Family Tree 1741 - 1997 ; section :

The Stockden Sons and their Families in Australia, South Africa, Canada and New Zealand,

Family of George Thomas (1888-1964) STOCKDEN ~ Page 43

An Australian family history researcher has found a few anomalies in my history of George and his immediate family as it's portrayed in the book and on the website and in comparison to his understanding of events.

He would also like to mention that he is not using this correspondence to take anybody to task and he trusts and hopes this revision will be circulated to any other STOCKDEN historians in Western Australia. Hopefully, this will maybe clear up a few familial misconceptions in the process. Because we're looking at events that happened virtually a century ago, apart from hearsay, there's most probably been some supposition and/or embellishment in the tale(s) that have been handed down through and to both STOCKDEN & WESTON families.

He is not directly related to the STOCKDEN Family and his only connection is through George's wife, Amy Crawford, who is his maternal grandmother through the subsequent relationship she embarked upon with Ernest Joseph WESTON after the death of her and George's son in 1919.

George married Amy on 21 January 1914 and their son, George Farrell STOCKDEN was born on 20 November 1914.

George Thomas STOCKDEN initially applied to join the Army in WW 1 on 28 March 1916 and his enlistment date was effectively taken to be 3 April 1916 but on 13 September 1916 (never having seen active service or even left Western Australia), he was subsequently discharged, "permanently unfit" ~ (he had flat feet amongst other preclusions) ; his full service file can be viewed at :

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8092383>

A second son, Henry John STOCKDEN was born 1 October 1917 and the birth was registered to George and Amy but some of the details therein pertaining to the father did not match those of George; whereas Ernest Joseph WESTON did have brothers named Henry and John, also Ernest's father was James Henry.

The story from Ray Morris' family viewpoint :

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"Accordingly, the story in my extended family is that on 4th. April 1919, Amy and Ernest Joseph WESTON were possibly "carrying on" or out of the house (which was in Bodallin, Western Australia) when young George Farrell STOCKDEN was playing with the matches which led him to suffering extensive burns and dying of the burns and shock the following day (5th. April 1919). Apparently, this shocking incident was witnessed by Henry John who at this time was only 18 months old. The young George Farrell STOCKDEN was buried in the Westonia cemetery on 6th. April, 1919 ~ I visited the Westonia cemetery in the late 1990's and the grave is unmarked. (The small country town of Bodallin is about 25 Kms. from Westonia and Westonia is so named after the two brothers, Alfred David WESTON & Ernest Joseph WESTON, who originally found gold there in 1910).

Apparently (and understandably), this brought about the complete and irretrievable breakdown of George's and Amy's marriage and Amy, with young Henry John, left with Ernest Joseph WESTON for the Eastern Goldfields (Kalgoorlie, Leonora and Malcolm). Subsequently on 24th. July 1920, Amy had a son Ernest Ronald who was registered in the name of STOCKDEN with the father being recorded as George Ernest STOCKDEN but with the age (41) matching that of Ernest Joseph WESTON, not that of George Thomas STOCKDEN (32).

In Kalgoorlie on 9th. December 1922, Amy STOCKDEN married Ernest Joseph WESTON wherein Amy described herself as a "widow" and then on 4th. April 1923, their daughter Phyllis June WESTON (my mother) was born.

I gather and assume it must've been sometime in the early 1930's that Ernest WESTON left his family in Kalgoorlie and apparently then went and lived and fossicked for gold in and around the Broad Arrow area (38Kms. north of Kalgoorlie).

My mother married in February 1946 and then lived in Fremantle so the claim that after Amy's death in 1954, "the daughter went to Perth looking for her Stockden 'relations' " wasn't exactly correct ~ I also have it from my extended family that George had heard of Amy's death and laid claim to her estate as technically, and legally, he was still Amy's husband as Amy and George had never divorced and as such, Amy's and Ernest's 1922 marriage was bigamous.

I don't know when my Mum's brothers, Henry John (Jack) and Ernest Ronald (Ron) became aware that their birth registrations were in the name of STOCKDEN and not WESTON, but over time, they individually had their surname changed by Deed Poll as they had always lived as WESTONs and family likenesses are definitely WESTON and/or CRAWFORD (my Mum and her two elder brothers have all passed on now).

I would appreciate if you could pass this on to the person or people who might be considered as the STOCKDEN's historian(s) in Western Australia and if they have any queries, doubts or misgivings, I'd be quite happy to hear from them and discuss it. I also wonder if any STOCKDEN relation in Western Australia might have a marriage photo of George & Amy and also any photos of the young George Farrell STOCKDEN. If anybody is holding any "unknown" photos, Amy could be easily identified from the fact that her left eye had a squint or "cast" plus I do have a WESTON family photo taken in the early 1920's for comparison.

If you have any queries, please feel free to get back to me and I'll oblige where I can."

Raymond J MORRIS.
August 2016

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Western Australia : Births :

Rhyan Troy STOCKDEN born 31 May 2016 to Troy Robert STOCKDEN and his partner Naomi HARTMAN

Sam Michael STOCKDEN born 30 May 2016 to Paul Gregory STOCKDEN and Katie Louise MITCHINSON

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United Kingdom : Births :

Arnold Stockden RIDDIOUGH born 12 Jun 2015 to Simon Paul and Helen Lyndsey (nee STOCKDEN) RIDDIOUGH

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United Kingdom : Marriage :

Louise Alison STOCKDEN (1981) daughter of Dennis Jack (1948) and Mary Ann STOCKDEN became Mrs Chris SENIOR when they married on 24 October 2015 at the Low Wood Bay Hotel, Lake Windemere, Cumbria : See photos in the Stockden Photo Gallery in : www.rayner-stockden.lacchin.co.uk .

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CORRECTION :

In the Book and on the Website :

The births of a "Henry J" and an "Ernest R" are listed in the Western Australian records under both "STOCKDEN" and "Weston" but not under the mothers name of "CRAWFORD".

On the deaths page I made the record :

"1919 Perth George Frederick STOCKDEN 4 Amy A"

This would actually refer to "George Farrell STOCKDEN 4 yrs of age and Amy A would be Amy Agnes /Annie as the mother.

The above two notes are made following the information received in the first page above. This information should be read in conjunction with the "Family of George Thomas STOCKDEN (1888 - 1964) to understand it all.

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Reference on World War I Record

STOCKDEN George Thomas : Service Number - 745 : Place of Birth - Ballarat VIC : Place of Enlistment - Perth WA : Next of Kin - (Wife) STOCKDEN Amy Veronica.

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Best Wishes,

Bruce and Avril (nee **STOCKDEN**) **RAYNER**