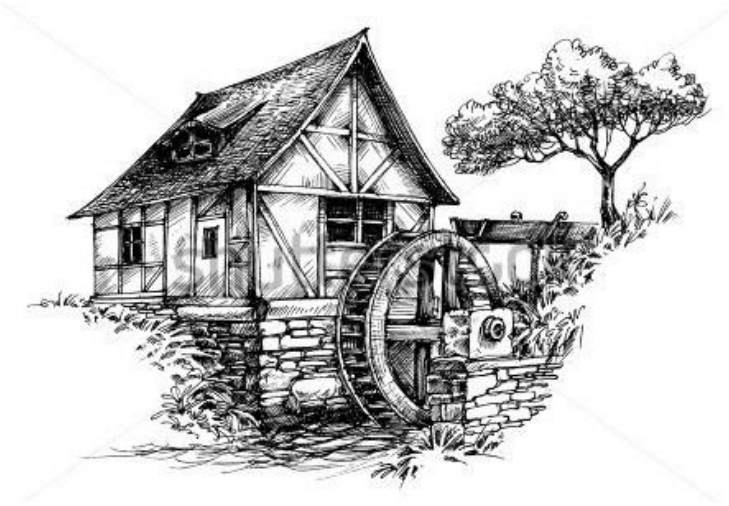
Our Cockshutt Heritage

From Simonstone to Southport 1560-1960

By Edmund (known as “Ted”) Flack



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Who were the Cockshutts and where did they come from?

Ever since I stayed with my Great Uncle Edmund and Aunty Freda when I was a small boy on holidays from boarding school, I have been intrigued with their stories of the Lancashire Witches and the family's history of involvement in the weaving industries of North East Lancashire.

There were few discussions in my family about the Cockshutts beyond my Great Uncle Edmund and his brave service in the Lancashire Regiment and his wounding at Gallipoli. So where did these stories of cotton mills and witches come from and were they true?

In this research report, I want to try to provide some answers to the questions "Who were the Cockshutts and where did they come from? First, I hope to provide the genealogical answers to that question and second, I want to make a contribution to an understanding of the social and business environments in which they lived.

Picture 1.

Group picture taken about 1956 in Macclesfield at my Great Uncle Edmund's home.

(From Left to right: Dr Frederick H.D. Flack; Edmund D.H. Flack (author); Edmund Meredith Cockshutt; Winifred Joyce ("Freda") Cockshutt; John Victor Mellor.)

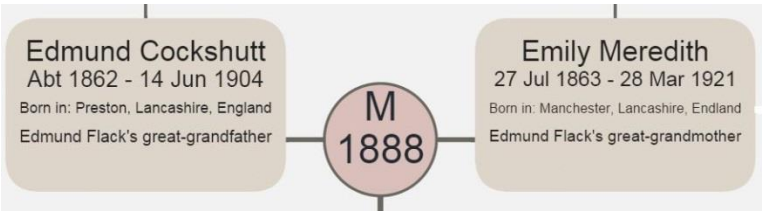
I did not know my paternal grandmother, Alice Mary Flack, nee Cockshutt, particularly well, but she is my direct line Cockshutt ancestor.

I knew her brother, Edmund Cockshutt, my great uncle, better because I stayed with him and my Aunty Freda on several occasions.

Alice Flack, nee Cockshutt was born on 13 June 1890 at Baber Bridge, near Preston to Edmund Cockshutt and Emily Meredith (remarried later to Roberts).

Picture 2 and 3. Alice Mary Flack, nee Cockshutt

First the genealogical view.



We know that Alice Mary Flack nee Cockshutt, mother of Dr Henry Edmund Douglas Flack and Bertram Anthony Flack, was born on 13 June 1890 in Bamber Bridge (near Preston) to Edmund Cockshutt and Emily Cockshutt nee Meredith. Edmund Cockshutt and Emily Meredith were married in 1888 in Fylde, Lancashire.

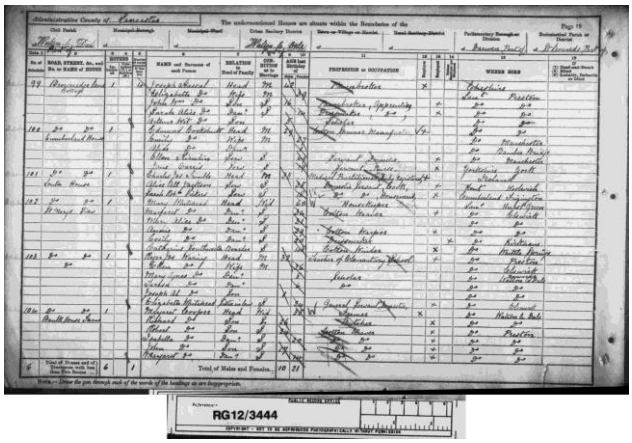
Alice Cockshutt married Dr Frederick Henry Douglas Flack on 22 January 1914 at St Mary's Parish Church, Nelson, Lancashire. The wedding was reported in the Advertiser Newspaper headed "Fashionable Nelson Wedding" on 24 January 1914 (Picture 4.).

Picture 4.

Picture 5. Edmund Cockshutt

Picture 6. Emily Roberts, formerly Cockshutt, nee Meredith

Edmund Cockshutt, (Alice's father) and his family, Emily, wife aged 27, and Alice aged 1 are recorded in the 1891 Census (Picture 6) as residing at Cumberland House, 100 Brownedge Lane, Walton le Dale, Lancashire, together with a domestic servant and a domestic nurse. Edmund is recorded as Head of the household; aged 29; born in Preston; Lancashire; Cotton Spinner manufacturer; Employer.



Picture 7.

Edmund Cockshutt "The Remittance Man".

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1861

COC-COE

	NAME	SUP-REGISTRARS DISTRICT	VOL	PAGE
COCKRAN	William	Tadcaster	9c	521
COCKRILL	Robert John	Swaffham	4b	373
	Septimus Waller	Mutford	4a	639
COCKROFT	Alice	Halifax	9a	454
	Ann	Halifax	9a	467
	Margaret Ann	Bradford Yk	9b	139
	Martha ANn	Halifax	9a	431
	Priestley	Halifax	9a	442
	Sam	Halifax	9a	439
COCKROM	John Edward	Shardlow	7b	331
COCKRON	Mary Ann	Auckland	10a	167
COCKS	Anne Ellen	Westbourne	2b	336
	Charles	Barrow	7a	136
	Charles William	Dover	2a	698
	Charlotte Emma	Boston	7a	326
	Ellen Ada	Clerkenwell	1b	515
	George John	Bp Stortford	3a	195
	George William	Plymouth	5b	224
	Hannah Elizabeth	Bethnal Gn	1c	289
	John Perham	St Thomas	5b	60
	William George	Bradfield	2c	310
COCKSEDGE	Frederick George	Cosford	4a	392
COCKSEY	James Archer	Runcorn	8a	174
COCKSHAW	James	Salford	8d	74
	James	Salford	8d	78
COCKSHOOT	Fanny	Blackburn	8e	369
	Mary	Blackburn	8e	358
COCKSHOTT	Louisa	Aston	6d	309
COCKSHUTT	Edmund	Preston	8e	499
	Mary Jane	Clitheroe	8e	246
COCKWILL	William	Okehampton	5b	361

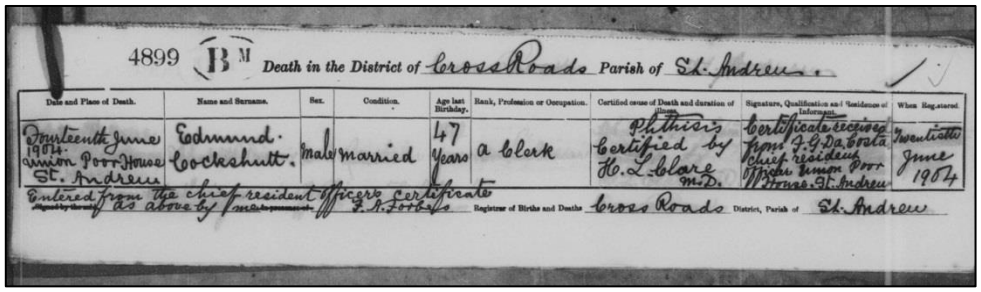
Edmund Cockshutt, Alice's father, was the Edmund Cockshutt whose birth was registered in Preston born in the December quarter of 1861, although this does not match with the age stated in the 1891 Census

Emily Cockshutt nee Meredith was born 27 July 1863 in Manchester, Lancashire. She was the daughter of Charles Meredith, born 2 May 1807 and Alice Anne Meredith nee Harrison, born 1 November 1832.

Edmund is recorded in the 1891 Census as Head of the household employed as a "Cotton Spinner Manufactor", aged 29, resident with his wife Emily aged 27 and his daughter Alice, aged 1 at 100 Cumberland House, Walton-le-Dale.

Whilst Edmund Cockshutt, Head of the household, age 39, Insurance agent, born Preston is listed as resident with Emily, Margaret, daughter aged 9, Edmund M., son, aged 7, born Brownedge, W Preston, he is not listed in the 1911 Census of England and Wales. Little of his life is known after 1911, however he is variously recorded as a "clerk" and as an "Insurance Agent".

Extensive searches of the births deaths and marriages, census and other directories failed to locate a record that would indicate the whereabouts of Edmund Cockshutt after the 1901 Census record. Subsequent searches in United States and Canadian records also failed to find any trace. By chance the following death record was located indicating that Edmund Cockshutt aged 47 years died on 14 June 1904 in the Union Poor House, St Andrews, Jamaica.



4899 B M Death in the District of Cross Roads Parish of St. Andrew.

Date and Place of Death.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Condition.	Age last Birthday.	Rank, Profession or Occupation.	Certified cause of Death and duration of illness.	Signature, Qualification and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.
Fourteenth June 1904. Union Poor House St. Andrew	Edmund. Cockshutt.	Male	married	47 years	a clerk	Phthisis certified by H. L. Clare M.D.	Certificate received from J. G. Da Costa Chief resident Officer Union Poor House St. Andrew	Twenty sixth June 1904

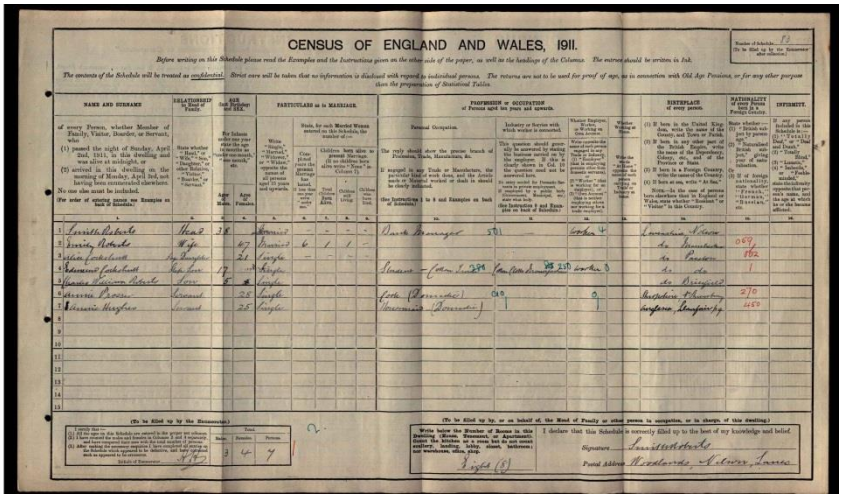
Entered from the chief resident Officers certificate as above by me F. R. Forbes Registrar of Births and Deaths Cross Roads District, Parish of St. Andrew

Picture 9.

(Comment: There is a family story that suggests that Edmund Cockshutt was a "remittance man"; in other words, someone who the family had assisted financially to leave the country, to avoid disgracing the family.)

Following the death of Edmund Cockshutt on 14 June 1904, Alice's mother, Emily married Smith Roberts (Picture 9.) in the March Quarter of 1905. Their son Charles Roberts was born 23 December 1905.

The 1911 Census (Picture 10) shows Alice Cockshutt living with her mother, younger sister Margaret May Cockshutt (born June quarter 1891 at Preston), her younger brother Edmund Cockshutt (born 7 December 1893 at Preston) and her step brother, Charles William Roberts (born 23 December 1905).



CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

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Picture 10. Smith Roberts

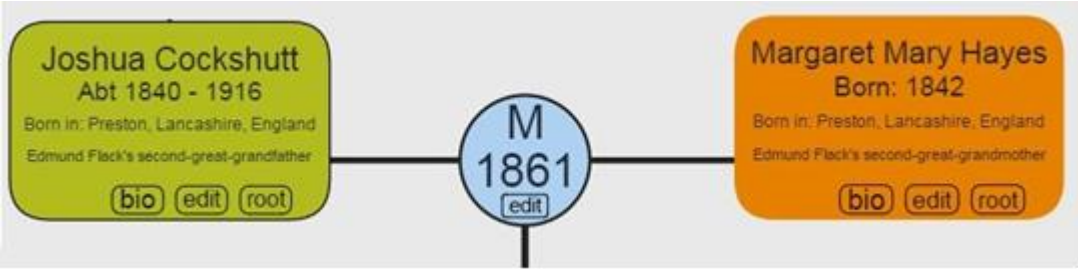
Picture 11. 1911 Census for the Roberts family

Picture 12. Edmund Meredith Cockshutt

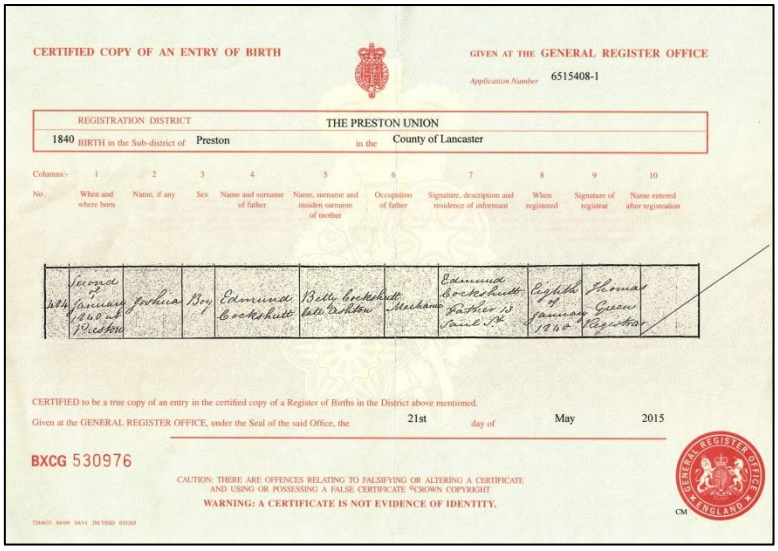
Picture 13. Margaret May Cockshutt

Now to return to the Cockshutts.

Joshua Cockshutt – The Last of the Cotton Spinners



Joshua was born on 2 January 1840 in Colne, Lancashire (PRO Reference: Vol. XX1, Page 605) to Edmund Cockshutt and Elizabeth (known as “Betty”) Cockshutt nee Ashton.



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 6515408-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT THE PRESTON UNION

1840 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Preston in the County of Lancaster

Columns:- No.	1 When and where born	2 Name, if any	3 Sex	4 Name and surname of father	5 Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	6 Occupation of father	7 Signature, description and residence of informant	8 When registered	9 Signature of registrar	10 Name entered after registration
14th	Second January 1840 at Preston	Joshua	Boy	Edmund Cockshutt	Betty Cockshutt late Ashton	Mechanic	Edmund Cockshutt Father in same House	Eighth of January 1840	Thomas Green Registrar	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 21st day of May 2015

BXCG 530976

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WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE ENGLAND

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No record could be located of a religious baptism service. A year later, Joshua’s family is recorded in the 1841 Census at 49 Saul Street, Preston as follows:

- Edmund Cockshott (sic), aged 30, Journeyman Mechanic, born in Lancashire.
- Betty Cockshott, aged 30, born in Lancashire.
- Mary Cockshott, aged 7, born in Lancashire.
- Elizabeth Cockshott, aged 3, born in Lancashire.
- **Joshua Cockshott, aged 1, born in Lancashire.**
- James Ashton, aged 70, Independent, born in Lancashire.
- Betty Ashton, aged 65, born in Lancashire.

During the period 1840 to 1855, the Cockshutt family business and property interests appear to have been rationalised with the sale of their interests in Ball Grove Mill and farm in Colne, Inghey Farm and Worsaw Hill Farm. It is not clear why this was so, although it appears that there may have been a protracted legal dispute over the Estate of the Late Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove caused in part by provisions in his will concerning his second wife Margery Maud. It may also have involved the bankruptcy of several businesses run by other members of the extended family.

In the 1851 Census, the family is made up of the same persons residing at the same address, however Joshua’s father, Edmund Cockshut (sic) is recorded as “Iron Founder Employing Master, employing 8 men and 3 boys.” Joshua’s Grandmother, Betty Ashton, is no longer listed and her father, James Ashton is listed as a “Widower”. Winifred Ashton, Joshua’s Great Aunt, aged 85 is listed as a resident.

Today Saul Street is predominately made up of modern business premises and number 49 Saul Street no longer exists, however it must once have been a relatively good address, close to the main street of Preston and the Cockshutt's neighbours were predominantly trades and small business people.

In 1861, Joshua Cockshutt, aged 21, married Margaret Mary Hayes (born 1842 in Preston) at Preston in the March quarter (PRO Reference: Vol 8e, page 679). No record can be located of a religious wedding service.

Tragedy struck Joshua Cockshutt's family on 14 December 1867 when their new born baby son Joshua Cockshutt, aged just 14 weeks, died. The death was reported in the Preston Chronical with a simple Death Notice stating "On the 8th instant, Joshua, son of Mr. Joshua Cockshutt, East View, aged 14 weeks."

In 1871, the Census records Joshua Cockshutt and family residents of 33 East View, Preston. Those resident are recorded as Joshua and his wife Margaret, Edmund aged 9, Nicholas aged 7, Joshua, aged 1 and Mary Cockshutt (?) who is listed as a General Servant, born in Ireland.

The East View address appears to have been a more sought after location with the Cockshutt's neighbours now including an "Actuary Savings Bank" and a "Property Owner".

33 East View, Preston today

By the 1881 Census, Joshua Cockshutt's business and family appear to have prospered. Joshua Cockshutt, now aged 41, is recorded as a Cotton Spinner (employing about 100 hands) resident with his wife Margaret, sons Edmund, aged 19, and Joseph, aged 6, daughters Mary, aged 4 and Margaret aged 5 months, and two servants at 17-18 Bairstow Street Preston.

The move to Bairstow Street marked a move up the social ladder for the Cockshutts. Next door at number 16 Bairstow Street there was a Dr. James N Nicol, listed in the Census documents as "General Practice. LRCS" and on the other side, Rev. Alfred B Bevan recorded as "Head Master Grammar School".

Joshua, now aged 41, was recorded as a “Cotton Spinner (employing about 100 hands)”. It seems that Joshua’s business interests had evolved from “Machine Maker” in 1861 (presumably in his father, Edmund Cockshutt’s, Iron Foundry).

The 1891 Census documents can perhaps tell us a little about the business affairs of the family since on Census night, Sunday, 5 April 1891, Joshua, his wife Margaret and their 19 years old daughter Ellen (sic) [probably refers to Helen, b.1872] were on holiday in Blackpool. Several aspects of the document are of interest. First, to note that the Census return shows the Cockshutts were resident at a guest house just off the Blackpool Promenade at No.6 Chrystal Terrace on Census night. This was probably then, as now, a Guest House on a street off the Promenade rather than a hotel on the Promenade, suggesting that they chose the more modest accommodation for their holiday. Second, that Joshua’s occupation was again recorded as “Cotton Spinner”, indicating perhaps that Joshua continued to be actively involved in the cotton industry in 1891.

In 1901, Joshua Cockshutt, wife Margaret, his three daughters still living at home, Helen, aged 29, Elizabeth, aged 28 and Mary, aged 24 both School Teachers and youngest son, James, aged 18, were living at No.1 West Cliff Terrace, Preston with two servants and their Granddaughter Alice Margaret Cockshutt, aged just 4. Joshua is described as a “Yarn Merchant” on “Own Account”.

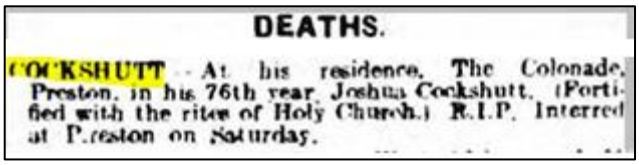
It will be noted that Alice Cockshutt, who was later to become Alice Flack, was recorded on Census night, Sunday 31 March 1901, as staying with her grandparents.

The 1911 Census reveals Joshua Cockshutt, now aged 71, Widower, “Yarn (Cotton) Agent” as resident with daughters Helen, aged 39, and Agnes, aged 25, both single, and a Servant at 3 Averham Colonade, Preston.

17-18 Bairstow Street, Preston today

No.3 Averham Colonade, Preston is likely to have been seen as a prestigious address in 1911. The choice of this place of residence probably indicates that Joshua no longer required as large a home. Just when he moved to this address is unknown but perhaps the move following the death of his wife Margaret, aged 68, in the June quarter of 1909 (PRO Reference Vol. 8e, Page 383).

3 Averham Colonade, Preston today

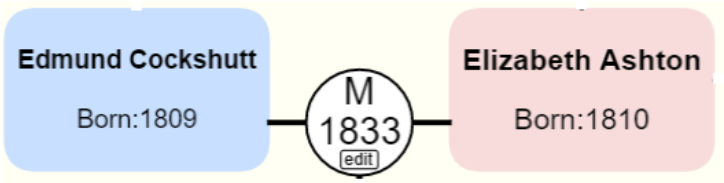


DEATHS.

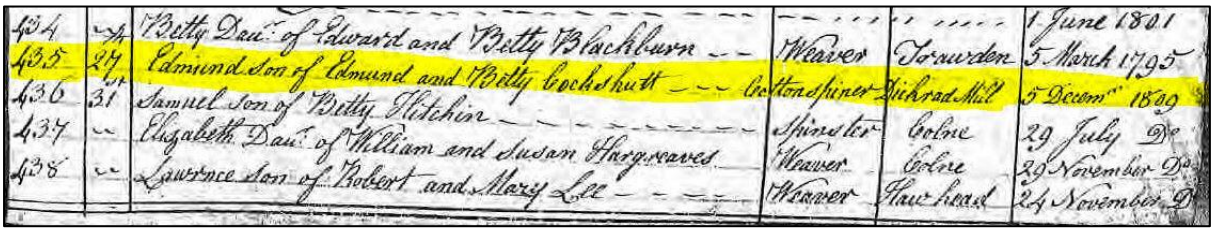
COCKSHUTT.—At his residence, The Colonade, Preston, in his 76th year, Joshua Cockshutt. (Fortified with the rites of Holy Church.) R.I.P. Interred at Preston on Saturday.

Joshua Cockshutt’s death was recorded in the Liverpool Daily of the 31 July 1916.

Edmund Cockshutt "of Preston"



Edmund Cockshutt of Preston was born in 1809, son of Edmund Cockshutt of Dickroyd Mill. Edmund was born on 5 December 1809 and baptised at St Bartholomew Church, Colne on 27th December 1809, the son of Edmund and Betty Cockshutt, Cotton Spinner of "Dickrod Mill".



434	24	Betty Dau.r of Edward and Betty Blackburn	Weaver	Foraurden	1 June 1801
435	27	Edmund Son of Edmund and Betty Cockshutt	Cotton Spinner	Dickrod Mill	5 March 1795
436	31	Samuel Son of Betty Hitchin			5 Decem.r 1809
437	"	Elizabeth Dau.r of William and Susan Hargreaves	Spinster	Colne	29 July Do
438	"	Lawrence Son of Robert and Mary Lee	Weaver	Colne	29 November Do
			Weaver	Slaw head	24 November Do

Edmund Cockshutt born 5 December 1809 was the second born son and one of eight children born to Edmund Cockshutt of Dickroyd and his wife Betty Herrin.

Other children were as follows:

- Jane baptised 1805
- John baptised 1807
- Jenny baptised 1809
- Thomasin baptised 1812
- Joshua baptised 1814
- Mary baptised 1816, and
- Thomas baptised 1819

He and Elizabeth Ashton were married on 9 February 1833 at St John, Preston as recorded in the following transcription of the Parish register:

Marriage: 9 Feb 1833 St John, Preston, Lancashire, England
Edmund Cockshut - Bachelor of this Parish
Elizabeth Ashton - (X), Spinster of this Parish
Witness: Matthew Hammond; Mary Cockburn, (X)
Married by Banns by: Thos. Clark. Curate
Register: Marriages 1829 - 1833, Page 118, Entry 354
Source: LDS Film 94014

Edmund Cockshutt was recorded in the 1841 Census at 49 Saul Street, Preston as Edmund Cockshott (sic), aged 30, Journeyman Mechanic, born in Lancashire.

On Census day in 1841, Edmund's mother and father-in-law were resident with the family at Saul Street and recorded as:

- James Ashton, aged 70, Independent, born in Lancashire.
- Betty Ashton, aged 65, born in Lancashire.

The Preston Chronical and Lancashire Advertiser, 11 October 1845 mention him as follows:.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED IN LANCASHIRE.

Edmund Cockshutt and William Lowe, Preston, Lancashire, iron founders.

T. Pierrepont and J. Marsden, Liverpool, watch jewellers—T. Stokes and Son, Staleybridge, joiners—W. B. Lamb, and W. R. Milner, Rochdale, surgeons—H. Wilson and R. W. Noar, Manchester, yarn merchants—Worthington, Son, and Judd, Manchester, calico printers; so far as regards J. Judd—J. Horner and T. Horner, Manchester, flour factors—Platt, Gourley, and Co., Liverpool, wine merchants; so far as regards T. Platt—J. Hall and E. Hall, Salford, small ware manufacturers—T. G. Shaw, W. W. Heap, W. Maxwell, and J. B. Hindle, Manchester, and Salisbury-street, Strand, London, wine merchants; so far as regards W. H. Walker—F. A. Fynney and J. W. Adams, Manchester, stock brokers—E. Shepley and J. Swain, Higher-hill, Ashton-under-Lyne, firebrick makers.

From this notice dated 1845, it seems likely that Edmund Cockshutt of Preston, had moved from Colne to live with his new wife in Preston to work in his family's "Iron and Brass Foundry business . He appears to have been in an Iron Foundry business partnership from some time prior to his son, Joshua's birth in 1840 as he was recorded as being a "Journeyman Mechanic" in the 1841 Census and an "Iron Foundry Master" in the 1851 Census.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, as Iron and Brass Founders and Machine Makers, carried on at the Bridge-street Foundry, in Preston, in the county of Lancaster, under the firm of Cockshutt and Goodier, is this day dissolved by mutual consent; and by the like consent all debts due from or to our late firm will be paid and received by the undersigned Edmund Cockshutt, who in future will carry on the said business upon his sole credit and account.—Dated this 6th day of June 1845.

Edmund Cockshutt.
Thomas Goodier.

It also seems reasonable to suggest that the Iron Foundry business may have been originally established or purchased by his father, Edmund Cockshutt "the Younger", in the early 1800s to supply the cotton mills in Colne owned by Edmund's family.

The available records indicate that only five of the eight sons born to Edmund and Thomasin Cockshutt, Edmund's grandparents, reached their maturity. Edmund Cockshutt of Preston's surviving uncles were:

- Thomas Walker Cockshutt William Cockshutt, born 1783
- Joshua Cockshutt born 1785
- Benjamin Cockshutt born 1788 and
- Joseph Cockshutt born 1789

Thomas and Joshua Cockshutt became the owner-managers of the Kirkby Malham Cotton Mill in Yorkshire and Joshua and Joseph remained at Ball Grove and managed the estate for some time before that was sold in around 1842. It seems that Edmund the Younger had been encouraged to manage the Iron & Brass Foundry business in Preston on behalf of his uncle Joshua.

It was during the first half of the 19th century that the smaller, waterwheel-driven mills in Lancashire and Yorkshire, like the Cockshutt's mills near Colne at Ball Grove, Bough Gap and the Kirkby Malham Mill in Yorkshire came under increasing competition from the newer and larger steam-driven cotton mills. This competition and the adverse impact of the American Civil War on cotton supplies drove many of the smaller mills out of business.

Despite selling several properties to pay debts, Edmund Cockshutt the Younger and his sons Joshua and Joseph maintained investments in the more modern Penwortham Mill near Preston until being bought out before the mill closed in 1840.

Picture ? Penwortham Mill as it is today.

The following newspaper cuttings provide some insight into the financial difficulties experienced by the Cockshutt family during the period.

TO COTTON AND WORSTED SPINNERS.—TO BE SOLD, OR LET, BY PRIVATE TREATY, and may be entered to on the 25th of May next, all that COTTON MILL or FACTORY, known by the name of BOUGH GAP MILL, within the Forest of Trawden, in the Chapelry of Colne, and County of Lancaster, comprising a good Stone Building, Three Stories High, 116 Feet in Length within, including Engine House, and Rooms over it, with a good and Powerful Water Wheel, 27 Feet in Diameter, by 8 Feet within the Buckets, and all the Heavy Gearing; Four Cottages adjoining, and 1a. 3r. 37p. of good Land lying up to the Mill, now in the Occupation of Mr. N. England, and also Five other Cottage Houses, recently erected for the convenience of the Mill Hands, situate at a short distance.—There is a powerful Stream of Water connected with the Mill, capable of turning 18 or 20-Horse power, during Nine or Ten Months in the Year, and in order to secure a better supply, upwards of Three Acres of Land is covered with Water, in Lodges and Goits.—The Mill is at present used for the Spinning of Cotton-Twist and Weft, and may at a moderate expense be adapted to the Spinning of Worsted, and stands very near the line of the Turnpike Road leading from Colne to Keighley, about One-and-a-Half Miles distant from Colne, whence Coal may be had.—For a view of the Premises, and for other Particulars, apply to Joshua Cockshutt, of Ballgrove, near Colne, the Owner, who will Treat for the same.

Ballgrove, March 31st, 1842.

Gazette—Nov. 29, 1850.

BATES S. and Co. of Liverpool, spice and seed merchants, 17th Oct. Debts by Harper

COCKSHUTT and BLACKBURN, of Bough Gap-mill, near Colne, cotton spinners, 20th Nov. Debts by Cockshutt

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.—*Cont^d. from Col.* 170.

Gazette—Feb. 27, 1857.

BAILEY William and Thomas COLLINSON, authors and joint proprietors of copy books, 31st Dec. 1855

BARNARD John & George William BARNARD, of York-rd, Lambeth, attorneys and solicitors, 25th Feb.

BENTLEY George & James BINKS, of Wetherby, grocers, 24th Feb.

BROWN John & David HEALEY, of Batley, rag merchnts, 18th Oct.

BUTLER William James and Joseph Wilson MORGAN, of Bristol, wholesale stationers, 31st Jan.

CLARKE John and Thomas NORTON, of Leicester, brick makers, 21st Feb. Debts by Mr. George Webb, of Humberstone-gate, Leicester

CLAUGHTON William, Thomas EVINSON, and Clay JACKSON, of Chesterfield, chemists and druggists, as regards Evinson, 26th Feb. Debts by Claughton and Jackson

CLIFTON Mary and George Walker CLIFTON, of Jewry-st, Aldgate, wine merchants, 31st Dec. Debts by G. W. Clifton

COCKSHUTT Joshua and David Cockshutt WILKINSON, of Bough Gap Mill, near Colne, cotton spinners and manufacturers, 4th Oct. 1855. Debts by Wilkinson

Ashton under Lyne.

Worston, near Clitheroe.

By JOHN BINNS, at the house of Ann Badger, the Calf's Head Inn, in the village of Worston, near Clitheroe, in the county of Lancaster, on the 31st of the 5th month, called May, 1849, at six o'clock in the Evening, subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced,

THE Very Eligible ESTATE, called Worsaw Hill, situate in the township of Worston, in the parish of Whalley, in the county of Lancaster, now in the occupation of Richard Harrison, as tenant from year to year, comprising a farm-house, barn, stable, shippon, and other convenient outbuildings, all in very good repair, and the following closes of arable, meadow, and pasture land, in a good state of cultivation, containing about 79 statute acres, equivalent to 48¾ customary acres, or thereabouts, more or less; together with an extensive right of common on Worston Moor, viz.:—

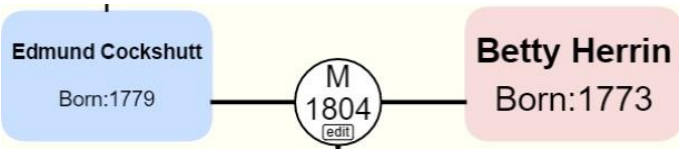
	STATUTE. A.	R.	P.
The Homestead	1	0	30
The Horse Field	2	1	0
The Lower Field	3	3	29
The Field above the House	2	2	14
The Old Meadow or Worsaw Meadow	4	1	10
The New Meadow	2	3	9
Worsaw Hill	62	0	0
	79	0	18

The estate is situate about one mile and a half from Clitheroe, and four from Gisburn, at both which places fortnight cattle fairs are regularly held; and it is distant about one mile from the Chatburn Station of the Clitheroe and West Yorkshire Railway, now in course of construction.—The estate is very well watered, lies within a ring fence, and is approached by good roads, and will be found very eligible as an investment.—The property is copyhold of inheritance of the manor of Chatburn, Worston, and Pendleton, and the alienation fine is nominal and certain.

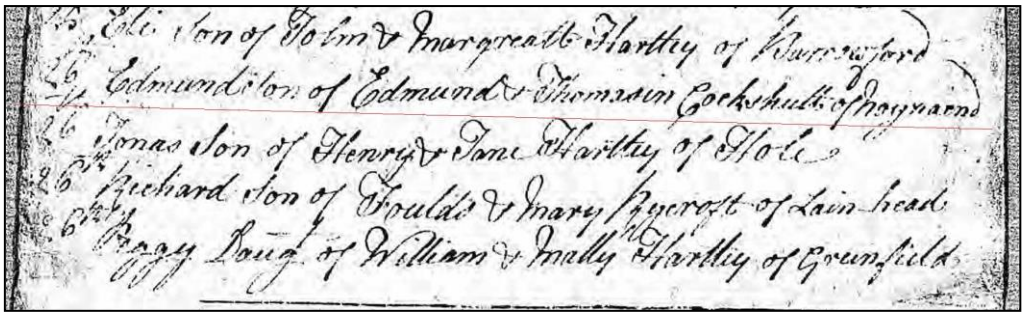
The tenant will shew the premises; and further particulars may be known by applying to Joshua Cockshutt or David Cockshutt Wilkinson, of Ballgreave, near Colne; Charles Haworth, solicitor, Burnley; Hall and Baldwin, solicitors, Clitheroe; or to CALEB HAWORTH, conveyancer, Marsden and Colne.

Marsden, 19th of 5th Month, 1849.

Edmund Cockshutt "the Younger"



Edmund Cockshutt "the Younger" was born the second son of Edmund Cockshutt "of Bell Grove" and his wife Thomasin nee Walker and baptised in St Bartholomew, Colne on 26 September 1779.


Eli Son of Tolm & Margreatt Hartley of Barrowford
26 Edmund Son of Edmund & Thomasin Cockshutt of Noynaend
26 Jonas Son of Henry & Jane Hartley of Hole
26th Richard Son of Fould & Mary Rycroft of Lain head
26th Peggy Daug. of William & Mally Hartley of Greenfield

The baptism record indicates that his father and mother were then living at "Noyna End", a farm NE of Colne near a well-known feature in the area called Noyna.

The Noyna End farmhouse still stands.

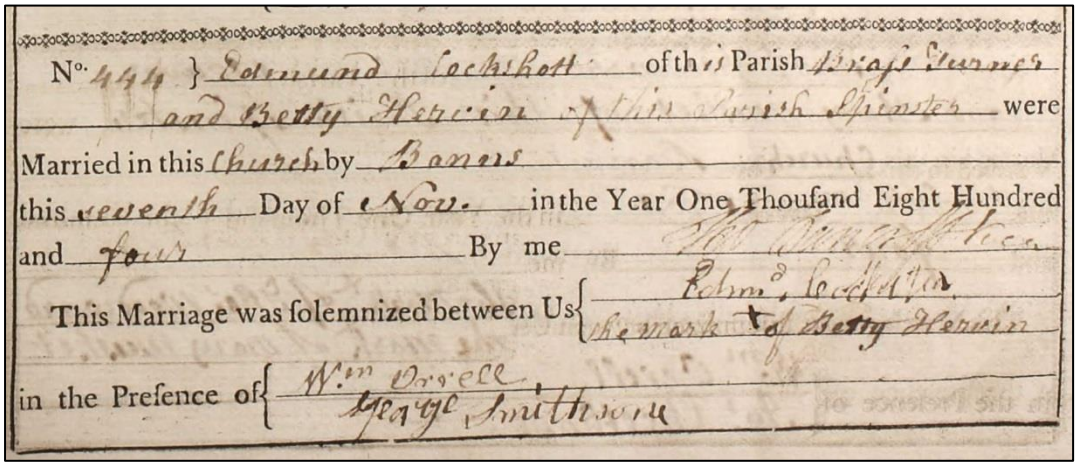
The baptism records of Edmund's parents' children show that the family remained at Noyna at least during the period 1777-1781

- Thomas Walker Cockshutt – baptised 27 July 1777
- Jenny Cockshutt – baptised 16 August 1778
- Edmund – baptised 26 September 1779
- John Cockshutt - baptised 7 Jan 1781

Edmund married Betty Herrin on 1804 at St Peter, Bolton-le-Moors and had 8 children as follows:

- Jane Cockshutt – baptised 1805
- John Cockshutt – baptised 1807

- Jenny Cockshutt – baptised 1809
- Edmund Cockshutt - born 1 Dec 1809
- Thomasin Cockshutt – baptised 1812
- Joshua Cockshutt – baptised 1814
- Mary Cockshutt – baptised 1816
- Thomas Cockshutt – baptised 1819



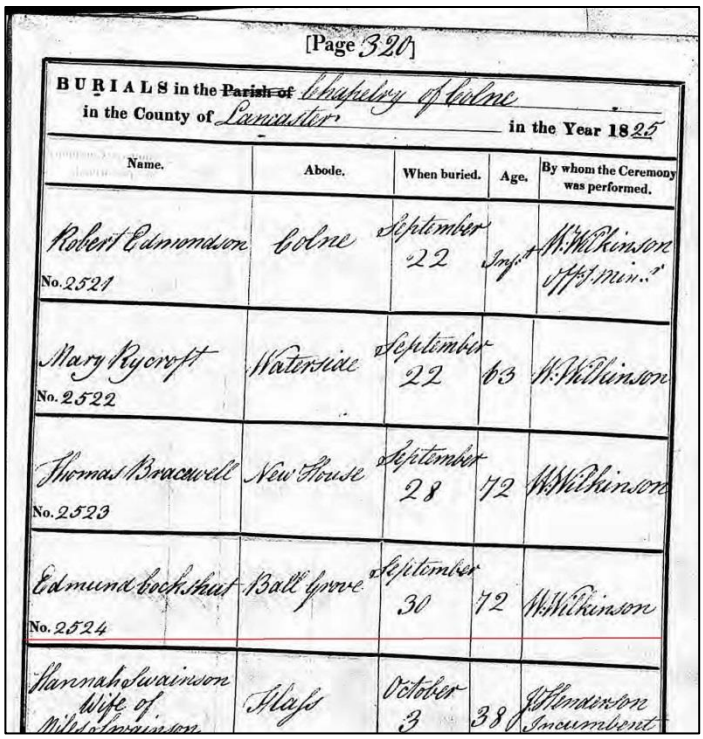
No. 444 } Edmund Cockshott of this Parish Brass Turner and Betty Hervin of this Parish Spinster were Married in this Church by Banns this seventh Day of Nov. in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and four By me [illegible]

This Marriage was solemnized between Us { Edmd. Cockshutt the mark of Betty Hervin

in the Presence of { Wm Orrell George Smithson

It seem likely that Edmund Cockshutt the Younger continued to manage various properties owned or leased by his father Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove for most of his life as there are no records of his involvement in the other businesses run by his father and his uncles.

Edmund died just 4 years after his father at 72 years in September 1825 and was buried at St Bartholomew's Church of England on 30 September 1825.

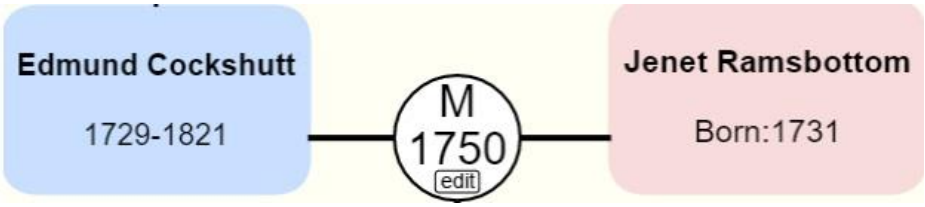


[Page 320]

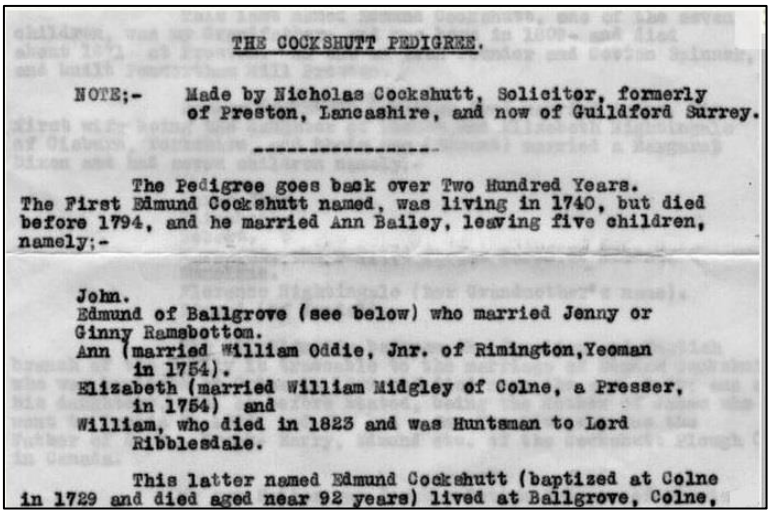
BURIALS in the ~~Parish of~~ Chapelry of Colne in the County of Lancaster in the Year 1825

Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Robert Edmondson No. 2521	Colne	September 22	Infant	W. Wilkinson Offg. Minr.
Mary Rycroft No. 2522	Waterside	September 22	63	W. Wilkinson
Thomas Bracewell No. 2523	New House	September 28	72	W. Wilkinson
Edmund Cockshut No. 2524	Ball Grove	September 30	72	W. Wilkinson
Hannah Swainson Wife of Miles Swainson	Flass	October 3	38	J. Henderson Incumbent

Edmund Cockshutt "of Ball Grove"



The Edmund Cockshutt, known as Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove", is recorded in the following genealogy prepared by my Great Great Uncle, Nicholas Cockshutt, as the son of John Cockshutt as follows:



THE COCKSHUTT PEDIGREE.

NOTE;- Made by Nicholas Cockshutt, Solicitor, formerly of Preston, Lancashire, and now of Guildford Surrey.

The Pedigree goes back over Two Hundred Years. The First Edmund Cockshutt named, was living in 1740, but died before 1794, and he married Ann Bailey, leaving five children, namely;-

John.
Edmund of Ballgrove (see below) who married Jenny or Ginny Ramsbottom.
Ann (married William Oddie, Jnr. of Rimington,Yeoman in 1754).
Elizabeth (married William Midgley of Colne, a Presser, in 1754) and
William, who died in 1823 and was Huntsman to Lord Ribblesdale.

This latter named Edmund Cockshutt (baptized at Colne in 1729 and died aged near 92 years) lived at Ballgrove, Colne,

Enquiries with the OnLine Parish Clerks project for the County of Lancashire, with Ancestry.com and with FindMyPast failed to find a birth or baptism of an Edmund Cockshutt born to a "John Cockshutt" during the relevant period, however the following baptism of Edmund Cockshutt son of Edmund Cockshutt and Anne Baily of Longroad at St Bartholomew's, Colne on 29 May 1729 is likely to reflect the correct lineage. It will be noted that the original Parish Register is almost illegible and this may account for any previos attempts to find a suitable entry for Edmund of Ball Grove's baptism.

The On-line Parish Clerk's transcription of the Latter Day Saints Film of the original is as follows:

Baptism: 29 May 1729 St Bartholomew, Colne, Lancashire, England
Edmundus Cockshutt - fils Edmundi Cockshutt, Gen:
Abode: Longroad
Register: Baptisms 1697 - 1734, Page 187B, Entry 13
Source: LDS Film 1471023

I have located what is probably his parent's marriage at Newchurch in Pendle in 1724:

Marriage: ? Jun 1724 St Mary, Newchurch in Pendle, Lancashire, England
Edmundi Cockshot - Sy?
Anna Bailey - Ca?
Married by: Johannes Anderton Curate
Register: Marriages 1721 - 1747, Page 10
Source: LDS Film 1278872

and the death of his mother, Ann Cockshut (nee Bailey) of Langroyd's burial on 12 Jan 1740/1 at St Bartholomew's Colne:

Burial: 12 Jan 1740/1 St Bartholomew, Colne, Lancashire, England
Ann Cockshut - wife Edmd Cockshut
Abode: Langroyd
Register: Burials 1697 - 1741, Page 84, Entry 10
Source: LDS Film 1471023

Edmund Cockshutt and his wife Ann had at least 5 children as follows:

Baptism: 5 Jan 1725/6 St Bartholomew, Colne, Lancashire, England
Johannes Cockshut - filius Edmundi Cockshut
Abode: Langrode
Register: Baptisms 1697 - 1734, Page 180, Entry 21
Source: LDS Film 1471023

Baptism: 30 Mar 1727 St Bartholomew, Colne, Lancashire, England
Elizabetha Cockshutt - filia Edmundi Cockshutt, Generosi
Abode: Langroid
Register: Baptisms 1697 - 1734, Page 183, Entry 38
Source: LDS Film 1471023

Baptism: 29 May 1729 St Bartholomew, Colne, Lancashire, England
Edmundus Cockshutt - fils Edmundi Cockshutt, Gen:
Abode: Longroad
Register: Baptisms 1697 - 1734, Page 187B, Entry 13
Source: LDS Film 1471023

Comment: Likely Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove

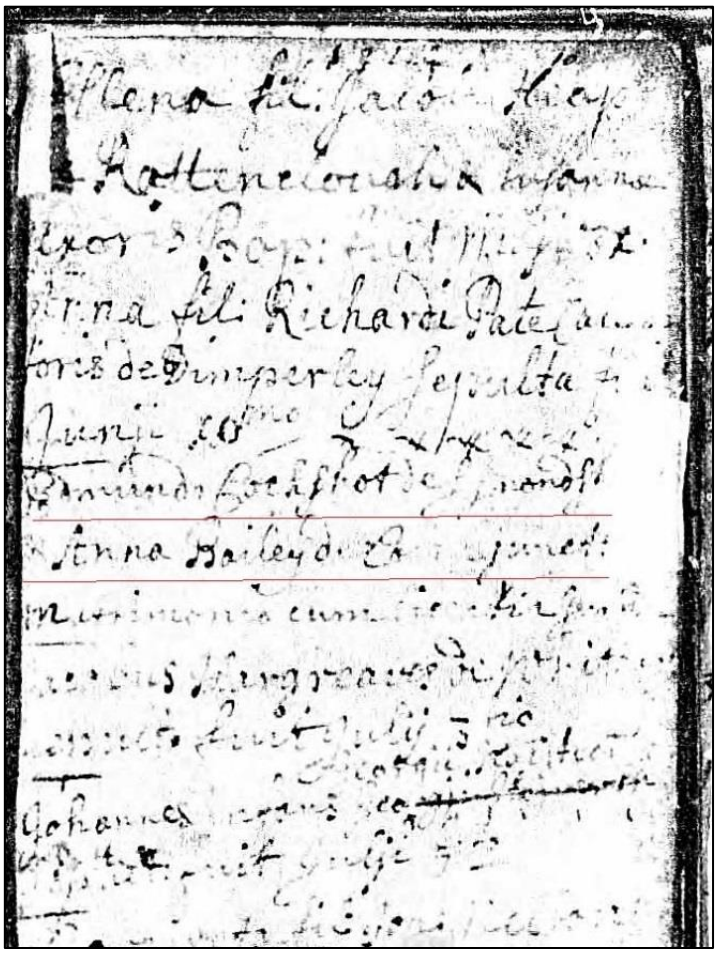
Baptism: 17 Jun 1731 St Bartholomew, Colne, Lancashire, England
Anna Cockshut - filia Edmundi Cockshut
Abode: Longrode
Register: Baptisms 1697 - 1734, Page 194, Entry 25
Source: LDS Film 1471023

Baptism: 21 Mar 1732/3 St Bartholomew, Colne, Lancashire, England
Guls Cockshutt - fils Edmundi Cockshutt
Abode: Longroid
Register: Baptisms 1697 - 1734, Page 201, Entry 30
Source: LDS Film 1471023

"Longroad" or "Langroyd" probably refers to Langroyd, a stately home and farm located a mile or two North of Colne. My inquiries suggest that this address was, before the marriage, associated with the "Bailys" rather than the Cockshutts, so it appears that before living at Langroyd, Edmund Cockshutt's family lived somewhere else - but where?

This early 20th Century map shows Langroyd Hall just North of Colne, on the way to Foulridge.

Perhaps the first place to look is the wedding registration of Edmund and Anna. Unfortunately the original is almost illegible and the abbreviations on the transcripts “Sy” and “Ca” are not readily deciphered:



However the official transcription is as follows:

Marriage: ? Jun 1724 St Mary, Newchurch in Pendle, Lancashire, England
Edmundi Cockshot - Sy?
Anna Bailey - Ca?
Married by: Johannes Anderton Curate
Register: Marriages 1721 - 1747, Page 10
Source: LDS Film 1278872

Assuming that Edmund Cockshutt "Senior" was born about 1700, there ought to be a marriage record for Edmund Cockshutt (Senior)'s parents during the period 1660-1700 and a baptism record for their son, Edmund, during the period 1675-1710. Searches of the relevant Parish records have so far failed to find that marriage or a baptism that would fit. (It was noticed that there is a large gap in the available records).

However, there are Cockshutt records in St Bartholomew's Colne prior to 1724 as follows:

1. 13 Jan 1611/12 Marriage Edmond Cockshutt, to Elizabetha Midgesley
2. 28 Oct 1621 Baptism of Alexander Cockshout, child of Arthur Cockshout
3. 19 Sep 1624 Baptism of Arthur Cockshoote, child of Arthur Cockshoote
4. 19 Mar 1625/6 Baptism of Anna Cockshoute, child of Arthuri Cockshoute
5. 30 Nov 1628 Baptism of Elizab: Cockshute child of Arthuri Cockshute
6. 21 Nov 1630 Baptism of Jeneta Cockshutt child of Arthuri Cockshutt
7. 24 Mar 1632/3 Baptism of Graceia Cockshutt child of Arthuri Cockshutt
8. 31 Jan 1635/6 Baptism of Georgius Cockshut, child of Arthuri
9. 28 Dec 1641 Burial of Georgi Cockshot, child of Arthuri Cockshot
10. 13 Sep 1662 Marriage Edmund Cockshoot of Simonstone to Alice Shackleton
11. 23 May 1684 Burial Arthur Cockshutt of Colne Waterside, Milner,
12. ? Apr 1687 Marriage Johannes Wilson to Jana Cockshut

If we assume that since Edmund Cockshutt's family were involved in the weaving industry before Edmund of Ball Grove's own success in that industry, first in the woollen industry and then in the cotton industry, it might be posited that he was the grandson of Arthur Cockshutt, the "Milner" of Colne Waterside, recorded as being buried at St Bartholemew's in 1684.

However, given the traditions in that part of the country, one would have expected that Edmund Cockshutt Senior and his wife Anna might have baptised at least one of their children "Arthur" after Edmund's grandfather, but there is no record of such a baptism or burial during the period.

Neither did Edmund of Ball Grove and his wife Thomasin Walker Cockshutt baptise any of their eleven (11) children Arthur:

13. Baptism: 27 Jul 1777 - Thomas Walker Cockshutt - Son of Edmund Cockshutt & Thomasin
14. Baptism: 16 Aug 1778 - Jenny Cockshut - daur of Edmund Cockshut & Thomasin
15. Baptism: 26 Sep 1779 - Edmund Cockshott - son of Edmd Cockshott & Thomasin
16. Baptism: 7 Jan 1781 - John Cockshut - son of Edmund Cockshut & Thomasin
17. Baptism: 29 May 1782 - William Cockshut - son of Edmund Cockshut & Thomasin
18. Baptism: 4 May 1783 - Hannah Cockshutt - daur of Edmd Cockshutt & Thomasin
19. Baptism: 1 Jan 1785 - Joshua Cockshut - son of Edmund Cockshut & Thomasin
20. Baptism: 30 Dec 1785 - Betty Cockshutt - daur of Edmund Cockshutt & Thomasin
21. Baptism: 11 Feb 1787 - Thomasin Cockshut - daur of Edmund Cockshut & Thomasin
22. Baptism: 19 Jul 1789 - Benjamin Cockshutt - son of Edmund Cockshutt & Thomasin
23. Baptism: 19 Jul 1789 - Joseph Cockshutt - son of Edmund Cockshutt & Thomasin

So, no direct evidence can be found to link Edmund Cockshutt (Senior)'s family to the Arthur Cockshutt, Milner of Colne who died in 1684. However, given what we know of the

properties and business interests listed in Edmund Cockshutt of Bell Grove estate, it seems highly likely that Edmund and Arthur were related.

Where else might Edmund Cockshutt (Senior) family have come from? The two other place mentioned in the search results are Newchurch in Pendle (Edmund's marriage) in 1724 (see above) and Simonstone (the 1662 Marriage of Edmund Cockshoot of Simonstone to Alice Shackleton. See record 10).

A search of the Parish records for these two locations during the relevant period revealed the following records that are probably relevant:

Simonstone:

24. Baptism: 3 Oct 1630 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England
    Maria Cockeshut - filia Egidii Cockeshut
    Abode: de Simonston
    Register: Baptisms 1573 - 1653, Page 195
    Source: Original Parish Register
25. Burial: 20 Feb 1691/2 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England
    George Cockshot -
    Abode: Simonstone
    Source: Original Parish Register
26. Marriage: 6 Feb 1721/2 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England
    John Holgate - Foulridge
    Martha Cockshutt - Simonstone
    Source: Original Parish Register
27. Burial: 2 Mar 1722/3 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England
    Edmund Cockshutt -
    Abode: Simonstone
    Occupation: Yeoman
    Source: Original Parish Register

Newchurch in Pendle

28. Marriage: ? Jun 1724 St Mary, Newchurch in Pendle, Lancashire, England
    Edmundi Cockshot - Sy?
    Anna Bailey - Ca?
    Married by: Johannes Anderton Curate
    Register: Marriages 1721 - 1747, Page 10
    Source: LDS Film 1278872

These records suggest that Edmund Cockshutt's family may have had an association with Newchurch in Pendle. The "Sy" in his marriage registration may have been an abbreviation of "Symonston".

Certainly, Edmund Cockshutt Senior was married in Newchurch in Rossendale (see record 29 below), but there are no other indications of the Cockshutt family having a long-standing relationship with the area.

29. Marriage: 12 Jul 1750 St Nicholas, Newchurch in Rossendale, Lancashire, England
    Edmund Cockshut - Langroyd
    Jennet Ramsbottom - Brex
    Married by: John Walsh Curate
    Source: Original Parish Register

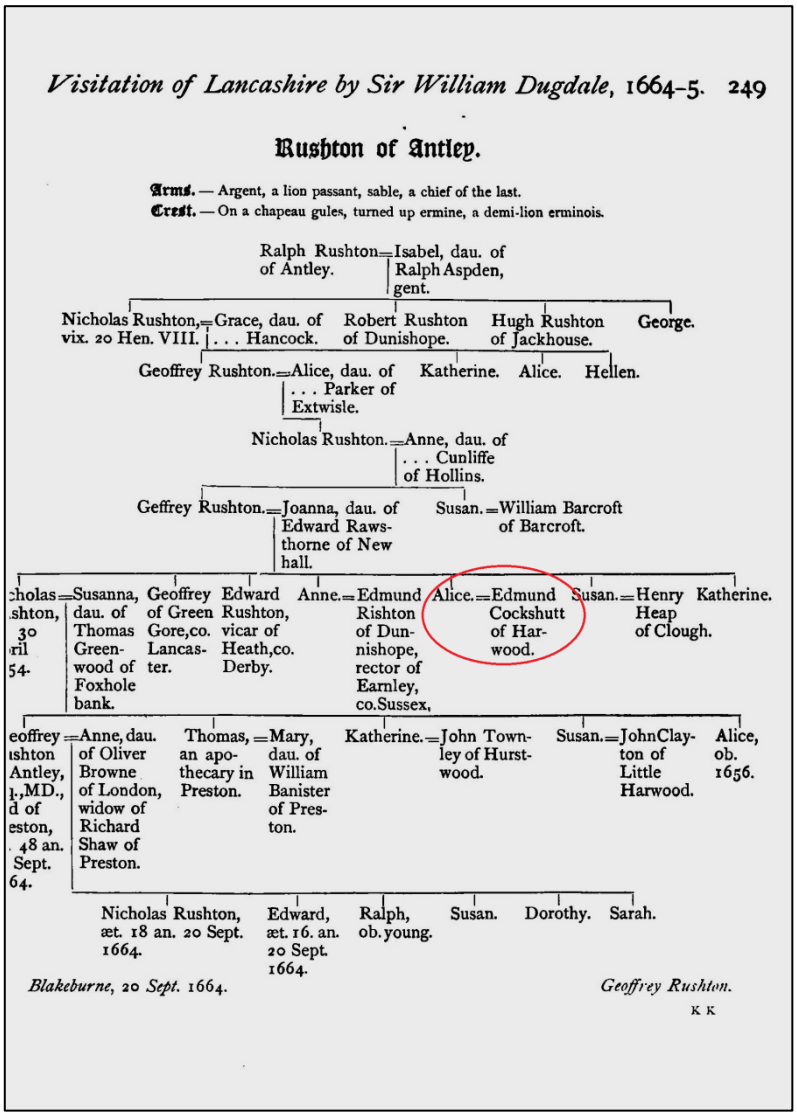
A wider search of the Lancashire Parish records revealed the following registrations in the relevant period:

30. Baptism: 25 Apr 1705 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England
    Edmund Cockshut - son of John Cockshut
    Abode: Symonstone
    Source: Original Parish Register
31. Baptism: 3 Oct 1692 St Bartholomew, Great Harwood, Lancashire, England
    Edmund Cockshutt - son of Mr. George Cockshutt
    Abode: Lower town
    Register: Baptisms 1684 - 1744, Page 12, Entry 29
    Source: LDS Film 1278890
32. Burial: 25 Jun 1697 St John, Preston, Lancashire, England
    Mr. Edmund Cockshot -
    Register: Burials 1693 - 1725, Page 5, Entry 61
    Source: LCRO Microfiche PR1435 P1 of 3
33. ~~Baptism: 6 Apr 1698 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England~~
    ~~Edmund Cockshut - son of Jo. Cockshut~~
    ~~Abode: Heyhouses~~
    ~~Source: Original Parish Register~~
34. ~~Burial: 17 Aug 1700 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England~~
    ~~Edmund Cockshott - son of Jno. Cockshott~~
    ~~Abode: Heyhouses~~
    ~~Source: Original Parish Register~~
35. Baptism: 28 Sep 1700 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England
    Martha Cockshott - daughter of Jo. Cockshott
    Abode: Heyhouses
    Source: Original Parish Register
36. Burial: 17 Apr 1701 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England
    [unnamed] Cockshott - wife of Edmund Cockshott
    Abode: Symonstone
    Source: Original Parish Register
37. Baptism: 29 Jan 1707/8 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England
    John Cockshott - son of John Cockshott
    Abode: Symonstone
    Source: Original Parish Register

The Great Harwood connection is the pedigree chosen by Nicholas Cockshutt when he wrote his Cockshutt family history in the late 1930s and later passed on to the author by Charles Roberts in March 1973. It claims that Edmund Cockshutt of Longroyd was a person of that name, the son of George Cockshutt of Great Harwood born 1692. However, recent searches have found that the Edmund Cockshutt of Great Harwood could not have been our direct line ancestor because that Edmund Cockshutt died in 1716.

Whilst the Edmund Cockshutt, son of George Cockshutt of Lower Town Great Harwood, was perhaps an obvious choice in that he is in the most likely age bracket when married in 1724, a detailed search of the records of the Great Harwood Cockshutts, conducted by a local family historian on my behalf, failed to find a connection with the Cockshutts of Colne. (See Appendix A)

This finding indicates that our Cockshutt line did not have a direct connection through an Alice Cockshutt to the Rushton family of Antley as proposed in the pedigree below.



Visitation of Lancashire by Sir William Dugdale, 1664–5. 249

Rushton of Antley.

Arms. — Argent, a lion passant, sable, a chief of the last.
Crest. — On a chapeau gules, turned up ermine, a demi-lion erminois.

Ralph Rushton of Antley. = Isabel, dau. of Ralph Aspden, gent.

- Nicholas Rushton, vix. 20 Hen. VIII. = Grace, dau. of . . . Hancock.
  - Geoffrey Rushton. = Alice, dau. of . . . Parker of Extwisle.
    - Nicholas Rushton. = Anne, dau. of . . . Cunliffe of Hollins.
      - Geffrey Rushton. = Joanna, dau. of Edward Rawsthorne of New hall.
        - cholas shton, 30 ril 54.
        - = Susanna, dau. of Thomas Greenwood of Foxhole bank.
          - eoffrey shton Antley, L.,MD., d of eston, 48 an. Sept. 64.
            - = Anne, dau. of Oliver Browne of London, widow of Richard Shaw of Preston.
            - Nicholas Rushton, æt. 18 an. 20 Sept. 1664.
            - Edward, æt. 16. an. 20 Sept. 1664.
            - Ralph, ob. young.
            - Susan.
            - Dorothy.
            - Sarah.
            - Thomas, an apothecary in Preston. = Mary, dau. of William Banister of Preston.
            - Katherine. = John Townley of Hurstwood.
            - Susan. = John Clayton of Little Harwood.
            - Alice, ob. 1656.
        - Geoffrey of Green Gore, co. Lancaster.
        - Edward Rushton, vicar of Heath, co. Derby.
        - Anne. = Edmund Rishton of Dunnishope, rector of Earnley, co. Sussex,
        - Alice. = Edmund Cockshutt of Harwood.
        - Susan. = Henry Heap of Clough.
        - Katherine.
      - Susan. = William Barcroft of Barcroft.
  - Katherine.
  - Alice.
  - Hellen.
- Robert Rushton of Dunishope.
- Hugh Rushton of Jackhouse.
- George.

Blakeburne, 20 *Sept.* 1664. *Geoffrey Rushton.*

K K

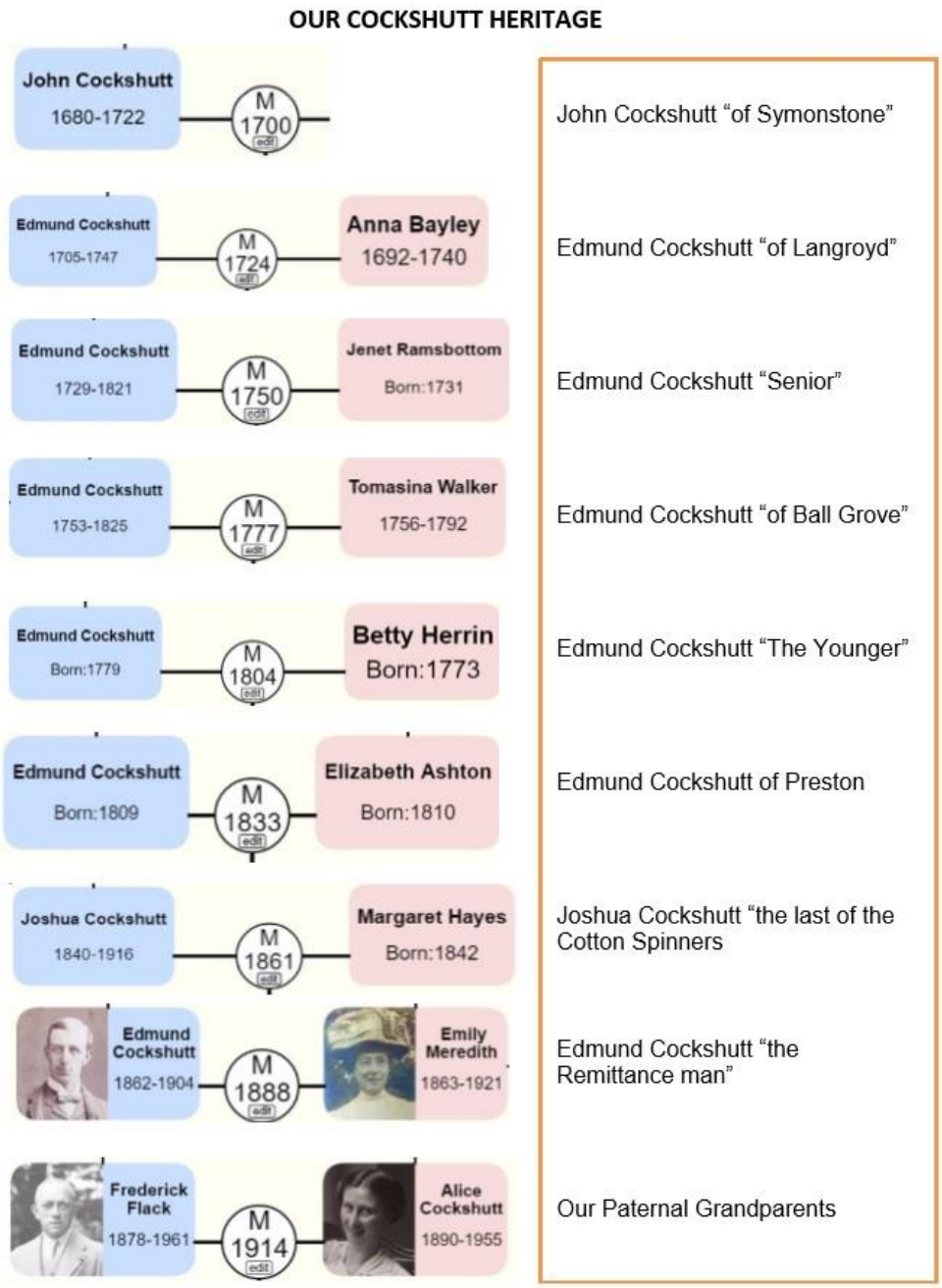
Contrary to the pedigree written by Nicholas Cockshutt, which connects our line to the Rushton family and the Cockshutts of Great Harwood, I find that the evidence indicates that our Edmund Cockshut was the son of John “Cockshute” of Symonstone, baptised 25 April 1705, (record 28 above) who would have been 19 years old when he married Anna Bailey in 1724.

The proposition that Edmund was a member of this Simonstone family is further supported by the “Sy” that appears in the transcription of his marriage (Record number 28) when it is noted that in both the burial of unnamed “Cockshott” (record 36) and the baptism of a possible brother, John “Cockshott” (record 37), Symonstone is spelt with “Sy”.

One further record is of interest as follows:

38. Baptism: 27 Feb 1638/9 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England
    Edmundus Cockshute - filius Johannis Cockshute
    Abode: de Symmonston
    Register: Baptisms 1573 - 1653, Page 216
    Source: Original Parish Register

Given the dates, and the similarities with record 30 and the information provided in Appendix A, B and C, it is possible to begin construct a possible family tree as follows:



As mentioned at the beginning of this history, I hope to provide in this second part of the report some insights into the social and business environments in which our Cockshutt ancestors lived.

Understanding of the social and business environments in the Cockshutts lived

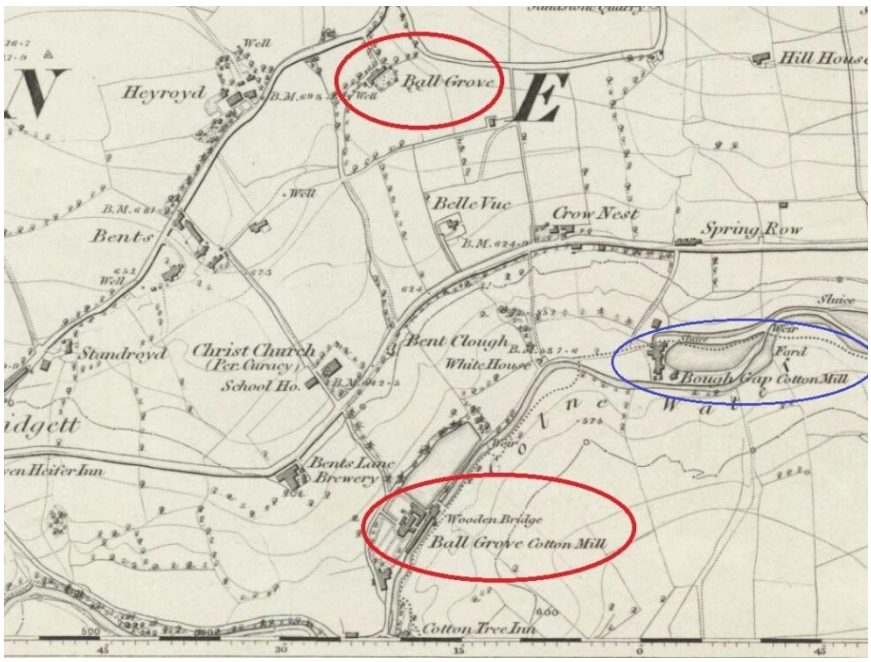
There is little doubt that Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove had a major influence on the lives of at least six later generations of Cockshutts in that his success in business and property provided the wealth and social contacts that allowed his descendants to obtain educations and to live well.

When he died in 1821, Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove either owned or had tenure of the following properties mentioned in his will:

“Ballgrove Estate”
“Emot Lane Estate”
“Cotton Mills in Boulgh Gap in the Forrest Trawden”
“Angram Green Estate at Worston”
“Warsaw Hill Estate”
“Howarth Estate”
“Lawkland, in the County of York”
“Share of the Mill at Halham Dale, York”
“Shares in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal”
“Halifax Cloth Hall. Etc”

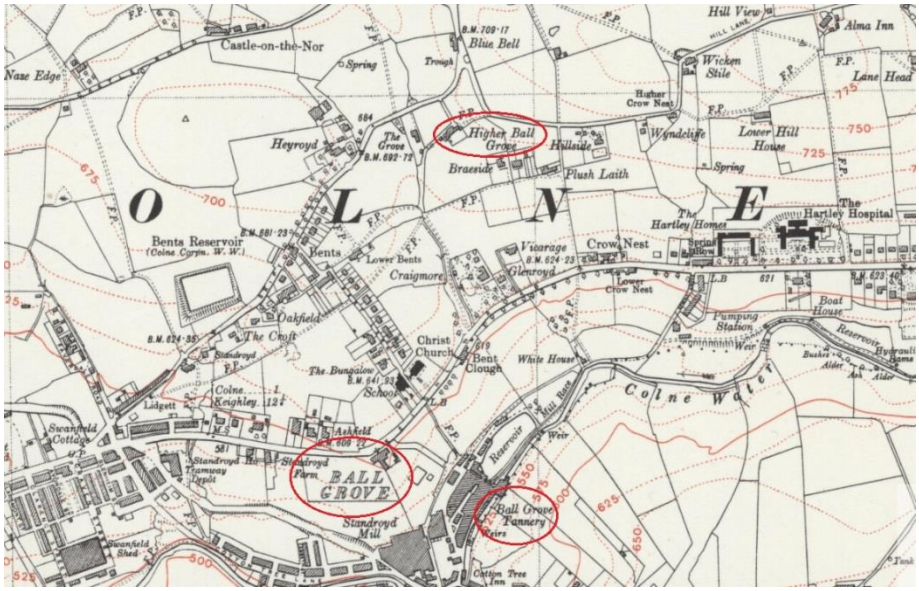
(Enquiries made with the Lancashire Archives indicate that copies of Edmund Cockshutt’s original will are held in the archives and are available to visitors for copying. Enquiries made with the Colne Library indicate that copies of various deeds and agreements made by Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove are available to visitors for copying.)

Ball Grove is the modern version of the name which appears to have been variously known as “Ballgrove”, Ballgreave” and “Balgreave”.



In this 1852 Ordinance Survey Map, Ball Grove Cotton Mill and Ball Grove Farm are clearly marked as is Bough Gap Cotton Mill.

In this 1930 map, in addition to the farm (now titled “Higher Ball Grove”) there is a property on the south side of Keighley Road next to the Brewery called Ball Grove.



It will also be noted that the Bough Gap Mill is no longer shown.

Without searching the archives at Colne library for records of the property transactions related to these Ball Grove properties, it is not possible to be sure how the Cockshutts came to be associated with these properties, however it appears likely that when Edmund Cockshutt the Elder married Anna Bailey of Longroyd in 1724, he and his father John Cockshutt of Simonstone already had experience in the Wool industry and the operation of water-driven wool carding mills.

There is evidence in this 1845 Ordinance Survey Map for the presence of a water-driven wool carding mill near Cockshutt Farm in Simonstone.

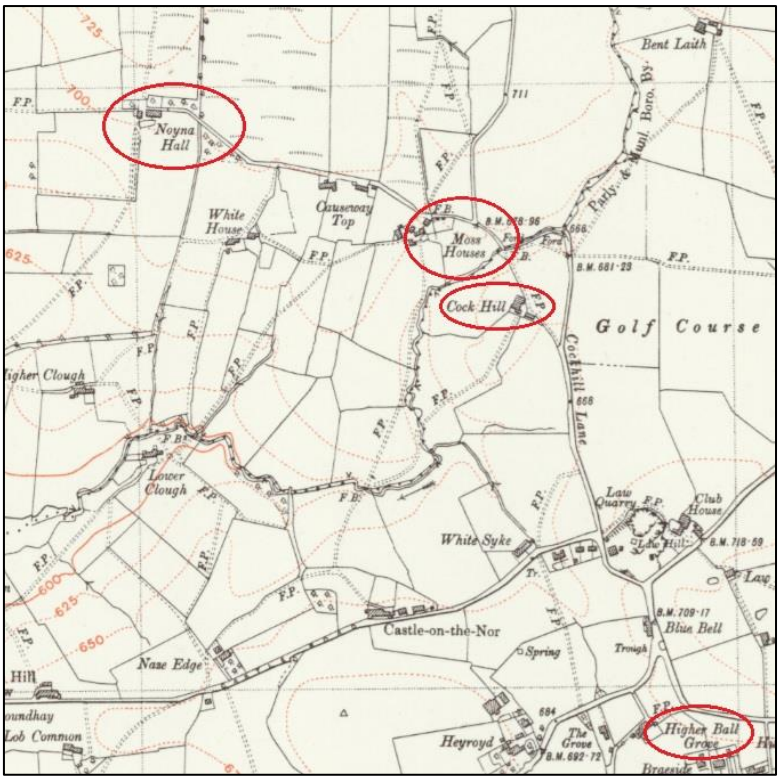
Is it possible that John Cockshutt was related to the Cockshutt family recorded in the Parish records as “Milners of Colne Waterside”?(It does not appear that they were close relatives. Arthur Cockshutt, Milner, was buried at Colne in May 1684)

Again it not clear how Edmund Cockshutt senior and his son Edmund of Ball Grove obtained what must have been significant financial resources in order to acquire these assets however it appears likely that Edmund Cockshutt’s marriage in 1724 to Anna Baily or Bayley may have been the key.

In the second half of the 16th century the Manor of Foulridge became subdivided, with the Barcroft family as the largest landholder. William Bayley of Langroyd was also substantial land holder. There is a record of the transfer of title of a parcel of land owned by Anna Baily of Langroyd to Edmund Cockshutt in 1725. Since Edmund Cockshutt (died 1747) outlived his wife Anna Bayley (died 1740), it seems possible that Edmund inherited the Bayley's property holdings.

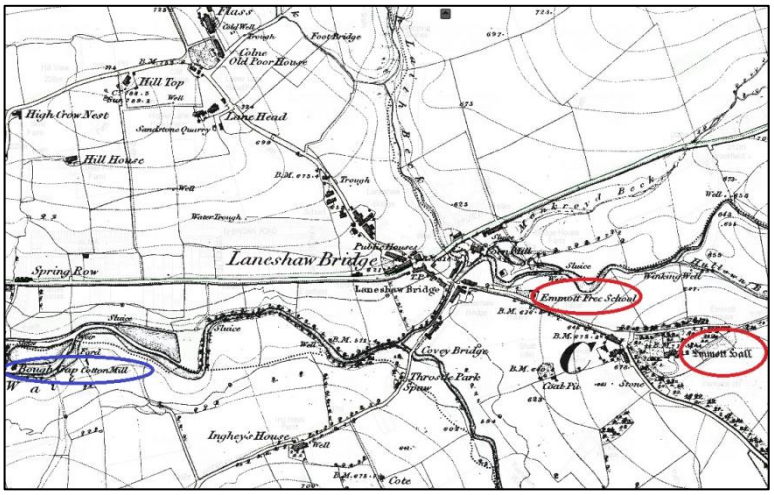
Without visiting the Lancashire Archives, it's not possible to ascertain the extent of the Baily property holdings, however it may well have included several farms in the area. It will be noted that when Edmund of Ball Grove's children and grandchildren were baptised in Colne, the family addresses were recorded variously at:

- Mosshouses
- Noyna or Noynah or Noynah-End
- Hill
- Ball Grove or Ball Greave
- Roidmill or Dickmill or Dicker Mill or Dickrod Mill
- Emmott Lane



This 1930 map of the area North of Colne, in what was possibly part of the Foulridge or Langroyd Estate at various times, shows Noyna Hall at the far end of Cockhill Lane with Moss Houses, Cock Hill and Higher Ball Grove at the other end.

The local history of Foulridge which included the village of Foulridge and Noyna, written by Fay Oldland, makes several references to the "Ball Estate" which appears to have been finally broken up in 1903.



Emmott Lane is shown on this 1845 Map, running from Laneshaw Bridge to the East of Colne, North-West towards Lane head and Hill Top

Dickrod or Dickrad or Dickroyd Mill has yet to be located although it appears to have been in the Colne Chapelry since there are several baptisms of Cockshutt children in St Bartholomew's Church with "Dickrod" or variations of that name recorded as the abode of the parents.

Sheep farming was the dominant industry in the Colne area prior to the industrial revolution, however the damp climate and the heavy soil on the higher ground to the North of Colne led to the development of wool "fulling mills" and domestic spinning to supplement earnings of the smaller land holders. Historical records show that a fulling mill had been erected at Colne Waterside as early as 1296.

From the medieval period, the "fulling" of woollen cloth often was undertaken in a water mill, known as a fulling mill, a walk mill, or a tuck mill. In these, the cloth was beaten with wooden hammers, known as fulling stocks or fulling hammers. Fulling stocks were of two kinds, falling stocks (operating vertically) that were used only for scouring, and driving or hanging stocks. In both cases the machinery was operated by cams on the shaft of a waterwheel or on a tappet wheel, which lifted the hammers.

As reported above, local records indicate that an Arthur Cockshutt "Milner of Colne Waterside" operated such a mill prior to his death in May 1684. It seems possible that either Bough Gap Mill or Ball Grove Mill, owned by Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove in the period 1790 to 1820, were developed on the site of the earlier mill.

It also seems possible that the two Cockshutt families were related but no close connection can be found.

During the 17th and 18th centuries clothiers and others connected with the textile trade built new houses in stone, a sign of prosperity. Several larger houses on the farms around Colne reflect the success of the yeoman engaged in the wool trade. This is reflected in the list of properties in Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove will.

Noted author, Amanda Vickery in her study of the social attitudes of women's lives in Georgian England, entitled "The Gentleman's Daughter" writes extensively of the rise in social standing of the "yeoman" of north east Lancashire who were involved in the weaving industries.

She writes:

> *"If the parish of Whalley was remote from polite resorts it was not in want of polite families. A host of well-established families inhabited the valley of the Lancashire Calder; their lasting monuments are the wealth of modest mansions still standing in the vicinity of Burnley and Colne."*

In writing about social or class structures she writes:

> *"In addition, the personnel of elite society extended to commercial families. Often such families were related to the landed gentry, something that was especially likely among the so-called genteel trades such as wool merchant, wine merchant, wholesale draper and so on. Thus local polite society incorporated many gentry, professional and mercantile families; their enmeshed relationship is perhaps the most striking feature of family history in the Pennines".*

Amanda Vickery also notes that:

> *"Thomas Cockshott (sic) of Marley, Bingley, Yorkshire was a gentleman who rented the Marley Estate from the Parker and Shackleton families, were longstanding friends of the Parkers and Shackletons, exchanged regular gifts of game and produce in the 1770's.*

It is highly likely that the Thomas Cockshott referred to was Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove's uncle, after who he named his firstborn son and who managed the Cockshutt's businesses in Yorkshire at the time.

She reports that:

> Elizabeth Parker *"sensationally eloped to Gretna Green with John Shackleton (1744-88) of nearby Stone Edge, Barrowford"* when the groom was just 14 years of age but heir to a significant fortune made in the woollen trade.

Angram Green Estate at Worston

The view of Pendle Hill from Angram Green Farm today

Warsaw Hill Estate

The view towards Pendle Hill from Warsaw Farm today

Howarth Estate

It's not clear where the "Howarth Estate", mentioned in the will was located, although Haworth is a village in West Yorkshire, England, 3 miles (5 km) southwest of Keighley, 10 miles (16 km) west of Bradford and 10 miles (16 km) east of Colne in Lancashire.

"Lawkland, in the County of York"

It is not clear where the "estate" referred to in the will was located however, Lawkland is a civil parish in the Craven district of North Yorkshire, England, near the A65 and 4 miles (6.4 km) west of Settle. There is no Lawkland village as such although there are clusters of farms and dwellings around Lawkland Green and Eldroth.

"Share of the Mill at Halham Dale, York"

The mill referred to in the transcription of Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove's will as "at Halham Dale" almost certainly the "Malham Mill". Sometimes referred to as Hanlith Mill, it

actually stands in the township of Kirkby Malham, on the West bank of the river Aire and has long been associated with the Serjeantson's Hanlith Hall estate.

Scalegill mill circa 1910

Scalegill mill was originally the site of a manorial corn mill which dated back to before 1279, when the lord of Hanlith constructed a mill and dam in his own manor. There continued to be a corn mill at Scalegill throughout the 18th century; Thomas Andrew was the miller in 1756 and Laurence Gornall is still cited as the miller in the Parish Records for 1799, so some corn milling may well have been retained on the site after cotton working was introduced.

Around the end of the 18th century the development and mechanisation of the Cotton industry turned good watermill sites into valuable commercial assets. The mill had been converted or a new mill had been built and equipped and was in use as a cotton mill by 1791. In 1792, Roger Hartley (yeoman) had already turned to spinning. The present main mill building was built around 1794/5 and an advertisement in the Leeds Intelligencer on 16th March 1795 described it as:

> *"All that new erected cotton mill, called Scalegill Mill situated about four miles from Airton aforesaid, with a very convenient dwelling house, outhouses, and other appurtenances adjoining the mill.*
> *The mill was intended for a cotton mill and is a very desirable situation for any person wishing to go into trade; it has a constant and powerful supply of water, and in a situation where wages are low."*

On the 24th April 1804 Christopher Netherwood and several partners entered into a 15 year lease for the mill from William Serjeantson of Camphill, and set up a twist manufactory. When the lease expired they didn't renew it and by 1821 the mill had been taken over by John Dewhirst & Co of Skipton. Dewhirst's became famous for their sewing cotton, marketed under the "Dewhirst Sylko" brand.

It is not known at what stage the Cockshutt family purchased an interest in the mill, but it appears that they were not major partners by the time Edmund died in 1821.

"Leeds and Liverpool Canal"

The Leeds and Liverpool canal was built between 1773 and 1822 designed to carry lime, coal and other heavy cargoes between the industrial centres of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and financed by several share issues. Edmund Cockshutt's estate included shares in the canal. It would have been of particular relevance to the Cockshutts since the canal passed through Fouldridge situated just north of Colne, an important stopping point at the point

where the Leeds and Liverpool Canal enters the Foulridge Tunnel, close to Langroyd and Noyna where many of the Cockshutt family lived.

“Halifax Cloth Hall”

The Halifax Piece Hall is now a Grade I listed building in Halifax, West Yorkshire. It was built in 1779 as a cloth hall for handloom weavers to sell the woollen cloth "pieces" they had produced. It featured 315 separate rooms arranged around a central open courtyard. As factories started up in the early nineteenth century the trade in handwoven wool declined and around 1815 the rules were changed to allow the sale of cotton goods.

The Halifax Piece Hall as it was in the 1920s

Edmund Cockshutt’s estate appears to have included a share in one of the trading rooms in the Halifax Piece Hall which would have been an important extension of the family woollen and cotton manufacturing businesses.

It seem likely that Edmund Cockshutt would have previously held a share in a trading room in the Colne Piece Hall (later Cloth Hall) which was built in 1775 for the storage and sale of worsted and woollen materials.

The Colne Piece Hall before it was demolished

As the woollen trade in Colne declined, replaced by the cotton industry and damaged by competition from nearby Halifax, the Cloth Hall became redundant as a textile centre and closed in about 1807.

Education

From the various archived documents now available and from the 1841 Census and later documents, it appears that the Edmund Cockshutt of each generation appear to have enjoyed a sound education. It seem highly likely that from about 1700 to 1830, several

generation of Cockshutts would have been fee-paying students at the Earls Colne Grammar School.

The Colne College building as it is today

The school was founded in 1520 and until its curriculum changed in 1837, it provided a classical education for its pupils. The school buildings were redeveloped twice, once in 1876 and again in 1904. The College was relocated in 1975 and amalgamated with another school. The buildings have now been redeveloped into a housing estate.

The Cockshutt story

It seem perhaps a little inappropriate to try to summarise the lives of eight generation of the Cockshutts in a few words, but it is worth recording insights gained in the many hours spent researching our Cockshutt heritage. There seems little doubt that the Cockshutts were originally “yeoman” cattle and sheep farmers who lived in the high country of North East Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

They almost certainly became expert “milners” and used the fast flowing water from the streams flowing from the Pennines to grind corn, wash hides and to drive wool fulling mills to supplement their income from their grazing animals. They probably employed their farm worker families as out-workers, weaving their yarn into woollen cloth using looms in their homes. With the invention of more efficient mechanical looms, they converted their mills to drive not only their fulling hammers but also to drive spinning machines and mechanical looms.

With good marriages to other successful yeoman and minor gentry families came the finances to expand their businesses. By 1800, Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove had interests in farming, milling, mining, an iron foundry and in marketing in NE Lancashire and West Yorkshire. His many children were given great starts in life by first being trained in appropriate business skills and then tasked with managing their family’s various enterprises.

It appears that things did not always go their way. The industrialisation of the cotton industry in the early 1800s meant that the smaller family businesses reliant on water mills became nonfinancial and both Edmund Cockshutt the Younger and his son Joshua Cockshutt were forced to sell much of their land holdings to pay debtors.

Three interesting stories from this period are worth briefly recording. First the “flight” of James Cockshutt to Canada. Second the later controversial marriage, late in life, of Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove to Margery Maude Mercer and finally the stories about the Cockshutts being related to the Lancashire Witches.

From Bankrupcy to Governor to World famous Tractor Manufacturer

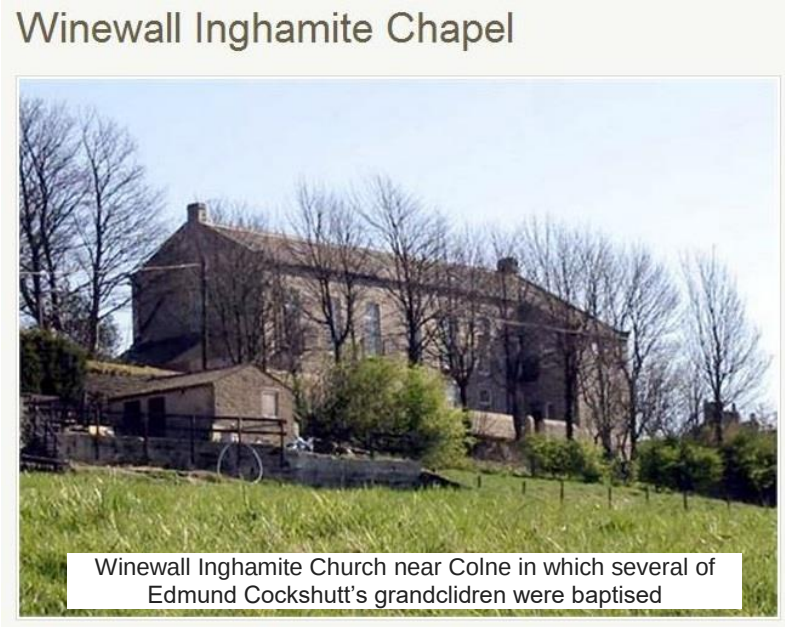
It seems that Edmund Cockshutt of Langroid (our 8 times great grandfather) had a daughter Ann, who had an illegitimate son, James Cockshutt, who grew up as part of the family and was, as were his cousins, given responsibility for one of the Cockshutt cotton businesses in Yorkshire. James married Mary Nightingale and their son Ignatius was born in 1812.

In 1816, in the commercial depression following the Napoleonic Wars, the business failed and James returned to manage his grandfather’s farm at Warsaw Hill. He returned to business in 1822 but again was unsuccessful and was declared bankrupt in 1826.

In July 1827, James Cockshutt and his wife first Mary, left Liverpool for Quebec. Using some funds provided by the family, James set himself up as a general merchant in Toronto. Subsequently, James’s son, Ignatius Cockshutt, prospered in business in Brentford, Ontario, becoming a major investor and philanthropist.

Ignatius Cockshutt and his family were devout members of the Inghamite Church, a branch of Methodism, which had been founded in Lancashire and Yorkshire, and which he helped establish in Canada. This perhaps in part explains his return to Colne in later life to settle his father’s debts.

Ignatius Cockshutt



Winewall Inghamite Church near Colne in which several of Edmund Cockshutt’s grandclidren were baptised

Ignatius’s son, Henry Cockshutt, gained prominence as soldier in the First World War, in business and in politics, becoming Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Wikipedia records him as follows:

Henry Cockshutt (July 8, 1868 – November 26, 1944) was the 13th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Canada.

Born in Brantford, Ontario, a son of Ignatius Cockshutt and Elizabeth Foster, he served in the family business, Cockshutt Plow Company, in 1884, becoming treasurer in 1888, secretary-treasurer in 1891, and president in 1911. In 1889, he was elected to Brantford City Council as an alderman and was elected mayor in 1899. In 1906 he was president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. He fought during World War I with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

The Cockshutt Plow Company was founded as the Brantford Plow Works by James G. Cockshutt in 1877. The name was changed to the Cockshutt Plow Company when it was incorporated in 1882.

After James died shortly thereafter, his brother William Foster Cockshutt took over as president. He remained until 1888, when another brother, Frank Cockshutt, became president of the company. In 1910, Henry Cockshutt, the youngest of the brothers, took over the leadership of the company. Under his direction, the company was able to obtain financing for acquisitions and expansion. By 1958, when it was taken over by multi-national investors, Cockshutt tractors were well known around the world.

What of the legal dispute that brought to an end the Cockshutt business empire?

Without access to the original legal documents, it is not possible to be sure about the legal controversy that arose out of the will of Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove and his second, late-in-life marriage to Margery Maude nee Mercer in 1795.

There are a number of possible clues as to what may have occurred. First, Edmund Cockshutt “Senior”, (born 1729 of Ball Grove) died in 1821 aged 91 year old. In his first will dated 1803 be bequeathed his various going businesses to the male children and his considerable capital to his female children (including the illegitimate child of his daughter, Anne, who subsequently married one of his business partners.

Edmund’s (born 1753) first wife, Tomasin, died in 1792 and in 1795, Edmund entered into a detailed “Marriage Settlement” with his wife to be, Margery Maude (nee Mercer) from the Great Harwood Mercer family, which provided her an income from his businesses and part of his Ball Grove Estate in Colne during her lifetime. The Settlement included undertakings to Alexander and Thomas Mercer “affecting Bough Gap Mill and Lands belonging thereto.” It appears from the marriage agreement that the marriage was part of a business deal with the Mercer family who also had considerable interests in the textile industry.

Then in quick succession, Edmund's oldest son Thomas died in 1822, Edmund's second eldest, Edmund Cockshutt "the Younger" died in 1825, leaving Joshua Cockshutt the head of the family.

To complicate the transitions of ownership, these events coincided with a series of disruptions to the Cotton industry which had forced the sale of several of the Cockshutt businesses and land holdings and the closure of the Bough Gap Mill. There appears to have been protracted legal disputes about the inheritances and the ownership of various assets left by the two Edmund Cockshutts.

Another indication of the legal dispute that followed was revealed during the searching the various Cockshutt Parish records for this research. It was noticed that on many of the original parish registers, Cockshutt baptism, marriage and death registrations for Edmund of Ball Grove's extended family, the names were underlined in pencil, indicating that at some time these records were carefully searched at some time in their original registers. Was this evidence of a search for the rightful heirs of the two Edmund Cockshutts? Did the powerful Mercer family have a dispute with Joshua Cockshutt about who owned the Ball Grove Mill? Did Margery Maude Cockshutt, Edmund's second wife, who died in 1831, have a legal claim against the surviving children for income from their business?

It is certainly clear that by the time Joshua Cockshutt left Colne in about 1840, his circumstances had been considerably reduced as he was now running a Iron Foundry in Preston.

There may also be other contributing factors to the changes in circumstances. In a biography of Ignatius Cockshutt the following commentary about the Cockshutts is included:

> *Edmund Cockshutt's father's conviction that literary achievement did not necessarily prepare a lad for a useful life probably explain why he provided his son with only a basic education: Ignatius attended a Leeds boarding-school for just one year, followed by some time at a school in Colne. James later explained that the sight of a Luddite mob smashing wagon-loads of machinery in the streets of Colne finally induced him to seek a more hospitable place in which to invest his inheritance from his grandfather.*
>
> *Cockshutt had an austere personality, emanating from his religion and work ethic, and expressed in the patriarchal discipline he exerted over his children, nine of whom survived childhood. Loans to his sons when they embarked in business were painstakingly recorded and fully secured. In 1890 he lectured the fiancé of his daughter Elizabeth on matrimonial finances, couching his disapproval of their marriage settlement in no uncertain terms. William Foster* suffered particularly from being his father's son. Ignatius did not approve of his choice for a wife, refused to sanction the marriage, and, when William would not listen, had local doctors declare him mentally unstable and packed him off to an asylum at Canandaigua, N.Y., until he gave in to his father's wishes. It is hardly a wonder that the children at times believed he displayed more interest in his dogs, for whom he felt great affection, than in them.*

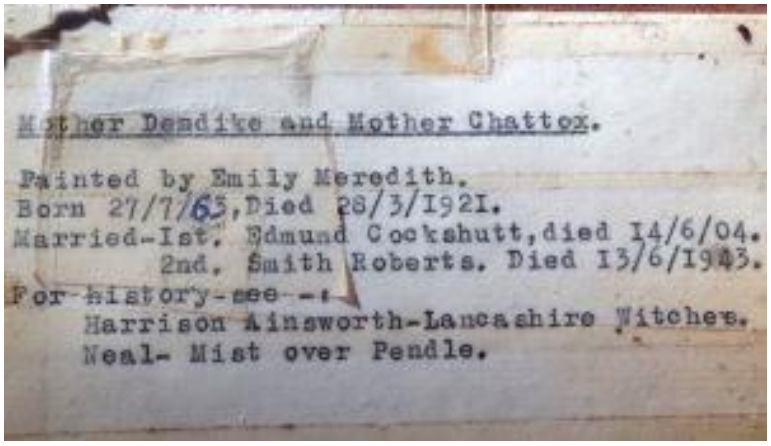
The questions that arise include - Were the Cockshutt's a litigious lot who met their match in legal disputes with the Mercer family following the death of Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove over the contentious marriage agreement?

Did his will, which separated the businesses and the capital controlled by the family, undermine the financial stability of the family's financial affairs at a time of economic and social turmoil?

Without a detailed examination of the extensive collection of legal and property documents held in the Lancashire Archives about the properties and business interests of the Cockshutts, we can only speculate.

What of the Lancashire Witches Connection?

A recurring story in the Flack and Cockshutt families has been that the Cockshutts were related to Alice Nutter who was executed for practicing witchcraft on 20 August 1612. This alleged Cockshutt family connection with the Lancashire Witches has been reinforced in the telling in recent generations by the oil-on-glass paintings of Mother Demdike and Mother Chattox by Emily Cockshutt, our great grandmother.



Mother Demdike and Mother Chattox.

Painted by Emily Meredith.
Born 27/7/63, Died 28/3/1921.
Married-1st. Edmund Cockshutt, died 14/6/04.
2nd. Smith Roberts. Died 13/6/1943.
For history-see -:
Harrison Ainsworth-Lancashire Witches.
Neal- Mist over Pendle.

As will be noted immediately, the Cockshutt family tree in this research traces the pedigree back to 1630s, not far enough to provide any direct evidence of a connection with Alice Nutter who was executed in 1612. A search of the available parish marriage records found no related Cockshutt-Nutter marriages back to 1500.

Alice Nutter Statue in Roughlee, Lancashire

Prominent Pendle historian, John A Clayton notes:

> *"The family line of Nutter, through Alice Nutter's children, appears to have died out. There are, however, direct descendants through her daughter Elizabeth and son Miles but these would be people with other surnames among which are Hargreaves, Jackson and Robinson. Certainly, a number of local families with the Nutter surname will be distantly related to Alice Nutter's husband, Richard Nutter."*

There are some aspects of the family story that might lend some weight to the "legend".

First there is evidence that our Cockshutts were still practicing Catholics in 1729 when "Edmundus Cockshutt, son of Edmundi Cockshutt of "Longroad" was baptised. This would fit with some theories about the Lancashire witches being persecuted for their Catholicity. She made no statement either before or during her trial, except to enter her plea of not guilty to the charge of murdering Henry Mitton by witchcraft. The prosecution alleged that she, together with Demdike and Elizabeth Device, had caused Mitton's death after he had refused to give Demdike a penny she had begged from him. The only evidence against Alice seems to have been that James Device claimed Demdike had told him of the murder, and Jennet Device in her statement said that Alice had been present at the Malkin Tower meeting. Alice may have called in on the meeting at Malkin Tower on her way to a secret (and illegal) Good Friday Catholic service, and refused to speak for fear of incriminating her fellow Catholics. Many of the Nutter family were Catholics, and two had been executed as Jesuit priests, John Nutter in 1584 and his brother Robert in 1600.

To put the political climate for Catholics in 1612 into perspective, it will be noted that between 1535 and 1679 more than 40 people had been executed as traitors for being prominent Catholics (source). Contemporary critics of the Catholic practices argued that the the Catholic belief in "transubstantiation" in Catholic Mass was a form of witchcraft.

Second, Alice Nutter was unusual among the accused in being comparatively wealthy, the widow of a tenant yeoman farmer. The Cockshutts were connected with several estates including a farm at Worsaw Hill near where these events took place.

It seems entirely possible that Alice Nutter was a secret Catholic and called in at what was a secret mass – later to be claimed to be a meeting of a witches coven?

Whilst it is true that several Nutter families live in and around Pendle to this day, there is no firm evidence that there is a link between our Cockshutt family and Alice Nutter and her family.

There is however, this intriguing 1713/4 St Leonard Padiham wedding which is just enough to sustain the search for the fabled link.

> *"Marriage: 12 Jan 1713/4 St Leonard, Padiham, Lancashire, England*
> *George Cockshut – Pendle*
> *Margret Nutter – Heyhouses*
> *Source: Original Parish Register"*

Perhaps we are related to Alice Nutter after all. Perhaps there is a connection through the mists of time after-all?

* * *

Attachments:

Appendix A Text of messages from Barbara Youlds of the Great Harwood Genealogy and Local History Group.
Appendix B Comments from Brian Jeffery of Lancashire Family History
Appendix C The History of the Manor of Simonstone Manor.

Appendix A. Text of messages from Barbara Youlds of the Great Harwood Genealogy and Local History Group.

I've spent the day doing a family reconstruction for the Great Harwood Cockshutt family – one of the easiest I have ever done. Everything slotted together very well, mainly because of the available probate documents. I won't bore you with it all (although if you would like the details I can email them to you – after a bit of tidying up), just the points you raised.

The children of Anne, widow of George Cockshutt, mentioned in her probate and also tuition documents were Thomas, Josias, Edmund and George. Edmund's baptism in recorded at Great Harwood in 1692. The will of his brother Thomas in 1737 mentions only Josias and George, suggesting that Edmund had died before the will was made. Until today I did not have a burial for Edmund, which may have meant he had moved to Langroyd and was not mentioned in his brother's will for another reason.

However in Abram's History of Blackburn he mentions a burial for Edmund at Haslingden. After some hard searching of Ancestry and Lancs OPC I finally found this:

A1. Burial: 17 Oct 1716 St James, Haslingden, Lancashire, England
Edmond Carksha, Mr -
Abode: Harwood
Occupation: Gent
Notes: From Newell Hey Buryed in ye Church
Register: Burials 1683 - 1720, Entry 1413
Source: LDS Film 1068834

There was a family connection with his great-uncle Edmund, who had married a Nuttall of New Hall Hey.

I looked at various taxation records for the town and found the earliest mention in Great Harwood of Cockshutt was a Roger in 1524, and as a land owner. There is then a long gap until George Cockshutt's family are recorded in the parish registers around 1600, which is odd if the family were resident as the parish registers for Great Harwood did start in 1538. The before mentioned George was the ancestor of the Great Harwood family, and although probably born around 1575 there is no baptism in the Great Harwood registers.

[Comment: This probably rules out a close connection between the Colne Cockshutts and the Great Harwood Cockshutts]

The following summary of archives forwarded to me by Barbara Youlds and held in the Lancashire Archives are relevant:

A2. DDHCL - Assheton of Downham
1 - Indexes of surrenders
24 - Manor of Colne (with Forest of Trawden)
Repository Lancashire Archives
Reference number DDHCL/1/24
Date 1730
Description Surrenderors (person or persons conveying property): BAYLEY Judith with Fees:
Surrenderees (person or persons receiving the property): COCKSHUTT Ann, Daughter of BAYLEY Judith
Location of property: Langroyd
Court session: Michaelmas: 1730

A3. DDSP - Wilfred Spencer of Colne
19 - Cockshutt family of Ballgrove, Colne
Repository Lancashire Archives
Reference number DDSP/19/1
Title Memorandum regarding coal mining at Simonstone
Date 5 Jun 1736
Description Edmon Cockhart of Langrad (Langroyd) near Colne will pay £30 for the coal in the field called Hockhidd in Simonstone belonging to Pears Starkey esq. Cristofer Hacking of Simonstone is to have 5s per week for "Banking and care of the workine" and Thomas Whithad of Padiham is to have "the winges and all the touls wich he leavs at the end" and coal for personal use.

A4. DDHCL - Assheton of Downham
1 - Indexes of surrenders
24 - Manor of Colne (with Forest of Trawden)
Repository Lancashire Archives
Reference number DDHCL/1/24
Date 1745
Description Surrenderors (person or persons conveying property): COCKSHUTT Edmund, Gent
Surrenderees (person or persons receiving the property): BAYLEY Judith
Location of property: Langroyd
Court session: Easter: 1745

It would seem that the Langroyd property came from Edmund's wife, Ann Bayley – it might be worth investigating that family.

I visited Lancashire Archive as planned this morning. When I looked for the will for John Cockshutt I was disappointed to see it was an administration and inventory, no will, as these usually give very few relationships. However I do think they may have solved your problem. Not only was his son Edmund administrator of his estate, but in the inventory three of his children are mentioned, John, Ellen and Edmund. They all appear in the Padiham registers as children of John of Simonstone. He was styled gentleman in both the administration and on the inventory and was, by any standard and not just Lancashire where inventory values are often much less than in the south, very wealthy.

Ancestry has the images of the Bishop's Transcripts for Newchurch in Pendle. These show Edmund Cockshutt of Simonstone marrying Ann Bailey of Langroid in June 1724.

John Cockshutt of Simonstone was buried in February that year, and notwithstanding his young age I believe that the son of John is the same Edmund that married Ann. The death of his father, and the wealth of the family would mean there would be no barriers to his early marriage.

If I am right (and if this was my family research I would have few doubts) then it opens up some very good avenues of research.
I've attached notes from the documents, and you can see that this is a large house for this period. Gentlemen in this area were often called so even when they were involved in trade or agriculture, however there are few indications from the inventory as to how the family became wealthy.

Which brings me to your line. This may be a long shot, but I am quite excited. I think I mentioned when we discussed this some time ago a possible birth in 1705 for Edmund. This would make him quite young at marriage and although there is often a misconception that people did marry young it was quite rare – young men had to wait until they had the means to support a family. However if the means were already there then there would be no

barriers. There is a will for what may be the father of Edmund at Lancashire Archive, dated a few months before the marriage of your Edmund. Looking at Lancashire Online Parish Clerks, particularly the entries for Padiham, the various Cockshot families are mostly identified by their residence and there do seem to be three families around Padiham at that time. Edmund who died and made his will in 1723/4 was of the Simonstone branch, and styled gentleman.

I looked at the Victoria County History and found some interesting facts:

- In 1560-62 an Edmund Cockshot bought land in Simonstone from the Shuttleworth family
- Edmund Cockshot of Simonstone was a freeholder in 1629
- In 1666 John Cockshot was assessed on 8 hearths (a LOT of hearths)

And the really interesting part! The VCH mentions in Simonstone in 1516 ‘Cockshotsfield’, which might be the field belonging to the Cockshots, but also in 1329 ‘Cockshoot’. Surnames were late to develop in Lancashire and they did so around this time, or even later, so is this the root of the name?

I’ve had a trawl through Lancashire Archives and there are a lot of really interesting items concerning Cockshutts held there. The various branches all do seem to have been fairly affluent, which of course means a good paper trail. There are a great many records concerning land in Colne (and other areas) relating to Cockshutts, but I couldn’t find any mention of a Greeve or Greave. That isn’t to say records don’t exist, but that they may not yet have been fully indexed or might be in another archive.

Appendix B. Comments from Brian Jeffery of Lancashire Family History

I do not know anything about the Cockhart or Cockshutt family's personal involvement in Simonstone coal-mining. However, the Cockshut family did have a farmhouse in Simonstone. It was built in the late 1500's and a roof stone,reported by W Palmer, who was a previous tenant, was supposedly dated 'AD1593'.

Edmund Cockshutt was present in AD1629, when Simonstone Green and Common (part of the much bigger Pendleton Common) was subdivided by 13 local landed gentry. After this event, Cockshutt's Farm stretched from the farmhouse northwards to Whins Lane. The property is still called 'Cockshott's Farm', but is now part of the Huntroyde Estate, owned by the Starkie family. Edmund Cockshutt left a list of his 'goods and chattels' in 1644 (see LRO: WCW Edmund Cockshott 1644).

The Starkie family have been present in Simonstone since about 1465. They claimed to have mined coal in the 16th century on the part of Pendleton Common known as Read Moor. The coal mined could have been the Gannister Coal on Read Heights, but was more likely to have been the Upper and Lower Mountain Mines, which outcrop just south of Whins Lane and Hacking's Farm.

The Starkie family allowed mining in the 18th century and, presumably, Edmund Cockhart was a coal-mining leaseholder in 1736. Unfortunately, no mine abandonment plans are available for Simonstone Colliery until 1883. However, the 1842 Children's Employment Commission specifically reports on the Simonstone Colliery and on the 1883 plan one area is shown as 'Old Works'.

The most westerly Air Shaft of Simonstone Colliery can still be seen at NGr. 778 353. At the outcrop, the coal was only 9' below the surface. Nearby to the north-west and on Whins Lane is Hacking's Farm, which is dated from the 17th century.Speculatively, this could have been named after 'Cristofer Hacking'. The nearby fields are referred to as 'Old Hackings' and 'Hockhidd' could be a corruption of 'Hacking'. See also LRO: QSB 1/1774/Jul/Pt1/20.

I hope that this helps.Brian Jeffery/ Read 26th April 2017.

Appendix C. The History of the Manor of Simonstone Manor

¶In the 13th century SIMONSTONE is found to be a member of the honor of Clitheroe and held in thegnage by a number of local families. It appears to have been assessed as 5 oxgangs of land, and in 1258 four parts rendered 12s. 9½d. a year to the lord, while the remaining fifth part—Huntroyde—was held by the service of a pair of spurs or 2d (fn. 3) The lordship of the manor, with one of the oxgangs, was inherited or acquired by Robert de Holden, (fn. 4) who in 1311 held it by the yearly rent of 3s. 2½d. at the Feast of St. Giles and suit to the three weeks court of Clitheroe. (fn. 5) Soon afterwards the manor descended to his son Nicholas, (fn. 6) who died about 1344, leaving his son Robert to succeed him. (fn. 7) Robert was living in 1399, (fn. 8) and was in 1411 succeeded by his grandson Thomas Holden. (fn. 9) Randle Holden occurs in the reign of Edward IV. (fn. 10)

William Boswell (fn. 11) of Chevet in Royston died in 1513 holding messuages and lands in Simonstone of the king as of his manor of Clitheroe in socage by a rent of 8d. for puture of the bailiffs of the forest of Pendle. The heirs were his daughters Elizabeth wife of Sir John Nevill, aged twenty-eight, and Alice wife of Robert Nevill, aged twenty-six. (fn. 12) On a partition the 'manor of Simonstone' became the share of the younger daughter, (fn. 13) and was in 1566 sold by her son George Nevill of Ragnell to John Braddyll, (fn. 14) who at his death in 1578 was found to have held it in socage. (fn. 15) His son and heir Edward obtained a confirmation of the manor from John Nevill, the son of George, (fn. 16) but appears to have sold it in 1596 to John Whitaker. (fn. 17) Nevertheless the manor is named in the inquisitions after the death of Edward Braddyll in 1607 and his son John in 1612; but the tenure is not stated. (fn. 18) From that time this manor disappears from the records.

The Whitaker family or families had long been settled in Simonstone, (fn. 19) and in 1599 Miles Whitaker sold a moiety of the manor, with a moiety of the water-mill, and lands, &c., to Roger Nowell of Read. (fn. 20) The Nowells had already some land in Simonstone, (fn. 21) and Roger at his death in 1624 was found to have held a messuage and land of the king in socage, nothing being said of a share of the manor. (fn. 22) The Whitakers have continued to hold an estate in Simonstone. (fn. 23)

SIMONSTONE HALL is a two-story stone-built house with gables, mullioned windows and stone slated roofs, built probably in the early 17th century, but very much modernized and of little architectural interest. The principal front, which faces west, has two gables with spiked ornaments, and a third recessed gabled wing at the north end, while the east elevation shows three flush gables. The front windows have all rounded heads to the lights, but appear to be early 19th-century restorations; those at the back being later are better in detail. Over the door is a shield with the arms of Whitaker with helm, crest and mantling. The interior is wholly modernized and without interest.

Other holders of land used the local name, but the descents cannot be traced clearly. (fn. 24) Ravensden gave a name to its holders. (fn. 25) Among the names recorded in pleadings and inquisitions are those of Shuttleworth, (fn. 26) Walmesley, (fn. 27) Hargreaves, (fn. 28) Lowe, (fn. 29) Lonsdale (fn. 30) and Robert or Roberts (fn. 31)

A partition of the wastes made in 1629 shows that the following were freeholders:—Richard Shireburne of Stonyhurst, Richard Shuttleworth of Gawthorpe, Roger Nowell of Read, John Starkie of Huntroyde, Thomas Whitaker, John Whitaker, John Robert, **Edmund Cockshott**, George Whitaker, Thomas Lonsdale, Christopher Whitaker, Robert Sagar and Richard Mercer, all of Simonstone. (fn. 32)

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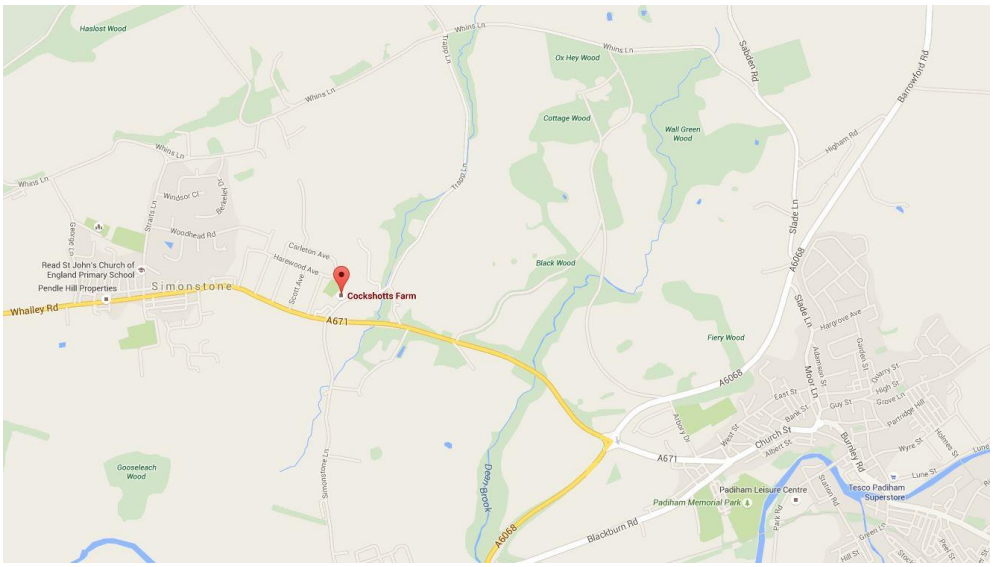
A search of the map of the area around Simonstone revealed the location of “Cockshutt Farm” near Padiham as shown below: