

The Residence of Herbert and Virginia Stockham

By Marjorie L. White

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The Residence of Herbert and Virginia Stockham, 2930 Argyle Road, view across the Sunken Garden from the south, 1938. Collection of Constance Ladd, Virginia and Herbert Stockham's granddaughter.



Sunken Garden below the gabled entrance to 2930 Argyle Road, 1938. Collection of Constance Ladd. Note the steep retaining wall buttressing the garden and the dogwood in bloom.



"Our Driveway," the private drive to 2930 and 2950 Argyle Road, 1937. Collection of Constance Ladd. The driveway currently accesses 2930 and 2940 Argyle Road.

"IT WAS FEBRUARY 42 YEARS AGO IN CHICAGO I BOARDED THE day coach for Birmingham, wearing my one and only pair of long trousers. There was a patch on one knee where I had let a hot flat iron stand too long. That patch made it easier to change into overalls. My father [William Stockham] brought me here to work.

"His factory in Chicago had failed and he had come to Birmingham several months before to make a fresh start in life. The Stockham family was broke, but you couldn't down father. He borrowed a little money, rented an old car barn, then with very few workmen, a couple of old gasoline engines, a lot of energy and determination, he embarked upon what seemed to him high adventure.... Father paid me \$4.50 a week in the beginning, which wasn't so bad for a boy because the minimum rate for grown men was only 10c an hour. As a 60 hour week was standard at that time, those men made \$6 a week."

— Herbert Clark Stockham, *Bull Ladle*, the Stockham company in-house newsletter for its employees, February 17, 1945. A staunch proponent of the free enterprise system, Stockham wrote frequently for this publication, eternally explaining to employees how a company must operate successfully to continue.

"No equipment, ramshackle buildings, and just a few inexperienced men to do the work. It was an uphill battle building up an enterprise with such handicaps, depending entirely upon borrowed money and earnings for working capital and not many earnings. For it required 14 long years of struggle before it was possible to attain profitable operations. No stockholder received a penny return on his investment until the initial small dividend was paid in 1916."

— Herbert Clark Stockham, *Bull Ladle*, May 2, 1947.

In 1921, with "love and affection," William Stockham gave portions of Lot 24 of Henry Key Milner's Milner Land Co.'s *Third Addition to Milner Heights* to his son Herbert Clark Stockham. The next day, Herbert Stockham married Virginia Cannon. On September 11, 1924, the City of Birmingham issued a building permit for a \$30,000 residence on Lot 24 at 2930 Argyle Road. Miller & Martin Architects drew up plans for a 10-room residence with living, dining, and music rooms, a solarium, a library, and three bedrooms with private baths. In this Tudor-styled stone residence, the young couple raised their family, welcoming daughter Virginia Lee (later Mrs. George Ladd) in 1925 and son Herbert Cannon in 1928. They called their residence "Cragmoor," referencing the stone cottages and mists of the English Lake country. Cragmoor was one of the first



LEFT: Herbert Clark, Herbert Cannon, Virginia, and Virginia Lee Stockham, left to right, at home, August 1928. Collection of Constance Ladd. After the birth of Herbert Cannon, Herbert Clark is known as H.C.

BELOW LEFT: Herbert and Virginia Stockham joining their mother at the piano to sing Christmas carols, 1938. Collection of Constance Ladd.

BELOW RIGHT: Virginia Lee Stockham at the Thanksgiving table, 1939. Collection of Constance Ladd.

BOTTOM: Virginia and Herbert Stockham exploring Christmas presents beneath the tinsel covered tree, 1939. Collection of Constance Ladd.



Stockham Valves & Fittings, Inc.

Stockham Valves & Fittings, Inc., was a family-owned and -operated component of Birmingham's industry base for nine decades. Herbert Clark Stockham worked at the firm for 51 years, leading it through great periods of mechanization and growth in product and service areas for three decades. Complementing the ACIPCO and US Pipe companies, Stockham helped make Alabama the nation's foremost foundry state and the leading producer of iron pipes and fittings, surpassing even Pennsylvania. Grinnell Corporation acquired Stockham's pipe-fitting, pattern, and tooling operations in 1993 and 1994. In 1997, Crane Valves acquired Stockham units in Alabama and subsidiaries in Texas, Tennessee, Britain, and Australia and still sells products bearing the Stockham name. Coca Cola UNITED, established in 1902 in this city, is currently redeveloping the Stockham plant site in East Birmingham for its new bottling, sales, warehouse, and headquarters facilities.

— Paraphrased from *Encyclopedia of Alabama*.

homes built along Argyle Road in what became known as Redmont Park. Herbert and Virginia Stockham lived here together for the next 30 years. During these years Herbert Stockham headed Stockham Pipe, the foundry founded by his father in 1903. Stockham led the family firm, later called Stockham Valves & Fittings, to become a major pillar of the local, state, and national foundry industry with operations headquartered in Birmingham and extending across the nation and into foreign countries.

The Taylor and Yawkey Estates and the Stockham Lands at Red Mountain's Crest

William Stockham purchased Lot 24 in Milner Heights in 1919. The lot was then valued at \$1,600. Several years later, when he gave most of this lot to his son Herbert, he had his sights on the adjacent undeveloped acreage along Red Mountain's crest and southern slope. Here he would provide lots for himself and his younger sons Douglass and Richard.

While Lot 24 was in Henry Key Milner's Milner Land Co.'s *Third Addition to Milner Heights* of 1916 (Map Book 10, Page 116), William Stockham's second land purchase included the lands of the 200-acre Taylor and Yawkey Estates. The 31-acre Edwin A. Taylor Estate, located on the northern slope of the mountain's crest, extended west from Pawnee Avenue—US 78 beneath the then-extant 25th [Taylor] Street South. In December 1906, this land had been subdivided as the *Mountain View* subdivision (Map Book 6, Page 76). While three lots had sold, no residences had been constructed.

The Yawkey Estate no longer contained easily extractable high-quality red ore, leading William H. Yawkey, its Detroit owner, to sell. Yawkey had other business interests in Birmingham, including the Globe Mining Co., that may have been active on this Red Mountain land. Yawkey was also actively engaged in lumber businesses and was the owner of a Major League Baseball franchise.

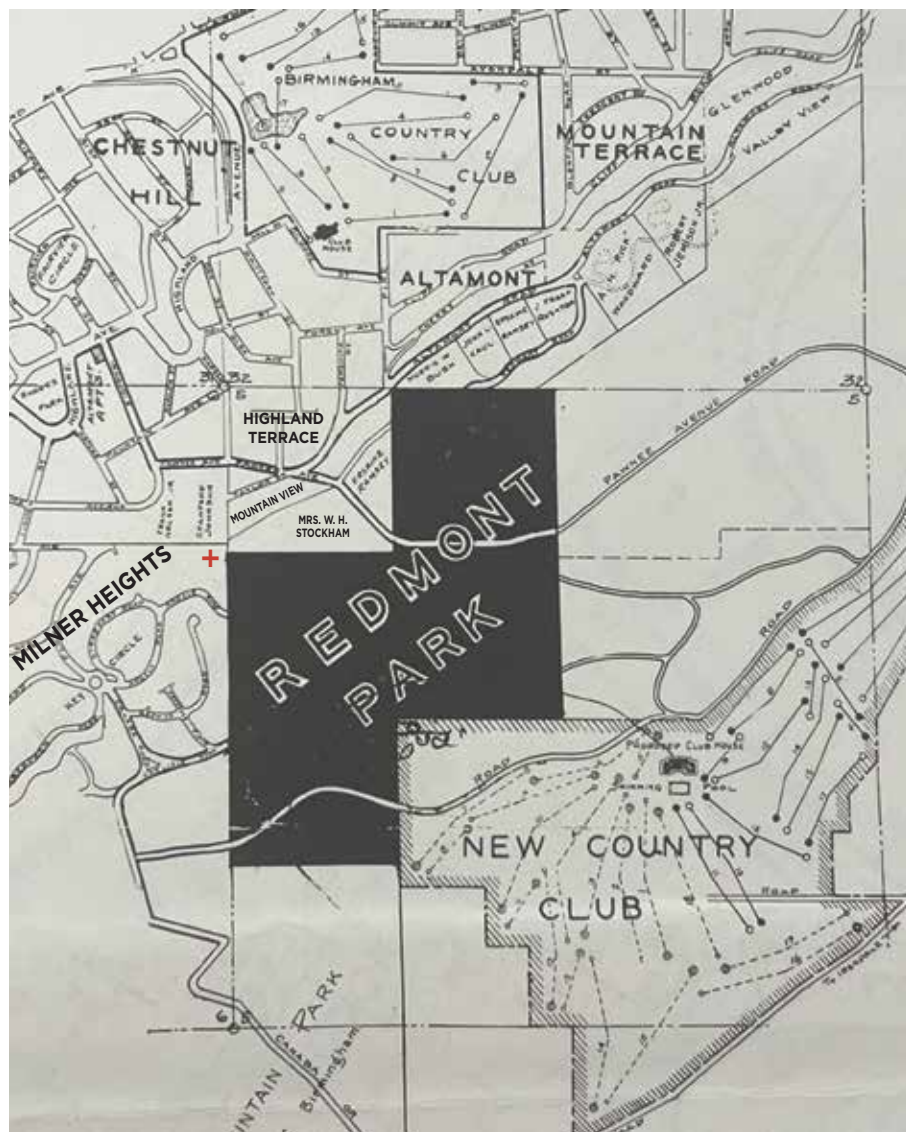
By December 1922, Birmingham's premier real estate firm, Jemison & Co., announced that it had brokered a cash deal through which William Stockham purchased the Yawkey Estate. The \$250,000 sale was said to be the city's largest real estate transaction. The land was considered the finest residential building site available for subdivision at this time. When in April 1923 Stockham filed his subdivision plans for the Yawkey Estate as the *Country Club Heights* subdivision (Map Book 15, Page 25), owners of the Mountain View lots petitioned the City Commission to halt the proposed removal of 25th [Taylor] Street (then termed an alley and today an overgrown pathway) that accessed their lots. Stockham proceeded to subdivide the 50 acres at Red Mountain's crest for his 10-acre personal residence and allocated lots for sons Douglass and Richard that were formally deeded to them in 1940. Douglass's and Richard's lands extended from their parents' residence at 2950 Argyle Road to Pawnee Avenue.

2950 Argyle Road, the Residence of Dowager Kate Stockham

By 1923, William and Kate Stockham, Herbert's parents, had begun construction of their stone manor house. The construction of residences for both father and son was completed by spring 1924. The two residences were accessed and joined by a common drive, its stone entrance remaining along Argyle Road. It appears that the Milner Land Co. graded Argyle Road following the sale of Lot 24 to William Stockham (his deed stated that he was not to be assessed for this grading) and built the elaborate stone retaining wall that buttresses the steep cut into Red Mountain's southern slope to make possible the routing of Argyle Road. Similar retaining walls are found throughout Milner Heights along the mountain's steep and rocky slopes.

Following William Stockham's death in 1924, his widow Kate and her son Douglass and his wife Anne moved into 2950 Argyle Road. Son Richard also lived here until he married in 1927.

Jemison & Co. subdivided the lands south of Argyle Road on the southern face of Red Mountain in March 1925 as the Redmont Land Co.'s *Argyle Sector of Redmont Park* (Map Book 14, page 78). Engineer and surveyor John Henry Glander Jr. laid out the roads, the lots, and landscaping. The lots hit the market at an opportune time and sold quickly without the need for Jemison & Co. to build spec houses to boom along sales. A report on the development in the July 5, 1925, *Birmingham News*, extolled the "Great estates, great not so much in land area, but in their marvelous beauty and stateliness." The writer continued:



Map of Jemison & Co.'s Properties, 1924. Jemison & Co. Papers, Birmingham Public Library Archives. The + marks the location of the Herbert and Virginia Stockham House on Lot 24 of the *Third Addition to Milner Heights* subdivision at 2930 Argyle Road. The residences for William and Kate Stockham and Herbert Cannon Stockham are at 2940 and 2950 Argyle Road, on the land delineated as Mrs. W. H. Stockham. To the north of this is the Mountain View subdivision, all but three lots of which belong to Mrs. W. H. Stockham. Beginning in 1924, Jemison & Co. subdivided 150 acres of the former Yawkey-Stockham Estate as Redmont Park. The subdivision designated as Highland Terrace houses the Redmont Park condominiums and villas today.

"The wonderful houses, numbering along them the mansions erected by Mrs. Stockham and her son Ralph [Herbert] Stockham, of native sandstone, so pink in color as to resemble coral fresh cut from atolls in southern seas, are circled by parked highways in which trees, shrubs and flowers play full share in making driveways that are hardly rivaled for picturesque in these United States."

The Stockham Houses in Later Years

In 1954, Herbert Cannon Stockham married Peggy Roundtree. Several years later, in 1955, this young couple built 2940 Argyle Road on portions of Lot 24 and of the Stockham lands acquired from the Yawkey Estate. Their 10-room International Style home, designed by Nelson Smith AIA, lies atop a tiny knoll along the crest between the homes built by Herbert's parents and his grandmother, Mrs. William (Kate) Stockham. This residence is accessed by the common drive then leading from Argyle to the two other family residences.

Following Herbert Clark Stockham's death in 1958 and that of his wife Virginia in 1964, Martha and Marion Brodnax purchased their residence and one-car garage for \$52,500 in April 1965. An advertisement placed in *The Birmingham News* described the "choice mountain top estate" that offered privacy,

convenience, and views across both Red and Shades Valleys as exceptionally well maintained.

In 1984, Virginia and Richard Scruggs purchased the Stockham-Brodnax residence. The next year they hired Highland Partners Architects (then led by architects John Carraway and Dick Pigford) to design updates to the first-floor kitchen and porch area and additions of a new laundry, porch and deck, a two-car garage, and covered front entrance and walkway. The latter required removal from the front yard of several boulders to provide a level site for the walkway and columned portico. Beautifully designed and executed, these updates significantly improved the livability of the residence, as have subsequent renovations.

MOUNTAIN TOP ESTATE
(CREST OF RED MTN.)
2930 Argyle Rd.
"CRAGMOOR"

This CHOICE MOUNTAIN TOP ESTATE offers the ULTIMATE IN PRIVACY AND CONVENIENCE. The BIG, COMPACT STONE RESIDENCE has been EXCEPTIONALLY WELL MAINTAINED. 4 VERY LARGE BEDROOMS, EACH WITH ITS OWN PRIVATE BATH. (The master-suite affords a 2-way view). The HANDSOME DINING ROOM is INDIRECTLY LIGHTED and there is AMPLE ROOM FOR SERVICE AROUND A TABLE SEATING 12. There is a LIBRARY, a MUSIC ROOM and a SOLARIUM WHERE YOU CAN ENJOY THE SCENIC BEAUTY OF THE DISTANT MOUNTAINS. There is an ELEVATOR, of course. This is from our PORTFOLIO OF FINE HOMES where QUALITY IS MANDATORY. For details and appointment call:
VERNON NOAH
Res., 871-4252; Ofc., 322-3325
EXCLUSIVE
MONTGOMERY REALTY CO.

Advertisement for sale of "Cragmoor."

The Birmingham News, July 23, 1964.



2930 Argyle Road, View from Southeast, 1985, a photographic rendering showing the proposed addition of a new walkway and portico entrance. Plans for Virginia and Richard Scruggs, Highland Partners Architects. Courtesy Doug Klick and Gregg McCormick. John Carraway was lead designer in the 1985 update.

Douglass and Richard Stockham never built on their lands, selling them in the mid-1950s. Their mother's residence was sold following her death in 1946. The third and fourth generations of the Stockham family continued to own the Herbert Cannon Stockham residence until 2021.

Since purchasing 2930 Argyle in 2023, Doug Klick and Gregg McCormick have converted the rear garage drive into a landscaped pool/activity area and are actively engaged in landscape improvements across the forested ridge. They look forward to welcoming the Heritage Society on April 13, 2025.

About Virginia Cannon Stockham

The youngest daughter of Methodist Bishop James and Mrs. Cannon, Virginia Cannon was 30 years old at her marriage to Herbert Stockham in 1921. During World War I, the Randolph Macon College graduate had done war work in France. She later taught history at Blackstone College in Virginia, a feeder school for Randolph Macon. Her father had founded the school and served as its principal for many years. A staunch prohibitionist, James Cannon had also led development of the Southern Assembly of the Methodist Church at Lake Junaluska, near Asheville, North Carolina. It is thought that Virginia and Herbert Stockham met at Junaluska. Both were life-long Methodists whose faith and practice greatly influenced their lives and work. They joined Highlands Methodist Church and, like William and Kate Stockham, strongly supported Birmingham-Southern College. Herbert Stockham's leadership of Stockham Pipe would be guided by and known for the "Stockham credo," putting the Golden Rule into action. Virginia Stockham was a member of the American Historical Association and several other historical organizations.



About Herbert Stockham

"A perfectionist by nature, Mister Herbert combined conscientious devotion to duty with warm human understanding to help make Stockham products known and respected all over the world. He was firm in discipling both himself and others. He defended staunchly the ideals and principles in which he believed. Yes, he was kind, sympathetic, and a true Christian gentleman in the noblest sense of the word."

— Anne Aldridge, longtime editor, *Bull Ladle*, February 6, 1958.

Herbert Clark Stockham. Courtesy Alabama Business Hall of Fame, 1986.

About Herbert Clark Stockham: Captain of Industry, Civic and Religious Leader, Stockham Valves & Fittings, Inc.

In 1989, 31 years after his death, the Alabama Business Hall of Fame inscribed Herbert Clark Stockham. The inscription tribute follows:

“The story of the life of Herbert Clark Stockham is closely interwoven with the phenomenal growth and development of Stockham Valves & Fittings, Inc. in Birmingham into one of the world’s largest producers of pipe fittings and valves.

“Born in Chicago on March 24, 1888, he was the oldest son of Kate Frances (Clark) and William H. Stockham. In 1903, the family moved to Birmingham where William Stockham founded Stockham Pipe & Fittings Company. Though only fifteen at the time, young Herbert joined his father and a crew of five in setting up shop in a rented car barn. He continued to work every minute he wasn’t in school at Chicago English High and the University of Illinois Preparatory School.

“After his studies were completed, he returned to the plant to work whenever he was needed—learning everything he could about the foundry business. He advanced to assistant secretary, secretary and was vice president at the time of his father’s death [in 1923]. He then became president. As president from 1923 to 1953 and Chairman of the Board from 1946 until his death, Herbert Clark Stockham was the chief architect in Stockham’s rise through growth and expansion.

“During the early years of Herbert Stockham’s presidency, the company experienced growth. He initiated plant mechanization and the establishment of a warehouse in Houston, Texas, the company’s third.

“Though the Great Depression brought two years of serious losses, the company survived—not only because of careful management but also because of the progress that has been made in employee relations.

“Following the ‘Stockham credo’—the Golden Rule in action—the company had begun to raise working standards long before the depression. The company was among the first in Birmingham to install facilities for inspirational and recreational activities. It also began to provide free medical and dental care, safety programs with group insurance, group hospitalization, pensions, higher pay, and shorter hours swiftly following.

“In 1935, the company launched the product of one of its most outstanding research programs—the Bronze Valve. By 1941, the company had developed Iron Body Valves, but the entrance of the nation into World War II delayed the full development and production of the valves. The company geared itself to the needs of the Army and Navy for munitions and cast steel fittings for warships. In 1942, the company received the first of three Army–Navy ‘E’ production awards.

“After the war, the company began an all-out program of reconditioning, modernization, and expansion. Production of valves began in earnest. The success of the valve production and sales is reflected in the change of name in 1948 from Stockham Pipe & Fittings Company to Stockham Valves &



Steel Gate and Globe Valves, Shipping and Warehouse Department, Stockham Valves & Fittings, 1994. Photograph by Jet Lowe, Historic American Engineering Record.

Fittings, Inc. By this time, the company had also established warehouses and sales offices in many of the major metropolitan areas in the nation.

“The essence of Herbert Stockham’s qualities as a leader is reflected in the Preface he wrote for Links to Better Living, 1903–1953: The Story of Stockham, 50 Golden Years:

‘Stockham is land, buildings, and equipment. But those are only a minor factor. Primarily Stockham is people. Not the faceless, anonymous mass sometimes described as capital and labor, but proud and accomplished artisans, eager, enterprising, fresh warm, and friendly people with personalities to express and ambitions to fulfill. People with skills to merge in making the products and supplying the service on which the Stockham reputation is built.

‘Stockham is a successful enterprise. My father furnished the vision and high principles that bred that success. The progress through the years we owe to many people. Especially do we feel a deep sense of gratitude to the loyal friends and customers who are the backbone of any business.’

“A champion of the Free Enterprise System, Herbert Stockham was active in various professional organizations which fostered its growth. He was an original organizer, the first vice president, and the second president of Associated Industries of Alabama, as well as a member of AIA’s Board for many years. He was president and member of the Board of Trustees of the National Association of Fittings Manufacturers. He also served as a regional vice president of the National Association of Manufacturers and a member of the board for Alabama.

“Carrying on the tradition of community service set by his parents, Herbert Stockham gave of his means, his time, and his energy to civic, religious, educational, and charitable activities. He was a member and a president of the Birmingham Sunday School Council, which bestowed upon him life membership in recognition of his service. A devout church worker, he was a steward and Trustee of the Highlands Methodist Church in Birmingham and a member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Christian Advocate. He was elected and served as a director of the Board of the Community Chest.

“He was a member of the Executive Committee of Birmingham-Southern College (which awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1949). He was tapped for ODK in recognition of his leadership and service. He

also served as a representative of the State of Alabama on the Board of Trustees of Tuskegee Institute. In 1949, he was selected as 'Alabamian of the Week' in recognition of his promotion of good race relations.

"After Herbert Clark Stockham died suddenly on January 24, 1958, one well acquainted with him wrote:

'...In almost fifty-six years of service—through his ability, energy, and integrity of character—he contributed greatly to Stockham's growth and progress.... Herbert Clark Stockham was a leader—in industry, in church, and the state. The memory of him shall stand as an inspiration to all of us.'"

Herbert Clark Stockham (1888–1958)

Industrialist • Philanthropist • Worker's Friend

Samford University inscribed Herbert Stockham into its Alabama Business Hall of Fame. This tribute describes not only his qualities as an astute businessman but as a Christian philanthropist.

"An industrialist in a city of industrialists, Herbert Clark Stockham distinguished himself by his compassion for workers. Suffering with his family as economic depression closed his father's Chicago foundry in the late 19th century, then working alongside other employees at his father William's new foundry in Birmingham after 1903, Stockham won his compassion the hard way. The company founded as Stockham Pipe & Fittings became his college and career as he helped it grow in business and moral influence.

"Stockham joined the family business early, starting with a drill press in Chicago at the age of nine. Working weekends and after school in the struggling Birmingham business, Stockham developed drafting skills as he designed new equipment and machines. Laboring alongside the foundry's employees he learned not only about the family business but also about the needs and aspirations of the workers.

"Without the financial means to complete college, 'Little Boss' Stockham nevertheless advanced in his father's company. As a salesman, Secretary of the Company, Factory Manager and Vice President, he learned at every level and at every level advanced the 'Stockham Credo'—the Methodist family's devotion to the 'golden rule' in all of its actions, most notably in labor relations.

"By investing extensively in programs for the health, education, entertainment, financial stability and spiritual well-being of workers, the Stockham family gave to others what they valued themselves. Stockham's marriage to

Virginia Cannon, the daughter of a Methodist Bishop, involved the family even more deeply in Christian philanthropy, not only in its business but also in its long support for East Birmingham Methodist Church South (now Stockham Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South) and Birmingham-Southern College.

“Stockham became company president on his father’s death in 1923 and led it through the tumult of another depression and WWII. The company thrived and Stockham became well known for his service to the community. His philanthropy, civic engagement, public faith and devotion to his family’s values earned him a place in the Alabama Business Hall of Fame. More than an industrialist, Herbert Cannon Stockham believed that good flowed from good and made the golden rule his measure of his success.”

Stockham Family Tree

William Henry Stockham (1861-1923, m. **Kate Frances Clark Stockham** (1863-1946)

Herbert Clark Stockham (1888-1958) m. Virginia Cannon (1891-1964)

Virginia Lee Stockham (Mrs. George Ladd) (1926-2017)

Virginia Ladd (Mrs. Tommy Tucker)

Constance Ladd

Herbert Cannon Stockham (1928-2013) m. Peggy Roundtree (1928-2014)

Kate Stockham

Anne Stockham (Teresa DeAnni)

Caroline Stockham (Mrs. Edward Thomas Jr.)

Midge Stockham (Mrs. Mark Miller)

William Edward Stockham (1891-1892)

Douglass William Stockham (1898-1971), m. Anne Wilson

Douglass William Stockham Jr.

Betsy Stockham (Simpson)

Richard James Stockham (1904-1982), m. Charlotte Louise Rushton (1905-1965)

Richard James Stockham Jr. (1929-2011), m. Adele Arant (1931-2013)

William Henry Stockham II (1937-2000)

Charlotte Stockham (Murdock) (1939-2024)

Stockham Companies Timeline, 1985-1964

- 1885 William Herbert Stockham and his future wife Kate Clark, ages 24 and 22 years, graduate University of Illinois and marry.
- 1886 William opens a foundry in the Chicago area.
- 1888 Son Herbert Clark Stockham is born.
- 1891 Son William Edward Stockham is born; dies a year later.
- 1898 Son Douglass William Stockham is born.
- 1902 William Stockham moves to manage Central Pipe foundry in Bessemer.
- 3/24/1903 Stockham Pipe & Fittings Company, Inc., incorporates.
- William Stockham opens Stockham Pipe & Fittings on the site of today’s Top Golf in Uptown, Birmingham.
- Stockham brings his wife Kate and sons Herbert and Douglass to Birmingham.

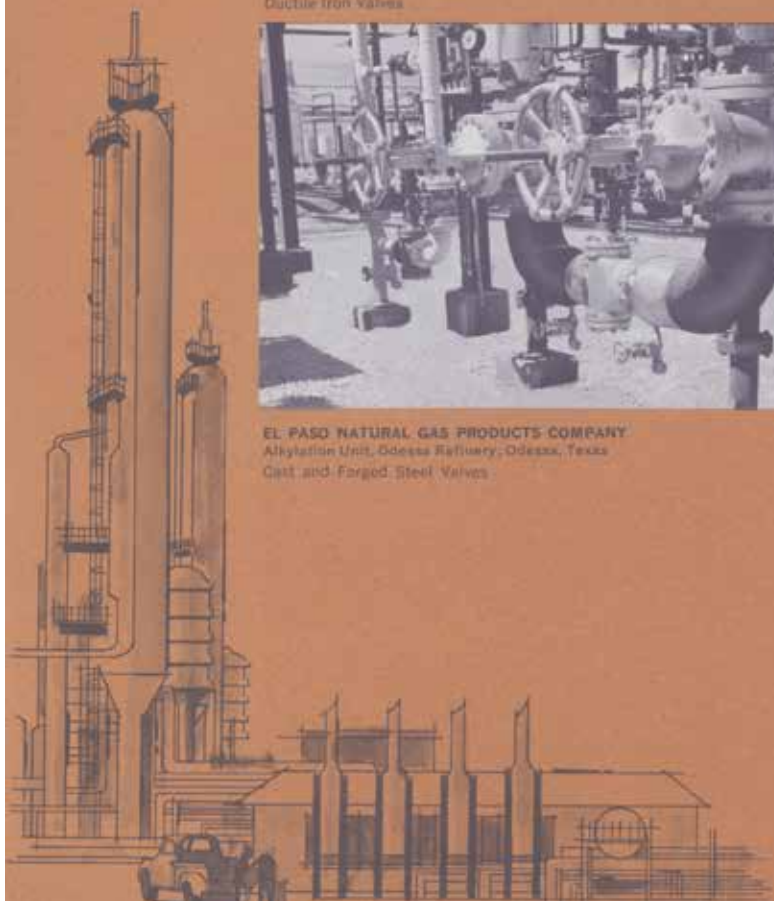
- Stockham Pipe produces a wide variety of products made from foundry iron. Herbert Stockham works at the plant on weekends and after school, applying skills he learned in high school drafting classes.
- 1904 Son Richard Stockham is born in Birmingham.
- 1905 Herbert Stockham returns, briefly, to Illinois and to the University of Illinois. Stockham Pipe withdraws from making pipe.
- 1906 Herbert Stockham becomes secretary of Stockham and soon its factory manager.
The Stockham family—William and Kate, Herbert, Douglass, and Richard—lives at 1231 North 32nd Street, Norwood.
- 12/19/1906 *Mountain View: Property of the Estate of Edwin A. Taylor* plat is filed. This 31-acre subdivision of 16 lots lies on the northern slope of Red Mountain on lands that William Stockham acquires in 1922.
- 1914 Herbert Stockham marries Jane Summerville Going.
- 1916 Stockham Pipe returns its first initial small dividend.
Milner Land Co. Third Addition plat is filed. This addition to Milner Heights lies to the east of Key Circle, extending a brief distance east along Argyle Road.
- 1917 Eldest son Herbert Stockham becomes vice president; younger brothers Douglass and Richard work occasionally at the plant.
- 1918 Stockham Pipe & Fittings opens a new plant in East Birmingham. Stockham Pipe erects a building for the YMCA at the plant. Herbert Stockham's wife Jane dies.
World War I provides great demand for Stockham products.
- 4/29/1919 Milner Land Co. deeds Lot 24 in the *Milner Land Co. Third Addition* to W. H. Stockham for \$1,600. Deed restrictions in force until 1930 call for not more than two dwelling houses costing at least \$10,000 for white persons only with any servant employed on the property to be housed in servant houses or quarters, no double houses or apartment houses of any kind, and no building within 10 feet of the property lines on either side.
- 1921 Stockham Pipe expands into the Midwest, California, and Cuba, courting international business.
- 6/29/1921 "With love and affection," Wm H. Stockham & wf Kate C. Stockham grants Herbert C. Stockham part of Lot 24 for \$10 paid.
- 6/30/1921 Herbert Stockham marries Virginia Cannon (1891-1964).
- 9/23/1922 William Stockham grants Douglass Stockham parts of Lot 24 and of the Yawkey Estate. The deed mentions sewer, gas, and water connections and a driveway entrance.
- 12/6/1922 *The Birmingham News* reports that William Stockham purchased the Yawkey Estate of 200 acres for \$250,000.
- 4/1923 *Country Club Heights, Argyle Road-New and Vacated Alleys* plat filed. This subdivision shows the lands Stockham acquired from the Taylor and Yawkey Estates.
- 11/16/1923 William Stockham dies at age 62 years.
- 1/19/1924 Herbert Stockham becomes Stockham's president, his brother Douglass secretary, and his mother Kate chairman of the board. Herbert Stockham will lead the Stockham foundry for the next 30 years, becoming the principal architect of the company's success and playing a prime role in the city's and the state's manufacturing sector.



UNION OIL COMPANY
Los Angeles Port Facilities
Ductile Iron Valves



EL PASO NATURAL GAS PRODUCTS COMPANY
Alkylation Unit, Odessa Refinery, Odessa, Texas
Cast and Forged Steel Valves



Union Oil Company, Los Angeles, California and **El Paso Natural Gas Products Company, Odessa, Texas.** *Specify Stockham*, a sales brochure, Collection of Jay Draper.

- 9/12/1924 Jemison & Co.'s Redmont Park Land Co. incorporates to develop 150 acres of the former Yawkey-Stockham Estate. "Stock is issued to the Stockham Estate for its equity in the lands known as the Yawkey Estate," *Jemison & Co. Redmont Land Company 4th Annual Report*, 11/20/1928.
- 12/10/1924 *Argyle Sector of Redmont Park* is platted by Jemison & Co. The subdivision places 104 lots on the southern slope of Red Mountain on the market. The Stockham family retains 50 acres of the Taylor-Yawkey Estate lands along the Red Mountain crest for future family residences. These residences will lie above the future extension of Argyle Road to Pawnee Avenue.
- 12/11/1924 A building permit is issued for \$30,000 for the Herbert Stockham residence at 2930 Argyle Road.
- 1925-1929 Mechanization and modernization of molding processes at the plant are undertaken.
Herbert Stockham becomes a member of the Rotary Club of Birmingham and Mountain Brook Club and serves as a director of The First National Bank of Birmingham, the city's largest.
- 3/19/1925 The birth of Virginia Stockham, Herbert and Virginia Stockham's eldest child, is noted at 2930 Argyle Road, confirming the completion of the construction of the residence.
- 7/5/1925 *The Birmingham News* of this date describes the Stockham residences at 2930 and 2950 Argyle built for Herbert Stockham and his mother Kate following designs by Miller & Martin Architects. Kate's son Douglass, his wife Anne, and son Richard ("Billy") move in with their mother at 2950 Argyle.
- 1928 Herbert Cannon Stockham is born to Herbert and Virginia Stockham. Herbert Sr. is hereafter called H. C. to avoid confusion with his son.
- 1931 Stockham Pipe workers number 1,500 and make 15,000 different items.
- 1931-1932 The Depression takes a hard toll on orders and full-time jobs.
Stockham Pipe introduces the Bedaux (piecework) system, whereby employees are paid by the number of pieces they complete in a set amount of time, thus determining their pay rates. Nationwide, the Communist party organizes worker protests to this attempt to improve worker productivity. Communist organizing at the Stockham plant is led by Hosea Hudson. One protest leads to the distribution of leaflets outlining worker grievances at the plant and at the Red Mountain residence of H. C. and Virginia Stockham.
- 1935 Stockham Pipe adds bronze valves to its product line.
- 1942 The Stockham plant produces artillery shells, practice bombs, and hand grenades. As required by federal regulations, the plant opens to unionization.
- 1945 Stockham produces one-fourth of all cast iron fittings produced in the United States.
- 12/31/1946 Kate Stockham dies at age 83. H. C. becomes chairman of the board.
- 10/4/1947 A two-week union strike shuts the plant.
As investment in bronze valve making grows, the company changes its name to Stockham Valves & Fittings.
Stateside demand for valves and fittings declines as foreign competition expands.
- 3/6/1953 Richard Stockham becomes company president. H. C. remains chairman of the board.
- 1953 Stockham Valves & Fittings celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- 1/24/1954 H. C. Stockham dies at age 79.
- 1964 Virginia Cannon Stockham dies.

What Happened to Stockham Valves & Fittings?

By its 75th anniversary in 1978, the family-owned and -managed Stockham Valves & Fittings employed 1,200 people and was Birmingham's third-largest private employer. In 1993 and 1994, Stockham's pipe-fitting, pattern, and tooling operations were sold to its rival, Grinnell Corporation. Archrival Crane Valves of Stamford, Connecticut, acquired units in Tarrant and Aliceville, Alabama, and subsidiaries in Tennessee, Texas, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Stockham's remaining plants closed in 1998. CRANE ChemPharma & Energy continues to make a wide variety of bronze, cast iron gate, globe, angle, check, ball, and butterfly valves as well as cast steel ball and butterfly valves that bear the Stockham name.

Coca-Cola acquired the Stockham site on 40th Street North in 2013. Since then, a new \$330 million, multifaceted facility has been announced at the prominent site along I-20/59 at the city center's eastern gateway. Jefferson County provided \$2 million to assist in remediation of the site before construction of the new facility begins. Facilities at the new site will produce Coca-Cola products and provide for office and warehouse uses. The Birmingham Coca-Cola Bottling Co. is the second-largest privately held, family owned company in Alabama and the third-largest Coca-Cola bottler in the United States.



The Stockham Plant, 4000 10th Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama. *Specify Stockham*, a sales brochure, Collection of Jay Draper.

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