

# THE MOXON MAGAZINE

The Magazine for the Moxons, Established by James Moxon in  
1988, Founding Editor, and First President of the Society.  
No. 24. October 1999. Published April and October.

## Editorial

AS YOU MAY WELL IMAGINE, it is with a heavy heart that I write this, my first editorial. This should have been Jimmy's "swansong" - his 24<sup>th</sup> editorial prior to his retirement from the Editorship of this Magazine - which he inaugurated in April 1988. Initially, producing it at his own expense, he recovered the costs by charging an annual subscription. When The Moxon Society came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1991, the Magazine became the official organ of the Society. Jimmy continued to be the sole Editor, until six years ago, when I became Associate editor.

It was Jimmy's drive and ambition that led to the formation of the Society, ably aided and abetted by the late Dick Moxon of Southampton - truly the Society's two Principal Founding Fathers, and duly appointed the first President and Vice-President respectively, at the Gathering held in September, 1990. This most successful partnership sadly ended abruptly a few days later with the death of Dick Moxon on 24<sup>th</sup> September that year.

Jimmy had a "presence". On entering a room full of people, Jimmy stood out. I well remember, before I ever met him, a (now long standing) Member saying that she felt awkward calling him "Jimmy" - when he was much more a "James"!

However, whilst we mourn his passing, he would not have wanted us to be mournful. He lived a full life, and would certainly want "his" Society to continue and to flourish. **We must ensure it does!**

Some years ago, as the deadline for Magazine publication approached, we heard of the death of a Member. Jimmy immediately, re-arranged the Magazine, so that an appropriate obituary could be included. He quipped to me "*We should make it a rule that Moxons must not die within a month of Magazine publication !*"

He obeyed his own dictum !

JMH

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following New Members to The Society:

Joan Chester of Boston, England.  
John Moxon of Barnsley, Yorks., England.  
John W Moxon of Wakefield, England.  
John C Boydell of Farnham, Surrey, England.  
John S.Earnshaw of Bretton West, Yorks., England

## Jimmy Moxon

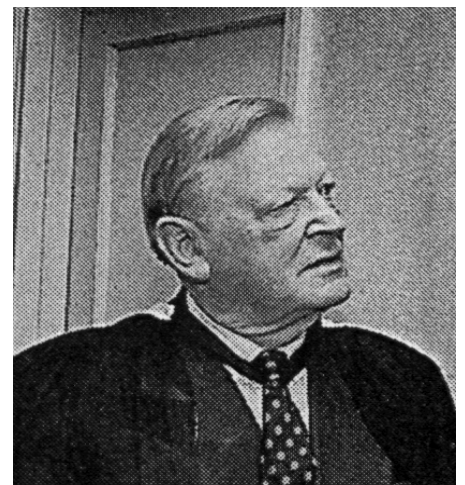
ROLAND JAMES (JIMMY) MOXON, O.B.E., President and Founding Father of the Moxon Society, Editor of The Moxon Magazine and Chief Nana Kofi Obonyaa, Onyaasehene of The Ashanti Tribe in Ghana, died in the Military Hospital in Accra, Ghana on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1999.

He had been ailing for some months, having had a prostate operation in England last October, and was not fully recovered when he left for Ghana earlier this year. There he obviously worked hard to get the "Ghana Golden Pages" (Yellow Pages) Directory published, on which he had been working for several years. In June, he was in hospital, due to swollen legs - he did not tell Margaret, his sister, until he had been discharged, saying he was much better.

Then, early in August, he was re-admitted, suffering from suspected kidney failure, from which he never recovered. He had also long been a diabetic, which may have pre-empted his later problems. He left the Ghana Golden Pages, and several books he was writing unfinished.

Obituaries have been published in "The Independent" on 1<sup>st</sup> September, and "The Guardian" on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Both were interestingly written, but both made the mistake of saying that Denstone, where Jimmy's father was Headmaster of Denstone College, and where Jimmy was schooled, was near Macclesfield! Whereas it is miles away in Staffordshire, near the border with Derbyshire, 7 miles north of Uttoxeter.

Rev. Peter Hobson, Jimmy's nephew and Margaret's son, is his Executor in the U.K., and is planning to fly out to Ghana for the funeral ceremonies on 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October. These are being arranged by The House of Chiefs, the date having been selected so that The President of Ghana, Jimmy Rawlins - a longstanding friend of Jimmy's - can attend. Peter will be representing Jimmy's sister,



*Jimmy Moxon  
1920 - 1999*

Margaret, and her family

There will be a "lying in state", before Jimmy is finally buried at Aburi, in a place picked by him years ago, near to his bungalow.

Those who saw the BBC programme "Here and Now", will remember Jimmy telling the interviewer that on death, a chief's body is allowed to decompose. Then the bones are threaded together with gold thread, and he and his chief's stool, are then wrapped, and buried with the other chiefs that have gone before.

It appears that this procedure will not be followed, and that Jimmy will receive a more conventional (in Western eyes) burial.

We hope to include a full report of the funeral ceremonies in our April Magazine.

JMH

## The Norwich Gathering.

The 1999 Moxon Gathering and Symposium, held on 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September, in Norwich, is reported on pages 10 and 11.

# A Tribute to Jimmy Moxon

*Earlier in the year, this article started out as "Knowing our Moxons" to commemorate Jimmy's retirement from the Presidency of the Society, and from the Editorship of the Magazine. Sadly it has turned out to be an obituary.*

ROLAND JAMES (JIMMY) MOXON O.B.E. has been the driving force behind the success of the Moxon Society, since its formation in January 1991. But, for many years prior to that, Jimmy had been actively interested, and busy fostering interest, in the Family of Moxons.

He inherited this passion from his father, Prebendary Thomas Allen Moxon, and his father's elder brother, Canon Reginald Stewart Moxon. In the 1920's these two brothers had conducted a significant amount of research, but it had never been published. In the mid-eighties, Jimmy set about publishing *"The Moxons of Yorkshire"*. Aided and abetted by the late Dick Moxon, of Southampton, they mounted a mail-shot of over a thousand letters to Moxons world wide, culling addresses from international telephone directories, advertising the forthcoming publication of the book. Most mail-shots are considered successful if they result in a 5% response. Their mail-shot resulted in over 350 replies ! (35%) Many respondents ordered the book in advance, and also sent details of their own particular branch of the Moxon family. Jimmy now had so much new information that he revised the book considerably, resulting in a delay in publication. There are letters on file from Moxons complaining that they had sent payment six months previously, but had not yet received *"The Moxons of Yorkshire"* !. It was published in 1987 - and proved a great success.

No doubt egged on by this, Jimmy produced the first Moxon Magazine in April 1988, which was offered on an annual subscription basis. He has continued to Edit the Magazine ever since.

The Magazine soon started to discuss the possibility of organising a Gathering of Moxons, in the "homeland" of the Moxons - Yorkshire. Dick Moxon organised the first such Gathering in Devonshire Hall, Leeds University in July 1989, which was hugely successful, and the forerunner of annual Gatherings in early September ever since. Dick also organised the second, very successful, Gathering in September 1990, but tragically passed away later that month. (see photo on page 10).

At that Gathering it was unanimously decided to form the "Moxon Society", which formerly came into being on 1st January 1991.

In 1987 Jimmy and Dick set up *"The Moxon Family Research Trust"*. This became a Registered Charity (No.328333) on 19th September 1989.

All Moxon Society Members are, of course, well aware of the great contribution that Jimmy has made to The Society, and to the Family of Moxons in general.

Whilst many know a little about his life outside the "Moxon Circle", the details are skimpy.

He was born in Shrewsbury on 7th January, 1920, and lived there (apart from attending school) until his father was appointed the Headmaster of Denstone College, about 6 miles north of Uttoxeter in Staffordshire. (I was brought up in Uttoxeter - but our paths never met).

Jimmy attended Highfield School in Liphook from aged 8 to 13, by which time his father was at Denstone, so Jimmy attended Denstone College until he was 18. From there to Cambridge (St.John's College - where the Society held its 1995 Annual Gathering).

After graduating in June 1940, he joined the Royal Signals. In 1941 he left the army and joined the Colonial Service, and was posted to the Gold Coast Colony (later to become Ghana) as an Assistant District Commissioner, generally working "up country", but also in Accra. Sometime after promotion to District Commissioner, he joined the "Information Services", where, on Independence in 1957, he became Information Officer to Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of the new Ghana.

In 1963 he left the Government Service, and went into business in "The Atlantic Bookshop" and the "Black Pot Restaurant". Unfortunately, following grave food and paper shortages in Ghana, both businesses folded in the 1970's.

Whilst in the Information Services, Jimmy wrote his book about the building of the Volta Dam - *"Volta - Man's Greatest Lake"*.

As a young Assistant District Commissioner, during the early stages of World War II, it was Jimmy who, almost single handedly, persuaded the farmers to switch from Cocoa production - for which there was now no export market, to food production, and so staved off mass starvation in the Colony.

Years later, in October 1965, this was remembered when he became the first "White Chief" in Africa, formally "Gazetted" as a Constitutional Chief of the Ashanti Tribe in the Government Gazette, and named as *"Chief Nana Kofi Obonyaa, Onyaasehene"*.

About three years ago, Jimmy was featured on the BBC's "Here and Now" programme. The interviewer asked him if there were ever any problems due to him being white in a black country. He replied "Any such problem is always properly resolved by the House of Chiefs". Also shown on that programme were Jimmy's "Ceremonial Wives", and members of the Onyassi "Mighty Stonebreakers Football Club" of which Jimmy was Chairman. He explained that on ceremonial occasions he is carried on his Palanquin by four bearers, but being rather heavy, needs some reserves. What better then, than to have a football team, from which to



*The Inauguration of Chief Nana Kofi Obonyaa.  
Photo by courtesy of the BBC. © BBC Picture Archives*

draw the bearers !

There are of course rules governing a Chief's conduct. He must never stand on the floor in bare feet. He also has an "Official Blame Taker". When things go right, the Chief takes the credit - but when anything goes wrong - then this Official takes the blame (what an excellent idea !)

In Ghana, Jimmy lived in a well staffed bungalow, high up in the mountains, at Aburi, about 50 miles from Accra, but had an office in the Capital City. This is in great contrast to the Tudor cottage in Ashford Carbonel, near Ludlow in England, where, when in residence, he looked after himself !

Jimmy was well known in many circles. On our last visit to him in Ashford Carbonel, just days before he left for Ghana, he had had Dymps and I in stitches, recounting past times with "Satchmo" Louis Armstrong, and giving an excellent imitation of Satchmo's "gravel voice". On previous occasions, and in particular over a pint of beer, his stories were a legion - and all fascinating.

Now we are left with memories - and a thriving Moxon Society - with more Members than at any time in the past.

**Thank you Jimmy !**

**JMH**

*My thanks to Margaret Eastwood for her assistance in writing this article.*





*ABOVE: Chief Nana Kofi Obonyaa, Onyaasehene, carried on his palanquin, and RIGHT: set down to greet his guests.*



*ABOVE: Jimmy at home in his Tudor cottage garden in Ashford Carbonel. RIGHT: The "Official Blame Taker" walks in front of his Chief. When things go right - the Chief takes the credit - when things go wrong - the "Blame Taker" takes the blame !*



*The road to Aburi, where Jimmy lived.*

All the photographs on this page were "grabbed" from a video of the "Here and Now" program, screened by the BBC about 3 years ago, and are reproduced by courtesy of the BBC.  
© BBC Picture Archives.



*The Chief and his Ceremonial Wives, being interviewed by Mark Easten.*



*The Onyassi "Mighty Stonebreakers Football Club" - They also doubled as*



*Goal ! (No prizes for spotting the ball !)*

*Palanquin bearers. A football team provides four bearer, plus plenty of reserves !*



*The Supporters go wild when a goal is scored.*

## The Moxons of Ferry Fryston, their Ancestors (?) and Descendants

The head of the Moxons of Ferry Fryston was Samuel Moxeson, who married widow Lydia Walton at Ferry Fryston on 12th November, 1728. Lydia's first husband,

The considerable research undertaken by Members Rev. Don Moxon, his second Cousin, Hilda Clarke and Graham Jagger reveals that genealogy is far from simple and straight forward ! Originally it was thought that Samuel Moakson of Ferry Fryston was the son of John Moxon of Silkstone - see tree. It was also thought that Michael Moxon, who

In MM22 (October 1998) in "Where there's a Will.....", Joan Rendall discussed the will of John Mokeson of Thurgoland, in the Parish of Silkstone, dated 1728 (marked as 3 B on tree) It was apparent that John's eldest son, Thomas, was away for a long period, and his whereabouts unknown. If he did not return within 6 years of his father's death, then his younger brother, Samuel would receive his inheritance. Did Thomas return ? Did Samuel have Thomas' inheritance ?

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Don Moxon, Member of Aylsham, has supplied some of the answers, and also proved that Samuel, the son of John Moxon of Silkstone, was not the Samuel of Ferry Fryston. His article is reproduced below:

I WAS INTERESTED to read Joan Rendall's comments on the will of John Mokeson of Silkstone ( 10 August 1728). (MM22 October 1998)

This particular family group has been the subject of much research by members of the Moxon Society - notably by Graham Jagger, but also by Hilda Clarke (my second cousin) and myself some time ago, because Hilda and I thought it was possible that our ancestor Samuel Moxon, who had married Lydia Walton at Ferry Fryston also in 1728, might have been the same Samuel who was the son and executor of John Mokeson of Silkstone. Since the first two children of "our" Samuel and Lydia were named Elizabeth and John, and since John of Silkstone's wife was named Elizabeth, we thought we were on the right trail. Unfortunately, this turned out to be a wrong supposition.

One detail that Joan Rendall did not refer to is that on the probate form attached to that will of 1728, John's son Samuel, as chief executor, is referred to as "forficem de Sefield", which translates as "scissors maker of Sheffield". That led us to the Sheffield Record Office in 1994, where we unearthed two relevant items which demolished our hopes that the two Samuels were one and the same.

First was the finding of a very lengthy indenture dated 22 January 1795, in which the crucial genealogical details read as follows:

*"An indenture dated 22 January 1795 between John Wordsworth of Barnsley, linen merchant, and Elizabeth Wordsworth of Carlton, widow, of the first part, William Elmhurst of Ouslethwaite in the parish of Darfield esquire of the second part, and Thomas Taylor of Parkhouse in Darfield esquire of the third part.....John Wordsworth is the only son and heir at law of the said Elizabeth Wordsworth, widow and relict of John Wordsworth of Carlton, and Lindrick, gentleman, deceased, who was the*

*only son and heir at law of Martha, wife of John Wordsworth, late of Wortley, lordship county of York, yeoman, both deceased, which said Martha was the last surviving and only child that married of John Mokeson of Thurgoland....." (The lengthy document then went on to list the various land transactions between the various parties)."*

That seemed to provide all the legal evidence necessary to rule out any possible identification of "our" Samuel with the son of John of Thurgoland, Silkstone. **(NB. Martha Wordsworth died in 1764, so John's sons Thomas and Samuel were already dead by then. Ed).**

This was corroborated with a second finding, as we followed through, the detail that Samuel had been "forficem de Sefield": an entry in "The History of the Cutlers Company", which includes a full list of apprentices and freemen in Sheffield in the 18th Century. There we read: "Mawkson, Samuel, son of John, Thurgoland, s.(?) to George Greaves, sc. F. 1730" The abbreviation "sc" was given as meaning "scissors maker", and the "F" to indicate that he became a freeman in 1730.

So it seems conclusive that the Samuel who married Lydia Walton at Ferry Fryston in 1728 could not be the same as the Samuel son of John of Thurgoland - unless he kept his marriage to Lydia a secret both from his sister Martha and from the master craftsman to whom we was apprenticed so that he could complete his apprenticeship and become a freeman. But such double dealing between Sheffield and Ferry Fryston is scarcely credible! If Thomas did not return, and if Samuel died before Martha and without issue, then it would seem likely that what Samuel had inherited would pass to Martha and her heirs. Such land transactions could be the subject of further research.

As yet, we have found no other evidence about what actually happened to the sons of John of Thurgoland/Silkstone. According to the Sheffield registers, there was a Thomas who married Hannah Yates in 1729; she apparently died in childbirth soon afterwards. A Thomas Moxon was buried in Sheffield in 1749/50, but that provides us with no clue as

to his parentage.

The Silkstone registers have no record of either a Samuel or a Thomas being buried there between 1728 and 1764 - the year of Martha's death.

In view of the fact that many of the Sheffield cutlery works were - I understand - in the parish of Attercliffe, I would be interested in learning if the Attercliffe Parish Registers provide any further relevant clues.

**Don Moxon**

The "Indentures" reproduced at the bottom of this page, also researched by Don Moxon, dated just two years after Samuel's death, confirms John as being Samuel's eldest son.

John's niece, Mary Moxon, made her will, which was proved in 1830. This will is not particularly interesting, but it does confirm many of the relationships shown on the tree. She obviously felt a little sore that one of her nephews had borrowed £5 and never repaid the debt. In her will she forgave the debt, but left £15 to other nephews and nieces !

In all, three Society Members are descended from this Samuel Moxeson.

FOR MANY YEARS we thought that Michael Moxon, who married Ann Watson (2 F on tree) was the son of John Moxon, who baptised a "Michael" in 1772 (4 F on tree). Don and Hilda's detailed research has again shown an original assumption to be wrong. The actual marriage record of Michael Moxon and Ann Watson, dated 30th November, 1800, clearly shows that Michael was aged 23, and Ann 21. If Michael had been baptised in 1772, then he would have been 28 years old when he married. I quizzed Don "Is it possible that "23" could actually be "28" ?". "No !" was his response "It is clearly "23" - it is written "twenty-three !".

Michael worked in the "woollen" town of Wakefield as a cropper, a worker who cut off the rough surface of the cloth with large shears before the material was pressed and finished so that the nap lay evenly. Michael and Ann had nine children (only the two "well known" sons are shown on the tree). Two Members are descended from Michael and Ann Moxon.

The most illustrious Moxon on this tree is undoubtedly Edward Moxon (1 G on tree) Michael and Ann's eldest child. He was the renowned publisher and has an entry in the "Dictionary of National Biography". Edward married Emma Isola, the "adopted" daughter of his friend Charles Lamb (who also has an entry in the "Dictionary of National Biography". Edward's 3x Great Grandson, John Moxon, Member of Southampton, is currently researching Edward Moxon, and we plan to include his article in MM25 (April 2000)

One of Edward's brothers, William, born 1808, became a wealthy barrister, and enjoyed fox hunting. In 1849 he built "Tudor Lodge" on Putney Heath, but appears never to have lived there. The 1851 Census shows that Edward and his family occupied the house.

## Indentures

Indentures of Lease and Release bearing date respectively the Eighth and ninth days of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty five this Lease made or mentioned to be made Between John Moxon of Hemsworth in the County of York Yeoman Eldest son and Heir of Samuel Moxon heretofore of Water Fryston and late of Burton Salmon in the said County Yeoman by Lydia his Wife both deceased on the one part and Joshua Smith of Burton Salmon aforesaid Yeoman of the other part and the Release made or mentioned to be made between the said John Moxon and Sarah his Wife on the one part and the said Joshua Smith on the other part Of And Containing All that Messuage and Garth with the appurtenances Situate and being in Burton Salmon aforesaid now in the Occupation of George Emmot (?) and late the Estate of the said Samuel Moxon and heretofore the Estate of Ann Wilson Widow together with all Ways Water privileges advantages Commons Common of pasture hereditaments and Appurtenances whatsoever to the sad message and premises belonging which said Indentures are Witnessed by Frostier Thompson of Brotherton in the said County Gentleman and John Hepworth of Pontefract in the said County Gentleman

Signed and Sealed in the presence of us

----- Thompson                      Sworn John Moxon  
Jno. Hepworth

William continued to live at 105, Edbury Street, Eaton Square - the house that Michael and Ann, and family, moved to in the 1830's from Wakefield. No doubt it was Edwards success as a publisher that enabled the house to be purchased.



*Tudor Lodge, Built by Edward's younger brother, William, on Putney Heath in 1849, but lived in by Edward and family from 1851.*

*Photo 1981, house demolished 1983.*



*William on his favourite hunter "Caesar"*

William entered the Middle Temple in 1840, when his father was described as a merchant. In the 1851 Census, Michael's wife, Anne, was living with her son, Edward, at Tudor Lodge, but there is no reference to Michael. He presumably died between 1840 and 1851, but details of his death/burial have not yet been found.

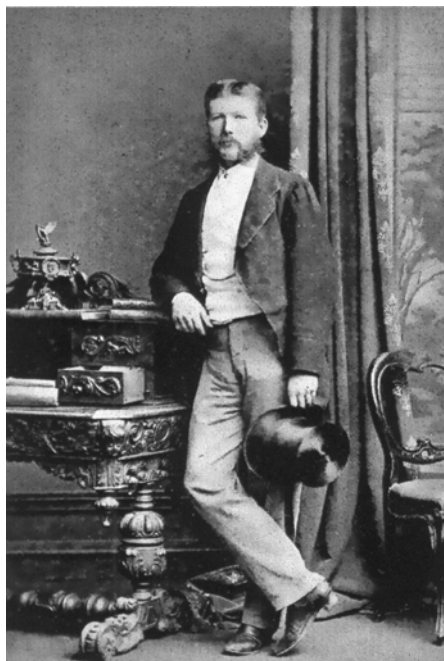
Charles Isola Moxon (3 H on tree) Emigrated to Australia in 1858, but returned to England in the 1860's and lived in Brighton until his death in 1899.

The late R.E.A. (Dick) Moxon (2 K) was a Founding Father of the Moxon Society. He had met Jimmy Moxon in about 1985 and had helped Jimmy in an extensive "mail-shot" advertising the (then) forthcoming publication of Jimmy's book "The Moxons of Yorkshire". Dick dealt with most of the correspondence resulting from this mail-shot, and had built up an extensive filing system, which later on was invaluable when the series of Moxon Family Trees (MX series) were first prepared.

Dick organised the first two very successful Moxon Gatherings at Devonshire Hall in Leeds in 1989 and 1990, tragically dying in September 1990. See Tribute to Dick Moxon in MM No.6 (October 1990).

A colour photo of Dick appears on page 10.

**He will long be remembered.**



*Charles Isola Moxon  
Died in Brighton in 1899.*



*John William Moxon and Mary Ann,  
née Judge (I 5 on tree)*

*Previous Magazine articles relevant to the above:*

*MM1 p2 Centenary of William Moxon - Barrister and Fox Hunter.*

*MM3 p7 Vicar's mistake corrected - 250 years later !*

*MM6 p3 Obituary for R.E.A. (Dick) Moxon.*

*MM7 p2 Inventory of John Moxon's effects (ref.: Will 1728)*

*MM8 p3 Emma Moxon née Isola - Centenary.*

*MM18 p7 Obituary for Irene May Moxon.*

*I wish to thank Don Moxon of Aylsham and John Moxon of Southampton for their very considerable assistance in the writing of this article.*

**JMH**

## Your Magazine

YOUR NEW LOOK MAGAZINE of twelve pages, including two in colour is now firmly established. The production method for this issue has, however changed, as we keep up with ever improving technology. The last issue was printed by copying "masters" (which had been printed on my colour inkjet printer) on a digital copying machine. I have again laid out the magazine, but this time it has been printed directly from my discs, on a laser printer, by a Printer who specialise in this type of work. This process gives improved definition, at a very affordable price (about a third less than the previous all black and white eight page magazines !)

The two colour pages, cover a variety of pictures, which we hope you will find interesting. This time, however, pages 3 and 10 are in colour, as this arrangement helps with the Magazine layout.

## HELP !

In our next issue, April 2000, "The Millennium Issue" we hope to "Go to Town"! We are well aware that many of our Members are unable to attend our Annual Gatherings - so we do not know what they look like, and they do not know what we look like! Providing **YOU** give us **YOUR** help, we propose to print colour photographs of all our Members and their spouses. Please send me a suitable photograph from which we can print just a "head and shoulders" picture of 3 cms (1¼ ins.) wide for a single person, or 5cms (2 ins.) for a couple. If the photo. you send is smaller than these sizes, please ensure it is sufficiently sharp to allow enlargement. Please also write your name and address on the back ! In order to avoid a huge administrative task, **these photos will not be returned.**

In April 2000, in addition to publishing member's photographs, we are planning the customary articles "Roots 8" - The Moxons of Ousefleet, "Knowing our Moxons" - featuring Gaylord (Mox) Moxon of Fallbrook, California, "~~Where there's a Will~~", and a special article "Edward Moxon The Publisher", by John Moxon of Southampton, as a follow on to "Roots 7" in this issue, an "update" on "Roots 5" (October 1998) - The Moxons of Wiltshire, and much, much more.

We are, however, always on the lookout for interesting articles for inclusion in the magazine. If you can help, please do so ! The wider the base of our contributors - the better.

Joan Rendall, who contributes "~~Where there's a Will~~" is anxious to include wills of Moxons from overseas - nearly all 23 have so far been U.K. wills. Can any of our overseas Members let Joan have a copy of such a will. There were many Moxons overseas in the eighteen hundreds - James Moxam, who emigrated to Nova Scotia from Wiltshire in 1816, Robert Moxon, who emigrated to Bathurst, Australia in 1859, Samuel Barker Moxon, emigrated to USA in 1836, **and their descendants.** Send to Mrs. Joan Rendall, "Bushaven", 3, Chestnut Drive, Bushby, Leicester, LE7 9RB, England.

**JMH**

# John Moxon of Market Bosworth

## 1795 - 1859

IN MM No.14 (October 1994) we published two articles about John Moxon of Market Bosworth. In "~~Where there's a will...~~" Joan Rendall discussed his will of 1859, and in the other, written by me, his extensive land and farm purchases in the early 1850's. He had purchased Hyde Farm, which he renamed "Moxon's Farm", and although it was sold

soon after his death in 1859, has retained the name ever since. He was baptised in St. Peter's Church, Market Bosworth, on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1795, the son of Joseph and Ann Moxon. Joseph is now known as "The Diarist" - *you will by now all have bought and read "A Truly Honest Man"*, recently published by The Moxon

Family Research Trust. We knew nothing of John Moxon's life until he "appeared" in the early 1850's, obviously very wealthy, and bought his land and farms.

We thank Anne Davies, Member of Oswestry, who sent us a photo-copy of his biography which appeared in the Primitive Methodist Magazine of August 1859, asking if we knew who he was. We did !

Below, we reproduce extracts from that biography, written by James Shaw, who obviously knew John Moxon very well.

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## THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST

### Magazine

AUGUST, 1859  
BIOGRAPHY.

#### JOHN MOXON, ESQUIRE.

It has become our painful duty to record the demise of our highly esteemed friend and brother, John Moxon, Esq., of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, of which place he was a native. His training was strictly moral, and the habits of his childhood and youth were anxiously watched over by kind and judicious parents. In early life he became a regular attendant at the Established Church, and continued so until he arrived at years of maturity. He subsequently went to reside at Bolton, in Lancashire, where he was highly esteemed, and amassed a large fortune. Amid the abundance of his earthly possessions, the securing of imperishable riches, was neglected, and the "one thing needful," if not altogether forgotten, was put aside until "a more convenient season." Thus the strength of youth, and the vigour of manhood were given to the fading - fleeting things of time, and though he possessed a kind heart, an affectionate disposition, a generous and benevolent spirit, and although he was courteous and amiable in manners and had a strict regard for morality, yet he lived a stranger to an experimental knowledge of salvation by faith in Christ, until about the year 1844. He then embraced the truths of the Gospel, became an eminently devoted Christian, and a light that could not be hid. After residing at Bolton many years, he retired from business, and returned to the place of his nativity, with a view principally to lead his mother to Jesus. In this his efforts were happily successful, of which she left a pleasing testimony behind.

About seven years since he became connected with the Primitive Methodist Society, to which he was a true friend, a liberal, constant, and unwearied supporter, a firm believer in its doctrines, and a genuine admirer and inculcator of its discipline; yet he was perfectly free from sectarian bigotry. He believed the Primitive Methodists were raised up by God for a great work, and of their mode of worship, and open-air operations, he cordially approved, and with this Connexion he intended to live and die.

As a Christian he was humble, self-denying, a lover of God and His people, persevering in the performance of every good work, charitable, meek, patient, and adorning in all things the doctrines of the sacred Scriptures.

The humility of our departed friend was remarkable. He was never known to manifest arrogance, haughtiness of spirit, or any of their

kindred vices. The principle of self-denial was deeply implanted in his heart. He was one of the few of the affluent, who deny themselves the honours and pleasures of their station. He might have supported a splendid and costly establishment, might have mingled with the gay and fashionable, and enjoyed the pleasures of sin for a season; yet he denied himself of worldly lusts, lived soberly, righteously, and godly in the present world. He despised the empty honours of this life, and united himself to the lowly followers of Jesus.

The meekness and patience of our departed friend; were put to the test in his long and painful affliction, which he bore without a murmur. He appeared perfectly resigned to the will of God ; "For him to live was Christ, to die, was gain." He counted the sufferings of the present life not worthy to be compared with the glory that should be revealed.

His charity was unbounded. He fed the hungry, clothed the naked, administered to the wants of the afflicted, relieved the necessities of the destitute, gladdened the heart of the widow, and caused the orphan to sing for joy. He was really the friend of the poor and needy, and it might truly be said of him, "he went about doing good !" By his uniform kindness and almost unparalleled bounty, he has rendered his name as "precious ointment poured forth." His charity, like a broad and noiseless river, was constantly diffusing blessings throughout its course. He sought not the praise of men, but strove to conceal, as much as possible, his acts of benevolence. He often said to me, when speaking of his wealth, "I have nothing of my own, I am only God's steward, may He enable me to be faithful in the discharge of my duty."

To the honour of God, he built a beautiful little, chapel, at Lime Kilns, at his own expense, and settled it on the Connexion ; he undertook to build a chapel at Stoke Golding, where we had a small but very poor society that had lost their preaching place, promising that whatever the chapel might cost in its erection, there should not be more than a debt of 20*l.* (£20) remaining upon it, and at the last interview I had with him, he promised to give me 10*l.*, (in addition to the 60*l.*, he had already given), towards completing it. He gave 25*l.* towards reducing the debt on Burbage chapel; 20*l.* towards Earl Shilton chapel ; 10*l.* towards Nuneaton chapel; 70*l.* towards Hinckley

chapel, and every chapel and school in the circuit has been relieved or assisted more or less by him; and had his valuable life been prolonged, his plans were laid for more extensive usefulness and beneficence.

We must now approach the closing scene of his useful career. His affliction (tumour on or near the heart), was of long and painful continuance. We had for some time been aware that his work was almost done, and that his departure was at hand; yet we cherished a hope that the physician's skill and the affectionate care of his relatives, might tend to prolong his stay with us for a while, but God had ordered otherwise. "His ways are not as our ways, nor His thoughts as our thoughts." When informed by his physician that his disease had assumed a very serious aspect, and that he had better settle all his affairs, as he might die any moment without pain or premonition, his reply was, "how good the Lord is; He is very good; it will be a translation, I shall close my eyes in sleep and open them in heaven."

In my last interview with him, he said, "the things of time have ceased to interest me, I have given all up, and am ready to depart and be with Christ." A sweet and and holy calm possessed his soul, the repose of confidence pervaded his spirit, he was happy in the prospect of death, he knew it was but the pathway to eternal life. A little before he died, being asked if Christ was precious, he answered, "Jesus is precious."

About two o'clock in morning, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1859, in the full triumph of faith, his happy spirit took its flight to the mansions of light, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. He now rests from his labours, and his works follow him. The Church has lost an unwearied supporter, the world a bright and shining light, and a lover of the human race. Heaven has gained a saint.

*James Shaw.*

So, we now know that he made his fortune in Bolton. Research in business directories of the 1840's in Bolton, by Harry Moxon, has not revealed how he made his fortune.

His will was dated 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1859, only 20 days before he died.

JMH

## OBITUARY

### Inez Doreen Bellis

1924 - 1998



ONE OF OUR MOST recent members, Inez Bellis, née Maddox, sadly died on 8th. August 1998, soon after joining the Society (after several year's persuasion from her second cousin, Christopher Micklethwaite) and only two weeks after her husband, Cyril Bellis, a farmer from Rossett near Wrexham, had celebrated his 90th. birthday.

The Bellis family were well established farmers in the Wrexham area. They had pioneered strawberry and other soft fruit farming since the 1920's, and still run a farm shop. Cyril and Inez lived at Trevalyn, a fascinating farm dating back to 1588, where they maintained large numbers of cattle and sheep, as well as crops, and where Inez had created a beautiful garden.

Inez was the granddaughter of Arthur Moxon, a master boot and shoe maker. She happily remembered, as a young child, sitting on the knee of her beloved, but rather awe-inspiring grandfather, who was very, very tall, thin and had red hair. She retained a few of his shoe lasts as doorstops !

Arthur's marriage remained a mystery, until Inez determined that he had gone to The Isle of Man on business, where he met a Manx women, Beatrice Scarff, who became his bride at Kirk Braddan in 1901. Their only surviving child, Ann Elizabeth Moxon, married a Shropshire farmer, Gordon Maddox in 1923. Inez Doreen was their only child, born 26th. April, 1924.

Inez, a school teacher, married Cyril Bellis in 1947. They have two daughters. Jacqueline married Barclay Taylor, a farmer and judge of bulls and they have two children. Ruth is a very keen horsewoman, and continues to live on the farm with her father. The family are keen supporters of the Wynnstay Hunt, and enjoy following the hounds.

Inez had many talents - learning foreign languages, and loved travelling abroad with Cyril. She started Badminton Clubs, Drama Classes, and founded branches of the Women's Institute. She and Ruth helped to run the Gymkhana part of the Rosset Annual Show. More recently she took up painting, and a number of her water colours of flower studies were hung in the Wrexham Library.

**Christopher Micklethwaite.**

# WHO WAS MEOC ?

By Harry Moxon

*"When I have seen upon the night's starred  
face*

*Huge cloudy symbols of a high romance*

*And thought that I may never trace*

*Their outline with the magic hand of chance"*

John Keats

IN PREVIOUS ARTICLES in this series I have explained the thesis that the name of Moxon originated as "the son of Meoc", the same Meoc who also gave his name to the town of Mexborough, "Meoc's fortified city".

The time is now ripe to ask ourselves "Who was this shadowy ancestor of ours? When did he live? What was the nature of his achievement?". Clearly, for his descendants to call themselves by his name, and to be commemorated in the name of Mexborough, he did something significant. Let us start with the one hard fact that we have, that he fortified Mexborough. Against what enemy did he defend it? It could not have been the Normans, because Mexborough is already mentioned as a known place name in the Doomsday Book (1086). The other obvious candidates would be the Viking incursions of the 9th century, or those of the late 10th and early 11th centuries.

There is no mention of Mexborough, so far as I am aware, in any of the surviving records from the Anglo-Saxon period, even though there is a reasonably full account of significant events, at least from the time of Alfred the Great, in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. This circumstance alone makes it fairly probable that the latter of the two alternatives is the correct one. The sources close to the court who compiled the Chronicle were well acquainted with events in the South of England but had only a sketchy knowledge about happenings in the remoter North. If Mexborough had only come into existence as a known place name in the century before the Conquest it could well not have been known at the court.

Does this add up to a consistent picture? I think so: at this time settlements would have been founded as the original forest was cleared, and most likely populated by the young and enthusiastic who had plenty of reason to trust their defences to their own hands rather than the uncertain protection of King Ethelred. If Mexborough's fortifications had been successful in keeping the invader at bay, Meoc would then have become a local hero, explaining why both the town's name and his family's were called after him.

Let us try to assign approximate dates to Meoc: if the above assumption is correct, then the fortification of Mexborough could have occurred at any time between the battle of Maldon in 991 and the accession of Canute in 1017. If we take the mid-point and assume that Meoc was then in his prime, say 30, and the expectation of life at this time was not more than 40, this would then give us tentative dates for Meoc of 974-1014. Obviously these are not intended to be exact, but rather a rough guide, which can be used to place him against the background of known historical events.

It does not take much imagination to

suppose that succeeding generations of Meoc's descendants would have been cock-a-hoop and jealously proud of their independence. Indeed this has long been the Yorkshire character. Let us now recall the events surrounding the Norman Conquest. King Harold had marched to Yorkshire to stave off a threatened invasion from Harald Hardrada of Norway and routed him at Stamford Bridge, before facing another, and fatal, challenge from the South. William had been crowned king in London, but Yorkshiremen, having seen their enemies defeated so recently, were in no mood to submit so easily. When Edgar the Atheling chose to make his stand against William, Yorkshire was the obvious ground on which to fight. The revolt spread, and the governor that William had sent to York was put to death. One might have expected Meoc's sons to have supported the revolt, and it cannot be ruled out that they may even have played an active part in it. The enterprise, however, was ill-timed. With his base secure, William could raise an overwhelming force to put down opposition to his rule. Edgar the Atheling could flee to Scotland for the protection of King Malcolm, where William's power had never penetrated, but the hapless Yorkshiremen were left to their fate. Anyone who has visited the Viking Centre in York and seen the remains of the charred timber foundations still in the ground and the heaps of bones that have been excavated will understand what that fate was. The sack of Troy was not more complete than the destruction of York. Nor were the surrounding towns and villages spared Norman savagery. One might wonder how any of Meoc's sons could have survived: evidently at least one did or there would be no Moxon Society today!

One can only speculate how long the folk memories of these events would have remained in the minds of the Yorkshire people - possibly not many generations. No doubt they had to endure hard masters under Norman rule. Eventually with the passage of time memories of past conflicts faded and the population started to expand again. Only their surname survived as a reminder of the lost cause of 1068. **HM**

## What a Coincidence !

KEITH AND FRANCIS LODGE (Members) had identified one of Keith's early ancestors as Richard Lodge, who married Sarah Moxon, the daughter of William Moxon and his wife Pressily née Walker, baptised in 1626 at Leeds. (Moxon Tree MX12)

Francis, wanting to find the descendants of Keith's grandfather's brother, did a small mailshot to "Lodges", taking addresses from the telephone directory. When B.T. make errors in their directory it is usually frustrating, but not so in this case. One letter addressed to William Lodge, 5, Enys Way, Swinton, was answered by a Mrs. Brooker. She was indeed the daughter of William Lodge, **BUT**, William had never lived at that address, indeed he had died when that area was still a greenfield site, and also the telephone number was incorrect. How did that directory entry come about ? Well done, B.T.! Keith has found another relative !

**JMH**



## "Moxon" Place Names

THE ARTICLE IN MM19 concerning "Moxon House" in Moxon Street, Marylebone, and our request for details of other "Moxon" place names has prompted an excellent response !

In Lullington, a village about 8 miles from Burton-on-Trent, there is a **MOXON'S LANE** leading to the drive up to "Lady Leys" farm. This farm was occupied by John Payne Moxon, the first "Moxon" in Lullington (and my Great-grandfather) from about 1853 until his death in 1891, and then by his son, John Gimson Moxon, until he retired in 1927.

Near Hartshorne, also a few miles from Burton-on-Trent there is **MOXON'S HILL**. It is possible that Nathaniel Moxon (1686-1762) lived there. He described himself as "Yeoman of Hartshorne" in his will.

**MOXON STREET** in Barnet was laid out in 1838, and named after Thomas Moxon who owned an apothecary in the "Old Assembly Rooms". This building was formerly the "Old Red Lion Public House" where Samuel Pepys records his stay in 1660, "to take the (healing) water", which in those days was regarded the equal to that of Cheltenham.

**MOXON'S CLOSE** is in Plaistow, only 2 to 3 miles from Thomas Moxon's "Leyton Hall - which may be a clue to its origin.

**MOXON'S FARM** is not far from Hinckley, and is named after John Moxon (1795-1859) see MM 14, page 6, and article on page 7 in this issue.

There is another "**MOXON STREET** in Outwoodside near Wakefield, where **MOXON'S FOLD** is shown on old maps (home of the late President Jimmy Moxon's ancestors) and now a turkey farm.

In Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, is "**MOXON'S PASSAGE** (MM16, page 3)

**MOXON STREET** in Hull was named after the forebears of the famous banking family, but subsequently, re-named Lombard Street.

Ian Moxon tells us of **MOXON'S ISLAND** in the heart of Hanley, which is not an "island" at all, but a large block of about-to-be-developed property (belonging of course to the Moxons) so named for many years, and appears under that name in the telephone directory.

There is a **MOXON'S DRIVE** on the shores of Lake Ontario, named after Samuel Barker Moxon (1760-1847) leading up to the site of their first farm house, on a farm of 192 acres, laid out in 1836 by Samuel and his son, John - the first of the "Lost Tribe" pioneers (MM2, page 6)

When I took the first draft of this Magazine to the printers, Alan Halliday (Proprietor) advised me of three more names he had found in a business directory CD ROM !

**MOXON CLOSE** - Pontefract  
**MOXON GROVE** - Wakefield, and  
**MOXON STREET** - St. Helens.

These are all well known "Moxon strongholds".

JMH

Natasha Moxon, our new Associate Editor,

writes:

There are a number of roadways named after the Moxon family and variants located in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Hardwoodlands is farming country in Hants County approximately 45 kilometres from the provincial capital of Halifax. In Hardwoodlands, there is a Moxsom Road named after a long line of Moxsoms who have lived at the end of the road. Original deeds dating back to the early 1800s show this roadway to be named **MOXSOM ROAD**. The first holder of this deed was Joseph Moxsom who had was born in England. The road did not have a sign for many years and people called it the Line Road because the road marked the property line. In the 1970s the owner of the land, John Moxsom (Joseph's great-grandson) began holding folk festivals on the farm. It was at this time that the road received a sign saying Moxsom Road.

Another Moxon place name is located in



Waverley, Nova Scotia about 15 kilometres outside of Halifax. The family of Albert and Lalia (Gilby) Moxon moved from Hardwoodlands and raised their three children in Waverley. Their grandson, Marsden Moxon purchased land between Clark Road (also known as Hall Road) and Windsor Junction Road from Marsden's uncle, Alfred (Alf) Moxon. Marsden sold a portion of the land to his father, George Moxon. The remaining land that Marsden owned was divided into lots and a roadway was developed named **MOXON COURT**. The naming of this roadway took place between 1970 and 1975.

**MOXSOM DRIVE** is found in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia. Shubenacadie is



located 54 kilometres from Halifax. It is unknown at this time why this roadway is named after the Moxsom family.

In Sydney, Cape Breton in Nova Scotia approximately 389 kilometres away from the



provincial capital there are two known place names carrying the Moxham name. The street and building are undoubtedly named after Arthur Moxham and his family who once lived in the Moxham Castle on King's Road. Although the castle burned in 1966 the people of Sydney still recognise the family by continuing to name places after them. **MOXHAM DRIVE** is located on the opposite side of King's Road compared to where the castle stood. Arthur's son, Thomas C. Moxham, had his home was on this side of the road. (See Natasha's article "The Castle of Tragedy" in MM22 - October 1998)

The newest tribute to the Moxham family is the recently built **MOXHAM CENTRE**



next to the old castle site. This commercial office building was built by Hugh Lynch and has been leased to the provincial government.

The search continues for other Moxon Place Names throughout Canada and the United States.

Natasha Moxon.

Photographs taken by Natasha

Do you know of any others, please ? If so, then let Natasha or I have the details.

JMH



### **The Moxons gather outside Sandringham Church.**

*From Left to Right: Back Row: John McKeown, Les Moxson, Win Moxon, Niel Moxon, Jane Mickelthwaite, Ann Moxon, Robert Rendall, Jim Moxon, John Moxon Hill, Sue Moxon, John C Moxon, Cecil Sauvage.*

*Middle Row: Dr. Alvin Moxon, Les Moxson, Hilda Moxson, Ron Moxon, Gillie McKeown, Gwynneth Moxon, Dymps Moxon Hill, Joan Rendall, Wendy Moxon, Jaqui Moxon, Gwen Sauvage, Barbara Moxon.*

*Front Row: Fred Moxon, Christopher Mickelthwaite, Harry Moxon, Rosemary Mans, Barbara O'Neil, Dr. John Moxon, Judy Huggett, Vera Moxon, Rev. Don Moxon.*



**Above: The Fire Engine is greeted by the Moxons outside the Hotel.**



**Left: Les Moxson escapes the "fire", clad only in his trousers.**

**Below: Sandringham Church.**



**John Moxon Hill, Member of Coventry, Chairman and Editor (This time without the beard !)**



**Natasha Doreen Moxon, Member of Truro, Nova Scotia. Elected Associate Editor of The Moxon Magazine at the A.G.M.**



**John Moxon of Member of Southampton, and son of Dick Moxon (below left) who contributed to "Roots 7" on page 4**



**Margaret Eastwood, (Jimmy's sister) Member of Macclesfield, whose assistance in the preparation of "A Tribute to Jimmy Moxon" is greatly appreciated.**



**The Late Dick Moxon of Southampton 1916 - 1990 "Joint Founding Father" of the Society See "Tribute to Jimmy Moxon on page 2 and "Roots 7" on page 4**



**Joan Rendall, Member of Bushby, Leicester, who presents her 23<sup>rd</sup> "Where there's a Will" on page 12, and has regularly contributed other articles to this Magazine.**



**Rev. Don Moxon, Member of Aylsham, who contributed to "Roots 7" on page 4.**



**Harry Moxon, Member of Unsworth, Bury, See "Who was Meoc ?" on page 8 Harry has contributed a number of articles concerning the origins of the name "Moxon".**

**Many thanks to the above Members for sending me their photographs. JMH**

# The 11<sup>th</sup> Moxon Gathering and Symposium

## Held at The Pearl Continental Hotel, Norwich

### 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1999.

THE ELEVENTH Moxon Gathering, and Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Moxon Society were held over the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September, at The Pearl Continental Hotel in Norwich. We had an excellent time - Jimmy would have been proud of us !

The AGM was held on Friday evening, before dinner. After welcoming everyone, and in particular our "foreign" Members, John Moxon, Vice President, gave a tribute to Jimmy Moxon. He emphasised the debt of gratitude that all Moxons owed to Jimmy - our First President and Magazine Editor.

Rev. Don Moxon, Member of Beccles, then said prayers for Jimmy, which was followed by a minute's silence.

The Minutes of the AGM are published in a separate document, being circulated with this Magazine, so a brief summary here will suffice. John C. Moxon (previously Vice President) was appointed President. The meeting decided to hold the appointment of a Vice President in obedience, since there would be nothing for a VP to do ! Previously, Jimmy, as President, was in Ghana for many months each year. John, as VP had arranged the Gatherings, but in future these are to be arranged by "A Gathering Organiser". Diana Trotter, Member of Castle Donnington, was appointed Gathering Organiser, and I was appointed Editor. Natasha Moxon, Member of Truro, Nova Scotia, who had been co-opted on to the Committee last March, was confirmed as Associate Editor. The remaining existing Committee Members were re-elected en bloc.

After some discussion, it was decided that the next Gathering will be held in Bristol on 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2000.

After dinner, we had a private viewing of a 10 minute video recording about Jimmy, screened by The BBC in their "Here and Now" series some three years ago. This concentrated on Jimmy's life in Ghana as a Chief - the only Constitutional White Chief in Africa.

On Saturday morning we left for Sandringham by coach, first visiting the Church, where Rev. George Browne Moxon had been Rector from 1827 until his death in 1866. Having become the incumbent of a sleepy little village in Norfolk, it must have been quite an awakening to suddenly find that one of his "parishioners" was the Duke of Wales, when Queen Victoria bought Sandringham Hall for her eldest son, on his 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday ! We hope to include an article about Rev. George Browne Moxon in our next issue.

The Church was the ideal background for the "Gathering Photographs".

Then, a short walk to Sandringham House, the "Winter Holiday" residence of the Queen, for a tour around part of the house and the beautiful grounds. The Museum, housed in the old stables, contained much Royal

Memorabilia, including many photographs. It also housed a large selection of the cars used by Royalty in the past, and a number of children's cars, mostly electrically powered, and used in the past by the Queen and her children..

The coach took us back to Norwich by a different route, so that we saw more of Norfolk.

Prior to dinner, we had a lively talk by Mr. P. Buchanan about the history of Norwich, which was enjoyed by all.

The evening was very warm, and after dinner many members were outside, at the front of the hotel, where it was much cooler. Then, some excitement. The hotel fire alarm sounded, and those still inside came running out. Les Moxson, Member of Barnet, had retired early, and arrived at the front of the hotel clad in only his trousers. One lady present (name withheld at editor's discretion !) suggested that Les should carry on and do the "Full Monty" !

Within a few minutes the Fire Engine arrived (the alarm being linked to the Norwich Fire Station) and out swarmed firemen into the hotel. They found no fire - fortunately it was a false alarm. see "Footnote"

On Sunday morning, we all set off to have a conducted walking tour of Norwich centre, the group being split up into two, each with a guide. Both guides were very knowledgeable, and we learnt a great deal more about the history of the City, its 31 churches (sadly many now used for other than religious purposes) the merchants' and workers' houses, and how the city had grown over the years. It's fortunes had changed numerous times as commerce ebbed and flowed, as old industries died out, and new ones came into existence.

The tour did not include either the Cathedral, where of course services were being held, nor the Norman Castle. The tour started at the Erpingham Gate leading into the Cathedral grounds. On the other side of this gate had been the site of the original Saxon Market, but the Normans moved the market a little way away into open ground (probably where it was easier to keep watch over their subjects) and where the market is still held to this day.

Norwich was a large fortified town, walled on three sides encompassing a large area, with the river, and its marshy banks forming the fourth side. The enclosed area was large enough to house all the inhabitants, and it was not until much more recent times that people started to live outside the walls.

The river at Norwich, although tidal, provided a navigable water way to the sea. It was by this route that the Normans brought all the stone, some from France, and some from the North of England, to build the Cathedral. One can only marvel at the industry and numbers of workers involved in the cathedral

building task.

We were told that Anglia was split into two, those in the North being the North Folk, and those in the South being the South Folk - hence the origins of the two county names.

The name "Norwich" stems from North Wic, where wic, later wich, is Old English for a village or hamlet.

On completion of the tour, we headed back to the hotel, said our farewells, and went our separate ways.

We thank John Moxon (President) and Judy Huggett (Committee Member) for arranging such an interesting and fruitful Gathering, and are already looking forward to next year in Bristol.

#### Footnote:

Niel and Win Moxon, Members of Wayne, Philadelphia, stayed on in the hotel for Sunday night, as they wanted to explore Norfolk on Sunday afternoon. They told us later that the fire alarm went off at 6-00 a.m. Monday morning. Having evacuated the hotel, and the fire engine had arrived, it was again found to be a false alarm. Just back in bed, the alarm went off again at 6-30 a.m. Everyone evacuated the hotel once more, and again the fire engine returned. When the alarm went off yet again ten minutes later, the hotel management disarmed the system ! Niel and Win gave up, and got dressed and had an early breakfast !

JMH

*continued from page 12*

The Christian name of Caleb features often in the registers of the 17th and 18th century Moxons, when some biblical names were more common than they are today. The Caleb Moxons of Cawthorne, close by, earned their living as butchers. The name stems from one of only two of the faithful servants of Moses who actually lived long enough to lead the Israelites right into the promised Land. Being a fairly common name in the 17th century, the Pilgrim Fathers took it with them to the New World, where it remained popular for some time before gradually falling into disuse. Perhaps now is the right time for some of our younger Moxons to consider reviving it?

Attached to the Will is an Inventory of Moakson's possessions, totalling up to the value of about £50. Unfortunately, it is too lengthy to publish here, but it was interesting to read that eight arks, (chests), were found in the house and a further one in the kitchen. Now if only we could all take a peep inside them, who knows what treasures we might find !

Joan Rendall

With many thanks to Dymps, who has so patiently proof read this, and previous Magazines, and been a long suffering "Magazine widow".  
John Moxon Hill



## **‘Where there’s a Will’ 23rd in the series.**

### **Will of John Moakson of Silkstone 1714.**

**In the name of God Amen.** I John Moakson of Hoyland Swaine in the parish of Silkstone and county of York, yeoman, being sick and weak but of sound mind praised be God, and being mindful to settle my affairs in peace do make and ordain this my last will and testament as follows. First; I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty God hoping through the merits of my saviour to have pardon for my sins and my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executor hereafter named. And as to my disposal (disposable?) estate I dispose thereof as follows.

I give to my son John Moakson the close of land called Middle White Field and Nether White Field and the Nether Lovett Royd and the Dutch shippin and the Stone Delf and the Spring Wood in the bottom of it.

Item, I give to my son Caleb Moakson the closes called Far Lovett Royd and Near Lovett Royd and the uppermost White Field and the Upper Nook and the Haw Broomling at the back of Jo: Green's in full for his part and portion.

Item, I give to Grace Bailey my daughter twenty pounds to be paid by my executor as follows that is to say five pounds part thereof at the end of two years next after my decease and five pounds another part thereof at the end of four years next after my decease and five pounds another part thereof at the end of six years next after my decease and five pounds the residue thereof at the end of eight years next after my decease.

Item, I give to my daughter Sarah Milns twenty pounds to be paid by my executor at four several payments at the same times and in the same manner as is before appointed and limited for payment to my said daughter Grace Bailey.

Item, I give to Mary my loving wife three pounds and ten shillings yearly during her natural life to be paid by my two sons John and Caleb as follows, that is to say forty shillings to be paid yearly out of the lands hereby given to my said son John Moakson and thirty shillings to be paid yearly out of the lands hereby given to my said son Caleb Moakson.

Item, I give to my said wife that room called the stable to be made with a chamber over it fit for her residence in case she shall (be) in need of it so that she shall have choice of either the chamber or of the room below: also I give to her our bed and bedding one chest and chairs and other necessaries at her choice for furnishing one of these said rooms.

Item, I give to the poor of Hoyland Swaine twenty shillings to be paid to them by my executor within one year next after my decease.

Also I give to my said son John all the housing goods cattle and chattels and residue of my estate whatsoever. And I do nominate and appoint my said son John Moakson sole executor of this my last will and testament.

And further my will and mind is that all the lands and closes within mentioned which I have given and bequeathed to my two sons John and Caleb, shall be in the sole possession of my said son John until my son Caleb shall arrive at the age of twenty and four years, and then both of them to enjoy their several shares as is before herein given to them. And also my will is that if my son John die without issue that the lands hereby given him shall fall wholly to my son Caleb and if my son Caleb die without issue then the lands hereby given him shall fall wholly to my son John.

And further I do appoint that my funeral expenses shall be paid and discharged by my said son John who shall also take care duly to pay the three pounds and ten shillings to my said wife yearly until my son Caleb have possession of his share of the lands, and then my said son John shall pay forty shillings to her yearly and my son Caleb thirty shillings as is before ordered and expressed.

And I do hereby revoke disannul (sic) and make void all former wills and testaments by me heretofore made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twentieth day of June in the thirteenth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Anne by the grace of God queen of Great Britain &c. A.D. 1714. Signed: John Moakson

Signed, sealed, published and declared in the presence of: Henry Beever, Nehemiah X Ward, Elis Beever, Jo. Roebuck.

Probate granted 26 Oct 1714.

#### **THE MOXON MAGAZINE**

**Editor:** John Moxon Hill, B.Sc.(Eng.) C.Eng.  
**Associate Editor:** Natasha Doreen Moxon, B.A.(Hist.)

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#### **Notes on the Will of John Moakson**

JOHN MOAKSON'S PARISH of Silkstone lies in the very heart of the Moxon homelands. Indeed, within a thirty mile radius, perhaps one half of the Moxons reading this magazine today, could rightfully claim this area to have been the dwelling place of their earliest known ancestors.

Moakson epitomises the typical yeoman farmer, leaving his sons to inherit the land where he had almost certainly toiled away for a lifetime - and probably his Father before him. By nature, a cautious man, careful that his estate will not be squandered away or ill-used by the inexperience or impetuosity of youth, he makes various safe-guards to his bequests.

The younger son, Caleb (born in 1696) must wait until he reaches the age of 24 years before he can claim his inheritance. Both his married daughters must have their legacies of £20 each, drip-fed to them over a period of no less than eight years, which seems a long time indeed. Thus John dots every 'i' and crosses every 't' to ensure that the fruits of his labours are not easily scattered to the four winds.

In the Will, the description of the various parcels of land throw up some interesting archaic words. A royd is simply a field, nether of course, is lower, a Dutch shippin is a stable or Dutch barn and a nook suggests a private little corner of a field. The stone delf and the haw broomling both presented problems as the terms could not be found in any dictionary of archaic words. However, 'delf' implies digging so the stone delf could well have been a small disused quarry on Moakson's land. Haw broomling suggests a hedge, i.e. haw = hawthorn and broom is a shrub that grows well on sandy soil. Thus, 'The upper Nook and the Haw Broomling at the back of Jo. Green's' gives us a charming picture of rural England, making one wonder how many young couples have pledged their undying love there, or how many giggling children have played Hide and Seek behind this hedge in the private little corner of the field at the back of Jo Green's cottage.

*continued at foot of column 3 on page 11*

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