



The Cockshutt – Egan connection

Finding the Irish spirit in the family tree

By Ted Flack, PhD., JP

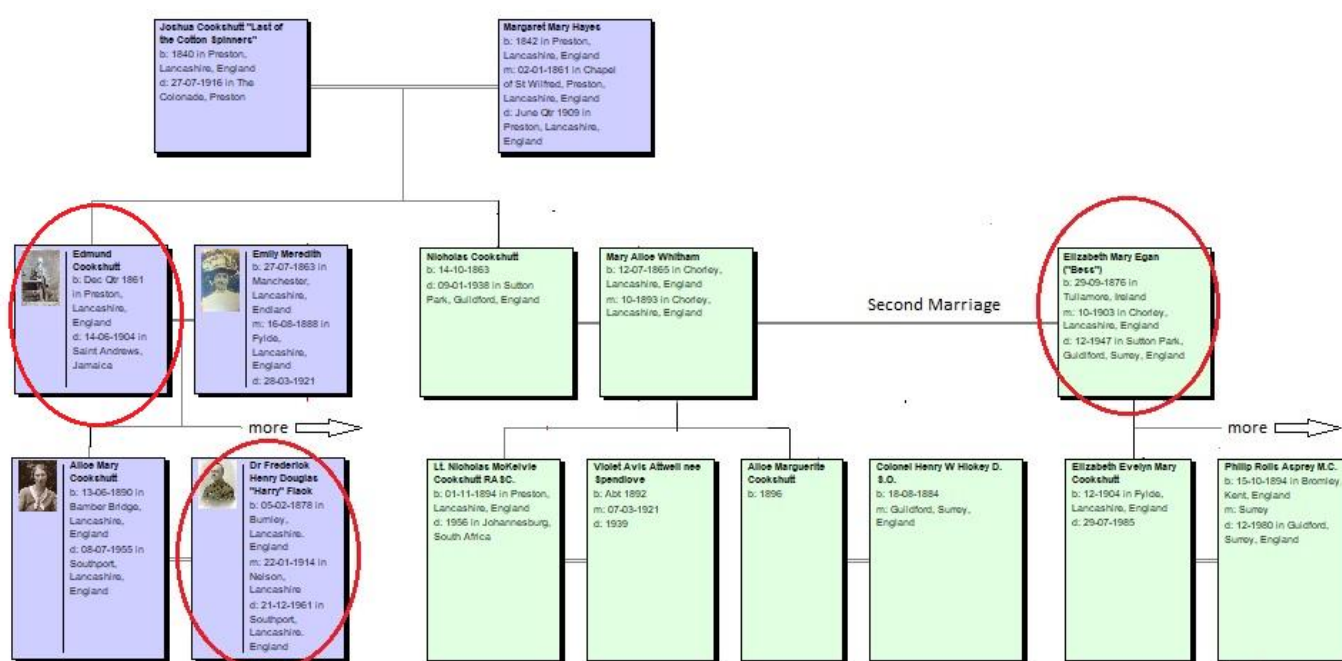
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The Cockshutt- Egan connection

In April 2016, a distant relative, David Egan, contacted me about my Cockshutt family research and asked what I might know about Elizabeth Egan, the wife of Nicholas Cockshutt (1863-1903). Nicholas Cockshutt was the paternal uncle of our Granny Flack and son of her grandfather, Joshua Cockshutt (1840-1916).

The following family tree illustrates the relationship between the Flacks and the Egan:



I wrote back explaining that all I knew about Elizabeth Mary Cockshutt, nee Egan (1876-1947) was that she appears on the 1911 Census as wife of Nicholas Cockshutt, Barrister at Law, aged 47, married 8 years with two children born to present marriage, living at 23 West Cliff Road, Preston. (See "[Joshua Cockshutt -The last of the Cotton Spinners](#)")

David Egan later wrote back to me sharing the results of his subsequent research and inquiries made with relatives as follows:

"Elizabeth Egan Cockshutt, called Bessie, lived at The Red House, Sutton Green, Guildford, Surrey with her husband Nicholas who died in 1938 age 75, she had the following printed in The Tablet:

"MR. N. COCKSHUTT: Mr. Nicholas Cockshutt, of The Red House, Sutton Park, Guildford, died at his home on January 9th.

The second son of the late Joshua Cockshutt, cotton-spinner, of Preston, Mr. Cockshutt was born in 1863 and was educated at Ampleforth. His mother was Margaret, daughter of Nicholas Hayes, of Brownedge, Preston, and sister of the late Rev. James Hayes, S.J., Rector of Farm Street, and of the late William Hayes, the founder of the firm of Hayes and Finch.

Mr. Cockshutt practised for some years as a Barrister on the Northern Circuit, but later became a solicitor at Guildford. He was keenly interested in public affairs, and twice, in 1910 and 1923, contested Rochdale as a Conservative. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick Egan, of Tullamore, who survives him together with one son and four daughters. The Requiem and funeral were at St. Edward's, Sutton Park, on the 11th."

Their eldest daughter, Evelyn Cockshutt born 1905, married in 1937, the widower Philip Rolls Asprey M.C., of the famed ASPREY'S jeweller's, 167 Bond Street, London and their youngest sister Aileen, age 34, married Philip Rolls Asprey's cousin Harry Asprey, in 1947. Their sister Judith Maureen 'Billie' Cockshutt married Commander Brian Toller Whinney. Their step brother was Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt, later an engineer, born in 1894. He became Lieut N.M. Cockshutt of the Royal Army Service Corp, 1914-1921. Unsure of the whereabouts of the fourth daughter?.....

....Elizabeth Egan born in 1876, 2nd daughter of Patrick Egan, a wealthy Irish merchant and brewery owner in Kings County. Elizabeth (Bess) finds her father dead on the floor of his office in 1897. Marries Nicholas Cockshutt in 1903. After Patrick's death the family moved to Dublin – I suspect Nicholas may have had some business to attend to in Dublin where they met? Interestingly a legal row erupted in the Egan family in 1918 for control of the family business – one of the outcomes was the 'Cockshutt Settlement.'

Elizabeth Egan (b.1876) married Nicholas Cockshutt (1863–1938) in 1903. Nicholas practiced law as a Barrister on the Northern Circuit before becoming a solicitor in Guildford. He stood unsuccessfully on two occasions for the Conservative Party in the constituency of Rochdale in the 1910 and 1923 British General Elections. By coincidence, in the same year, his wife's first cousin Patrick (Pat) Egan was elected as a member of the 4th Dail having been successful as a Cumann na nGaedheal TD for Leix-Offaly in the 1923 Irish General Election. He subsequently lost his seat in 1927.

Elizabeth Egan and Nicholas Cockshutt had a son and three daughters one of whom, Elizabeth Evelyn Mary, married Philip Rolls Asprey in 1937. A second daughter, Aileen, married Philip's cousin Harry Asprey in 1947."

Naturally, I was delighted to receive this very interesting story and wanted to ensure that the facts were verified as far as possible and to find out more about the families involved. (For details of the [Cockshutt – Asprey connection click here.](#))

Who was Elizabeth Egan and where was she from?

Readers will no doubt appreciate that it takes a while to work out all the family relationships in David Egan's story but an examination of original sources and a recently published article celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the death of Tullamore's Henry Egan..." have helped. The results of those inquiries are set out below.

The following sources support various elements of the story:

- Birth registration of Elizabeth Mary Egan, daughter of Patrick Egan and Elizabeth Moorehead, born 29 September 1876 at Tullamore, Kings County, Ireland.

Elizabeth Mary Egan

in the Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911

Name:	Elizabeth Mary Egan
Gender:	Female
Birth Date:	29 Sep 1876
Birth Place:	Tullamore, Kings, Ireland
Father:	Patrick Egan
Mother:	Elizabeth Egan Moorehead
FHL Film Number:	255964

- Nicholas Cockshutt's marriage to his first wife, Mary Alice Whittam (1866-1897) who died on 29 October 1897 at Fylde, Lancashire.

CLO-COH] MARRIAGES registered in October, November, and December 1893.

	District	Vol.	Page
COCKSHUTT, Nicholas	Chorley	8e	821
COCKSHUTT, Albert	Blackburn	8e	821
COCKSHUTT, Nicholas	Chorley	8e	821
COCKSHUTT, Jonathan	Wolstanton	8e	821
COCKSHUTT, Emily Mary	Wolstanton	8e	821

Nicholas Cockshutt

in the England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915

Name:	Nicholas Cockshutt
Registration Year:	1893
Registration Quarter:	Oct-Nov-Dec
Registration district:	Chorley
Parishes for this Registration District:	View Ecclesiastical Parishes associated with this Registration District
Inferred County:	Lancashire
Volume:	8e
Page:	821
Records on Page:	Name Robert Barker Elizabeth Bennett Nicholas Cockshutt Mary Alice Whittam

- The Burial Registration for Nicholas Cockshutt's first wife, Mary Alice Cockshutt nee Whittam dated December quarter 1893.

COB—COL] DEATHS registered in October, November, and December 1897.

NAME	AGE	District	Vol.	Page
COCKSHUTT, Mary Alice	31	Fylde	8 e	470

Name: Mary Alice Cockshutt

Estimated Birth Year: abt 1866

Registration Year: 1897

Registration Quarter: Oct-Nov-Dec

Age at Death: 31

Registration district: Fylde

Parishes for this Registration District: [View Ecclesiastical Parishes associated with this Registration District](#)

Inferred County: Lancashire

Volume: 8e

Page: 470

- The birth registration of Elizabeth Mary Egan, the second wife of Nicholas Cockshutt

Elizabeth Mary Egan
in the Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911

Name: Elizabeth Mary Egan

Gender: Female

Birth Date: 29 Sep 1876

Birth Place: Tullamore, Kings, Ireland

Father: Patrick Egan

Mother: Elizabeth Egan Moorehead

FHL Film Number: 255964

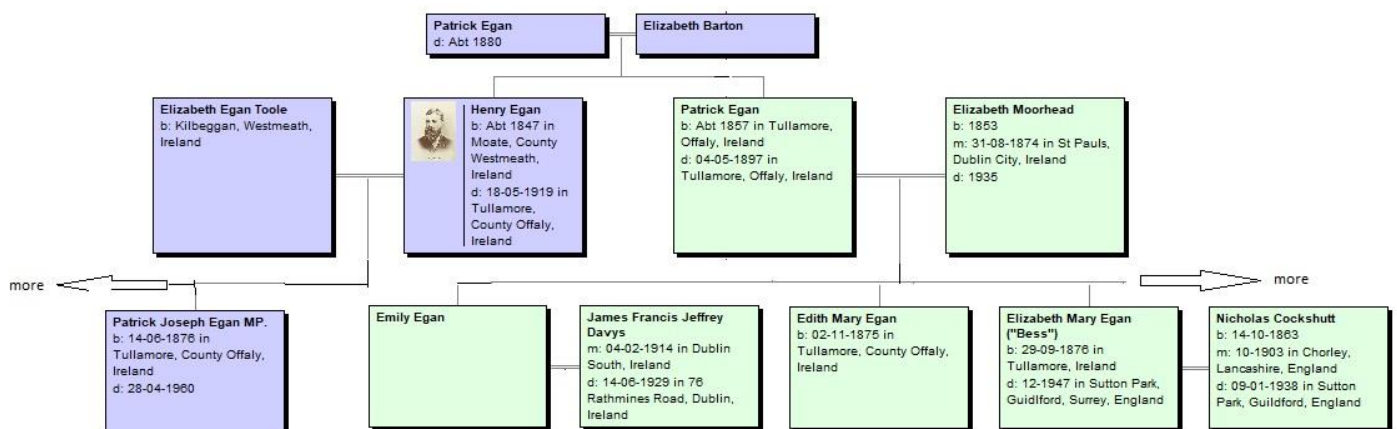
- The 1903 marriage of Nicholas Cockshutt to his second wife, Elizabeth Mary Egan (known as “Bess”)

Despite extensive searches in the UK's Government Record Office Marriage Registers for the period 1897 (the year of the death of his first wife Mary Alice Cockshutt nee Whittam) and 1904 (the year of the birth of Elizabeth Evelyn Mary Cockshutt), no record of a marriage for Nicholas Cockshutt and Elizabeth Egan (1876-1985) could be found. Similar searches in Ancestry, FindMyPast and FamilySearch were also unsuccessful.

As noted above, the 1911 Census records show that Nicholas Cockshutt, aged 47, married, head of the household, Barrister at Law and born in Preston, Lancashire was resident at 23 West Cliff Preston on Census day with Elizabeth Mary Cockshutt, aged 34, married, wife of 8 years with 2 children living, born Tullamore, Ireland and three children, Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt, son, 16 years, Elizabeth Evelyn Mary Cockshutt, Daughter, aged 6 years, born Lytham, Lancashire and Judith Maureen Gau Cockshutt, Daughter aged 2.

As the 1911 Census Collector recorded that Nicholas and Elizabeth had been married for 8 years, it might be assumed, first that Nicholas McKelvie Cockshutt was a son of Nicholas Cockshutt's previous marriage and second, that since Elizabeth Mary Cockshutt, Nicholas' wife, was born in Tullamore in Ireland, and David Egan's family story states that the couple met in Dublin, it is possible that Nicholas and Elizabeth married in Ireland, possibly explaining why no marriage record of their marriage can now be found.

Michael Byrne's article provides a very interesting history of the Egan family. He explains that the Egan family were wealthy citizens and business people in the town of Tullamore, County Offaly in Ireland during the late 19th century and continue to be associated with the Irish whiskey brewing businesses in the town. The following family tree and notes have been constructed from Michael Byrne's history¹:



- Elizabeth Mary Cockshutt, nee Egan, (known as "Bess") (1879-1947) was the daughter of Patrick Egan (abt. 1857-1896/7), the younger brother of Henry Egan (1847-1919). In partnership with Daniel E. Williams (- 1921), they purchased the Molloy distillery and grew the business to become P&J Egan Ltd- "the heart of commercial life in Tullamore throughout the prosperous yours from 1891 to the

¹ Byrne, M. (2019, May 11). The 100th anniversary of the death of Tullamore's Henry Egan, major employer, first chairman of Offaly County Council and an icon of Tullamore's whiskey traditions. By Michael Byrne. Retrieved October 6, 2019, from Offalyhistoryblog website: <https://offalyhistoryblog.wordpress.com/2019/05/11/the-100th-anniversary-of-the-death-of-tullamores-henry-egan-major-employer-first-chairman-of-offaly-county-council-and-an-icon-of-tullamores-whiskey-traditions-by-michael-byrne/>

end of the First World War in 1918. After Patrick and Henry took over the business, they expanded it to have branches throughout Ireland.

- The firm P&H Egan went into voluntary liquidation in 1968. Newly created Egan's and William's firms located in Tullamore continue to distil whiskeys known throughout the world.



"Bridge House", Tullamore, the Head Office of P&J Egan Ltd in 1910

Patrick Egan built "The Hall" in Tullamore in the 1890s, later the family home of Henry and Frank Egan. The Hall was later converted to the Tullamore Council Chambers.

- Patrick Joseph Egan, Elizabeth Mary Cockshutt's first cousin, was a prominent member of the Irish Land League and was imprisoned in 1880 during the Irish nationalist disturbances during the period. He belonged to the Cumann na nGaedheal (Irish "Society of the Gaels"), a political party in the Irish Free State, which formed the government from 1923 to 1932.
- The following summary of the politics of the time is quoted from Wikipedia:

In 1922 the pro-Treaty Government of the Irish Free State lost the support of Sinn Féin, its political party. The need to create a party supporting the government was not immediate. Cumann na nGaedheal was the name of the antecedent



Photograph of Cumann na nGaedheal Government, 1922/1923

nationalist umbrella organisation to Sinn Féin formed in 1900 (see Cumann na nGaedheal (1900)). The second Cumann na nGaedheal did not come into existence until more than a year later, on 27 April 1923 when the pro-Treaty TDs recognised the need for a party organisation to win elections. Initially, the party's ability to influence the government was limited.

The party was largely centre-right in outlook. The pro-Treaty wing of Sinn Féin had decided to break off and become a distinct party in late December 1922, but its launch was delayed until after the New Year as a direct consequence of the turmoil caused by the Irish Civil War.

The following photograph was shared with the author by David Egan who has suggested the noted identifications.



The following are extracts from the history pages of the Egan Whiskey heritage website:

Six Generations in the Making

The Egan family have been making Irish Whiskey since the 1800s so we like to think we know a thing or two about the 'water of life'. We hope that you enjoy drinking it as much as we enjoy making it.

Where it all Began

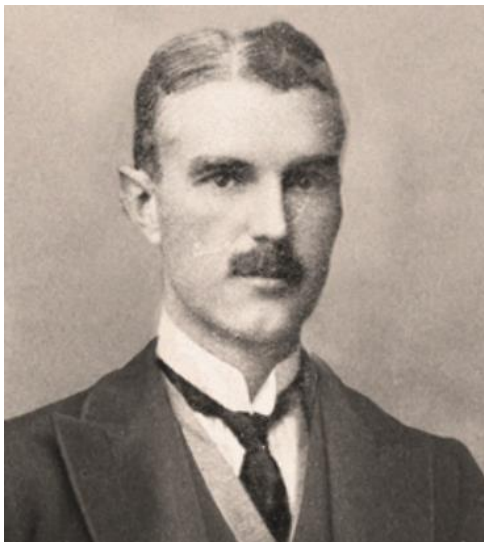
Patrick Egan, a solicitor from Moate, is descended from very old Westmeath stock. His forbearers fought at the famous Battle of the Boyne in 1690, and again at Aughrim in 1691. Two of three Egan sons were killed in battle and the third was withdrawn from his priestly studies to preserve the family name.

The surviving Egan did indeed marry, ensuring the survival of his bloodline and carrying the Egan name into the 18th century. This is the backdrop to a fascinating legacy that lives on to this day.

Generations in the Making

In 1835, in the House of Commons, Daniel O'Connell nominated Patrick Egan as Crown Solicitor of Westmeath, a position he held for 40 years. He set his sons up as merchants, expanding from Moate in County Westmeath to Tullamore, County Offaly in 1852.

Patrick's sons, Patrick James and Henry James Egan, established P. & H. Egan Limited and grew the business into a well-recognised and prosperous enterprise, one of the most important in the region at the time.



'Why consume English and Scotch Ales and Dublin Porter when you have at your door ales and stouts brewed equal to the best of them. Keep the money at home! Ask for Egan's Ales and Stouts and drink no other.'

Patrick J. Egan

Founding Father

Patrick J. was a benevolent and devout Catholic who held the welfare of his employees and fellow townsfolk close to his heart. A renowned workaholic and popular introvert, Patrick was the commercial brains behind P. & H. Egan Limited.

Not only was he the driving force for expanding the business into its many interests but also instilled some the highest of standards regarding work practices at the time.

The Business of Business

At its height, P. & H. Egan Limited had a hugely diverse array of business interests. They were general grocers, hoteliers, ironmongers, maltsters, brewers, and bonders to name just a few.

The Egan brothers were formidable businessmen, whose passion and drive left an indelible mark on the commercial, political and social history of Tullamore, in the heart of Ireland.



'The business has been, I'm glad to say, really prosperous and I believe this was largely if not altogether due to the intelligent, capable and efficient managerial and office staffs'.

Henry Egan

Passionately Irish

Henry J. Egan was a passionate Irishman and the company's public speaker. In 1881, Henry and others were charged under the Coercion Act and jailed in Naas, Co. Kildare, for organising a 'monster meeting' at Clara, for Charles Stuart Parnell, an Irish nationalist and freedom fighter.

Upon his release, Henry was to become a town commissioner and was elected the first Chairman of Kings County Council.

Expansion

In 1883, Egan's Tullamore Brewery employed 50 people, producing 30 to 40 barrels of ale per day. Growth led to the addition of new warehousing in 1886 and two years later an impressive 5,000 ton maltings was built. Further expansions occurred in 1890 and 1896 - the year P. & H. Egan Limited was formally registered as a Public Limited Company (PLC).

Upheavel (sic) in Ireland

An apprentice carpenter employed by P. & H. Egan Limited, John Spain, was one of a number involved in the 'Tullamore Incident', where the first shots of the famous Easter Rising were fired, on the 25th March 1916. This was the beginning of a long, bloody journey to Irish independence.

Spain was arrested at the Egan's workshop and taken to Tullamore R.I.C Barracks, before being released one month later. He fought right through the War of Independence and moved steadily up the ranks of the Irish army, becoming a Company Captain soon after.

The Rebirth

The Egan family set about resurrecting their family brand in 2013. Family members from across the globe, across generations, came together and reformed P. & H. Egan Ltd. Family-owned and operated, the Egan's portfolio embodies the true spirit of Irish whiskey, six generations in the making.

The following sources add support the narrative:

Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915



[View Image](#)

[View Record](#)

Name	Patrick Egan					
Gender	Male					
Event Type	Marriage					
Residence Place	Fellamore					
Marriage Date	31 Aug 1874					
Marriage Place	St Paul's, Dublin city, Ireland					
Parish Variants	Arran Quay, Old Glasnevin, Paul's, Arran Quay					
Diocese	Dublin					
Father	Patrick Egan					
Spouse	Elizabeth Moorhead					
Household Members	<table><tr><td>Name</td></tr><tr><td>Patrick Egan</td></tr><tr><td>Patrick Egan</td></tr><tr><td>Elizabeth Moorhead</td></tr><tr><td>Michael Moorhead</td></tr></table>	Name	Patrick Egan	Patrick Egan	Elizabeth Moorhead	Michael Moorhead
Name						
Patrick Egan						
Patrick Egan						
Elizabeth Moorhead						
Michael Moorhead						

Record Transcription: Irish Deaths 1864 - 1958

First name(s)	Henry
Last name	Egan
Age at death	72
Birth year	1847
Registered year	1919
Registered quarter/year	Apr - Jun 1919
Registration district	Tullamore
Volume	3
Page	490
County	Offaly (King's), Westmeath
Country	Ireland
Record set	Irish Deaths 1864 - 1958
Category	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records
Subcategory	Civil Deaths & Burials
Collections from	Ireland

copyright Family Search

URL of this page: <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=IRE%2FBMD%2FD%2F626660823>

Patrick Joseph Egan in the Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911

Name: Patrick Joseph Egan
 Gender: Male
 Birth Date: 14 Jun 1876
 Birth Place: Tullamore, Kings, Ireland
 Father: Henry Egan
 Mother: Elizabeth Egan Toole
 FHL Film Number: 255954

Source Information

Ancestry.com. Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911 [database on-line]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

Original data: Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911. Index. Salt Lake City, Utah: Family Search.

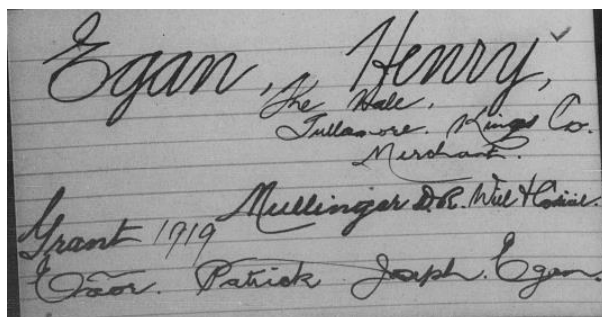
1911 Census

[Census Years](#) / [1911](#) / [King's Co.](#) / [Tullamore Urban](#) / [High Street](#) / Residents of a house

Residents of a house 38 in High Street (Tullamore Urban, King's Co.)

☒ Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Marital Status
Egan	Henry	63	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Kings Co	JP Retired Merchant	Read and write	Widower
Egan	James F	30	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Kings Co	Manager Wholesale Wine and Spirit Business	Read and write	Single
Egan	Kevin F	23	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Kings Co	Manager Grocery and Hardware Business	Read and write	Single
Egan	Madeleine M J	20	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Kings Co	-	Read and write	Single
Egan	Gerald J	19	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Kings Co	Student (Bank)	Read and write	Single
Matthews	Elizabeth M	56	Female	Homekeeper	Roman Catholic	Dublin City	Housekeeper	Read and write	Single
Martin	Mary	35	Female	Servant	Roman Catholic	Kings Co	Cook (Domestic Servant)	Read and write	Single
Hackett	Catherine	19	Female	Servant	Roman Catholic	Kings Co	H Parlour Maid Domestic Servant	Read and write	Single



Probate on the estate of the late Henry Egan was granted in 1919 with the principle beneficiary, Patrick Joseph Egan.

Relationship between the Cockshutts and the Egan

