The Cockshutt - Leyland Connection

Our South African Cockshutt cousins

By Dr “Ted” E.D.H. Flack, PhD, JP (Qual)

Early 1930s Leyland Bus in Pretoria, South Africa

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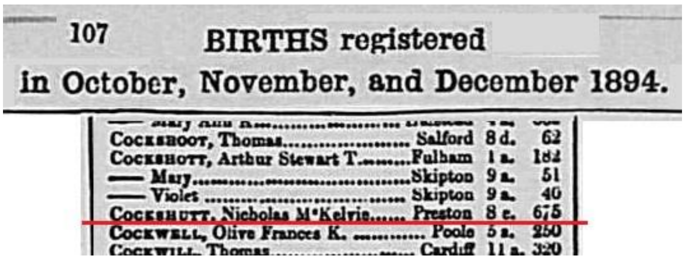
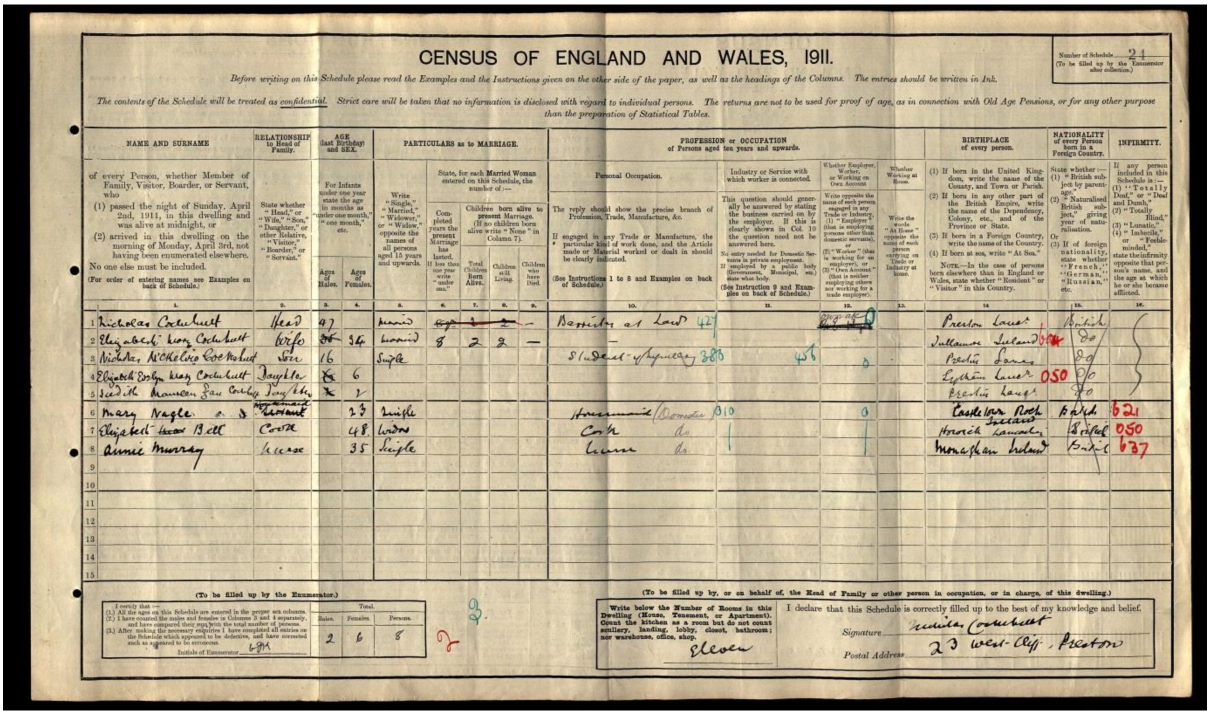
The South African Cockshutts - Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt

Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt was born 1 November 1894 at Preston, Lancashire, England, the son of Nicholas (1863-1938) and Mary Alice Cockshutt nee Witham (1865-circa 1900). His mother Mary Alice had died in about 1900 and he was brought up by his step-mother, Elizabeth Mary Egan (known as "Bess", 1876-1947).


107 BIRTHS registered in October, November, and December 1894.

Cockshoot, Thomas	Salford	8 d.	62
Cockshott, Arthur Stewart T.	Fulham	1 a.	182
— Mary	Skipton	9 a.	51
— Violet	Skipton	9 a.	40
Cockshutt, Nicholas M'Kelvie	Preston	8 e.	675
Cockwell, Olive Frances K.	Poole	5 a.	250
Cockwill, Thomas	Cardiff	11 a.	320

His family lived in Preston at 23 West Cliff Road and in Lytham.

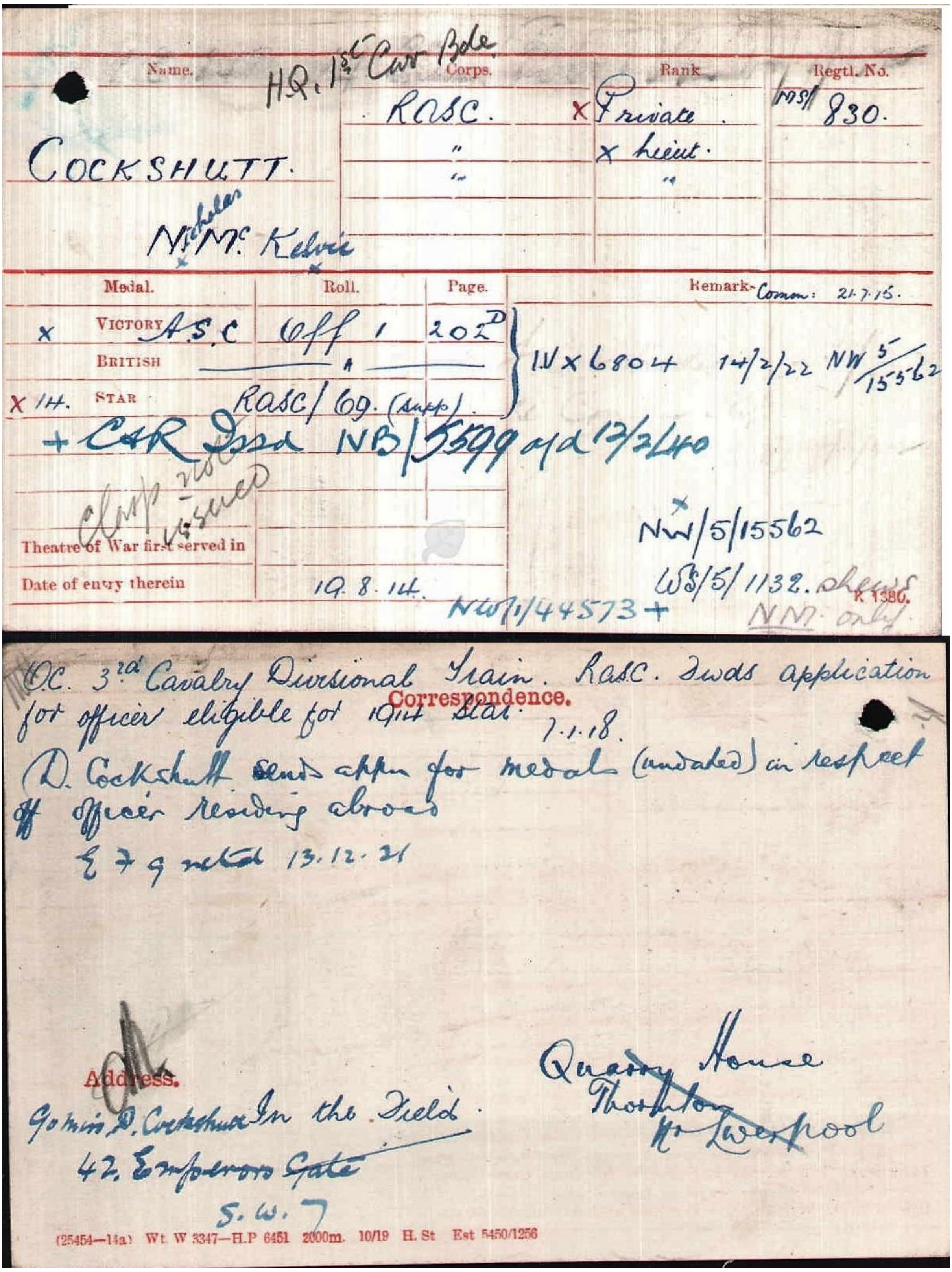

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

	Name and Surname	Relationship to Head of Family	Age Males	Age Females	Marriage	Years married	Children born alive	Children still living	Children died	Personal Occupation	Birthplace	Nationality
1	Nicholas Cockshutt	Head	47		Married					Barrister at Law	Preston Lancs	British
2	Elizabeth Mary Cockshutt	Wife		34	Married	8	2	2	—	—	Tullamore Ireland	Do
3	Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt	Son	16		Single					Student of Engineering	Preston Lancs	Do
4	Elizabeth Evelyn Mary Cockshutt	Daughter		6							Lytham Lancs	Do
5	Judith Maureen Jan Cockshutt	Daughter		2							Preston Lancs	Do
6	Mary Nagle	Housemaid Servant		23	Single					Housemaid (Domestic)	Castletown Roche Ireland	British
7	Elizabeth Bell	Cook		48	Widow					Cook do	Horwich Lancashire	British
8	Annie Murray	Nurse		35	Single					Nurse do	Monaghan Ireland	British

Total: Males 2, Females 6, Persons 8. Number of Rooms: eleven. Signature: Nicholas Cockshutt. Postal Address: 23 West Cliff, Preston. Number of Schedule: 24.

He attended Stonyhurst College and was subsequently apprenticed as a Motor Engineer with Leyland Motors near Preston.

Upon the outbreak of World War 1, Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps as a Private soldier, but shortly after enlistment was Commissioned Temporary Lieutenant into the 1st Cavalry Bde, later to be appointed Officer Commanding 3rd Cavalry Division Train and served on active duty in France. He was discharged from full-time service in 1920, but remained on the Reserve List of Officer until December 1921. He was awarded the 1914 Star and the Victory Medals.


Name. HQ, 1st Cav Bde
Corps. RASC. " "
Rank. x Private. x Lieut. "
Regtl. No. MS/ 830.
COCKSHUTT.
Nicholas McKelvie
Medal. Roll. Page. Remarks Comm: 21.7.15.
x VICTORY A.S.C Off 1 202D
BRITISH
x 14. STAR RASC/69. (Supp)
IW x 6804 14/2/22 NW/5/15562
+ C&R Issd NB/5599 a/d 13/3/40
Clasp not issued
NW/5/15562
Theatre of War first served in
Date of entry therein 19.8.14.
WS/5/1132. shews NM only
NW/1/44573+
Correspondence.
OC. 3rd Cavalry Divisional Train. RASC. fwds application for officer eligible for 1914 Star. 7.1.18.
D. Cockshutt sends appn for medals (undated) in respect of officer residing abroad
E 7 9 retd 13.12.21
Address.
c/o Mrs D. Cockshutt In the Field.
42. Emperors Gate
S.W.7
Quarry House
Thornton
Nr Liverpool
(25454—14a) Wt. W 3347—H.P 6451 2000m. 10/19 H. St Est 5450/1256

In 1920 he travelled to South Africa as a junior manager with Leyland Motors to help establish the company’s business in South Africa.

On 7 March 1921, shortly after his arrival in South Africa, he married Violet Avis Attwell, nee Spendlove, a divorcee of 28 years at Sea Point, near Durban, South Africa.

She had two sons, Grahame Hugh Attwell (1914-1955?) and John Raymond Attwell (1918-2003) who were brought up with their step-father's surname – Cockshutt. Graham Hugh Attwell, known as Cockshutt, was baptised at St George Cathedral, Cape Town in the presence of his father, Edward Hugh Attwell and his grandmother Mary Attwell on 22 February 1915.

Name:	Grahame Hugh Attwell
Baptism Age:	0
Event Type:	Baptism
Birth Date:	27 Dec 1914
Baptism Date:	22 Feb 1915
Baptism Place:	South Africa
Father:	Edward Hugh Attwell
Mother:	Violet Avis
Church:	St. Georges Cathedral Cape Town
Officiant:	W. H. Herford
Witness 1:	Douglas Derby Brooks
Witness 2:	Henry Billington Flint
Witness 3:	Mary Attwell
Collection:	St. Georges Cathedral Cape Town Baptisms, 1849 - 1970

Source Citation
St. Georges Cathedral Cape Town Baptisms, 1849 - 1970; Page: 303; Entry: 9031; Repository: Anglican Church Archives, University of the Witwatersrand

It will be noted that John Raymond Attwell is said to have been born in Cape Town on 5 August 1918, one and a half years before Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt arrived in Cape Town from Southampton, in late March 1920, having embarked for South Africa on 8th March that year. No record of John Raymond's birth or baptism has been located in the records available on-line.

P.M.21.

Name of Ship "SAXON" *Date of Departure* 5th. March 19 20.

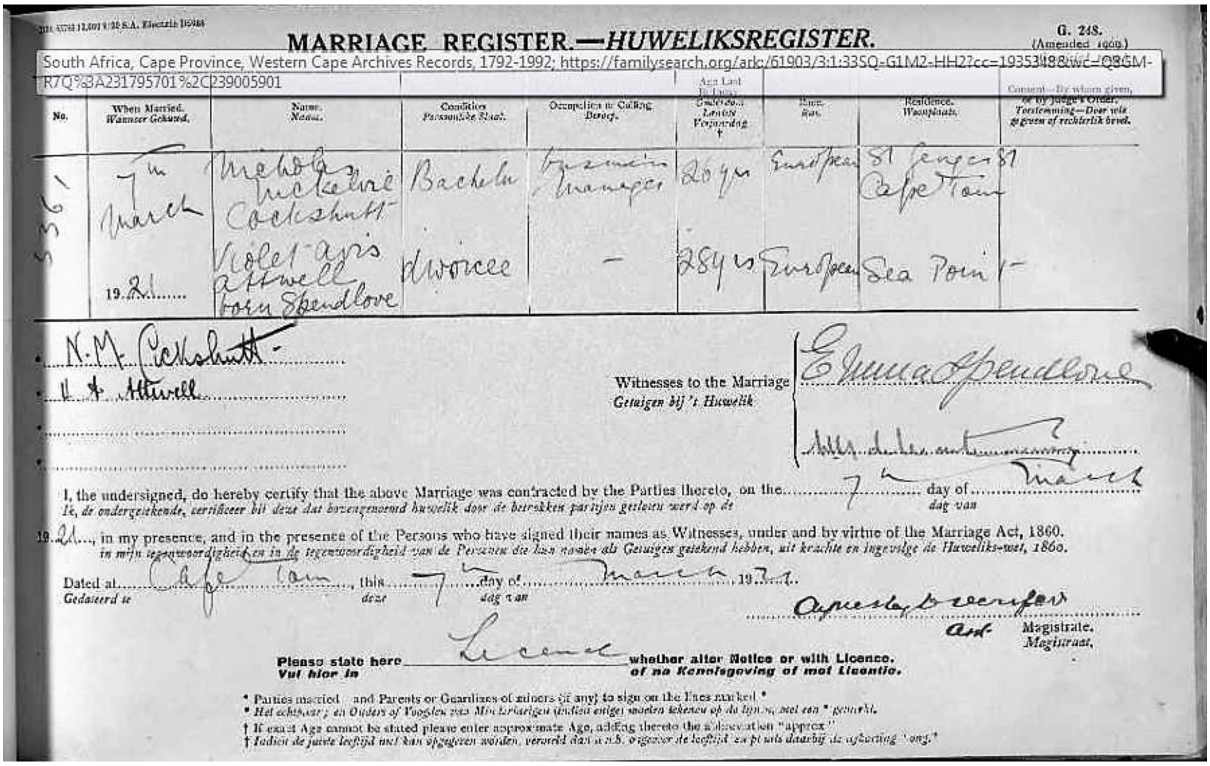
Steamship Line—The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Co., Ltd. *Where bound—South Africa.*

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF Southampton.

(1) Contract Ticket Number.	(2) Names of Passengers.	(3) Class.	(4) Port at which Passengers have contracted to land.	(5) Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers.	(6) Ages of Passengers.	(7) Country of last Permanent Residence. England	(8) Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence.
	FIRST CLASS.						
	Clift, MR. & Mrs. J. 2 Misses & Mast.		A. Bay	Engineer	42 48 14 10 3	5	"
	Cockshutt, Mr. N.		Capetown	"	25	1	"
	Cookson, Miss F.		"	Nil	23	1	England
	Cousins, Mr. G.		"	Civil Servant	37		
	Bedford, Mr. R.		Capetown	Manufactr.	32	1	England
	Bennett, Mr. S.		Mombasa	Civil Servant	30	1	E. Africa
	Broomfield, Mr. & Mrs. C.		Momb. & Natal.	"	29 25	2	"
	Bampfylde, Hon. F.W.		Mombasa	"	35	1	"
	Beit, Sir. O., Miss A.		Capetown	Director	54 20	3	England
	" Mr. A.		"	Nil	17	1	"
	Bower, Mr. P.		Natal	Farmer	21	1	S. Africa

Violet Avis Spendlove was born 1893 in Cape Town South Africa, daughter of George and Emma Spendlove. She had married Edward Hugh Attwell (1888-1950) in Cape Town, South Africa on an unknown date. Extensive searches of the available online records failed to find a record of Violet Avis Attwell's marriage or divorce from her husband, Edward Hugh Attwell (1888-1950) although it appears that they had ended their relationship by 1918.

It seems possible that Violet had met Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt either in England or in France during WW1 since she had returned to South Africa before the end of the war in May 1918, five or six months pregnant with John Raymond Attwell, known as Cockshutt, who was born on 5 August 1918.



MARRIAGE REGISTER.—*HUWELIKSREGISTER.* G. 248. (Amended 1909.)

South Africa, Cape Province, Western Cape Archives Records, 1792-1992; https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-G1M2-HH2?cc=1935348&wc=Q8GM-R7Q%3A231795701%2C239005901

No.	When Married. *Wanneer Getrouwd.*	Name. *Naam.*	Condition. *Persoonlijke Staat.*	Occupation or Calling. *Beroep.*	Age Last Birthday. *Ouderdom Laatste Verjaardag.*	Race. *Ras.*	Residence. *Woonplaats.*	Consent—By whom given, or by Judge's Order. *Toestemming—Door wie gegeven of rechterlijk bevel.*
165	7th March 1921	Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt	Bachelor	Business Manager	26 yrs	European	81 Longmarket St Cape Town	
		Violet Avis Attwell born Spendlove	divorcee	—	28 yrs	European	Sea Point	—

N. M. Cockshutt
V. A. Attwell

Witnesses to the Marriage *Getuigen bij 't Huwelik* Emma Spendlove [illegible]

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the above Marriage was contracted by the Parties thereto, on the 7th day of March 1921, in my presence, and in the presence of the Persons who have signed their names as Witnesses, under and by virtue of the Marriage Act, 1860.

Ik, de ondergeteekende, certificeer bij deze dat bovengenoemd huwelik door de betrokken partijen gesloten werd op de ... dag van ... in mijn tegenwoordigheid en in de tegenwoordigheid van de Personen die hun namen als Getuigen geteekend hebben, uit krachte en ingevolge de Huwelikswet, 1860.

Dated at Cape Town, this 7 day of March 1921. *Gedateerd te ... deze ... dag van ...*

[illegible] Magistrate. *Magistraat.*

Please state here whether after Notice or with Licence. *Vul hier in of na Kennisgeving of met Licentie.* Licence

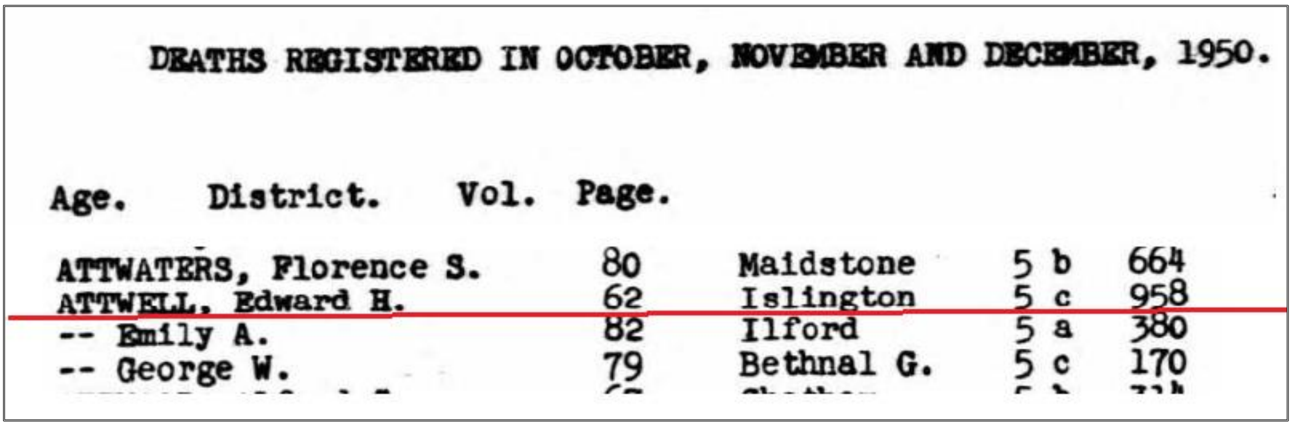
* Parties married and Parents or Guardians of minors (if any) to sign on the lines marked *

* *Het echtpaar en Ouders of Voogden van Minderjarigen (indien enige) moeten tekenen op de lijnen met een * gemerkt.*

† If exact Age cannot be stated please enter approximate Age, adding thereto the abbreviation "approx".

† *Indien de juiste leeftijd niet kan opgegeven worden, vermeld dan s.v.p. ongeveer de leeftijd en plaats daarbij de afkorting "ong."*

Violet's first husband, Edward Hugh Attwell (1888-1950) died in Islington, London on 13 November 1950.

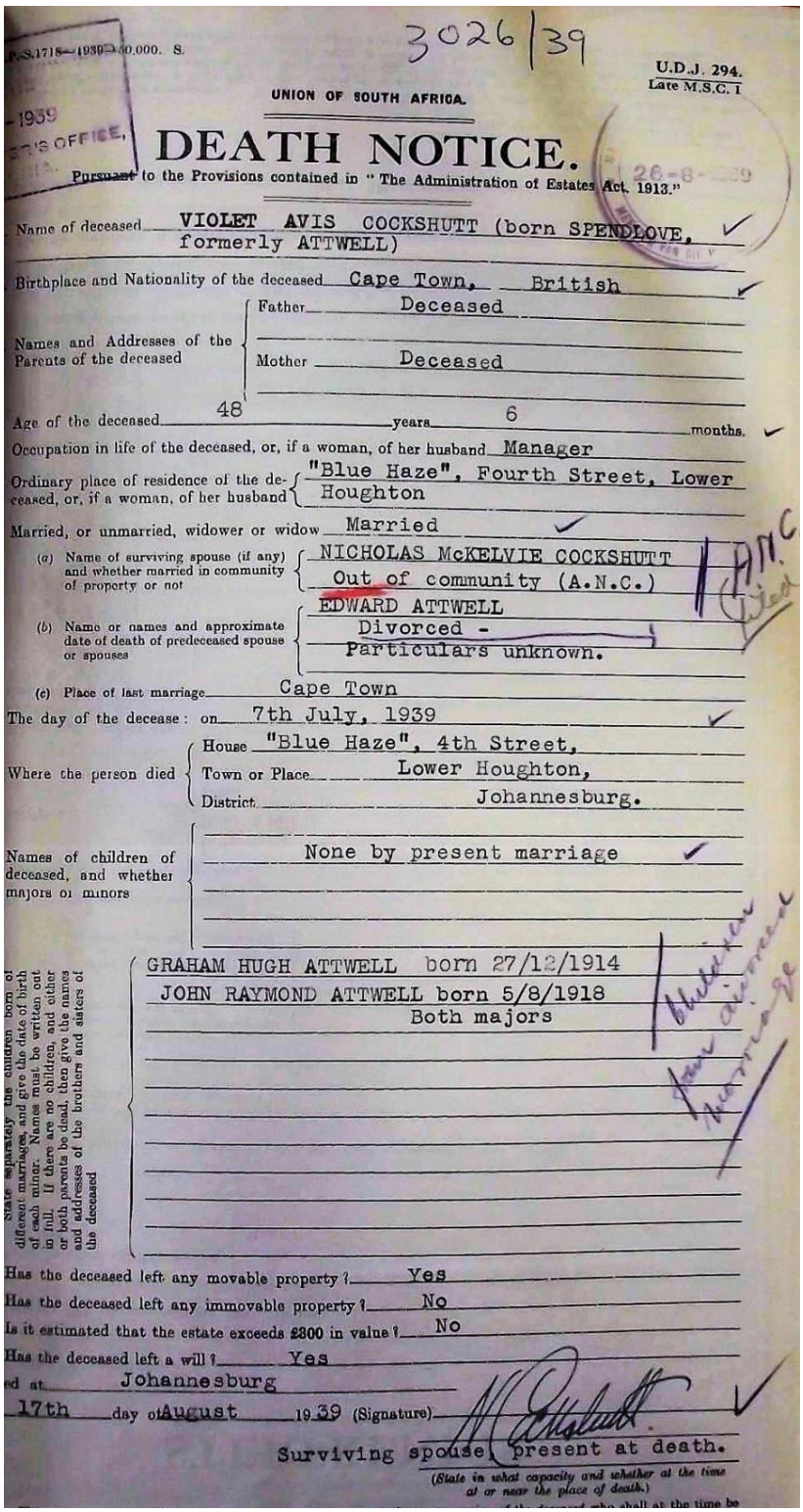


DEATHS REGISTERED IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 1950.

	Age.	District.	Vol.	Page.
ATTWATERS, Florence S.	80	Maidstone	5 b	664
ATTWELL, Edward H.	62	Islington	5 c	958
-- Emily A.	82	Ilford	5 a	380
-- George W.	79	Bethnal G.	5 c	170

British Passenger List records show that Nicholas Cockshutt, and his wife Mrs Violet A Cockshutt, travelled extensively between South Africa and England during the period 1925 to 1935.

Violet Avis Cockshutt died on 7 July 1939 in Johannesburg, South Africa, her death recorded in the Transvaal Estates Death Index Reference 3026/39.



3026/39

U.D.J. 294.
Late M.S.C. 1

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

DEATH NOTICE.

Pursuant to the Provisions contained in "The Administration of Estates Act, 1913."

Name of deceased VIOLET AVIS COCKSHUTT (born SPENDLOVE, formerly ATTWELL)

Birthplace and Nationality of the deceased Cape Town, British

Names and Addresses of the Parents of the deceased: Father Deceased; Mother Deceased

Age of the deceased 48 years 6 months.

Occupation in life of the deceased, or, if a woman, of her husband Manager

Ordinary place of residence of the deceased, or, if a woman, of her husband "Blue Haze", Fourth Street, Lower Houghton

Married, or unmarried, widower or widow Married

(a) Name of surviving spouse (if any) and whether married in community of property or not: NICHOLAS McKELVIE COCKSHUTT Out of community (A.N.C.)

(b) Name or names and approximate date of death of predeceased spouse or spouses: EDWARD ATTWELL Divorced - Particulars unknown.

(c) Place of last marriage Cape Town

The day of the decease: on 7th July, 1939

Where the person died: House "Blue Haze", 4th Street, Town or Place Lower Houghton, District Johannesburg.

Names of children of deceased, and whether majors or minors: None by present marriage

State separately the children born of different marriages, and give the date of birth of each minor. Names must be written out in full. If there are no children, and either or both parents be dead, then give the names and addresses of the brothers and sisters of the deceased: GRAHAM HUGH ATTWELL born 27/12/1914; JOHN RAYMOND ATTWELL born 5/8/1918; Both majors

Has the deceased left any movable property? Yes

Has the deceased left any immovable property? No

Is it estimated that the estate exceeds £800 in value? No

Has the deceased left a will? Yes

Signed at Johannesburg

17th day of August 1939 (Signature) N. Cockshutt

Surviving spouse present at death.

(State in what capacity and whether at the time at or near the place of death.)

In March 1944, Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt, aged 49, "Manager Leyland Motors", is recorded as having travelled alone aboard the "Empress of Scotland" from Durban, South Africa to Liverpool.

In November 1946, Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt is recorded in the South African Biological Index as resident at 12 Park Lane Mansions, Empire Road, Johannesburg. His interests are listed as Cape Town City and Country Club, the Rand Club, and his recreational interest as golf.

It will be noted that Violet Avis Cockshutt's death certificate lists Graham Hugh Attwell born 27 December 1914 and John Raymond Attwell, born 5 August 1918 as her children by her first marriage. It states that there were no children to her marriage to Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt. It also shows N Cockshutt as her surviving spouse present at her death.

The Nicholas Cockshutt (1863-1938) [her father-in-law] version of events is that Violet Avis Attwell had divorced her first husband, the father of Graham and John, and that following Violet's marriage to Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt on 7 March 1921, the two children to the first marriage, then aged 7 and 3, took the name of their step-father and were brought up as Cockshutts.

Since the records show that both Edward Hugh Attwell (1896-?) and his mother Mary Attwell were present at Graham Hugh's baptism in February 1915, it would appear most likely that Graham was indeed Edward and Violet's son.

Both Timothy Cockshutt (1950 -) and Nicholas Cockshutt (1948-), sons of John Raymond Attwell (1918-2003), Violet's grandsons, were also brought up as a Cockshutts although there seems to be some doubt in the family as to whether their father, John Raymond Cockshutt was the natural child of Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt.

Timothy Cockshutt, Violet's grandson tells the following version of events. He states:

> *"I am pretty certain that my father was not Edward Hugh Attwell's son,* [John Raymond Attwell (1918-2003)] *given the fact that Violet Avis and Edward separated early on in their marriage. (She discovered that she was accidentally given a fur coat from the fur store that was intended for his girlfriend (my mother* [Violet Avis Cockshutt] *was the source I believe, from my father)).*
>
> *Violet Avis ended up working at the Front as a nurse in the 1st World War. There was a story (from Violet Avis to my father) that Violet Avis and Edward* [Edward Hugh Attwell] *had met up and reconciled for one night on a boat to the Front. My father did not seem to believe the story but at least it kept him being legitimate with that story, and he did believe that Violet Avis had got involved with an "officer with a Lancashire Regiment" at the Front. My father never had an inkling that McKelvie could be his father.*
>
> *I have assumed that Violet Avis did not eventually divorce until after my father was born; presumably Violet Avis got pregnant and left the Front to return to*

Cape Town (or Johannesburg where my father was born). Presumable, Graham Hugh was looked after by someone (Violet Avis' mother or Mary Attwell, the mother-in-law) while Violet Avis was working at the Front). On her death bed, Violet Avis wanted to tell her something but my father refused to listen to her (source from my mother, certainly from my father). Obviously, there were millions of candidates to be my grandfather at the Front."

So it appears that there is some suggestion that during WW1 Violet had an affair while away from her husband and became pregnant to an un-named "officer of the Lancashire Regiment". It seems at least possible that that this officer was in fact Lt. Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt, or, it may simply be a coincidence that the Cockshutt family had a close association with the East Lancashire Regiment and several members of the family serving with that Regiment during WW1.

Preston, in Lancashire, where Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt and his family lived was the traditional recruiting area for the East Lancashire Regiment. Edmund Cockshutt, a cousin of Lt Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt, also served in the East Lancashire Regiment. It is not unreasonable to suggest that Nicholas McKelvie's service in the Royal Army service Corps would have been a part of the support services for the East Lancashires at the Front.

NELSON OFFICERS WOUNDED.

Mr. Smith Roberts, manager of the Manchester and County Bank, Nelson, who resides at Lytham, has received a telegram from the War Office intimating that his stepson, Capt. Edmund M. Cockshutt, of the East Lancashire Regt., has been wounded.

Second-Lieut. Frank Speak, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Speak, of Fountain-st., Nelson, has been admitted to hospital suffering from gunshot wounds. His brother, Pte. Roland Speak, Cheshire Regt., has been in a Birmingham hospital for two months, with an injured arm and shrapnel wounds in the leg.

Lt. Edmund Cockshutt of the East Lancashire Regiment

Timothy Cockshutt has made the following comments:

"The record of the boat from Cape Town to London[1] is particularly intriguing as it may be the exact time when Violet Avis separated from Edward Hugh, taking 2 year old Graham Hugh on her own when/after Edward Hugh scratched his

[1] The Passenger List dated 7 August 1916 for the passengers aboard "Balmoral Castle" lists Lt E.H. Attwell, aged 29, Army Officer and Mrs E and Master G.H. Attwell. However the name Lt E.H. Attwell, is crossed off the list, suggesting that he was booked but did not sail with his family.

trip. She must have left her son with relatives in England and then gone off to be a nurse in France. Then returning pregnant back to South Africa with Graham Hugh in time to give birth to John Raymond on August 5, 1918 in Johannesburg.

I am pretty certain that Mckelvie and Violet Avis lived together from their marriage until her death in Johannesburg (his signature on the Death Certificate). Mckelvie paid for both boys to go to boarding school in England. Every two years the boys returned to South Africa during English summer holidays and every other year Mckelvie and Violet Avis went to England to be with the boys in the summer holidays. So there should be boat trips they were all on between England and South Africa every year through to about 1936 when my father finished up at Cheltenham College and returned to South Africa to go to the University of Witwatersrand as a Mining Engineer. Mckelvie may have also travelled to England to visit British Leyland on regular basis — Mckelvie became the owner of the British Leyland distributor for South Africa very quickly during the early 20's and became very wealthy. He inherited £20,000 in the twenties and bought two Rolls Royces' — he thought he could have a luxury taxi service with the rollers (according to my father)."

An examination of a database of ship's Passenger Lists revealed that later Violet Avis Attwell or Cockshutt travelled regularly between England and South Africa in the the years 1916-1935.

Passenger records for the "Winchester Castle" departing Southampton for South Africa on 21 August 1952, list Mr N. McK. Cockshutt, aged 57 and a "Mrs. Cockshutt", aged 46. This confirms the family story indicating that Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt remarried after his first wife died. No record could be found of the marriage in the available on-line databases, however Nicholas's Death Notice records Jocelyn Mary Cockshutt as his widow.

Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt died in Johannesburg in 1956 (Transvaal Estates Death Index Ref: 4977/56)

The following trees explain the family relationship between Timothy Cockshutt and Nicholas McKelvie and Violet Cockshutt (based on the presumption that John Raymond Cockshutt was in fact the son).

DEATH NOTICE.

ANT TO THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN "THE ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT, 1913".

1. Name of deceased: NICHOLAS McKELVIE COCKSHUTT
2. Birthplace and nationality of the deceased: ENGLAND. UNION NATIONAL
3. Names and addresses of the parents of the deceased:
   - Father: DECEASED
   - Mother: DECEASED.
4. Age of the deceased: 61 years 7 MONTHS.
5. Occupation in life of the deceased, or, if a woman, of her husband: DIRECTOR (LEYLAND ALBION)
6. Ordinary place of residence of the deceased, or if a woman, of her husband: 20 PENHURST AVENUE Johannesburg ESSEXWOLD, BEDFORD VIEW, TRANSVAAL.
7. Married or unmarried, widower or widow: MARRIED, Now deceased
   - (a) Name of surviving spouse (if any) and whether married in community of property or not: JOCELYN MARY COCKSHUTT. OUT OF COMMUNITY
   - (b) Name or names and approximate date of death of predeceased spouse or spouses: VIOLET COCKSHUTT (died about June 1938)
   - (c) Place of last marriage: JOHANNESBURG.
8. The day of the decease: on 7TH JULY 1956.
9. Where the person died:
   - House: NORMON NURSING HOME
   - Town or place: JOHANNESBURG
   - District: JOHANNESBURG.
10. Names of children of deceased and whether majors or minors: NONE

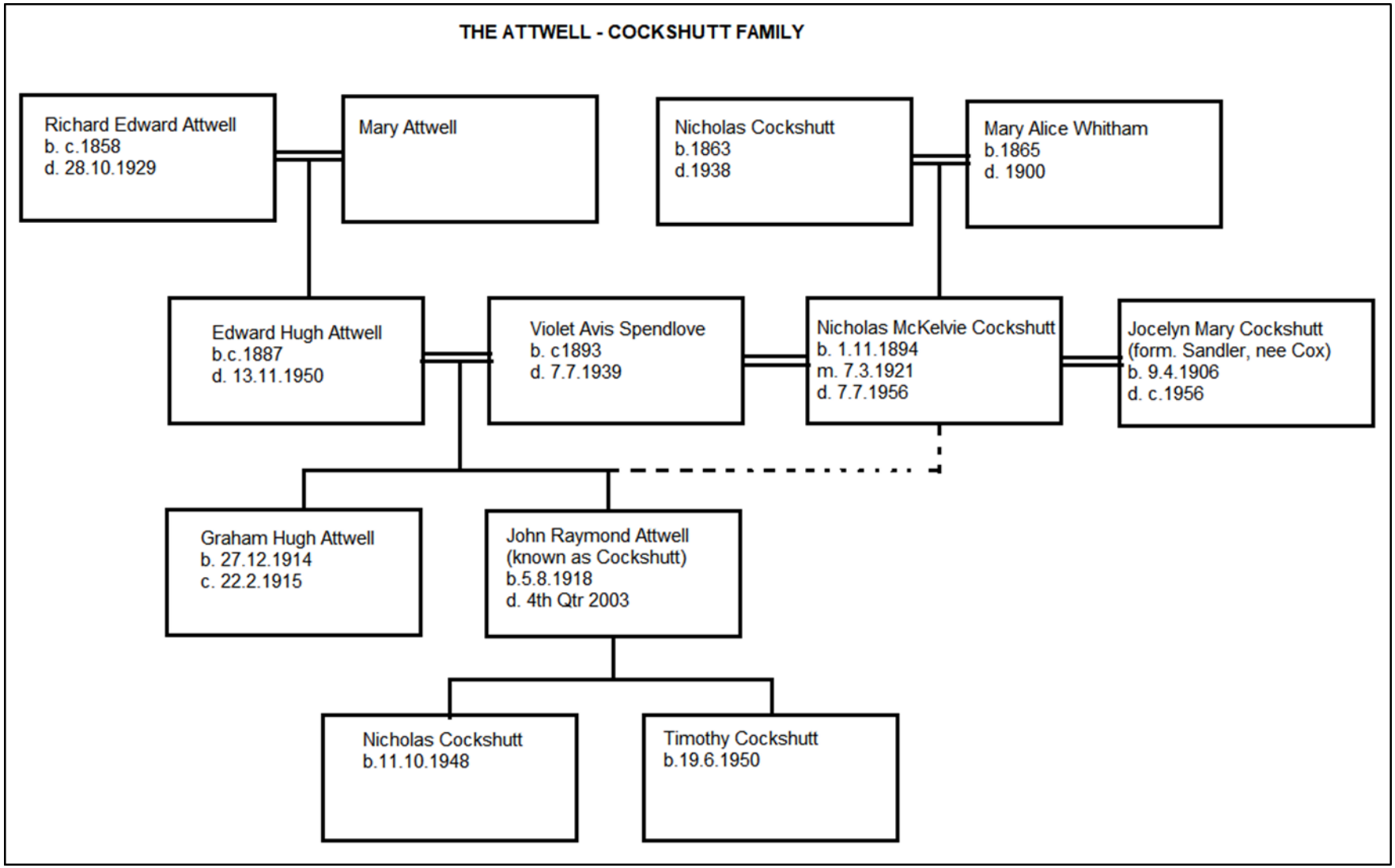
State separately the children born of different marriages, and give the date of birth of each minor. Names must be written out in full. If there are no children, and either or both parents be dead, then give the names and addresses of the brothers and sisters of deceased.

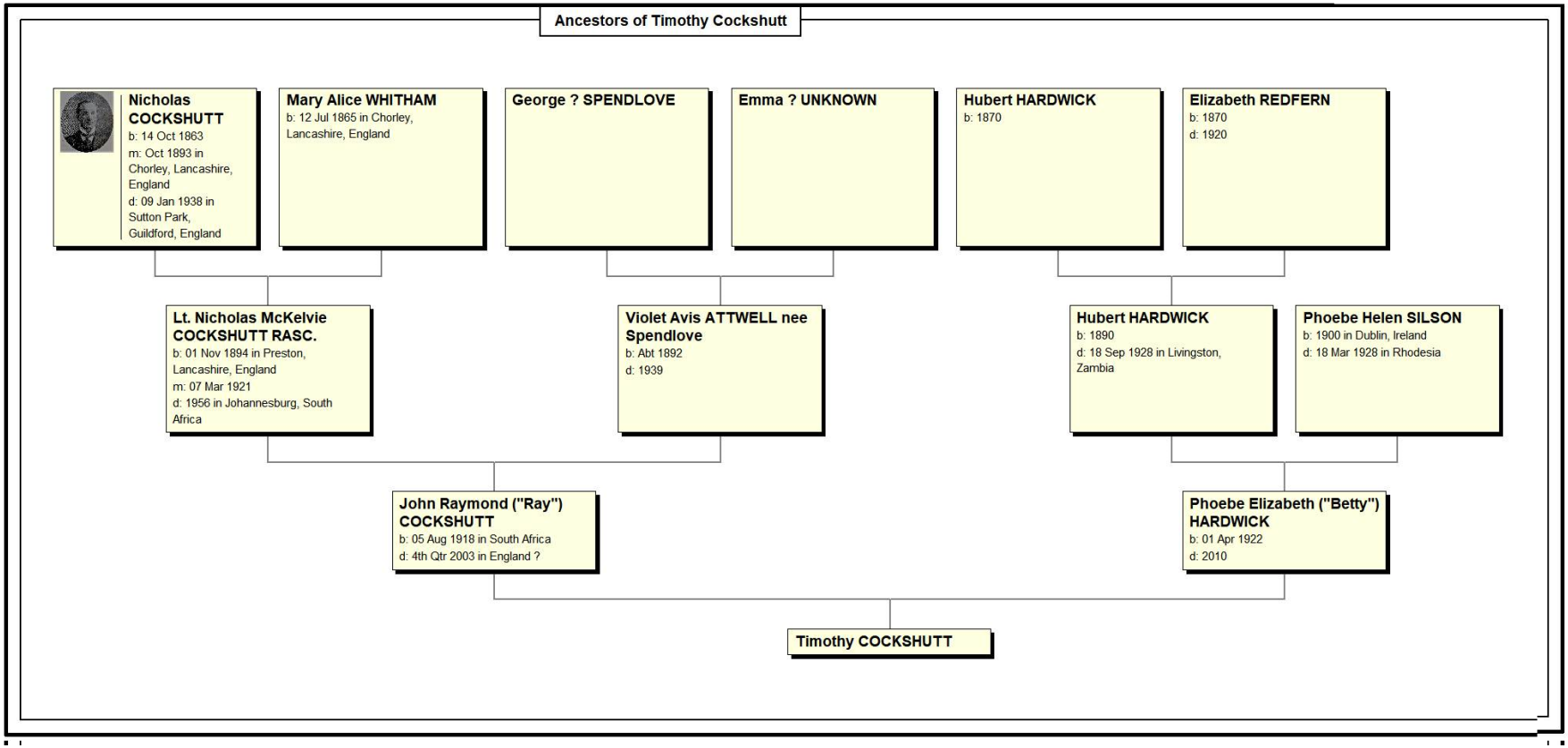
11. Has the deceased left any movable property? YES.
12. Has the deceased left any immovable property? YES.
13. Is it estimated that the estate exceeds £300 in value? YES.
14. Has the deceased left a Will? YES.

Dated at JOHANNESBURG the 15TH day of AUGUST 1956.

(Signature) Jocelyn M. Cockshutt.
SURVIVING SPOUSE.
PRESENT AT DEATH.
(State in what capacity and whether at the time at or near the place of death.)

This notice must be filled up and signed by the nearest relative or connection of the deceased who shall [illegible] be at or near the place of death, or, in the absence of such near relative or connection, by the or[illegible] after the death shall have the chief charge of the house in, or the place on, [illegible] must be sent either to the Master, or, if the death occurred in a district wherein [illegible] is not situate, the ma[illegible]ne of the district, in duplicate, within fourteen days


THE ATTWELL - COCKSHUTT FAMILY
Richard Edward Attwell
b. c.1858
d. 28.10.1929
Mary Attwell
Nicholas Cockshutt
b.1863
d.1938
Mary Alice Whitham
b.1865
d. 1900
Edward Hugh Attwell
b.c.1887
d. 13.11.1950
Violet Avis Spendlove
b. c1893
d. 7.7.1939
Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt
b. 1.11.1894
m. 7.3.1921
d. 7.7.1956
Jocelyn Mary Cockshutt
(form. Sandler, nee Cox)
b. 9.4.1906
d. c.1956
Graham Hugh Attwell
b. 27.12.1914
c. 22.2.1915
John Raymond Attwell
(known as Cockshutt)
b.5.8.1918
d. 4th Qtr 2003
Nicholas Cockshutt
b.11.10.1948
Timothy Cockshutt
b.19.6.1950


Ancestors of Timothy Cockshutt
Nicholas COCKSHUTT
b: 14 Oct 1863
m: Oct 1893 in Chorley, Lancashire, England
d: 09 Jan 1938 in Sutton Park, Guildford, England
Mary Alice WHITHAM
b: 12 Jul 1865 in Chorley, Lancashire, England
George ? SPENDLOVE
Emma ? UNKNOWN
Hubert HARDWICK
b: 1870
Elizabeth REDFERN
b: 1870
d: 1920
Lt. Nicholas McKelvie COCKSHUTT RASC.
b: 01 Nov 1894 in Preston, Lancashire, England
m: 07 Mar 1921
d: 1956 in Johannesburg, South Africa
Violet Avis ATTWELL nee Spendlove
b: Abt 1892
d: 1939
Hubert HARDWICK
b: 1890
d: 18 Sep 1928 in Livingston, Zambia
Phoebe Helen SILSON
b: 1900 in Dublin, Ireland
d: 18 Mar 1928 in Rhodesia
John Raymond ("Ray") COCKSHUTT
b: 05 Aug 1918 in South Africa
d: 4th Qtr 2003 in England ?
Phoebe Elizabeth ("Betty") HARDWICK
b: 01 Apr 1922
d: 2010
Timothy COCKSHUTT