# The Life and Times of Emily Cockshutt

Original text written by Charles Roberts and added to by Edmund Flack

By Dr “Ted” E.D.H. Flack

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## Father's Tree of Alice Mary Cockshutt

**Edmund COCKSHUTT "of Bal Grove"**
b: 11 Oct 1753
m: 23 Feb 1777 in Waddington Parish, Lancashire
d: 27 Sep 1825 in St Bartholomew, Colne, Lancashire, England

**James MEREDITH**
b: 1744
d: 1802

**Edmund COCKSHUTT The Younger**
m: 07 Nov 1804 in St Peters, Bolton, Lancashire
d: 1825

**George MEREDITH**
b: 1780
d: 1815

**Edmund COCKSHUTT of Preston**
b: 01 Dec 1809 in Colne, Lancashire, England
m: 09 Feb 1833 in St John's Church, Preston, Lancashire, England
d: 1871 in Preston, Lancashire, England

**Charles MEREDITH**
b: 02 May 1807
m: 21 Jan 1860 in Eccles, Lancashire, England
d: 23 Jun 1884

**Joshua COCKSHUTT "Last of the Cotton Spinners"**
b: 1840 in Preston, Lancashire, England
m: 1861 in Preston, Lancashire, England
d: 31 Jul 1916 in The Colonade, Preston

**Edmund COCKSHUTT**
b: Abt 1862 in Preston, Lancashire, England
m: 16 Aug 1888 in Fylde, Lancashire, England
d: 14 Jun 1904 in Saint Andrews, Jamaica

**Emily MEREDITH**
b: 27 Jul 1863 in Manchester, Lancashire, Endland
d: 28 Mar 1921

**Alice Mary COCKSHUTT**
b: 13 Jun 1890 in Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, England
d: 08 Jul 1955 in Southport, Lancashire, England

Mother of Dr H.E.D.Flack
Grandmother of Dr E.D.H.Flack

## Descendants of Edmund Cockshutt & Emily Meredith

**Edmund Cockshutt**
b: Abt 1862 in Preston, Lancashire, England
d: 14 Jun 1904 in Saint Andrews, Jamaica

**Emily Meredith**
b: 27 Jul 1863 in Manchester, Lancashire, Endland
m: 16 Aug 1888 in Fylde, Lancashire, England
d: 28 Mar 1921

**Alice Mary Cockshutt**
b: 13 Jun 1890 in Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, England
d: 08 Jul 1955 in Southport, Lancashire, England

**Dr Frederick Henry Douglas "Harry" Flack**
b: 05 Feb 1878 in Burnley, Lancashire. England
m: 22 Jan 1914 in Nelson, Lancashire
d: 21 Dec 1961 in Southport, Lancashire. England

**Margaret Mary Cockshutt**
b: 31 May 1891 in Preston, Lancashire, England
d: 01 Nov 1979 in Exeter, Devon

**Frederick Proctor**
b: Cir 1890
m: 11 Dec 1915 in Christ Church, Ormskirk, Lancashire
d: Sept Qtr 1966 in Warrington, Lancashire

**Edmund Meredith Cockshutt**
b: 07 Dec 1893 in Preston, Lancashire, England
d: 10 Jul 1964 in Exeter, Devon

**Winifred Joyce Evans**
b: 06 Nov 1895
m: 01 Jul 1925 in Ormskirk, Lancashire, England
d: 05 Aug 1966

## Editor's Introduction

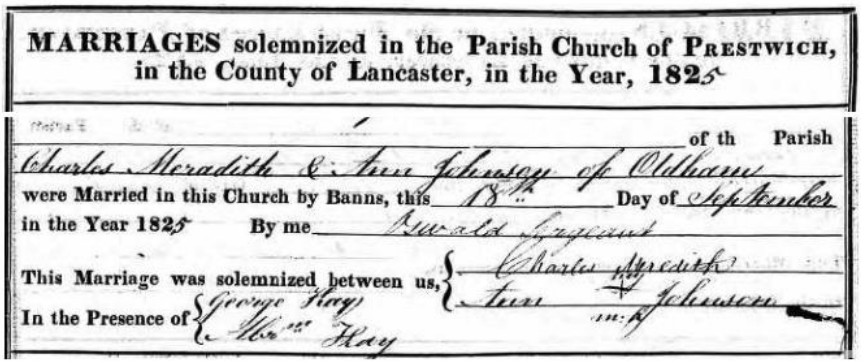
This life-story of Emily Roberts, nee Meredith, formerly Cockshutt, was written by Charles William Roberts (1905-1978) in 1952 and recently shared with me by his grandson, Max Taylor. The text in italics is Charles Roberts' original text. My additions to the text are in standard print and I have added the images. Emily was my paternal great grandmother.

## Charles Robert's Story

*"Emily, second daughter of Charles and Alice Ann Meredith was born on the 27th July 1863 at Withington near Manchester.*

*Charles Meredith, her father, had previously been married* (to Ann Johnson) *at the Parish Church, Prestwich, Lancashire on the 18th September 1825, there being six children of this marriage:*

- *Charles Edmund born 3rd June 1828;*
- *George Henry born 2nd June 1830;*
- *Edward William born 3rd August 1832;*
- *Mary born 31st August 1840;*
- *Oswald born 16th April 1843;*
- *Frederick born 8th September 1845.*



**MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish Church of PRESTWICH, in the County of Lancaster, in the Year, 1825**

of th Parish

Charles Meradith & Ann Johnsey of Oldham

were Married in this Church by Banns, this 18th Day of September

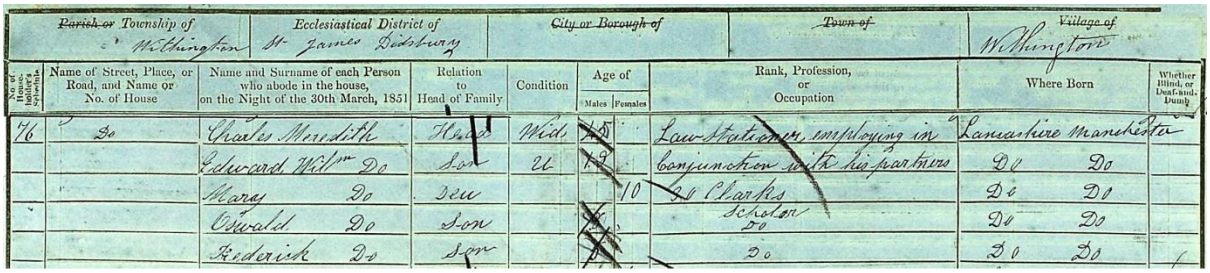
in the Year 1825 By me Oswald Sergeant

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Charles Meredith, Ann Johnson

In the Presence of George Hay, Mrs Hay

Extract from 1825 Parish Marriage Register

*His first wife dying on 21st October 1848 and being buried at All Saints Church, Chorlton cum Medlock* (an inner city suburb of Manchester, now known as Chorlton on Medlock).

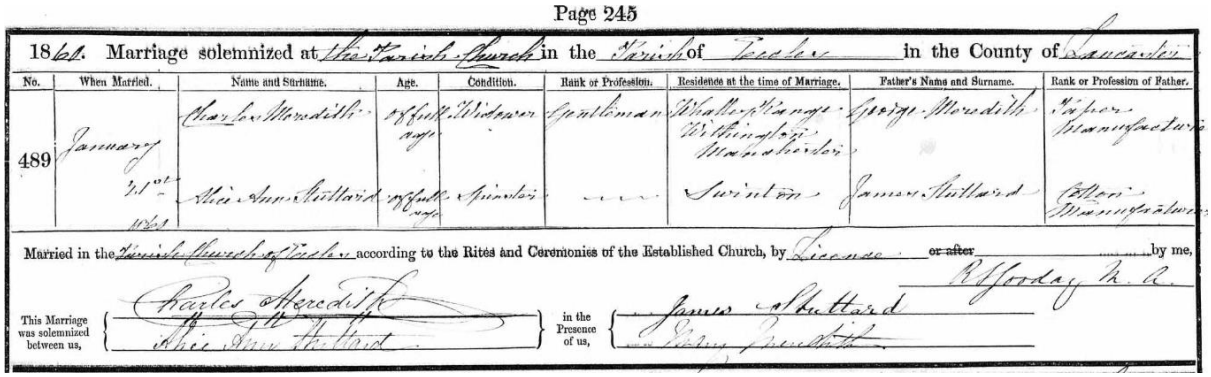


~~Parish or~~ Township of Withington | Ecclesiastical District of St James Didsbury | ~~City or Borough of~~ | ~~Town of~~ | ~~Village of~~ Withington

| No. of House-holder's Schedule | Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House | Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851 | Relation to Head of Family | Condition | Age of Males | Age of Females | Rank, Profession, or Occupation | Where Born | Whether Blind, or Deaf-and-Dumb |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 76 | Do | Charles Meredith | Head | Wid | 45 | | Law Stationer employing in | Lancashire Manchester | |
| | | Edward Wilm Do | Son | U | 19 | | Conjunction with his partners | Do Do | |
| | | Mary Do | Dau | | | 10 | 20 Clarks | Do Do | |
| | | Oswald Do | Son | | [illegible] | | Scholar Do | Do Do | |
| | | Frederick Do | Son | | [illegible] | | Do | Do Do | |

Extract from 1851 Census

*By the time he married Alice Stuttard at the Parish Church of Eccles on the 21st January 1860, his son George Henry was dead, Charles Edmund was living at Chorlton cum Hardy, Edward William in London, Oswald in Long Island America, Frederick in Manchester and Mary (called Sister Polly) with her Father. After his marriage to Alice Ann Stuttard in 1860 the couple set up house at Withington, near Manchester, taking Mary the daughter of the first marriage to live with them. Here, Caroline (later Mrs John Eaton and then Mrs John Hilton) was born on the 21st October 1860; Emily on the 27th July 1863; Alice (later Mrs J. A. Tweedale) on the 12the November 1865, Ada on the 7th April 1869.*



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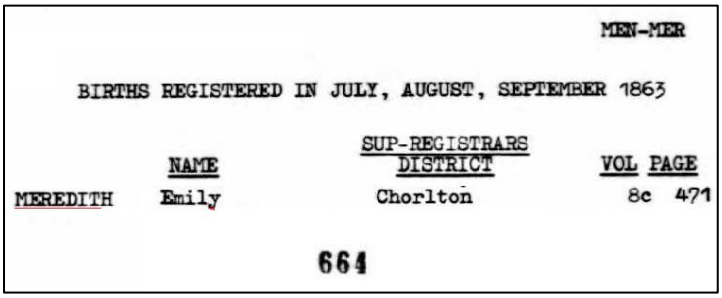
1861. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Eccles in the County of Lancaster

| No. | When Married. | Name and Surname. | Age. | Condition. | Rank or Profession. | Residence at the time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Surname. | Rank or Profession of Father. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 489 | January 21st 1861 | Charles Meredith | of full age | Widower | Gentleman | Whalley Range Withington Manchester | George Meredith | Taper Manufacturer |
| | | Alice Ann Stuttard | of full age | Spinster | — | Swinton | James Stuttard | Cotton Manufacturer |

Married in the Parish Church of Eccles according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Licence ~~or after~~ by me, R Gooday M. A.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Charles Meredith, Alice Ann Stuttard in the Presence of us, James Stuttard, Mary Meredith

Extract from Parish Marriage Register, 21 January 1860.



MEN-MER

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1863

| | NAME | SUP-REGISTRARS DISTRICT | VOL | PAGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MEREDITH | Emily | Chorlton | 8c | 471 |

664

Extract from the Births Death and Marriages Index for the Sept. Qtr. 1863.

*Emily Meredith and her sisters spent their early days at Withington, removing to Whalley Henge about 1872, this address being given as "Lancashire Legends" by John Marland and T.T. Wilkinson written in 1873. Sometime between 1873 and 1876 the family removed to Seafield, South Shore, Blackpool this address being given in "History of the Fylde' by John Procter* (Porter) *written in 1876, the move probably being necessary due to her father's failing health.*

*In 1876 when the Meredith family took up residence at Blackpool, the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway terminated at Lytham, there being no railway at Blackpool; the journey from Lytham to South Shore being made by horse and carriage or horse coach. Blackpool was merely a hamlet at North Shore, consisting of an inn called 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and a few cottages and referred to as the "GYN". Most of the old village having fallen into the sea, where the cliffs collapsed during a storm, a rough road with a timber palisade forming a sea wall often washed over by the sea ran from the 'GYN" to the village of South Short, 'Seafield' being one of the first houses in South Shore on the North or GYN side of this promenade road. There were about seven or eight more houses on the promenade, the Village and Church being inland. Leaving South Short and continuing about one mile towards Lytham there was an old Inn called 'The Star' surrounded by a gypsy encampment, about a mile further there was a small hamlet at Squires Gate consisting of small fishermen's cottages,*

*one of which was occupied by a Mrs Malling, who was renowned for her shrimps. From Squires Gate (called after Squire Clifton) there was no hamlet until Lytham was reached, about six miles distance. St Annes on the Sea did not exist, the nearest hamlet being Heyhouses, some two miles inland from where St Annes-on-Sea now stands. Seafield was a large Victorian bay windowed red brick house overlooking the sea with stables and coach house at the rear. It is now (1952) used as a private hotel and can be found midway between South Pier and Manchester Square.*

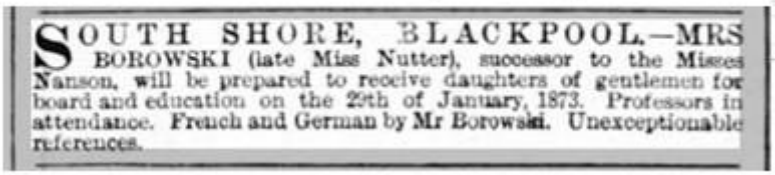
*In 1876 when the Meredith's moved to South Shore, there were no theatres, picture places or Concert Halls, probably the only public entertainment being that held at the church School Room. All forms of entertainment had to be self-made, a fact that must have had a great influence on the high degree of efficiency the family attained with their music, art, needlework, prose and riding.*

(Editor's Comment: Several Blackpool local historians, have advised that "Both Blackpool North and central Stations were operating and busy by 1876. North Station, then called Talbot Road station, had been open for 30 years already and the town in 1876, when the Merediths moved there, was nothing like the hamlet described in Charles Roberts story".)

*The Meredith family were extremely musical, Charles Meredith subscribed to nearly all the large Manchester concerts to which he was a regular attender while living outside Manchester, and during his lifetime collected a large library of music and many musical instruments, as can been seen from the particulars of the two days sale of his music on his death, a copy of which is in the possession of the writer. All the daughters could play the piano, some two or more instruments, the family quartet being a great joy to themselves and invitations to their musical evenings were sought after greatly by their friends and music lovers in the district, amongst whom were the MYERS family, who were famous in the musical world at that time and enjoyed many successful sessions at the AEOLIAN Hall, London, and the Free Trade Hall, Manchester. Ada was a most accomplished pianist, while Emily sang solos, took the lead in choral songs, or accompanied her Father's songs.*

*Little is known of Emily's early education at Withington, it being more than probably that as Charles Meredith's family was large, there was a family tutor or governess. On moving to South Shore, Emily and her sisters attended a School for Young ladies under the headmastership of HERR BOROWSKI.*

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer *02 January 1873*


SOUTH SHORE, BLACKPOOL.—MRS BOROWSKI (late Miss Nutter), successor to the Misses Nanson, will be prepared to receive daughters of gentlemen for board and education on the 29th of January, 1873. Professors in attendance. French and German by Mr Borowski. Unexceptionable references.

*Emily had not attended Herr Borowski's School very long before it became apparent that she had a great gift for Art, her Drawings and Paintings showing very early talent. This gift was probably inherited from the Stuttard side of the family. We do not know whether her mother had a leaning towards Art, but we do know her Great Aunt, Mrs Barraclough (nee Ann Stuttard) was very artistic. The writer has two pictures, one of sweet peas and convolvulus, and the other of Japanese Anaoonea, the accurate detail and colouring of which, leave no doubt as to the great skill of the Artist. The writer also has a book on East Lancashire*

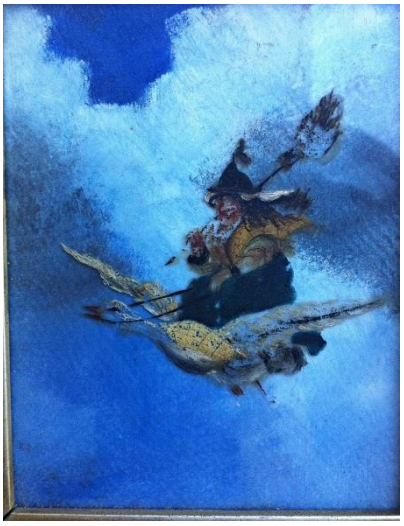
*Roses* (houses?) *and Family, written in her writing with ornamental headings and shields, the writing being flawless copy and the headings and shields showing great patience and artistic temperament. Emily's great aunt Ann Barraclough lived eighty years and no doubt she learned a lot from her when she stayed at her home "Oaklands', Barrowford. The writer also has in his possession an ornamental text drawn by her Great Great Uncle David Stuttard about 1790, which again shows great skill. Finally, the way in which Mr James Stuttard without any professional training, designed his own house "While Hills', preparing his own drawings, designing, and carving his own panelling and supervising the building of the house, leaves no doubt that the Stuttard Family had a natural bent towards Art.*

*Emily's youngest sister Ada, had been delicate from a child. On leaving School, Emily went many times with her mother, sister Ada, and a schoolgirl companion Miss Nellie Fish (Mrs. Jack Taylor) and Bertha Grundy, to Winter at Cannes on the French Riviera, here joining the Art Circle and having tuition under a French Professor of Art. Her skill in the use of the pencil and brush increased very rapidly, until she was recognised as one of the leading Artists in the Cannes and Fylde Art Circles.*

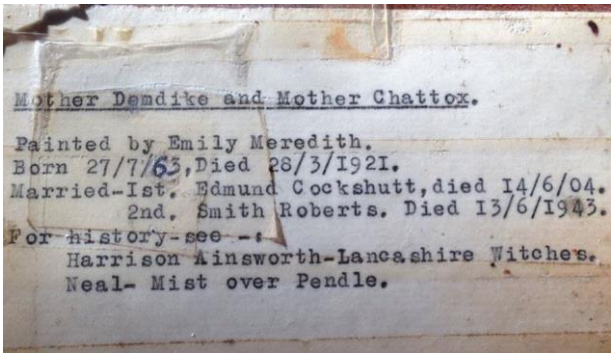
*Emily painted both is oil and water colours, the writer can only remember two oil paintings representing dancers, which used to hang in the hall of his home at Broomfield, Seafield Road, Lytham, but has an impression that there may also have been some country scenes. In his humble opinion, these paintings were executed with more than average skill, but did not quite reach the outstanding perfection of Emily's water colour pictures. However, it must have been the painting of views on canvas that did not appeal to Emily, as her other works, such as oil paintings on china, were of the very highest standard. Her dessert service (at present divided between the writer and his brother and sisters) consists of some fifty porcelain plates and fruit dishes with pale duck egg background, each plate and dish having a different flower painted upon it, the composition of the design, the accurate detail of the flowers, the varied and true to life colouring, all are perfect and bear no comparison, except perhaps, with the two flower pictures painted in water colour by Emily's great aunt, Mrs Barraclough, and now in the writer's possession. The style of the painting, composition and colouring being markedly similar. The writer also remembers a Mirror with finely painted flowers forming a border, but cannot recall where this is today.*

*Emily also introduced a novel method of combining oil and water colours in one picture. The best examples of this class of work, being studies of the two well-known Lancashire Witches, Mother Chattox and Mother Demdike, who are seen in flight crossing the wide open sky, the former mounted on a broomstick and the latter on a white goose. The sky was rendered in water colours on Wataman paper* (probable reference to Watman paper, a high quality paper used by professional artists.) *while the witches were painted in oils on the glass, the treatment giving the effect that the witches are quite near to you with the sky some distance away, the sky usually being rather turbulent, as according to superstition, thunder and lightning accompanied the witches on their evil flights. Emily was very fond of these little pictures, painting many of them for presents. Most members of the family and close friends have copies, they being particularly appreciated in the Pendle Forest district where superstition and witchcraft have died hard.*

*The writer can remember as a boy, watching his mother paint these pictures. The skies were painted without any drawings straight onto the paper, every sky being different, and work being performed without effort and in an incredibly short time, while the witches were painted in oils on the glass, again without any pencil work or copy.*



Editor: These two images are photographs of the original framed, oil-on-glass paintings in the editor's possession. The image below is a photograph of the caption on the back of one of the frames.



Mother Demdike and Mother Chattox.

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

*Emily was no mean artist with a pencil. Mrs Flack* (Editor's Note: a reference to the author, Charles Roberts' sister, Alice Flack, nee Cockshutt) *has a beautifully executive sketch of a bird flying along a small stream in a wood, the detail of the trees and refection in the stream speak for themselves.*

*Assuming that numbers count, it appears that Emily's favourite medium was water colour. She painted many English country scenes, but her best works were painted during her holidays in the South of France. Her paintings of the Cannes coast and island recesses around Grasse with mountain in the background and Turner skies are really first-class works of Art; her rendering of trees being particularly admired by the writer whilst her paintings of a clouds over a valley really gives one the feeling of rising noonday heat.*

*Emily was a natural artist, but there is no doubt that the lessons she received at home and whilst in France gave her excellent style and polish. No untrained artists however gifted could have reached her standard of work. At the time Emily lived no Lady was allowed to commercialise her Art and were not even encouraged to submit paintings for the Royal Academy, but if Emily lived today, there is no doubt her Art would have made her a very good living and many of her paintings and drawings would have been accepted by the Royal Academy.*

*The Merediths kept their own coach and horses at South Short together with a stable of hacks. The whole family rode the horses, this not being surprising as there was really no other means of transport in those days. The writer can remember his mother telling him when a boy, about the various horses they kept and how they used to ride to Mrs. Mallings*

*at Squire Gate to collect shrimps or persuade the accompanying Groom to ride up to the 'Gyn' to distantly watch people enjoying themselves at the small fairground that was held there at certain seasons of the year and wishing that etiquette would allow young ladies to join in the fun; also of trips in the family coach and four to see their friends the Thongs who lived at Lytham Hall for a number of years. The writer also recalls a story told by his sister Mrs Proctor,* (Editor's Note: probably a reference to Margaret May Proctor, nee Cockshutt) *who having moved from industrial Burnley to live in the country near Chard in Somerset, duly purchased a horse and learned to ride. Sometime later she met her Aunt Carrie (Mrs. Hilton), Emily's sister,* (Editor's Note: probably a reference to Caroline Hilton, nee Cockshutt, her half-sister.) *and told her about buying the horse and the ease with which she learned to ride. Mrs Hilton straightened herself to her full height and said, "Margaret, all the Merediths can ride !!"*

*Emily's father, Charles Meredith, was a law stationer in Manchester and probably through his profession became a great reader and writer of prose. His letters to his wife and to Emily were master pieces of English, written in true copperplate writing using an immense vocabulary of words. Emily followed in her father's footsteps, her notes on old Lancashire Families and their homes and her diary written a few years before her death are written in beautiful copperplate, while her description of places leave no doubt of her thorough education and mastery of the English language.*

*Emily had no great interest in sport apart from riding, although she played a passable game of tennis and skated, and probably for the sake of domestic harmony used to watch the cricket matches at Nelson; in the latter connection, an amusing story is told of Emily and her second husband, Smith Roberts, watching a match were after sometime Emily, coming back to earth after her thoughts had been far away from cricket, suddenly hears the umpire shout 'Over' and turned to her husband saying, 'Be quick Smith, let's get away before the crowd'.*

*The Merediths were great disciples of etiquette. The writer can remember his mother describing how she and her sisters had to lie flat on the floor for half an hour each day to straighten their backs, and how they were taught to sit and walk properly. This may sound ridiculous today, but there is no doubt that all the Merediths were straight shouldered, had a fine carriage, always sat upright in a chair and were never seen to cross their legs in public. Emily's home life and education made her a natural conversationalist and whatever the company she had the happy gift of making her guests feel 'at-home'. Her charm and wide knowledge of conversational subjects made her a welcomed guest wherever she went. Emily also had a habit of quite unintentionally asking remarks that could be taken in two ways, when visiting the butcher at Nelson, she would say "Good morning Mr. Varley, I'd like a little of your rump to-day", or "How's your pickle this week?".*

*In 1889* (Editor's Note: probably meant to be 1887) *Emily met Edmund Cockshutt, son of her father's friend Joshua Cockshutt, Cotton Spinner of Preston, Lancashire. Edmund Cockshutt often visited the Merediths for their musical evenings. He had a well-trained baritone voice and soon the duets between Edmund and Emily became one of the features of the entertainment. The friendship soon ripened to love, their respective parents at first objecting to a marriage as the Merediths were staunch supporters of the Church of England, while the Cockshutts were an old Roman Catholic Family. However, their obvious love for one another outweighed their parents' prejudices and in 1889* (Editor's note: The marriage is recorded as taking place on 16th August 1888) *they were married at St Cuthbert's Church,*

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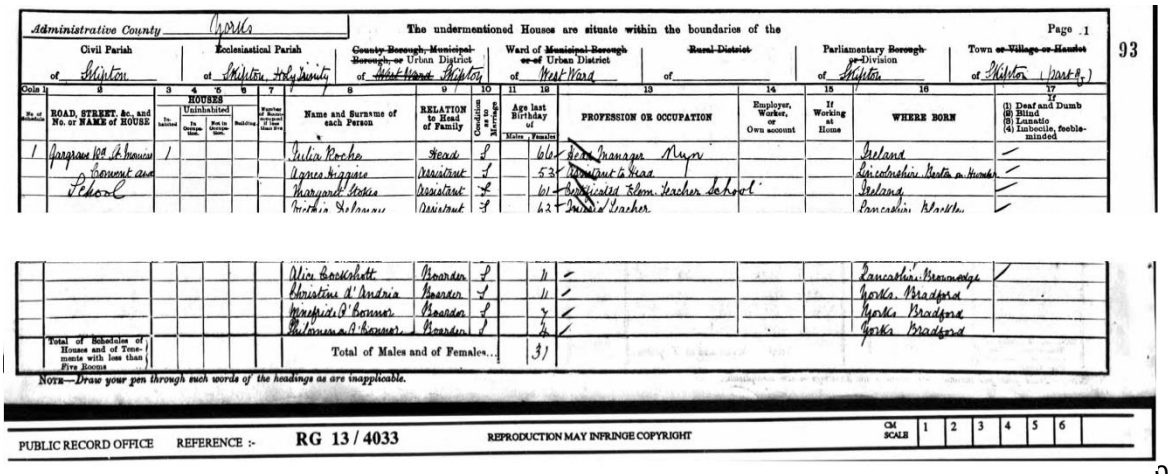
**MARRIAGES registered in July, August, and September 1888.**

MEREDITH,
— Emily ..... Fylde 8 e. 1119

Extract from the Births Death and Marriages Index for the Sep. Qtr. 1888.

*South Shore, and took up residence at "The Cottage" BROWNEDGE, BAMBER BRIDGE, near Preston, where three children were born, Alice (Mrs. Flack) on the 13th June 1889, Margaret Mary (Mrs. Proctor) on the 31st May 1891, Edmund Meredith on the 7th December 1893.*

(Editor's Note: The following extract from the 1901 Census shows Emily's oldest daughter, Alice Cockshutt, aged 11, a Boarder at St Monica's Convent School, Skipton on Census day, Sunday, 31st March 1901.



Administrative County Yorks — The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the — Page 1 — 93

Civil Parish of Skipton — Ecclesiastical Parish of Skipton, Holy Trinity — ~~County Borough, Municipal Borough, or~~ Urban District of ~~West Ward~~ Skipton — Ward of ~~Municipal Borough or~~ Urban District of West Ward — ~~Rural District~~ of — Parliamentary ~~Borough or~~ Division of Skipton — Town ~~or Village or Hamlet~~ of Skipton (Part 8)

| Cols 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of Schedule | ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE | HOUSES Uninhabited | Uninhabited | Uninhabited | Building | Number of Rooms | Name and Surname of each Person | RELATION to Head of Family | Condition as to Marriage | Age last Birthday of Males | Age last Birthday of Females | PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION | Employer, Worker, or Own account | If Working at Home | WHERE BORN | If (1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded |
| 1 | Gargrave Rd St Monica's Convent and School | 1 | | | | | Julia Roche | Head | S | | 66 | Head Manager Nun | | | Ireland | — |
| | | | | | | | Agnes Higgins | Assistant | S | | 53 | Assistant to Head | | | Lincolnshire Boston on Humber | — |
| | | | | | | | Margaret Stokes | Assistant | S | | 61 | Certificated Elem. Teacher School | | | Ireland | — |
| | | | | | | | Dorothia Delaney | Assistant | S | | 63 | Dressed Teacher | | | Lancashire Blackley | — |
| | | | | | | | Alice Cockshutt | Boarder | S | | 11 | — | | | Lancashire Brownedge | — |
| | | | | | | | Christine d'Andria | Boarder | S | | 11 | — | | | Yorks Bradford | |
| | | | | | | | Winefrid O'Connor | Boarder | S | | 7 | — | | | Yorks Bradford | |
| | | | | | | | Philomena O'Connor | Boarder | S | | 4 | — | | | Yorks Bradford | |
| | Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms | | | | | | Total of Males and of Females... | | | | 31 | | | | | |

NOTE—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

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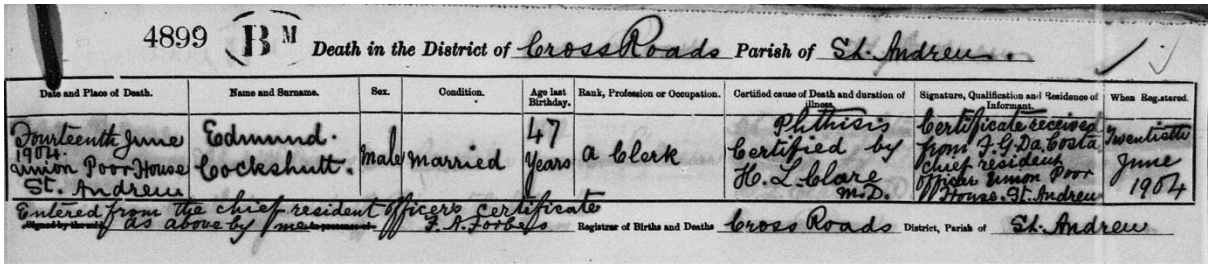
Edmund Meredith Cockshutt, Alice Cockshutt's younger brother, is listed in the 1901 Census as a student aged 7, at Ampleforth College, Ampleforth, Yorkshire, England.)

*Edmund Cockshutt practiced as a Solicitor at Bamber Bridge, his father's business having failed in 1889, the family moved in 1894 to "Avondale", Barkerhouse Road, Nelson. Edmund Cockshutt's health began to fail and in 1901 he decided to visit Jamaica with a view to taking up an appointment there and later establishing a home for his wife and children. Unfortunately, as a result of an accident he was taken ill and died on the 14th June 1904.*

*Before leaving for Jamaica, Edmund Cockshutt asked two of his friends, Samuel Davies, a Solicitor of Nelson, and Smith Roberts, Bank Cashier, son of William Roberts Iron Founder, to act as guardian to the children during his absence.*

(Editor's Note. My father, Dr Henry Edmund Douglas Flack, Emily Roberts' grandson, told a very different version of the story of Edmund Cockshutt's departure to the West Indies. It was said that Edmund Cockshutt had behaved very badly and had embarrassed the family to such an extent that he had been given a cash sum by other members of the family and told to leave the country. There is some evidence that this "behaviour" may have involved drunkenness and gambling and linked in some way to his father's business failing with several contemporary newspaper notices referring to bankruptcy and sales of property.

Edmund Cockshutt's death in Jamaica is recorded as follows:



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

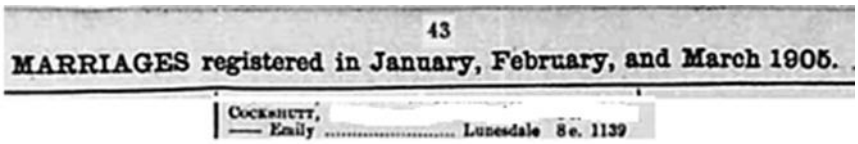
| Date and Place of Death. | Name and Surname. | Sex. | Condition. | Age last Birthday. | Rank, Profession or Occupation. | Certified cause of Death and duration of illness. | Signature, Qualification and Residence of Informant. | When Registered. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fourteenth 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 F. G. Da Costa Chief resident Officer Union Poor House. St. Andrew | Twentieth June 1904 |

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

It will be noted that the death certificate indicates that Edmund Cockshutt died in the Union Poor House at St Andrews, Jamaica on 14 June 1904 and that the cause of death is recorded as "phthisis", a form of tuberculosis, usually contracted by living in crowded accommodation with other infected persons. The circumstances of his departure from England and death suggest that there may be some truth in the story.)

*The Roberts were a large family of ten sons and three daughters and lived at "Netherfield", a farm lower down Barkerhouse Road and nearer to Nelson than Avondale. Emily spent a lot of her time at this house. A great comradeship developed with the family and in 1905 Emily married Smith Roberts, the eight son, the wedding, a very quiet one, was held at the Parish Church, Hornby, in Westmorland. Emily, her sister Caroline (Mrs Eaton), her son Edmund Meredith and her uncle Thomas Stuttard, Cotton Manufacturer of SWINTON, staying the night before the wedding at the County Hotel, Lancaster, driving by horse carriage to Hornby on the day of the wedding where they were met by Smith Roberts, Samuel Davies, Solicitor of Nelson, and Edwin Shaw, Tobacconist of Nelson, the church register being signed by Caroline Eaton, Edwin Shaw, Samuel Davies and Thomas Stuttard.*

*The wedding breakfast was held at the Castle hotel, Hornby, after which the wedding party drove by horse drawn waggonette to Kirby Lonsdale.*


43

MARRIAGES registered in January, February, and March 1905.

COCKSHUTT, —— Emily ..... Lunesdale 8e. 1139

Extract from the Births Death and Marriages Index for the Mar. Qtr. 1905.

**Smith Roberts**

Burnley Express - Saturday 25 February 1905

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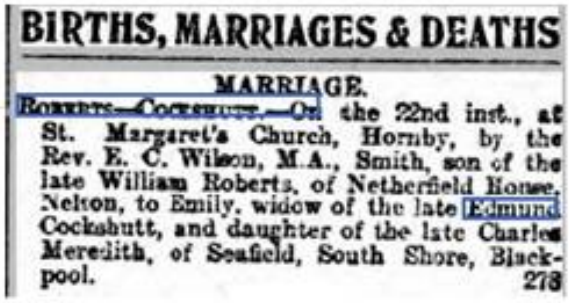

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

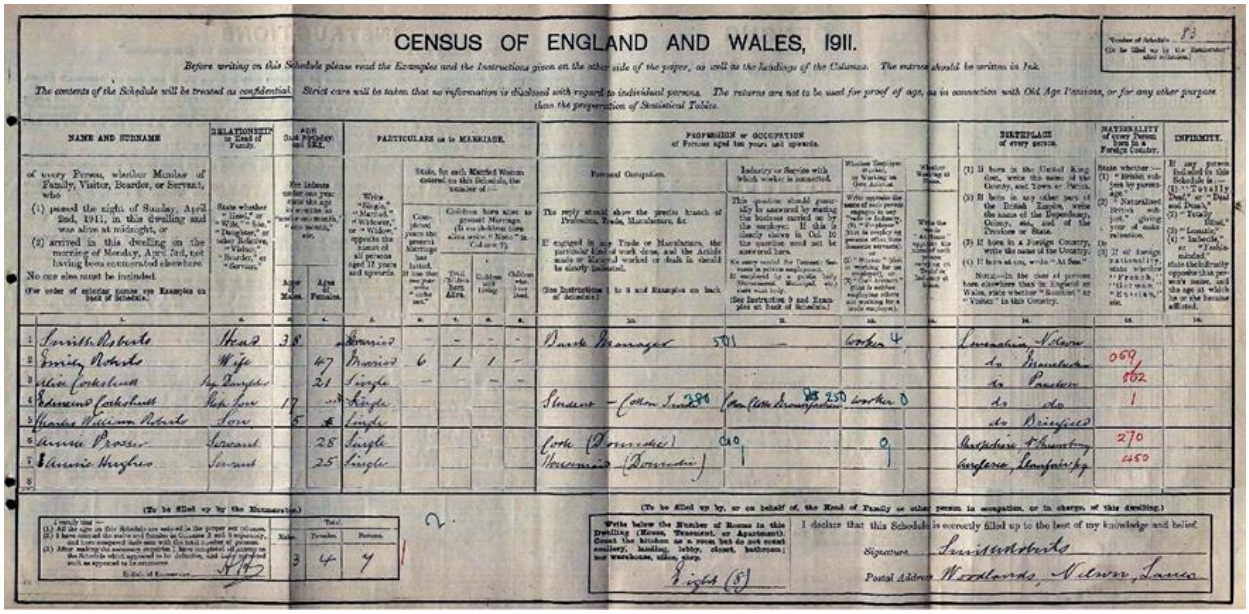
MARRIAGE.

ROBERTS—COCKSHUTT.—On the 22nd inst., at St. Margaret's Church, Hornby, by the Rev. E. C. Wilson, M.A., Smith, son of the late William Roberts, of Netherfield House, Nelson, to Emily, widow of the late Edmund Cockshutt, and daughter of the late Charles Meredith, of Seafield, South Shore, Blackpool. 278

*Emily and Smith Roberts took up residence at Highfield House, Victoria Avenue, Brierfield, Lancashire, where a son Charles William was born on the 23rd December 1905. The three children of the first marriage soon came to love and respect their new father.*

*In 1907 Smith Roberts was promoted to Chief Cashier at the Manchester and County Bank, Nelson, the family removed from Brierfield and took up residence at "Woodlands", Hendon Road, Nelson. The house being leased to them by Mr Walter Fletcher and later by Mr. Manoknowles Walton. The house, built in stone, was semi-detached, had large rooms and stood in about four acres of land with ornamental gardens, lawns and spinney. At that time "Woodlands" was in the country, but very rapid development has since taken place, houses being built on three sides and cotton mills in the valley at Hendon.*

Photograph of Smith and Emily Roberts, taken on their wedding day 22nd February 1905.



CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

*Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.*

*The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.*

| | NAME AND SURNAME | RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family | AGE Last Birthday and SEX | | PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE | | | | | PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards | | | | BIRTHPLACE of every person | NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country | INFIRMITY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.) | State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant." | Age of Males | Age of Females | Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the name of all persons aged 15 years and upwards. | State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of: Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. | Children born alive to present Marriage (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7). Total Children born Alive. | Children still living. | Children who have died. | Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.) | Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. | Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer). | Whether Working at Home. Write the name of "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at Home. | (1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Scotland" or "Visitor" in this Country. | State whether — (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc. | If any person included in this Schedule is — (1) "Totally Deaf" or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted. |
| 1 | Smith Roberts | Head | 38 | | Married | | | | | Bank Manager | 501 | | Worker 4 | Lancashire, Nelson | | |
| 2 | Emily Roberts | Wife | | 47 | Married | 6 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | do Manchester | 069 | |
| 3 | Alice Cockshutt | Sep. Daughter | | 21 | Single | | | | | | | | | do Preston | 862 | |
| 4 | Edmund Cockshutt | Sep. Son | 17 | | Single | | | | | Student — Cotton Trade | 380 | Cotton Cloth Manufacture | 250 Worker 0 | do do | 1 | |
| 5 | Charles William Roberts | Son | 5 | | Single | | | | | | | | | do Brinfield | | |
| 6 | Annie Prosser | Servant | | 28 | Single | | | | | Cook (Domestic) | 0 | | 0 | Cheshire, Frumbury | 270 | |
| 7 | Annie Hughes | Servant | | 25 | Single | | | | | Housemaid (Domestic) | | | | Anglesea, Llanfairpg | 450 | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that — (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper set columns. (2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons. (3) After making the necessary exception I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have supplied such as appeared to be omissions.

Initials of Enumerator: N.H.

| Total | Male | Female | Persons |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | 4 | 7 |

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

Eight (8)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Smith Roberts

Postal Address: Woodlands, Nelson, Lancs

*Emily's children*

*Alice Mary Flack nee Cockshutt*

*Margaret May Proctor nee Cockshutt*

*Edmund Meredith Cockshutt*

*Charles William Roberts*

*In 1913 Emily's daughter Margaret May became engaged to Henry Manoknowles Walton, a rich Cotton Manufacturer and a man of property, incidentally the owner of "Woodlands", but the engagement was broken off in 1914.*

*Later in 1913, Emily's daughter Alice became engaged to Dr Henry Frederick Flack, a well-known local Doctor and sports enthusiast, son of Mr Flack, Manager of the Manchester and Country Bank, Nelson (Editor's Note: this is a reference to William Henry Douglas Flack, (1852-1936)). The wedding which was well attended, took place on the 21st January 1914, at St Mary's Church, Nelson, the Revd. Lisle officiating, the reception being held at "Woodlands" where the cook, Annie Prosser, prepared many appetising dishes, which were*

*greatly appreciated by the guests. On their return from their honeymoon, Mr. & Mrs. Flack took up residence at 54, Railway Street, Nelson.*

*On the 11th December, 1915, Emily's daughter May was married at Trinity Church, Southport, to Captain Frederick Proctor, Solicitor, son of John Proctor, Cotton manufacturer, of "Abbotsford" Wheatley Lane, Near Burnley. After the 1914-18 War taking up residence in Burnley.*

*Emily's health had not been good since Charles William was born, she had always been a bronchial subject and the attacks of this complaint gradually became more frequent and severe. It was decided to remove to Lytham in the hope that the sea air and more gentle climate would improve Emily's health, so in 1915 they surrendered the lease of "Woodlands" and went to live at "Broomfield", Seafield Road, Lytham, Lancashire,; this was a Victorian brick built terrace house, just off the sea front with a fine view of the sea and school playing fields in front of it. By this time, Smith Roberts had been promoted to Manager of the Manchester and County Bank at Nelson and used to travel by train to Nelson and back each day.*

*In 1918 Emily's son Edmund Meredith Cockshutt returned from the War and became engaged to Winefreda Joyce Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Evans of 14, Argyle Road, Hesketh Park, Southport. The wedding taking place at Holy Trinity Church, Southport on the 1st July 1925, the reception being held at the Victoria Hotel, Southport and the newlyweds taking up residence in Southport.*

*Emily's health did not improve at Lytham and soon after going to live there she had trouble with her feet. Sir Herbert Barker diagnosed the complaint as creeping paralysis. His diagnosis proved correct and Emily lost the use of her legs and the disease gradually spread over her body until she could only sit in a chair and had to be wheeled about the house in a wheelchair and taken outside in a bath chair. Emily bore her illness bravely and although almost totally paralysed and ridden with bronchitis her wonderful temperament never failed her. She did not know self-pity, being more concerned at the trouble she caused either through her helplessness and inability to carry on with her accustomed household jobs. Emily's chief joy in life was looking forward to her husband's return from Nelson each evening and talking over the events of the day, her husband being most patient and consideration and keeping her constant company when not at work.*

*Emily passed away peacefully on the 28th March, 1921, and was buried at St. Cuthbert's Church, Lythan, a sad ending for one who saw always the best side of everyone she knew, who loved the beauty to be found in nature and the simple things in life.*

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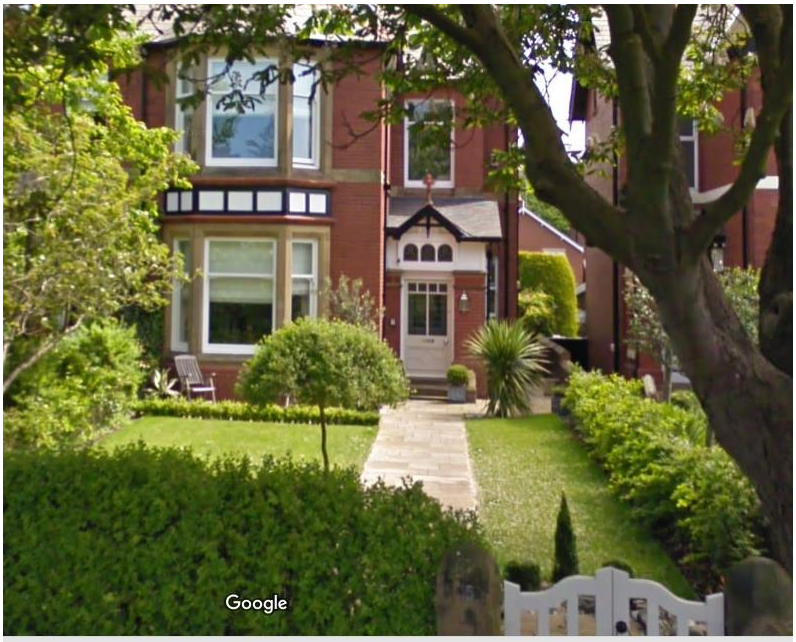
DEATHS REGISTERED IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 1921.

| | Age. | District. | Vol. | Page. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roberts. — Emily | 57 | Fylde | 8 e | 784 |

Extract from the Births Death and Marriages Index for the Mar. Qtr. 1921.




Probably the modern site of the address “Broomfield”, Seafield Road, Lytham, Lancashire.

The corner of Barkerhouse Road and Netherfield Road,
the site of Netherfields House, Nelson. Note the nearby
road is named “Roberts Street”.

# Family Group Record for Emily Roberts, formerly Cockshutt, nee Meredith - 3



| Husband | Edmund Cockshutt | | | LDS Ordinance Data |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Born | Abt 1862 | Preston, Lancashire, England | B | |
| Christened | | | C | |
| Died | 14 Jun 1904 | Saint Andrews, Jamaica | I | |
| Buried | | | E | |
| General | Worked in his father's Iron Foundry in Preston. Later said to have worked as a law clerk. Said to have died in the West Indies in 1905 from alcohol related illness. | | | |
| Father | Joshua Cockshutt "Last of the Cotton Spinners" (1840-1916) | | SP | |
| Mother | Margaret Mary Hayes (1842-1909) | | | |
| Marriage | 16 Aug 1888 | Fylde, Lancashire, England | SS | |

| Wife | Emily Meredith | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Born | 27 Jul 1863 | Manchester, Lancashire, Endland | B | |
| Christened | | | C | |
| Died | 28 Mar 1921 | | I | |
| Buried | | | E | |
| Father | Charles Meredith (1807-1884) | Mother: Alice Stuttard (1832- ) | SP | |
| Other Spouse | Smith Roberts (1872-1943) | 22 February1905 - St Margaret's Church, Hornby, Lancashire, England | | |
| | | | SS | |

## Children

| 1 | F | Alice Mary Cockshutt | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Born | | 13 Jun 1890 | Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, England | B |
| Christened | | | | C |
| Died | | 8 Jul 1955 | Southport, Lancashire, England | I |
| Buried | | | | E |
| | | | | SP |
| Spouse | | Dr Frederick Henry Douglas "Harry" Flack (1878-1961) | 22 Jan 1914 - Nelson, Lancashire | |
| | | | | SS |

| 2 | F | Margaret May Cockshutt | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Born | | June Qtr 1891 | Preston, Lancashire, England | B |
| Christened | | | | C |
| Died | | March Qtr 1963 | Liverpool North | I |
| Buried | | | | E |
| | | | | SP |
| Spouse | | Frederick Proctor (Cir 1890-1966) | 11 Dec 1915 - Christ Church, Ormskirk, Lancashire | |
| | | | | SS |

| 3 | M | Edmund Meredith Cockshutt | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Born | | 7 Dec 1893 | Preston, Lancashire, England | B |
| Christened | | 9 Dec 1893 | Brownedge St Mary, Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, England | C |
| Died | | 10 Jul 1964 | Exeter, Devon | I |
| Buried | | | | E |
| | | | | SP |
| Spouse | | Winifred Joyce Evans (1895-1966) | 1 Jul 1925 - Ormskirk, Lancashire, England | |
| | | | | SS |