

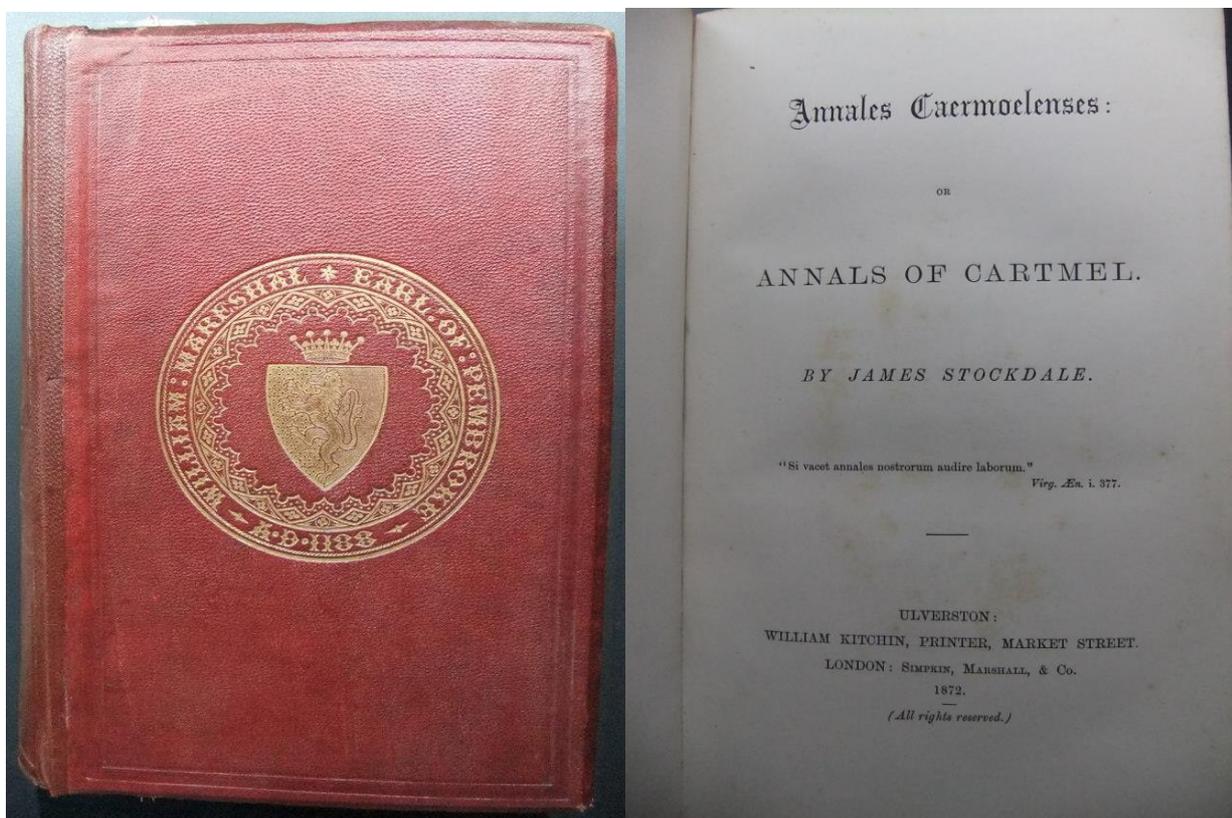
James Stockdale of Cark

There are 3 people known as James Stockdale of Cark

James Stockdale born 1724 , died 1806

James Stockdale his son 1755-1823

James Stockdale his grandson and son of the second James; author of Annals of Cartmel born 1793, died 1874



Pat Rowland Aug 2013

James Stockdale 1793-1874

James Stockdale is known as the author of Annals of Cartmel, published in 1872, the major source of information about the history of Cartmel Peninsula. This is the youngest James. In the preface he says that during his long life, and an almost exclusive residence in the parish, he collected information regarding the district. However there does not appear to be much readily accessible information about the man and I aim to record in one place what I have managed to find out about him and hope that more information can be added in the future.

Roy Huddleston, marking the centenary of James death, wrote an article published in CWAAS transactions in 1974. A little information about his athletic prowess in his youth is recorded. He was an active member of Ulverston Board of Guardians, championing the rights of the poorer ratepayers. He was a regular contributor to the Ulverston Mirror until 1871 and his weekly column was the basis for his book.

Using census records, birth, marriage and death records, parish records and local newspapers I have obtained information to supplement the outline of James's family tree contained in Annals of Cartmel (pages 497-8). James was born in about 1793 and his occupation is variously described as landed proprietor or gentleman landowner. He did not marry and he died on 19 May 1874, aged 82.

James is shown in census records as living in Low Cark(1841), Holker Lower (1851), Cark Village (1861) and Cark House (1871). Probably he was resident at Cark House throughout the whole period as this was the Stockdale family home. He shared the house with his brother William Fletcher and sister Ann.

His brother William Fletcher Stockdale was born in about 1795 and the census gave his occupation as fund holder so he was living on investment income. He did not marry and he died in 1877, aged 83.

His sister Ann or Anne Stockdale was born in 1797 and she too was described as a fund holder, 1871 a shares annuitant and in 1881 landed proprietress. She too was unmarried and died in 1882 aged 85.

He had 3 more siblings. Susan had died in 1817 and Charles in 1818. Ellen married Captain Charles Gray Rigge RN in 1855 and lived at Wood Broughton. She was born in 1811 and died in 1895 aged 85. She had no children

James Stockdale 1755-1823

James, William, Ann Susan, Charles and Ellen were the children of James and Susanna Stockdale (Susanna Maugham of Stockton-on -Tees). Father James was born in 1755 died on 17 April 1823. Mother Susan as shown in the 1841 census was head of the household. She died in 1845 and is buried at Cartmel.

James Stockdale 1724-1806

Grandfather James Stockdale was born on 13 February 1724 at Birklenbarrow Hall according to Annals of Cartmel. This has now been identified as Birkland Barrow Farm at Over Kellet, Lancashire a farm close to the Church and across Morecambe Bay from Cark. The family came from Bilton Park, Knaresborough in the 17th century but a failed investment forced the sale of the property and family members moved away. Birkland Barrow Farm is an imposing 17th century building which is said to have been a monastery and owners had connections to the slave trade. James worked for the Rawlinson Merchants in Lancaster before moving to Cark at an unspecified date but by 1750 he was a sidesman at Cartmel Priory. He was the second husband of Anne Fryers (nee Fletcher, daughter of William Fletcher of St Andrew Moor, now Broughton Lodge) and they married on 8 June 1754. They had six children, James, Anne, Jane, Fletcher, Elizabeth and Ellen. Grandfather James died in February 1806 aged 81.

Grandfather James was involved in many businesses including mines in Cornwall and Wales. He worked with Boulton and Watt and the ironmasters, John, Issac and William Wilkinson of Lindale. James and his son were agents to John Wilkinson and oversaw the building of Castlehead at Lindale at the end of the 18th century. He was a partner in the firm that built Cark cotton mill in 1785. Prior to this he owned a forge on the site of the cotton mill. He had a boat building yard at Cark and was involved in trading with the Baltic, America and West Indies. He had considerable possessions in the West Indies and a letter and account of a voyage from Granada in about 1777 is held at Barrow Record Office. One of the last boats to be built at Cark was The May Flower.

Cark House is located between the village and the shore at Sunny Bank and is a listed building. In the listing it is described as a farmhouse with a datestone of 1689 on a rear output but points out that the front range is 18th century. It is 3 storeys high. It was converted into apartments at the end of the 20th century. I have not established when the

first James Stockdale occupied the building or if he was responsible for altering it in the 18th century.



Pat Rowland June 2010

Stockdale's papers, dating from 1636, are archived at Barrow Record Office. I have not had the opportunity to look at them. An obituary in the Ulverston Mirror mentioned by Huddleston in his 1974 CWAAS article would be worth finding but Barrow does not list a copy of the paper in its holdings. Thanks to Les Gilpin for the information about Birkland Barrow at Over Kellet.

Pat Rowland
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