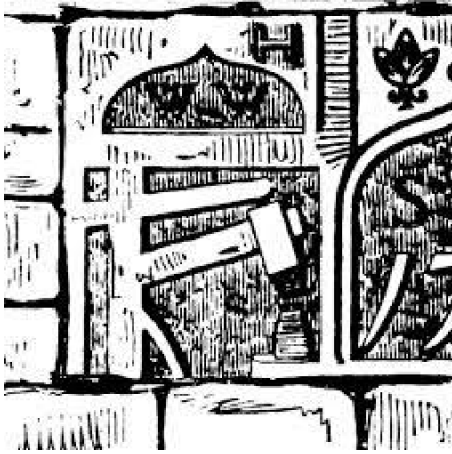




The Cockshutts of Wortley Forge

Investigating the relationship
between the Simonstone-
Colne Cockshutts and the
Cockshutts of Wortley Forge

“Ted” E.D.H. Flack, PhD., JP

Copyright 2018 with the
exception of content copied
from “The Story of Wortley
Ironworks” by C. Reginald
Andrews included for the
purposes of scholarly inquiry
and not for private profit.

Investigating the Possible Relationship between the Colne-Simonstone Cockshutts, the Thurgoland Cockshutts and the Cockshutts associated with Wortley Forge.

As a part of the searches for Anne Cockshutt's (1761-1840) marriage (daughter of Edmund Cockshutt, the Elder (1729-1821) and the mother of the James Cockshutt (1783-1866) (who migrated to Canada), it became apparent that there were several Cockshutt families living in the Thurgoland area of Yorkshire. It has not been known whether the Colne-Symonstone Cockshutts and the Thurgoland Cockshutts were related, although there is an unsubstantiated story in the family that the Cockshutts were associated with the famous Wortley Forge, adjacent to Thurgoland, near Barnsley.

Searches in the Yorkshire Archives revealed numbers of references to the Cockshutt Family of Huthwaite Hall in Thurgoland. For example, the following entry appears in Burke's Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry,¹

iv. John, of Wortley, bapt. 4 Feb. 1635, *m.* in 1656, Anne, dau. and heir of Richard Hey, of Bromeley, and dying in 1720, left issue, Richard, rector of Babworth, who *d. unm.* in 1727; Thomas, of Povey, *d. unm.* in 1729; John, *d. unm.*; Christopher, *d. unm.* in 1737; Matthew, of Wortley Forge and Dodsworth, iron-master, *d. unm.*; Anne, wife of John Spencer, Esq. of Cannon Hall, co. York; Susanna, wife of Thomas Cockshutt, minister of Cawthorne; Catherine, wife of James Oates, Gent. of Dodsworth; and Mary, who *d. unm.* in 1747.

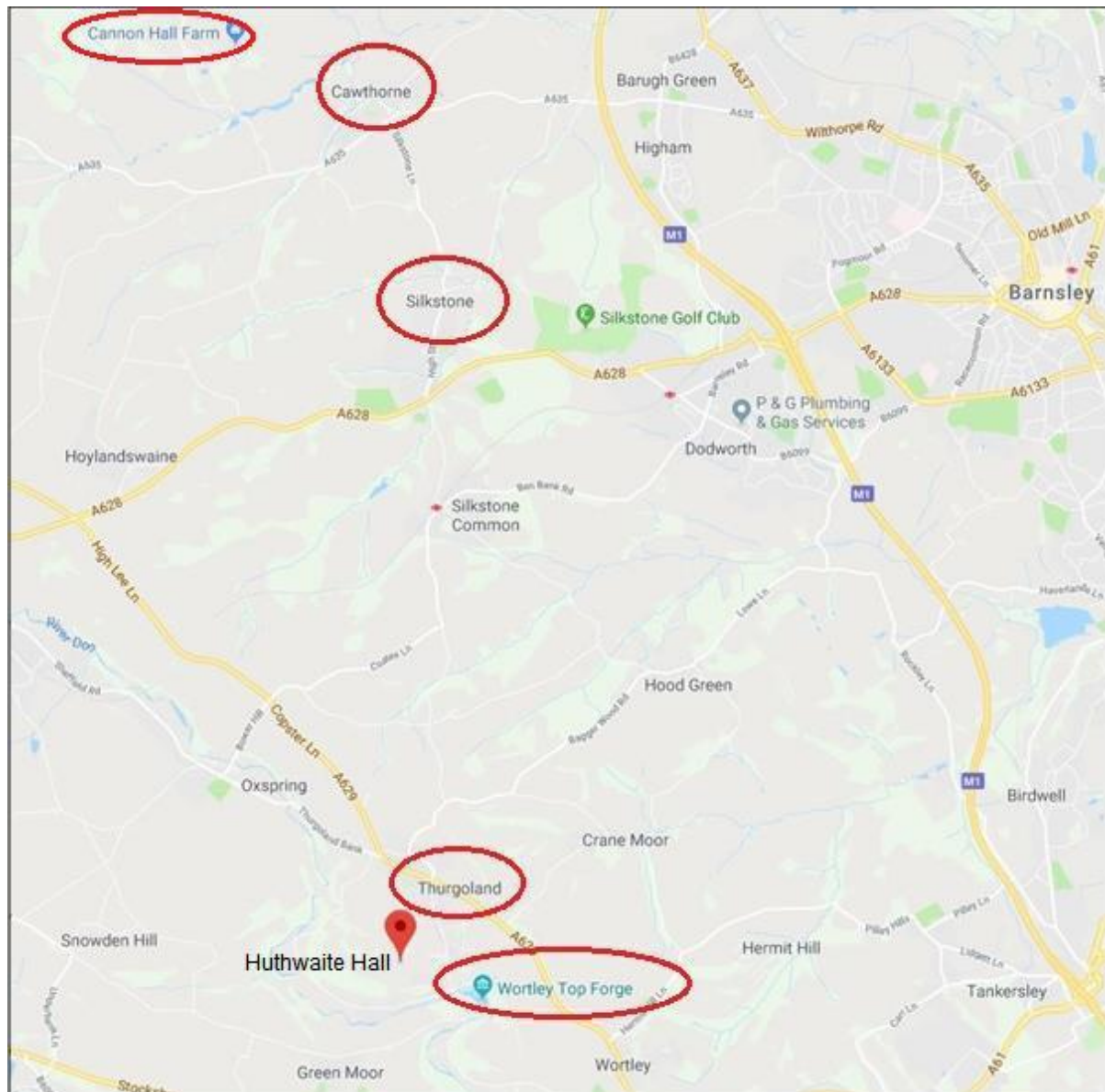
According to a history of Wortley Forge this Cockshutt family had been associated with the Wilson family of Broomhead in the part ownership and management the Wortley Iron Foundry in the early 1700s². The author states:

We have seen that the key to the later history of the Wortley Iron Works in the 18th Century may be found in the pedigree of the Wilson family of Broomhead, contained in Hunter's "Hallamshire" (see p. 475). There we learn that a certain John Wilson of Wortley, born 1635, died 1720, had eight children. One of these was "Matthew Wilson of Wortley forge and Dodsworth, Ironmanster. Died unmarried aged 63, and was buried at Wortley" (in 1739). Matthew had several sisters, one of whom, Ann, married John Spenser of Cannon Hall, near Barnsley; another, Susanna, married the Rev. Thomas Cockshutt, incumbent of Cawthorne. This gentleman acquired property in Thurgoland including Huthwaite Hall, which passed to his son John Cockshutt. A third sister, Catherin, married James Oats of Dodsworth part owner of Wortley Wiremill.

¹ Burke's Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry. 1847. H. Colburn.

² "The Story of Wortley Ironworks" by C. Reginald Andrews (1975)

The following modern map shows the locations of Wortley Forge, Thurgoland, Silkstone and Cawthorne in the area West of Barnsley in Yorkshire.



It is not clear whether that the Cockshutts of Colne and Simonstone were related to the first Reverend Thomas Cockshutt of Cawthorne, but it seemed possible since the following passage appears in the history of Wortley Ironworks on page 96,

The obvious successor to Matthew Wilson, who died soon afterwards, was John Cockshutt, but he had other ends in view. Spencer's letters mention Mr Cockshutt's "American project" and even of his having "gone into America". He himself writes of intending "to take another way of life".³

³ Andrews, Reginald C. 1975. *The Story of Wortley Ironworks*. Third Edition. R. Milward Printers, Leen Gate, Nottingham.

This passage, with its reference to migration to America, raised the possibility that the John Cockshutt involved in the management of Wortley Ironworks, was at least known to James Cockshutt, son of Anne Cockshutt, the daughter of Edmund Cockshutt, the Elder, whose Will shows that he had property interests in Yorkshire, the locale of the Forge, and whose grandson, James Cockshutt (1783-1866) later migrated to Canada.

A James Cockshott of Huthwaite is listed in the 1809 Electoral Register for the Silkstone Parish as follow:

16 POLL BOOK.	
Name and Residence.	Situation of Freehold.
Child Wm. Liversedge,	Liversedge
Cockrott Henry, Wadsworth,	Wadsworth
Cockshott Wm. Leeds,	Leeds
Cockshott Thomas, Barnoldswick	Barnoldswick
Cockshott James, Huthwaite,	Silkstone parish
Coleman Thomas, Hatfield,	Hatfield parish

The names and timeframes also match with statements made by Ignatius Cockshutt (1812-1901) about James Cockshutt (1783-1866) his father, in the book, *Merchants Exchange*⁴ which state "*James went to Canada in July 1827, just five years after his grandfather's death, so he must have been thinking about it for some time before that.*"

A further similarity is that James Cockshutt's (1783-1866) uncle was a John Cockshutt (1751-1798) a person who shares the same name as the person involved in the management of Wortley Forge during the period.

In order to clarify the relationship between the Simonstone-Colne Cockshutts and the Thurgoland Cockshutts, answers to the following questions were sought:

- Was James Cockshutt (1783-1866) who migrated to Canada the same person as the James Cockshutt, one-time manager of Wortley Forge?
- Was our James Cockshutt's uncle, John Cockshutt (1751-1798) the same person as the John Cockshutt who managed Wortley Forge in the mid-1700s?
- Or did the family relationship, if any, extend back to previous generations?

⁴ Cockshutt, Wm H., and Mike Hand. 2017. *Merchants Exchange: Ignatius Cockshutt, 1812 - 1901 Canadian Entrepreneur*. S.I.: Friesen Press.



Huthwaite Hall, Thurgoland

John Carr's earliest extant design (and second overall). Built for John Cockshutt, owner of Wortley ironworks, in 1748, it exhibits the dignified restraint, even if it lacks some of the sophistication, evident in his later work. Grade II* listed.

An extensive search of Lancashire and Yorkshire Parish records, records held in the Yorkshire Archives and published local history records could find no clear evidence of a family relationship between the Simonstone-Colne Cockshutts and the Thurgoland – Cawthorne – Wortley Forge Cockshutts, although there may have been a common ancestor on the middle ages.

The context for the search for some connection is provided by the following history. It will be noted that Rev. Thomas Cockshutt (1678-1740) was the Curate of Cawthorne from 1702-1722.

The following are extracts from the "The Story of Wortley Ironworks" by C. Reginald Andrews (1975)

Page 45. *"We have seen that the key to the later history of the Wortley Iron Works in the 18th Century may be found in the pedigree of the Wilson family of Broomhead, contained in Hunter's "Hallamshire" (see p. 475). There we learn that a certain John Wilson of Wortley, born 1635, died 1720, had eight children. One of these was "Matthew Wilson of Wortley forge and Dodsworth, Ironmanster. Died unmarried aged 63, and was buried at Wortley" (in 1739). Matthew had several sisters, one of whom, Ann, married John Spenser of Cannon Hall, near Barnsley; another,*

Susanna, married the Rev. Thomas Cockshutt, incumbent of Cawthorne. This gentleman acquired property in Thurgoland including Huthwaite Hall, which passed to his son John Cockshutt. A third sister, Catherin, married James Oats of Dodsworth part owner of Wortley Wiremill.

These entries explain how for generations Wortley became a family business. A fourth sister, Mary, died unmarried in 1747 and was buried at Wortley church.

Wortley became a unit in an intricate group of partnerships, at the same time retaining its individuality and family character. Not that the old iron works ever produced any great fortunes and Huthwaite Hall, the home of the Cockshutts remains to this day a charming but unpretentious Georgian house with an older wing behind.

In Matthew Wilson's original will (1729) he leaves all his property to his nephew John Cockshutt, and appoints Calathenes Thomas as trustee to assist the young man."

Page 46. "John Cockshutt had inherited the Huthwaite Hall estate from their mother and here he seems to have lived near the forges for the rest of his life, taking an active part in the management of the ironworks. For the next eighty years the forges remained in the Cockshutt family.

It is evident that in 1713 some extensive building and rebuilding took place. and it is very likely that to this period belongs the 4 acre reservoir called the Back Dam. There were at least ten water wheels connected with the various mills and forges, these required extensive works in the form of dams, weirs, goyts, tail-races, etc, which together with plant and buildings represent a large capital outlay.

We have some grounds for thinking that about the middle of the century the Spencer partnerships came to an end and that thereafter the Wortley business became an independent firm owned by the Cockshutts. It is a curious fact that the Wortley Hall inventory of deeds records no leases between that of 1738 and 1793, a space of fifty-five years. The 1793 lease is in the name John Cockshutt (son).

John Cockshutt, the elder died about 1765 and was succeeded by his two sons John and James. In 1771 John Cockshutt took out a patent "for making malleable iron directly from the ore in the finery" and reeling pig iron with charcoal into wrought iron in a new or improved finery fitted with a number of twyers."

James Cockshutt was a man of parts. He was a county magistrate, a Civil Engineer, and an F.R.S., and evidently possessed considerable scientific attainments. He was also a man of considerable business enterprise, and

under his management the works seem to have attained their maximum extension.

The victory at Waterloo (1815) was followed by the inevitable after-the-war slump, and this may account for Hunter's remark that "Cockshutt did not eventually prosper. He died in 1819 and his estate was sold in 1827 to the first Lord Wharncliffe."

Pages 66-67

"Mr Cockshutt is said to have travelled to Germany to learn "the secret of wire drawing".

About 1750 a debate took place in Parliament about repealing the duties imposed on importation of iron from the American colonies. The British iron master were opposed

A delegation of iron master (supported by the tanners) were sent from Sheffield to urge opposition to the proposal.

Sitting in the gallery one evening when the debate ran pretty high and hearing a gentlemen saying something he did not like. Cockshutt rose up and called out: I hear by that fellow's talk he knows nothing about the matter. Show him a piece of iron and a piece of steel, and he'll not know which is which, I'll be bound for it; yet he pretends to teach us our trade", Upon this there was an uproar in the House. the hero of this scene appears to have been the elder John Cockshutt."

Page 72. "One of the most important persons connected with an iron works is in some respects, the most important, was the Millwright. Without him no new machine could be installed, no old one repaired, and it was his constant, almost maternal attention which kept the "wheels going round" throughout the whole establishment. Mr Cockshutt was the master Millwright in in the early

1800s." Page 82. Notes on the Slitting Mill

"Incidentally about the middle of the 18th century the Wortley Wire Mills were in the occupation of the Oates family, one of whom married a sister of Mathew Wilson. Later they appear to have been managed by a Captain Bland, who was related to the Cockshutts."

Page 83.

Festivities at Wortley Ironworks, July 1814.

"In addition to the festivities which have taken place in this neighbourhood, in commemoration of Peace, an entertainment on a large

scale was given on Friday night at Wortley Iron Works by their worthy proprietor, James Cockshutt Esq.

Plate IX



From traditional oil painting of James Cockshutt as a boy, which hung in the Top Forge office, blackened with age. Now cleaned and preserved, it hangs in the premises of Thomas Andrews & Co. Ltd., Sheffield.
Note: Another Cockshutt portrait from Huthwaite Hall has recently been acquired through the kindness of Miss Ormsby.

All the workmen with their families (amounting to nearly three hundred) assembled on the lawn in front of Huthwaite House at ten o'clock. After a plentiful supply of ale to each of this numerous assemblage, the whole train being placed in order of procession, preceded by a band of music and headed by Mr Cockshutt, who was immediately followed by a party of his friends (ladies in carriages and the gentlemen on horseback) set out and went the round of the works, beginning at the Old Mill, and proceeding in succession to the others taking Wortley and Thurgoland in the way back to Hurthwaite; at each of the above mentioned places the procession was received with discharge of cannon which was answered by a volley of musketry; on arriving at Huthwaite, the several parties with flags filed off to their respective works, where a liberal store of roast beef and plum pudding etc. (provided by Mr Cockshutt) was awaiting them."

Page 96. "Extract from Notes provided by Miss R. Meredith, Archivist to Sheffield Central Library.

The obvious successor to Matthew Wilson, who died soon afterwards, was John Cockshutt, but had other ends in view. Spencer's letters mention Mr Cockshutt's "American project" and even of his having "gone into America". He himself writes of intending "to take another way of life".

....Spencer took on Thomas Cope but his accounts were unsatisfactory and he departed in 1744.

Cockshutt, meanwhile, had returned to Wortley wire mills. In 1734 it appears he is "slitting" and a letter from him in May 1740 bears the address "Wire works".

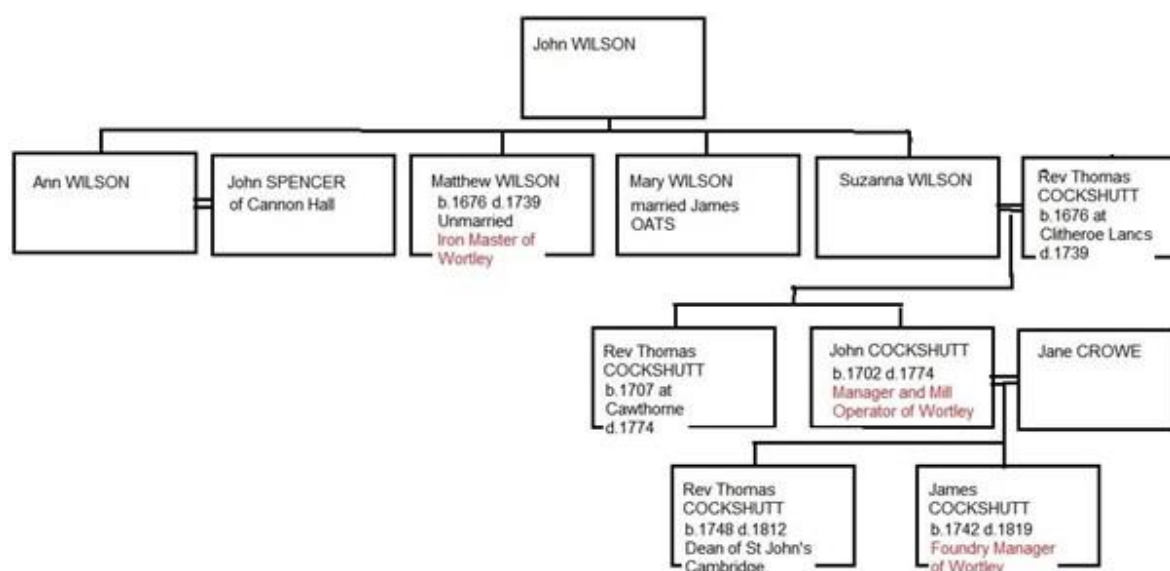
James Cockshutt's brother was the third generation of the Cawthorne Cockshutt family to be ordained in the Church of England. The following is an extract from the Directory of Admissions to St John's College Cambridge:

Admissions to the college of St. John the Evangelist in the University of Cambridge

P. 177 no. 3. Thomas Cockshutt was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Ely 15 March 1772, and licensed on March 18 to the curacy of Parsons Drove Chapel. A statement was submitted to the Bishop of Ely by John Cockshutt, of Huthwaite, in the parish of Silkstone, Yorks., that Thomas Cockshutt was born 18 May 1748, and baptized in the parish of Silkstone, but the fact is not registered. The birth was recorded in the family Bible. He was ordained Priest by the Bishop of Peterborough 6 June 1773. He was admitted a Fellow of the College 30 March 1773, holding it until 1792. He was Sacrist of the College 11 April 1783 to 15 April 1784, and Senior Dean 15 April 1784 to 25 March 1791. He was appointed a Whitehall Preacher in 1785 (*Cambridge Chronicle*, 2 July). He preached the sermon before the annual meeting of the Governors of Addenbrooke's Hospital, on Thursday, 1 July 1790 (*ibid.* 3 July 1790). He was instituted Vicar of Long Stanton, All Saints, co. Cambridge, 30 October 1787. On 22 December 1790 he was presented by the College to the Rectory of Little Hornead, Herts., and instituted 14 January following. On 28 June 1791 he received a dispensation from the Archbishop of Canterbury to hold Little Hornead (valued at £140) with Long Stanton (valued at £45), the livings being stated to be not more than 28 miles apart. He was again instituted Vicar of Long Stanton, All Saints, 28 July 1791, and held both livings until his death in 1812 at Little Hornead, aged 61 (*Gentleman's Magazine*, 1813, p. 37 a; Hunter, *Familiae Minorum Gentium*, Harl. Soc. Publ. xxxvii, 429, where there is a pedigree). He married at Little Hornead 19 March 1801, Lydia Smith, of Harestreet, Herts. (*Cambridge Chronicle*, 24 March 1801). He died at Little Hornead 12 December 1812 (*ibid.* 25 December 1812). His widow died in 1814 (*ibid.* 4 June 1814). He delivered the Boyle Lectures from 1798 to 1798 inclusive; these have not been published (Nichols, *Literary Anecdotes*, vi, 456).

Using the published stories allow a family tree to be constructed (see below) of the Cockshutt family that was associated with the Wortley Forge linking James Cockshutt (1742-1819) through his father John Cockshutt (1702-1774) to his grandfather Rev Thomas Cockshutt (1676-1739). It should be noted however, there are several different versions of this Cockshutt family's antecedents beyond the Rev Thomas Cockshutt (1676-1739).

The Cockshutts of Wortley Forge using historical sources



"A History of Cawthorne"⁵ states that Rev Thomas Cockshutt's (1676-1739) father was a "John Cockshutt of Preston" whereas the Clergy of the Church of England Database records him upon enrolment as the "*son of George, born at Clitheroe, Lancashire, Vicar of Cawthorne, Yorks., 1703-39. Brother of Josiah (1706), father of Thomas (1727)*".

It is likely that in fact the Cockshutt brothers, Rev Josias Cockshutt and Rev Thomas Cockshutt were the sons of George Cockshutt of Great Harwood and that they are members of the same family that received funds for the education of the children in the Will of George Cockshutt who died in 1705. Alice was the widow of George Cockshutt and mother of Thomas, Josiah, and Edmund.

The apparent connection between the Wortley Forge Cockshutts and the Great Harwood Cockshutts, also provides an explanation for the mistaken family story that the Colne Cockshutts were associated with Wortley Forge. It will be recalled that Nicholas Cockshutt's "pedigree" had mistakenly linked the Colne Cockshutt family back to the Alice Cockshutt nee Rishton who had married Edmund Cockshutt of Harwood, mentioned in her probate and also the tuition documents were Thomas, Josias, Edmund and George.

It will be recalled that during previous searches to find the baptism (and parents of) Edmund Cockshutt of Langroyd (1705-1747), which were intended to verify the family relationship between the Ann Cockshutt of Great Harwood, outlined in

⁵ Pratt, Charles T. 1881. A History of Cawthorne. Manchester: I.W.Davis.

Nicholas Cockshutt's Pedigree, Local Great Harwood historian, Barbara Youds, provided the following information:

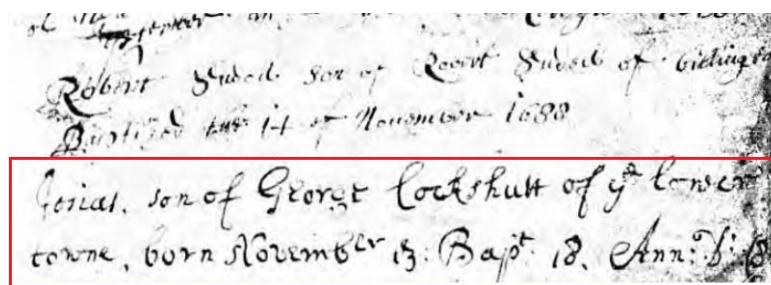
Edmund's baptism is recorded at Great Harwood in 1692. The will of his brother Thomas in 1737 mentions only Josias and George, suggesting that Edmund had died before the will was made. Until today I did not have a burial for Edmund, which may have meant he had moved to Langroyd and was not mentioned 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:
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*

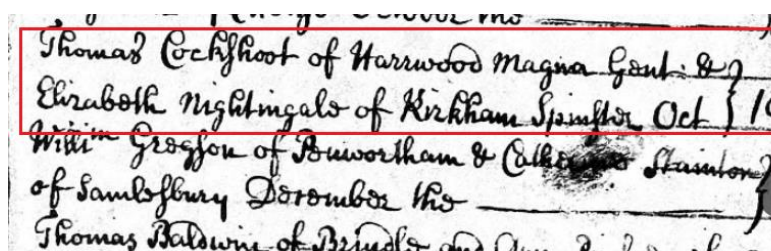
Following this advice, further searches for the Edmund Cockshutt of Langroyd (1705-1747) parents were conducted which eventually located his baptism and parents in Simonstone, thus contradicting the Great Harwood connection during that period (see my research report entitled "My Cockshutt Heritage").

Further, we can be reasonably sure that the Edmund Cockshutt baptised in Great Harwood in 1692 is NOT the Edmund Cockshutt forbear of Anne Cockshutt (1761-1840), daughter of Edmund Cockshutt, the Elder (1729-1821) and the mother of the James Cockshutt (1783-1866), who migrated to Canada.

The following baptism and marriage are relevant



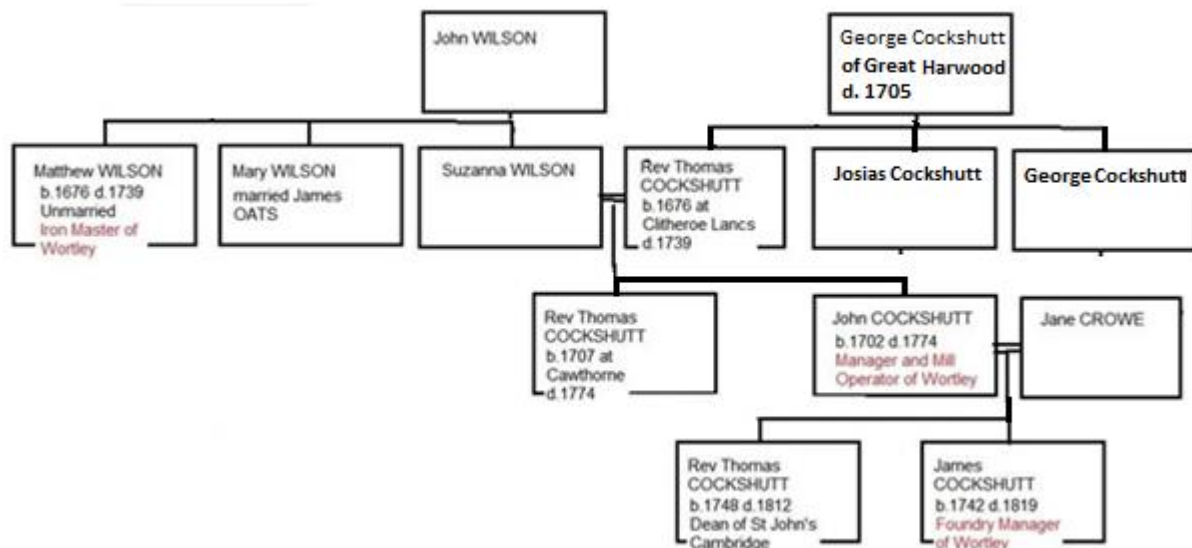
Name	Josias Cockshutt
Birth Date	13/11/1688
Baptism Date	18/11/1688
Parish	Great Harwood, St Bartholomew Lancashire England
Father's Name	George Cockshutt
Register Type	Parish Register
Reference Number	PR 483



Name	Thomas Cockshoot
Marriage Date	10/10/1721
Parish	Blackburn Lancashire England
Spouse's Name	Elizabeth Nightingale
Register Type	Bishops Transcripts
Reference Number	Drb 2/26

In the light of the information contained in the Will of Thomas Cockshutt of Great Harwood dated 11st November 1737, in which he refers to his brothers Josias and George and his nephew John Cockshutt "heir apparent of the said Josias", we can be reasonably sure that Thomas was the brother of the Reverend Josias Cockshutt "of Kegworth" (1688-)

The following chart provides an alternative analysis of the relationship between the Cockshutts of Wortley Forge and the Cockshutts of Great Harwood.



To sum-up:

- The Will of Thomas Cockshutt of Great Harwood dated 1737 clearly states that his brothers were Josias, Thomas and George and that Josias had a son John. His Executors were nominated as John Twistleton of Rawcliffe in the County of York"
- Was James Cockshutt (1783-1866) who migrated to Canada the same person as the James Cockshutt, one-time manager of Wortley Forge?

No. The James Cockshutt who managed Wortley Forge was born 1742, the son of John and Jane Cockshutt. He died in 1819.

- Was our James Cockshutt's uncle, John Cockshutt (1751-1798) the same person as the John Cockshutt who managed Wortley Forge in the mid-1700s?

No. Our James Cockshutt's uncle was John Cockshutt (1751-1798) whereas the John Cockshutt who managed Wortley Forge was the son of Rev John Cockshutt of Cawthorne and was born in 1702 and died in 1774.

The Wortley Forge Cockshutts were closely related to the Great Harwood Cockshutts.

- Was there a family relationship between the Simonstone Cockshutts and the Wortley Forge Cockshutts in previous generations?

Possibly, but not in the period in which the Cockshutts were associated with Wortley Forge and no evidence could be found to support a finding that the Great Harwood Cockshutts were closely related to the Simonstone Cockshutts.

The results of these inquiries provide good evidence that our Simonstone/Colne Cockshutts were not closely related to the Wortley Forge Cockshutts or the Harwood Cockshutts in the period 1650-1750. This finding does not rule out a family connection in an earlier period.

The following family tree has been constructed from searches conducted at the Lancashire Achieves and provides a comprehensive explanation of the relationship between the Wortley Forge Cockshutts and the Great Harwood Cockshutts.