

Our Cockshutt Family Story

The Flack – Cockshutt branches of our family tree are very much connected with the history of North East Lancashire and Western Yorkshire. My Great Uncle Edmund Cockshutt (my grannie Flack's brother) was likely the last of the family to be engaged in weaving industries in the north East of England, but research into the Cockshutt family tree shows that Cockshutts have been a part of the industry back to the cottage industries of the 17th Century. Uncle Edmund and Aunty Freda had no children, so our Cockshutt line ends with Uncle Edmund but the story lives on through the Flack line.

Before exploring the Cockshutt family tree, it is interesting to learn something about the origins of the Cockshutt surname, because, despite the family tradition this was derived from the weaver's task of threading the "cock" through the loom, the most authoritative explanation is that it is derived from the old English word for a bird trap established in woodland glades. Such "cockshutts" were used in mediaeval times to capture pheasants. Nets were erected in natural passage-ways through the trees, narrowing to a netting bag at the end of the trap. Dogs were used to scare the pheasants towards the glade and the capture in the net at the end. The land holders of such facilities often came to be known by the name of their occupation and the valuable trap they controlled. It is perhaps no coincidence that just outside of Colne, around which the Cockshutt family was living back into the pre-modern era, there is a [Cock Hill Farm](#) with a "v" shaped valley up the side of a hill on the farm. Is it possible that this is where the "cockshutt would have been erected?

Census Records

Uncle Edmund's father, another Edmund Cockshutt (born 1862 in Preston, Lancashire) is recorded in the 1901 Census as an "Insurance Agent" living with his wife Emily, aged 36 and daughter Margaret M, aged 9, son Edmund M, aged 7, along with a "Domestic Nurse" and a "General Servant" at [91 Bakerhouse Road, Nelson](#). The neighbourhood in Nelson must have been sought after, as the family neighbours included William Jackson, a Barrister-at-Law and a Harry Clark "Cotton Manufacturer and employer" both of who employed at least two household servants.

1891 census records the family living at 100 Browndale Lane, Walton-le-Dale, at which time Edmund Cockshutt (b 1862) is recorded as an "employer" and "Cotton manufacturer", living with his wife Emily, aged 27 and daughter Alice, aged 1 along with a "Domestic servant" and a "Servant Nurse", Walton-le-Dale lies on the south bank of the River Ribble, opposite the city of Preston, adjacent to Bamber Bridge, where daughter Alice was born.

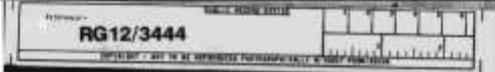
Copy of 1891 census

Administrative County of Cambridge

The undermentioned houses are situate within the boundaries of the

Old Parish St. Andrew Estimated Parish of St. Andrew Page 12

No. of HOUSEHOLD	NAME and ADDRESS of each HOUSE	RELATION of Head of Family	AGE	SEX	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	WAGES		REMARKS	
						Yearly	Weekly		
77	St. Andrew's Church	Head	55	M	Parson	£1000	£200		
78	St. Andrew's Church	Wife	50	F					
79	St. Andrew's Church	Son	25	M					
80	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	20	F					
81	St. Andrew's Church	Son	15	M					
82	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	10	F					
83	St. Andrew's Church	Son	5	M					
84	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	3	F					
85	St. Andrew's Church	Son	2	M					
86	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	1	F					
87	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M					
88	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F					
89	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M					
90	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F					
91	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M					
92	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F					
93	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M					
94	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F					
95	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M					
96	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F					
97	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M					
98	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F					
99	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M					
100	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F					
Total of Names and Families					10	11			



Copy of the 1901 Census

Administrative County of Cambridge

The undermentioned houses are situate within the boundaries of the

Old Parish St. Andrew Estimated Parish of St. Andrew Page 12

No. of HOUSEHOLD	NAME and ADDRESS of each HOUSE	RELATION of Head of Family	AGE	SEX	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	WAGES		REMARKS
						Yearly	Weekly	
101	St. Andrew's Church	Head	55	M	Parson	£1000	£200	
102	St. Andrew's Church	Wife	50	F				
103	St. Andrew's Church	Son	25	M				
104	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	20	F				
105	St. Andrew's Church	Son	15	M				
106	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	10	F				
107	St. Andrew's Church	Son	5	M				
108	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	3	F				
109	St. Andrew's Church	Son	2	M				
110	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	1	F				
111	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
112	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
113	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
114	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
115	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
116	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
117	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
118	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
119	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
120	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
121	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
122	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
123	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
124	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
125	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
126	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
127	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
128	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
129	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
130	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
131	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
132	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
133	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
134	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
135	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
136	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
137	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
138	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
139	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
140	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
141	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
142	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
143	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
144	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
145	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
146	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
147	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
148	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
149	St. Andrew's Church	Son	0	M				
150	St. Andrew's Church	Daughter	0	F				
Total of Names and Families					12	13		

Edmund Cockshutt's (b.1862) father was Joshua Cockshutt (born 1840 at Preston) and his mother was Margaret Hayes. Joshua Cockshutt's family is recorded in the 1871 Census as living at 33 East View, Preston." (no longer in existence). Joshua Cockshutt, aged 31, was recorded as an "Ironfounder" employing 8 men and 4 boys. In the house on census day were Margaret aged 29, Edmund, aged 9, Nicholas, 7 and Joshua aged 1. Mary, aged 17, a General Servant Domestic born in Ireland, was also resident. The neighbourhood in Preston was modest middle class with small business people as the Cockshutt's neighbours.

Ten years later, the 1881 Census shows Joshua Cockshutt, aged 41, a "Cotton Spinner (employing about 100 hands)" was resident at [19 Bairstow Street, Preston](#). Resident were Margaret, his wife, aged 39, Edmund, son, aged 19, a "Pupil to Cotton Spinner", Mary, daughter, aged 4. Margaret, daughter aged 5 months, and two servants, Ann Harrison, "Nursery Servant" and Mary Chippendale, "General Servant". The neighbourhood is more prosperous than their address in 1871, with medical practitioners and the Head Master at the Grammar School as neighbours.

In the 1841 Census, Joshua is recorded living at Saul Street, Preston with his parents Edmund Cockshutt, aged 30, "J.Mechanic" and Betty Cockshutt, aged 20 with Mary, aged 7, Elizabeth, aged 3 and Joshua aged 1. Also living with them were James Ashton, aged 70 and Betty Ashton, aged 65. Edmund Cockshutt and Elizabeth Ashton were married at St Johns, Preston on 9 February 1833. James and Betty Ashton were Betty Cockshutt's parents.

Saul Street is no longer a residential street but the Cockshutt's neighbours, recorded in the 1841 Census, suggest that their neighbours tended to be tradespeople.

Church records

Edmund Cockshutt (b.1810) was the son of another Edmund Cockshutt (c. 26 September 1779 at St Bartholemew's Church, Colne, Lancashire) and Betty Herrin (c.1773) who were married at St Peter's Bolton on 7 November 1804.

Edmund Cockshutt (c.1779) was the son of Edmund Cockshutt (c.1753) and Thomasin Walker (b.unk) who were married in 1777 at Waddington, Yorkshire. Edmund Cockshutt was known as Edmund Cockshutt of Bell Grove. He may have been married more than once and his second wife may have been Margery Maude whom he married on 9 July 1795 at Great Harwood, Lancashire.

Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove (c.1773) was probably the son of John Cockshutt "of Longroyd" c. 11 October 1753 at St Bartholemew's Church, Colne, Lancashire.

It is likely that John Cockshutt had an uncle or cousin also named Edmund Cockshutt of "Longrode" who was buried at St Bartholemew's Colne on 4 August 1747.

Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove is reported to have had as many as twelve children, many of whom share the names found in subsequent generations, making it difficult to be sure that the line of ancestry described above is correct.

Other sources – Nicholas Cockshutt’s Pedigree

Apart from the official birth death and marriage records. The census records and the Parish records available of the various family history databases, there are two other sources of information about the Cockshutts. The first is a typed document entitled “The Cockshutt Pedigree” “made by Nicholas Cockshutt, Solicitor, formerly of Preston, Lancashire and now of Guilford Surrey.” In that document, apart from recording the pedigree, the author states that Edmund of Ballgrove “possessed the following properties:

Ballgrove Estate,
Emot Lane Estate,
Cotton Mills in Boulgh Gap in the Forest Trawden,
Angram Green Estate at Worston,
Warsaw Hill Estate,
Howarth Estate,
Lawkland, in the County of York, etc.”

Using available on-line resources, the following comments are offered as probable explanations of the “properties” referred to in Nickolas Cockshutt’s pedigree.

- Ballgrove Estate, was probably the farm to the East of Colne which is now a public park;
- Emot Lane Estate, was possibly located off the present Emmott Lane to the East of Colne off Keighley Rd;
- Cotton Mills in Boulgh Gap in the Forest Trawden, were probably located in or adjacent to adjacent to what is now [Bow Gap Farm](#), located on the edge of what was [Forest Trawden](#). It is possible that the (pre-industrial) cotton mills referred to were driven by the fast-flowing streams on the northern boundary of the farm;
- Angram Green Estate at Worston was probably somewhere near where now stands [Angram Green Farmhouse](#), near Clitheroe. [Worston](#) was an area North West of Pendle Hill close to Clitheroe;
- Warsaw Hill Estate probably located near [Chatburn or Downham](#), close to the foot of Pendle Hill;
- “Howarth Estate” may refer to a property in or near the village of [Haworth, in West Yorkshire](#). It may be a coincidence, but at the funeral of William Henry Douglas Flack in 1935, father-in-law of Alice Flack, nee Cockshutt, a Dr and Mrs Haworth were present. Is it possible the spelling was inaccurate in Nicholas Cockshutt’s account of the Cockshutt “pedigree”?;
- Share of Mill at Halham Dale, York is a possible reference to [Malham Dale](#), located just over the border in West Yorkshire, although no reference can be found to there ever having been a mill in the area. It is however famous for its limestone, much in demand for the mortar used in building construction and agriculture;
- Shares in the [Leeds and Liverpool Canal](#) and,
- [Halifax Cloth Hall](#). It will be noted that the Halifax Cloth Hall or “Piece Hall” as it was known was an important pre-industrial centre for the marketing of hand woven cloth.
- Lawkland, in the County of Yorkshire is probably a reference to a property in the civil parish in North Yorkshire which is known for the historic [Lawkland Hall](#) . There is no village as such although there are several clusters of houses and farms, any of which could have been owned or leased by Edmund Cockshutt.

POST MASTER, MR. EDMUND RILEY—Office, *Market-Street*.—Letters arrive from Skipton, York, Leeds, &c. every m^g. at 6, and are despatched at half-past 11 m^g.; and from Burnley, Blackburn, Preston, and Manchester, at half-past 11 m^g. and are despatched at 5 minutes past 6 morning.—Office opens for the Delivery of Letters at 6 morning.

DIRECTORY.

MISCELLANY—Consisting of the Names of the Inhabitants not arranged in the Trades' Lists, with the Residences of the Gentry, Clergy and Manufacturers.

<p>Alexander Mary, gentlewoman, Church st. Ashworth Edmund, flannel mfr. Heir's house Asquith Wm. deputy constable and inspector of weights and measures for the Higher Division of Blackburn, <i>Colne lane</i> Ayrton Henry, smallware dealer, <i>Water side</i> Barcroft Misses, gentlewomen, <i>Park house</i> Beitt Anthony, excise officer, <i>Shackleton street</i> Calvert Rev. John, <i>East parade</i> Carr James Bulcock, Esq. <i>Langroyd hall</i> Catterick Rev. Thomas, <i>Colne lane</i> Chester Robert, overlooker, <i>Market street</i> Cockshutt Edward, gent, <i>Ball grove</i> Conyers Ann, sub-distributor of stamps, and keeper of the Cloth hall Cowgill Jas. veterinary surgeon, <i>Priestfield</i> Driver Jas. governor of the Workhouse, <i>Flass</i> Dyson Robert, heald yarn mfr. Church street Eells James, Chapelry clerk, Church street Emmott John, organist, <i>Lister street</i> England Nicholas, spinner & mfr.; h. Clayton st. Garth Thomas, <i>Shackleton street</i> Gill James, wood turner, <i>Market place</i> Greenwood James, gent. <i>Greenfield</i> Harrison Lieut. S. <i>East parade</i> Hartley John, <i>String lane</i> Henderson Rev. John, perp'l. Curate, <i>Colne In.</i> Horner Rt. loom mkr. & furniture dir. <i>Clayton st.</i> Hudson Mrs. Sarah, <i>East parade</i> Lambert John, collector of poors' rate & water money, <i>Dockray square</i></p>	<p>Landless Wm. coal proprietor, <i>Carry heys</i> Leach Jane, gentlewoman, <i>East parade</i> Lister Elizabeth, gentwn. <i>Parliament street</i> Midgley Robert, hat mfr.; h. <i>East parade</i> Morrell Margaret, keeper of the Subscription library, <i>Church street</i> Parker Miss Elizabeth, <i>Alkincoates</i> Parr Betty, gentlewoman, <i>Market street</i> Petty Alice, gentlewoman, <i>Colne lane</i> Pickering Rev. Robert, Church street Priestley James, wharfinger, to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Co. <i>Foulridge</i> Reynolds Robert, Esq. <i>Heir's house</i> Robinson John, gent. <i>Park house</i> Robinson Rev. Thomas, <i>Intack</i> Sagar Lucy, gentlewoman, <i>East Parade</i> Sagar Oates, gent. <i>Market street</i> Smith Marth, gent. <i>Nether heys</i> Smith Thomas, gent. <i>Nether heys</i> Tillotson Rt. atty.; h. <i>Horsfield cottage, E. parade</i> Walker Richard, <i>String lane</i> Walton Ambrose, bookkeeper, <i>Parliament street</i> Whitaker John, dealer in worsted & stuff goods, <i>Water side</i> Wilkinson Ann, gentlewoman, <i>St. John street</i> Wilkinson Elizabeth, gentwn. <i>Dockray sq.</i> Wilkinson Henry, hat mfr.; h. <i>Colne lane</i> Wilkinson Joseph, inspector of raw hides, <i>Market street</i> Wilson James, Esq. <i>Hey royd</i></p>
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Death Notice for Joshua Cockshutt, at 16 weeks old, son of Joshua Cockshutt in the Preston Chronical dated 14 December 1867

DEATHS.

On the 10th instant, Mrs. Crankshaw, relict of the late Mr. Richard Crankshaw, cotton spinner, and eldest daughter of the late Mr. Naylor, of this town, aged 59.

On the 12th instant, Elizabeth Ann, second daughter of Mr. Thomas Grundy, Hesketh Arms, Lancaster-road, aged 22.

On the 10th instant, at his residence, 16, Chaddock-street, Preston, the Rev. Richard Slate, for 40 years Congregational minister in this town, and the oldest of that denomination in Lancashire, aged 81.

On the 8th instant, Joshua, son of Mr. Joshua Cockshutt, East View, aged 14 weeks.

Dissolution of Partnership

Notice of dissolution of partnership in Preston Chronical dated September 1845

were seized, and sentenced to twenty-hours imprisonment for contempt of court.
Bankrupts.
T. Davies, Liverpool, merchant, October 11 and November 18, at half-past twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy, Liverpool. Mr. J. Casonove, official assignee, Liverpool; Atts. Messrs. Sale and Co., solicitors, Manchester.
J. Swallow, Manchester, share broker, October 15 and November 7, at twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy, Manchester. Mr. R. F. Hobson, official assignee, Manchester; Atts. Messrs. Sale and Co., Manchester.
W. L. Hall, Liverpool, victualler, October 17 and November 11, at the Court of Bankruptcy, Liverpool. Mr. G. Morgan, official assignee, Liverpool; Att. Mr. C. Green, Liverpool.
W. Baye, Flintock, Oxfordshire, baker—J. H. Lines, Richemond, Surrey, butcher—T. M. Botine, Battermarket-row, and of Barnsbury-square, commission agent—T. Winston, Copthall-buildings, London, merchant—J. Middleton, Aveley, Essex, hay salesman—J. Mortimer, Adelphi-street, West Strand, bookseller—S. Laurence, Bedford-street, Covent-garden, dealer in watches—W. G. Thackway, Union-place, New-road, Margitstone, tailor.
DIVIDENDS TO BE DECLARED IN LANCASHIRE.
T. Brower, Liverpool, flag dealer, October 21—S. Mead, Liverpool, iron merchant, October 28—J. Knight, Wigan and Haydock, butcher, October 30.
CERTIFICATES IN LANCASHIRE.
To be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary, on the day of meeting.
D. Dames, Liverpool, paper stationer, October 30—J. Banning, Liverpool, stationer October 30.
CERTIFICATES IN LANCASHIRE.
To be granted by the Court of Review, unless cause be shown to the contrary, on or before October 24.
J. Spenser, Junr., Liverpool, builder—G. Laurie, Fleetwood—W. Wyre, chemist—M. Allen, St. Helen's, butcher—J. M. Nelson, Liverpool, general broker.
PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED IN LANCASHIRE.
Edmund Cockshutt and William Lowe, Preston, Lancashire, iron founders.
T. Pierrepont and J. Marsden, Liverpool, watch jewelers—T. Stokes and Son, Salsybridge, joiners—W. B. Lamb, and W. R. Miller, Rochdale, millwrights—H. Wilson and H. W. Noss, Manchester, yarn merchants—Worthington, Son, and Dobb, Manchester, calico printers; so far as regards J. Judd—J. Horner and T. Horner, Manchester, flour factors—Platt, Gourlay, and Co., Liverpool, wine merchants; so far as regards T. Platt—J. Hall and E. Hall, Salford, small wire manufacturers—T. G. Shaw, W. W. Heap, W. Maxwell, and J. B. Hindle, Manchester, and Salisbury-street, Strand, London, wine merchants; so far as regards W. H. Walker—F. A. Fynney and J. W. Adams, Manchester, stock brokers—E. Shepley and J. Swahn, Higher-hill, Ashton-under-Lyne, firebrick makers.

The Cockshutt Tractors connection

In a Canadian publication "Memoirs of Ignatius Cockshutt: Consisting chiefly of his own reminiscences", published in Brentford, Ontario in 1903, the author refers to Ignatius Cockshutt being born in Yorkshire on 24 August 1812 the son of a James Cockshutt who was in business with a cousin, Joshua Cockshutt in a company known as J & J Cockshutt, before emigrating to Canada. The family story told was that business declined and James abandoned the business and went to live on a farm owned by his grandfather Edmund Cockshutt at Worsaw Hill near Clitheroe, Lancashire. The author explains that Edmund Cockshutt "who was the real head of the Cockshutt family, and was a man of considerable importance in the district to which he belonged. He was a manufacturer and landowner as well having estates in the Counties of Yorkshire and Lancashire."

The following is an extract from a biography of Henry Cockshutt in which the author is discussing the life of Henry's father Ignatius Cockshutt, son of James Cockshutt and Mary Nightingale.

*Ignatius emigrated to Canada with his father and mother from Lancashire in July 1827.
James Cockshutt was the son of Edmund Cockshutt of Bell Grove's and brother of the
Edmund Cockshutt, born 1779 in the Flack-Cockshutt family tree.*

Throughout his life Cockshutt devoted considerable time and money to Christian philanthropy. He belonged to a Methodist sect, the Inghamites or Independents, which had originally flourished in Yorkshire and Lancashire. His father [James Cockshutt] had founded two congregations in Upper Canada, the first in York, which did not thrive, and the second in Brantford. Its evangelical doctrines were demanding, and Ignatius Cockshutt, who remained an Inghamite throughout his life, refused to let faith rest easily upon him. As he wrote to a relative, "The great matter for all to earnestly consider [is] how do I stand in the sight of the Lord. Am I resting on the sure Rock Christ trusting alone in his precious Blood [and] finished work for sinners like you [and] me." His religious convictions required him to engage in charity work and evangelism. "We are commanded to do good to all as we have opportunity especially the household of faith," he explained to a correspondent. In 1887 he donated land and \$10,000 for the Brant County House of Industry. Other agencies in Brantford, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Young Men's Christian Association, and the Young Women's Christian Association, received substantial donations. As well, he established the Widow's Home in Brantford and, with Thomas Strahan Shenston, the Brantford Orphan's Home, the operation of which Cockshutt took over entirely in 1879. He also sent money regularly to Dr Thomas John Barnardo for work with destitute children in Britain and volunteered to find situations locally for child immigrants. His major commitment, however, was to support one mission in Jamaica entirely and another partially.*

Cockshutt had an austere personality, emanating from his religion and work ethic, and expressed in the patriarchal discipline he exerted over his children, nine of whom survived childhood. Loans to his sons when they embarked in business were painstakingly recorded and fully secured. In 1890 he lectured the fiancé of his daughter Elizabeth on matrimonial finances, couching his disapproval of their marriage settlement in no uncertain terms. William Foster suffered particularly from being his father's son. Ignatius did not approve of his choice for a wife, refused to sanction the marriage, and, when William would not listen, had local doctors declare him mentally unstable and packed him off to an asylum at Canandaigua, N.Y., until he gave in to his father's wishes. It is hardly a wonder that the children at times believed he displayed more interest in his dogs, for whom he felt great affection, than in them. William nevertheless went on to become a noted mp and exponent of imperial free trade, while another son, Henry* (Harry), gained prominence in manufacturing and as a lieutenant governor of Ontario.*

Discipline, rooted in his faith and demonstrated in his relations with his children, characterized Ignatius Cockshutt's success in business. Careful attention to his undertakings earned him a fortune. Perhaps because Brantford's size limited the prospects for growth of any mercantile venture, Cockshutt diversified his business interests and from the 1870s made significant investments in local manufacturing.

The Inghamite Connection

Perhaps another interesting aspect of the Cockshutt family history is the connection with the Inghamite Church, an "independent" branch of the Methodist Church, much influenced by the Presbyterians. James Cockshutt, brother of the Edmund Cockshutt in our family line, was an Elder of the Inghamite Church and helped establish the Winewall Inghamite Chapel.

Portrait photograph of Ignatius Cockshutt



This photo was found in a book in the Baldwin collection of the Toronto Reference Library, part of the Shenston Collection detailing the early history of the Girl's Home on Sheridan St, Brantford, property Ignatius had donated.

Portrait photograph of Nightingale Cockshutt nee Ingham



Drawing of James Cockshutt b.c1775

