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Who was Johannes Cockshutt Generosus?

Was he related to the
Simonstone Cockshutts?

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Who was the Johannes Cockshutt, the subject of the engraving by David Loggan?

One of the pieces of the oral Cockshutt family history repeated in the book *Merchants Exchange: Ignatius Cockshutt, 1812 - 1901*¹ is that the "Johannes Cockshutt Generosus" depicted in the engraving by famous Dutch artist David Loggan and held by the National Portrait Gallery in London, is a relative of the Simonstone – Colne Cockshutts.



Since the portrait is dated 1679, the possible contenders in our Simonstone – Colne Cockshutt family are John Cockshutt (1613-1685) or John Cockshutt (1671-1724).

It is not clear how or why either of these two John Cockshutt ancestors would have commissioned such an engraving.

The only pieces of information about the portrait that may prove useful in checking its origins are:

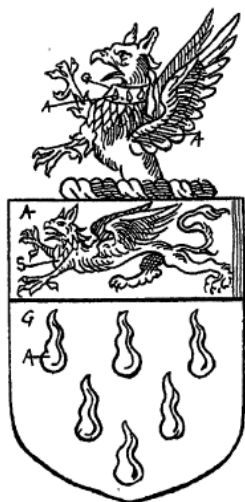
- The engraving was used as a front piece in a Latin translation of Henry More's "Works", published in 1679.
- The inclusion of the word "Generosus" in the title suggested that the engraving may have been commissioned by someone to honour a gift of money or voluntary service.
- The artist, David Loggan was a much sought after artist based in London who, in 1669, was appointed 'public sculptor' to the University of Oxford.
- The inclusion of Cockshutt heraldry suggests that the Johannus Cockshutt in the engraving was entitled to bear those arms.



¹ Cockshutt, Wm H., and Mike Hand. 2017. *Merchants Exchange: Ignatius Cockshutt, 1812 - 1901 Canadian Entrepreneur*. S.l.: FriesenPress.

Searches of a range of heraldry sites found the following entry in "The Visitation of Buckinghamshire in 1634, page 29 stating *"These arms and crest were confirmed by Sir William Segar Garter Vid." These are the arms and Crest of John Cockshutt, Master of Arts and Minister of Gods Worde at Sarrett in Com. Hartford, oldest son and heir of Edmund Cockshutt.*

Cockshutt.



MS. Coll. of Arms, 1 C. 26, fol. 27.

These armes and creast were Confirmed by Sr W^m Segar Garter Vid. These are the Armes and Creast of John Cockshutt Master of Arts and Minister of Gods Worde at Sarrett in Oom. Hartford second sonne of Jo^r Cockshutt eldest sonne & heire of Edmund Cockshutt. Exemplefyed ratifyed and Confirmed to him & his posterity for ever.

subsigned W^m Segar Garter.

[Gules, six guttées Argent, three, two, and one, on a chief of the second a griffin passant Sable. Crest: A demi-griffin Argent, collared Gules guttée of the first.]

This record indicates therefore that a John Cockshutt, MA., (Reverend?) second son of John Cockshutt who was eldest son and heir of Edmund Cockshutt, had his entitlement to these arms confirmed by Sir William Segar (c. 1554–1633), Garter King of Arms under James I. It appears that "Sarrett in Com. Hartford" refers to Sarrett, near Watford in Hertfordshire. There is also a "Hartford"- the capital of Connecticut, in the United States.

Enquiries made with an expert in English Heraldry revealed that "There is little doubt that the portrait is that of John Cockshutt who was granted arms in 1634 (reference the visitation of Buckinghamshire). According to the Visitation Indexes, only one Cockshutt has ever held arms during the visitation period between 1530 and 1688. The last Buckinghamshire Visitation took place between 1669 and 1688".

He further advised that "Coats of Arms recorded in Lancashire and Shropshire for Cockshutt are listed in General Armory but are not listed in the Visitations suggesting that those were "assumed arms", since these arms are not listed in the official visitations of Lancashire and Shropshire". The Visitation records show that there was one other (undated) claim for the Arms which was "disclaimed".

Expert advice also suggested that since the Arms depicted on the portrait were identical with the Arms recorded in the Visitation of 1634,(traditionally subsequent generations make minor changes to their inherited arms), it can reasonably be

assumed that it was the John Cockshutt subject of the portrait that was granted the arms officially.

A reference to Johannes Cockshutt can be found in "A

biographical history of England, from Egbert the Great to the Revolution" by James Granger, 1723-1776.

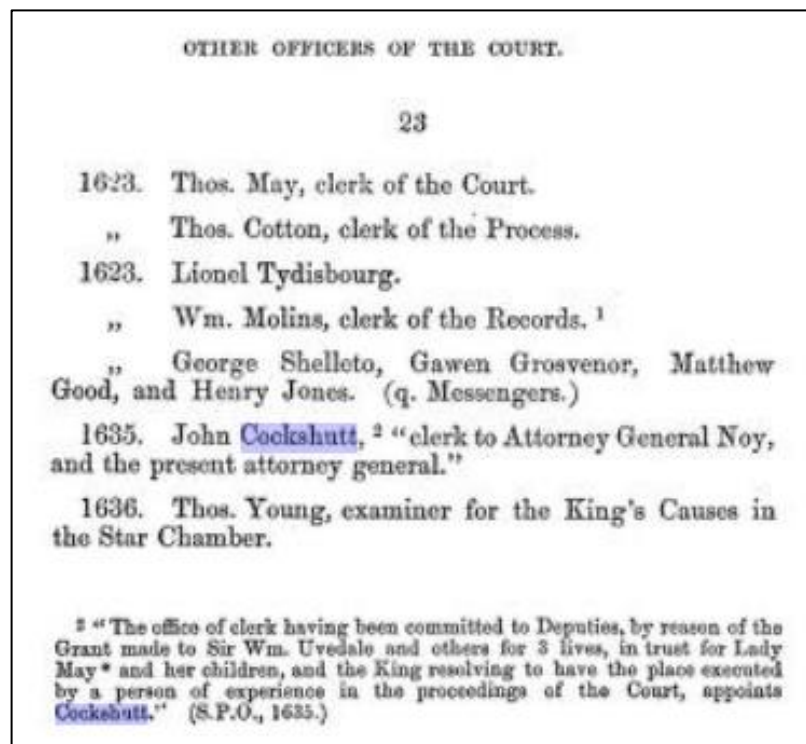
A reference to a John Cockshuit (sic) was also found in the entry for Henry More in "The General Biographical Dictionary" by Alexander Chalmers (1759-1834) as follows:

JOHANNES **COCKSHUTT** † (COCKSHUIT), nobilis Anglus. *D. Loggan f. h. sh.*

John Cockshuit, a gentleman of the Inner Temple, was one of the many admirers of the works of Dr. Henry More. That author's writings were much in vogue in this reign; particularly his "Mystery of Godliness." He left 300*l.* for translating into Latin this book, his "Mystery of Iniquity," and his "Philosophical Collections." His head belongs to the translation of the last-mentioned work. *Ob.* 1669, *Æt.* 30.

mired. On this account he was called into the Royal Society, with a view of giving reputation to it, before its establishment by the royal charter; for which purpose he was proposed as a candidate by Dr. Wilkins and Dr. Cudworth, June 4, 1661, and elected fellow soon after. His writings became so popular, that Mr. Chishull, an eminent bookseller, declared, that, for twenty years together, after the return of Charles II. the "Mystery of Godliness," and Dr. More's other works, ruled all the booksellers in London; and a very remarkable testimony of their esteem was given by John Cockshuit of the Inner Temple, esq. who, by his last will, left 300*l.* to have three of his principal pieces translated into Latin. These were his "Mystery of Godliness," "Mystery of Iniquity," and his "Philosophical Collections." This legacy induced our author to translate, together with these, the rest of his English works which he thought worth printing, into that language; and the whole collection was published in 1679, in three large volumes, folio. In undertaking the translation himself, his design was to appropriate Mr. Cockshuit's legacy to the founding of three scholarships in Christ's college; but as they could not be printed and published without consuming the greatest part of it, he made up this loss by other donations in his life-time, and by the perpetuity of the rectory of Ingoldsby, which he left to the college by will. He died Sept. 1, 1687, in his seventy-third year; and was buried in the chapel of his college, where lie also Mr. Mede and Dr. Cudworth, two other contemporary ornaments of that foundation.

The following extract is from *"The Star Chamber: notices of the court and its proceedings"* by John Southerden Burn, 1798-1870



William Noy (1577 – 9 August 1634) was a noted British jurist.

He was born on the family estate of Pendrea in St Buryan, Cornwall. He left Exeter College, Oxford, without taking a degree, and entered Lincoln's Inn in 1594. From 1603 until his death he was elected, with one exception, to each parliament, sitting invariably for a constituency of his native county. For several years his sympathies were in antagonism to the court party, yet every commission that was appointed numbered Noy among its members, and even those who were opposed to him in politics acknowledged his learning.

A few years before his death he changed political allegiance, went over to the side of the court, and in October 1631 he was created Attorney-general, but was never knighted. It was through his advice that the impost of ship money was levied, resulting in a controversy that helped trigger the English Civil War.

The *"Pension book of Grey's Inn (records of the honourable society 1569-[1800])"* includes the minutes of the Inn recorded in 1647:

"called to the Bar John Cockshutt"

It is therefore likely that "Johannes Cockshutt Generosus" was John Cockshutt, one-time clerk of the Star Chamber under Attorney General William Noy and a London Lawyer, later to be admitted to the Bar as a member of Grey's Inn, one of the four legal societies in London that together form the Inns of Court.

He was a keen supporter of the works of the philosopher Henry More and made a generous provision in his Will for the translation and publication of Henry More's works – hence the "Generosus". Henry More was an associate of artist David Loggan at Cambridge and the engraving became the book-end of these publications by Henry More.

It might reasonably be assumed that his appointment by Attorney General Noy in 1635 suggests that Johannes Cockshutt was considered a bright lawyer and that he was well connected in the royalist establishment immediately prior to the Civil War (1642-46).

It seems possible that Johannes Cockshutt Generosus was distantly related to the Great Harwood Cockshutts since it is known that at least three generations of the Harwood Cockshutts attended University in the late 1600s, however the following Parish record of his baptism at Sarratt, Hertford, England strongly suggests that they were not close relatives.

 John Cockshot England Births and Christenings	
Name	John Cockshot
Gender	Male
Christening Date	17 Jun 1610
Christening Date (Original)	17 JUN 1610
Christening Place	SARRATT,HERTFORD,ENGLAND
Father's Name	John Cockshot
Mother's Name	Elyzabeth
Citing this Record "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," database, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J9W8-PXR : 11 February 2018, John Cockshot, 17 Jun 1610); citing , index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 993,733.	

It appears therefore that neither of the Simonstone Cockshutts - John Cockshutt (1613-1685) nor John Cockshutt (1671-1724) could have been Johannes Cockshutt Generosus and there is no evidence they were close relatives.

It seems clear that Johannes Cockshutt (1610-c.1670) was the person who was granted the Cockshutt arms by the College of Arms during the visitation in 1634, but whether this was a formalisation of Arms that had been in



use unofficially prior to that, is not clear. Further enquiries may clarify that aspect of the history of the Arms.

It may be possible to obtain further information from the College of Arms, the British Law Society or Cambridge University that would help to obtain more information about Johannes Cockshutt Generosus' family.