

# STOCKDEN FAMILY HISTORY

## 1741 – 1997

### Update No: 10 for 2010

Dear Friends,

I have received from Dennis STOCKDEN (1948) his recent research covering Stockden Families that lived in and around Bath, Somerset. They had made the short migration to Somerset, from their origins of Iron Acton and Rangeworthy in Gloucestershire, some years earlier for a variety of reasons, mainly economic.

These are the details ,Part I, sent to me by Dennis STOCKDEN which clarify some errors in the book. (Records are made by humans and continue to be recorded by more humans!! Until someone can identify the errors they will continue to be written as the original record. Dennis has provided some answers):

In Part II, Dennis has written up the history of Widcombe Wharf, with two added old photographs.

Part III

From Barbara Harding, her research provided a follow up to the “what happened to” question for Miranda STOCKDEN born 1846 in Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire. When I did my research for the book there were many unanswered questions and this addition to the Update 2010 gives one answer.

Enjoy some more family history,

Best Wishes

Bruce

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Part I by Dennis STOCKDEN

Re the 1861 Census for Somerset:

I also found some very interesting stuff on my Great Great Grandfather George STOCKDEN who was at Widcombe Wharf. I attach my write-up which I sent to the Bath Museum of Work and the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust; also a couple of pics of the long-gone wharf.

Re-identifying a family address for Martha STOCKDEN (see below):

Yes, definitely Farmborough with an M. It is not far from Bath. The street address on the 1861 census is Hobs Wall. Whoever transcribed the original census had her coming from Beath!

Mary Jane STOCKDEN was born in the fourth quarter of 1851. She married George Morgan in Bath at St Thomas A Becket, at Widcombe - not Bristol. A definitive death record has yet to be found. There certainly isn't one in Bath.

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The Bath BMD Website:

Do you know about the Bath BMD website? Address is [www.bathbmd.org.uk/](http://www.bathbmd.org.uk/)

On page 47 of the book there are three typos of Widcombe printed as Wincombe. (and qualified by the statement “Inserted as found” in Kelly's - Bruce).

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#### The "MERRY" Family

George STOCKDEN (1824) married Ann MERRY 24 March 1849, at the Lyncombe and Widcombe parish church in Bath. I can't find anything about Ann MERRY who had the Widcombe Wharf business before she married George.

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#### Now to the family of Charles STOCKDEN (1853-1929)

I have his marriage to Harriet DARBY as July 1874 not 1871 (BathBMD again) and that the name of the place she was born is Litchborough, Towcester. (In what may have been the original record Litchborough was given as Litchburg).

He re-married in the 4th quarter of 1905 to Mary Elizabeth MOGG whose surname you obviously couldn't trace as you have put I.n.u. in the book.

#### Family of Sidney Jack STOCKDEN (1865-1893)

Sadly the Cabinet Makers' Arms is no longer there. However, it is interesting to find out that he married into beer and pub families in the Downs and the Stars. The street name is Trim with an " I " not a " Y " (publisher's typo?). They married in June 1888 not 1887. They definitely lived at Woodbine Cottages according to the census of 1891 although there was a change to Woodbine Place come Kelly's of 1892.

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#### Martha STOCKDEN (1840-0000)

This daughter of Thomas (1811-1882) STOCKDEN married a man called John Miles a mason from Corston, in Bath in the 3rd quarter of 1860. You have (n.f.i) in the book. There is more evidence of them in following censuses up to at least 1891. At one point they move to Farmborough then move back to Bath.

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#### Mary Anne STOCKDEN (1813-0000)

Mary Anne, daughter of Robert STOCKDEN (1789-1876) and Sarah STIFF (0000-1846) who married the mysterious Robert STIFF. I have found a Robert and Mary Anne STIFF in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania with a daughter Elizabeth, whom they already had according to the 1841 census in Iron Acton, although Robert isn't there. They are on the 1860, 1870 and 1880 US censuses. The birth years match up. His occupation is miner and then Boss Miner. There is certainly no sign of them on any census after that one in 1841 in England.

All the best

Dennis Stockden (1948 and still going strong)

Part II by Dennis STOCKDEN

## **Coal Merchant's Business 1800's to 1917**

### **The Merrys, The Stockdens, The Morgans**

The story of the business conducted at Widcombe Wharf on the Kennet and Avon Canal during the 19th and early 20th centuries is one shrouded in some mystery. It was variously described as a Coal Merchant, a Wood & Coal Dealer and a Wood & Coal Merchant & Fly Proprietor. There are almost no photographic records of the business but there are plenty of entries in Kelly's directories. There appear to be no records of the early days of the business and how the Merrys came to own and run it.

The first census record (1841) shows Mary Merry (45) at Widcombe Wharf with her children Ann (15), Thomas (13) and Samuel (8). She is described as a Coal Dealer. She is already a widow. According to the Bath BMD website from 1837 when registrations became compulsory there was only one registered death of a man named Merry and that was a Thomas Merry who died in 1840. I assume that was Mary's husband.

Meanwhile, in that same 1841 census we see the first appearance of George Stockden (15) at Winterbourne in Gloucestershire, although he was born in nearby Iron Acton, to agricultural labourer Robert Stockden and his wife Sarah.

According to a family history of The Stockdens, George, like his older brother Thomas, started his working life as a policeman at Batheaston. Presumably during this time he met Mary's daughter Ann. They were married on the 24th March 1849 at St Thomas a Becket, Widcombe. Subsequently, on the 1851 census, we see at Widcombe Wharf: Mary Merry (61) now described as a Coal Merchant, her son Samuel (18) described as her assistant followed by George Stockden (27) described as a Haulier, wife Ann and a new daughter Elizabeth less than a year old. Also resident is George's sister, also called Elizabeth, described as a "Servant out of place".

The family history reveals that for some reason, George and Ann had left Bath and moved to Cardiff where he is described as a labourer of North Street, Canton. It is here that his son Alfred George is born.

Meanwhile back in Winterbourne, Eliza Stockden, George's older sister, marries William Morgan on the 14th February 1847. They have a son, George (b 1853) who will later move to Bath, marry George's daughter Mary Jane, and join his relations by marriage in the business.

The 1861 census shows Mary Merry still at Widcombe Wharf and still a Coal Merchant. However, there are no family members living with her, only Rhoda Ivins (or Joins) her companion and Helena Ivins (or Joins), a boarder. There is no sign of her son Samuel on this census. His death is registered in March 1866 in Bath. Strangely, Mary now states on the census that she was born at Bishop Sutton.

The next significant date is the following year (1862) when Mary Merry dies at the age of 72. She must have been some strong woman to have run a business of this nature for so long.

The same 1861 census shows George Stockden, wife Ann, and children Ellen, Mary Jane, Alfred George and Frank all living at 3 Alma Cottages, Ivy Place. He describes himself as a "Foreman at a Coal Wharf"

The Bath Directories from 1864 to 1894 record George Stockden at Widcombe Wharf as a Wood & Coal Dealer.

By the time of the 1871 census, George is now a Wood & Coal Merchant and Fly Proprietor employing 3 men, resident at Widcombe Wharf and now, presumably, the owner of the business by inheritance. Wife Ann is still there as well as children Mary Jane, a dressmaker; Alfred, an apprentice carpenter; Frank, sadly described as an imbecile, and Sidney John who, later in life, will go on to run the Cabinet Maker's Arms in Trim Street.

The term "Fly Proprietor" is ambiguous as there were "Fly Boats", long, narrow, fast boats which operated on the canal and "Fly Cabs" which were light, two-wheeled carriages drawn by a single horse. It is more likely to have been the latter that George ran, as evidenced by the next census.

The 1881 census shows little change. George now describes himself as a "Coal Merchant & Cab Proprietor employing 3 men". Son Alfred George is now described as "Assistant to Head of Family".

1891 again shows little change, rather reflecting the pace of life I suspect coming up to the end of the nineteenth century. However, the effect of the advent of the railways on the canal business would surely now be starting to take hold. George now describes himself as a "Coal Merchant & Fly Proprietor" and son Alfred George is now just a "Cab Driver". Son Sidney John is no longer living at the Wharf but has moved with his wife Catherine Sarah (nee Down) to 1 Woodbine Cottages. His occupation is stated to be "Cab Driver" with "Groom" added in lighter writing. Possibly, he is still working for his father.

All this is confirmed by the entries in the Bath Directories for these years. However, the 1895 entry now calls the business "Stockden & Son". It should be born in mind that this reflected the name of the business in 1894 as it took a long time for these directories to be produced and published.

It did not stay as "Stockden & Son" for very long. In the first quarter of 1895, both George and his wife Ann died. This now left the business in the hands of their son Alfred George. At the same time, back in Winterbourne, but in the second quarter of the year, George's sister Eliza Morgan (nee Stockden) also dies.

George Morgan's father had already passed away in 1889. So, now he was on his own. Either by invitation or on his own initiative, he moved to Bath to join cousins Alfred George and Mary Jane. The next thing we know is that George Morgan marries Mary Jane Stockden (still a dressmaker) in the third quarter of 1895 at St Thomas a Becket in Widcombe.

From 1895 the business now becomes known as “Stockden & Morgan – Wood, Coal & Carriage Prop”. It remains under this name until 1899 when Alfred George Stockden dies in the second quarter of that year.

1901 sees the first census appearance of George Morgan at Widcombe Wharf along with wife Mary Jane (no longer a dressmaker) and brother-in-law Frank now thankfully described more kindly as “feeble minded” rather than “imbecile”.

A directory entry of 1903 shows the Widcombe Wharf business now solely under the name of George Morgan.

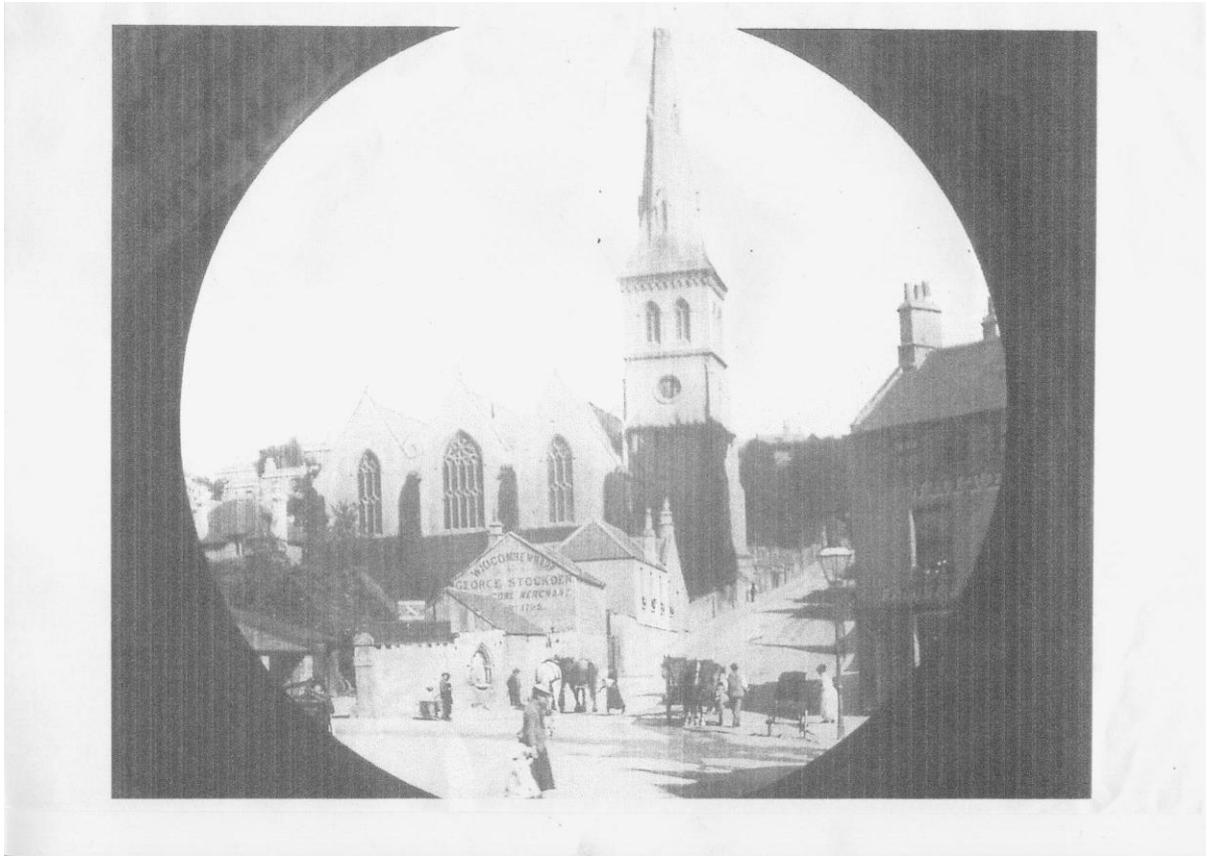
The 1911 census shows George and Mary Jane with Frank still at Widcombe Wharf. It is interesting to see that he puts “Carriage Proprietor” before “Coal Merchant” in the description of his occupation. I wonder if this reflects a shift in the main thrust of the business?

George Morgan dies in the third quarter of 1917. He and Mary Jane apparently had no children. The unfortunate Frank lives on until 1927. To date I have found no record of the death of Mary Jane Morgan (nee Stockden).

So, at this point the business ceases. Mary Jane’s brother, Sidney John, having gone into the pub business with his wife Catherine, died in 1893 at the early age of 28. Therefore there were no family members to take over the business.

### **Widcombe Wharf, Kennet & Avon Canal**





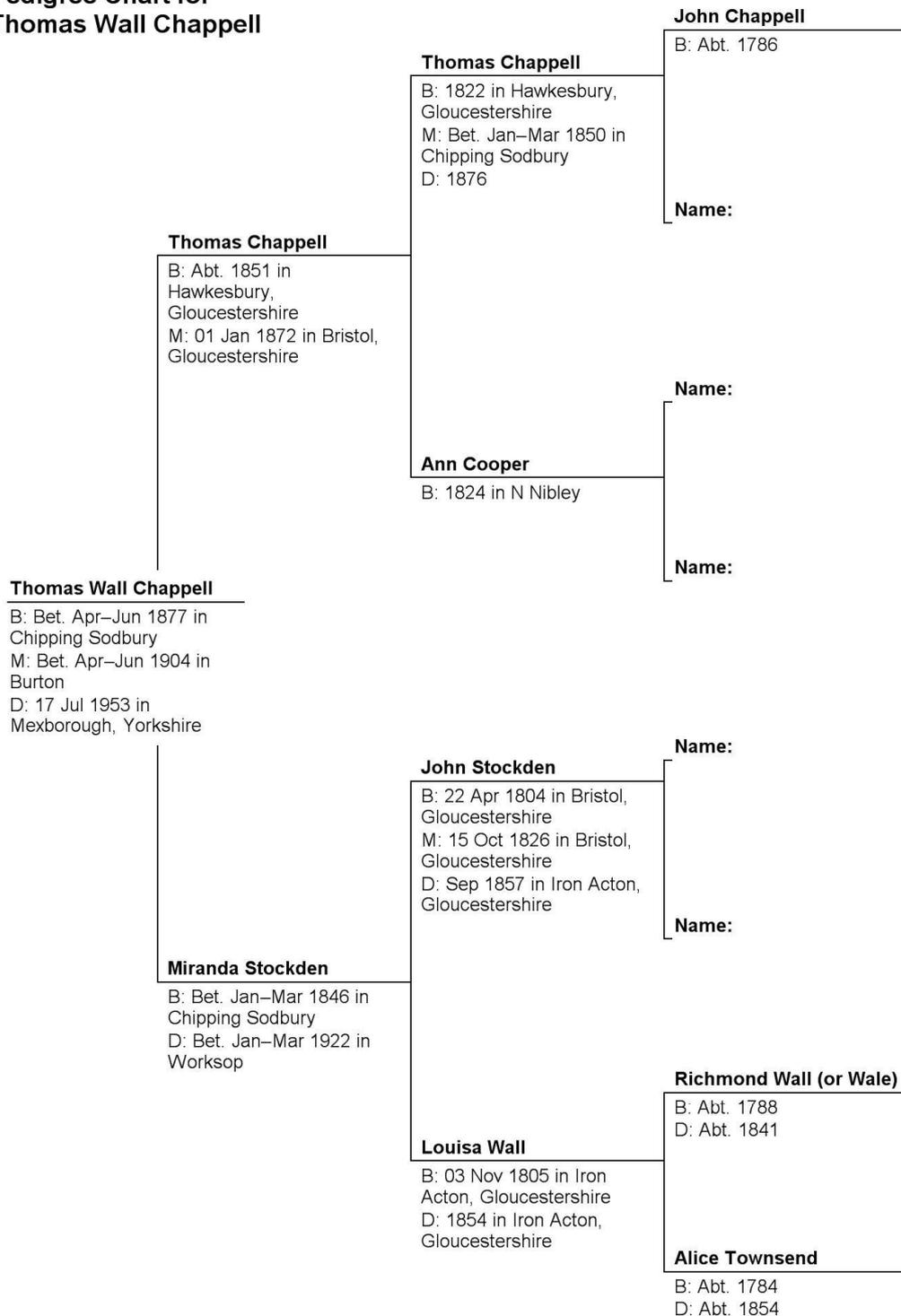
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The following pages have the pedigree chart and outline descendant report covering the marriage of Marinda STOCKDEN (1846-1922) to Thomas CHAPPELL (1851-0000).

Supplied by Barbara HARDING.

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## Pedigree Chart for Thomas Wall Chappell



## Outline Descendant Report

..... 1 John Stockden (1804 - 1857)  
 ..... + Louisa Wall (1805 - 1854)  
 ..... 2 John Stockden (1828 - 1877)  
 ..... 2 Miranda Stockden (1834 - 1845)  
 ..... 2 Bethsheba Stockden (1839 - 1891)  
 ..... 2 Myatt or Wyatt Stockden (1841 - 1922)  
 ..... + Maria Cleves  
 ..... 2 Uriah Wall Stockden (1843 - )  
 ..... + Alice Walker  
 ..... 2 Miranda Stockden (1846 - 1922)  
 ..... + Thomas Chappell (1851 - )  
 ..... 3 John William Chappell (1873 - )  
 ..... + Elizabeth (1870 - 1937)  
 ..... 3 Herbert Chappell (1876 - )  
 ..... + Rebecca Morley  
 ..... 4 Ethel Chappell (1896 - )  
 ..... 4 Miranda Chappell (1899 - )  
 ..... + Henry Chapman  
 ..... 3 Thomas Wall Chappell (1877 - 1953)  
 ..... + Sarah Maria Eames (1882 - 1947)  
 ..... 4 John Chappell (1905 - 1959)  
 ..... + Annie Bacon (1904 - 1976)  
 ..... 4 Leslie Chappell (1907 - 1979)  
 ..... + Ida Allen (1911 - 1980)  
 ..... 4 Hilda Chappell (1909 - 1988)  
 ..... + George Watts (1908 - 1980)  
 ..... 4 Thomas Wall Chappell (1910 - 1968)  
 ..... + Florence Golloher (1921 - 1978)  
 ..... 4 Harry Chappell (1912 - 1943)  
 ..... + Gladys Doreen Bennett (1919 - )  
 ..... 4 Percy Chappell (1915 - 1997)  
 ..... + Joan O Neave (1925 - )  
 ..... + Katherine Ginn (1923 - )  
 ..... 4 Reginald Chappell (1917 - 1982)  
 ..... + Noreen Kitchingman (1923 - )  
 ..... 4 Olive Chappell (1923 - 1996)  
 ..... + Desmond Lockwood (1923 - 2002)  
 ..... 3 Miranda Chappell (1882 - )  
 ..... 2 Thomas Wall Stockden (1852 - )  
 ..... + Ellen Jane Stickler  
 ..... 3 John Wall Stockden

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End of the 2010 update for the

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