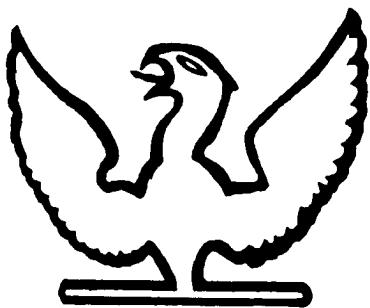


No. 25 - "Millennium" Edition - 20 Pages



THE MOXON MAGAZINE

The Magazine for the Moxons, Established by James Moxon in 1988, Founding Editor, and First President of the Society.
No. 25 April 2000 Published April and October.

Editorial

AS WE ARE NOW well into the new millennium, I hope it is not too late to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year, and for many more to come.

During the last century, the rate of progress accelerated, and will, no doubt, continue in this new century. What our forefathers would think, if they came back, is hard to imagine ! The motor car is only just over 100 years old: the jet aircraft is barely 50 years old: we have been to the moon: e-commerce is just taking off. Yet some things never change - we still have wars, and millions are still starving !

It is difficult for us to imagine just what life was like for our forefathers. My own earliest, traceable, ancestor (in common with upwards of 25 other Society Members) was Charles Mokeson of Cawthorne in Yorkshire, who made his will and died in 1592. He was almost certainly young by our standards, since, in his will, he describes his six children as in their "nonage" and charges his wife, Anne, with their tuition. It is sad to think that here was a man who lived for perhaps 40 years, and yet all we know about him are these few simple facts! We can assume that his life was hard, and full of drudgery, trying to make a living for himself and his family, and yet, from the wording of his will, also deeply religious. "- - - in the sure and certain hope of resurrection to a better life at the latter day of the Lord". We do not know what work he did, but can guess he was probably a farm labourer working for the Lord of the manor.

What would he be able to tell us, if he attended the Gathering in Bristol this coming September ?

Well ! Why not join Charles, and the rest of us at the Gathering in Bristol - you might find out !

JMH

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to The Society: Geof. F.Townson of Totnes, Devon, England. Christine Waite of Harrogate, Yorks., England. Lesley Charlton of Leamington Spa, Warks., England. Steve Moxon of Leicester, England. Kenneth Moxon of Talybont, Nr. Conway, Wales. Thomas Werner Moxon of "Silicon Valley", California, U.S.A.

LET'S CELEBRATE !

WE MOXONS HAVE much to celebrate. Like everyone else, we are now well into the 21st Century, but for us - there is more !

This is the "Silver" Edition of the Magazine: the Society is now in its 10th year, having been inaugurated on 1st January 1991, and The Moxon Family Research Trust became 12 last November (Formed in 1987, becoming a Registered Charity in July 1989).

In 1987, James (Jimmy) Moxon published "The Moxons of Yorkshire". Then, in April 1988, he published the first "Moxon Magazine", which was available by annual subscription, and to be published every April and October. This proved very popular, and encouraged by this success, the late Dick Moxon of Southampton organised the first "Moxon Gathering" in Devonshire Hall (Leeds University) on 28 - 30 July 1989. This event, which was attended by 17 "Moxons" was also very popular, and has been staged in September each year ever since.

The following year, the attendance at the Gathering increased to 30. All present felt that these occasions should be formalised, and the decision to form The Moxon Society was taken there and then, to come into effect on 1st January 1991. An Executive Committee was elected:

President	Jimmy Moxon
Vice President	Dick Moxon
Chairman	Dr. John Moxon
Hon. Secretary	Jimmy Moxon
Assistant Secretary	Margaret Hobson
Hon. Treasurer	Dick Moxon
Committee Members:	Graham Jagger John C Moxon Joan Rendall John Moxon Hill
Social Secretary	Vera Moxon.

It was also agreed that the Moxon Magazine, should become the Magazine of the Society, continue to be edited by Jimmy Moxon, and circulated to all Members.

Since those early days, the Membership has risen from 30 to over 120, and the Society is now well and firmly established.

This is the 25th issue of the Magazine, and to celebrate this event, and the millennium, it is our largest yet.

We have also kept apace with technology

Founding Members

(Those Present at the September 1990 Gathering)

James Moxon

John C and Maureen Moxon

Dr. John and Ann Moxon

Dick and May Moxon

Fred and Vera Moxon

Vernon and Margaret Moxon (USA)

Graham Jagger

Don Moxon

Robert and Joan Rendall

Margaret Hobson

Peter and Judy Huggett

Rev. John and Barbara Moxon

Bryan and Pearl Moxon (NZ)

Dick, Ella and Maree Moxon (NZ)

Hilda Clarke

Dr. Robert and Barbara Moxon (USA)

Ron Moxon

John and Dymps Moxon Hill

Sadly, those shown in **Bold** are no longer with us.

as we moved into the 21st Century, not only in the production methods of the Magazine, but also by introducing a Moxon Society Web Page

- thanks to Harry Moxon - at: www.moxon.org.uk - see article on page 19.

The first Annual General Meeting of the **Moxon Family Research Trust** was held on 23rd November 1987, and the Trust became a Registered Charity on 6th July 1989, Registered Number 328333. Last year the MFRT published our first book, "A Truly Honest Man", and has funded a number of specific research tasks, with more to come.

We thank all our Members, and the Trustees, for the success of The Society and the Trust.

Let us hope we continue this success well into this and succeeding centuries !

Advance details of the Gathering in Bristol appear on page 2

A Message from Our President, John C. Moxon.

AS THIS IS MY FIRST missive, I want to start by thanking those who agreed that I should take over the job of being President from Jimmy. It seems it was Jimmy's wish that I should do this, and it came as a bit of a surprise because I used to be the one who "became insistent" with him when changes were needed. I will try to be a good President and look after the Society properly, **but Jimmy is a hard act to follow in many respects!!!**

WHAT'S NEW:

By the time you read this, Sue and I will have moved to the Isle-of-Wight. Our new address is given in the box on page 20

SOCIETY PROGRESS REPORT:

We grow steadily in numbers and are now 120 strong.

Our finances are sound and Sue and I as collectors of subscriptions would like to thank everyone for renewing their subscription promptly in response to our E-mail or letters. We would also like to thank all those who pay each year by standing order as this is a great saving in costs and time.

You will be aware that despite rising postage costs we have not increased our subscription rates since we started. This is due to some money saving methods of cashing in the Overseas Members' subscriptions, and also due to some very good work by your Magazine Editor and Chairman who has invested his money in buying a Desk top publishing programme to go on his computer. By this means he can put text and pictures onto a disk and send this to the publisher whose task is made so much easier. This is a big cost saving and we must be very grateful to John Moxon-Hill for his skill and his dedication to the Society.

THOROUGHLY MODERN MOXONS:

We have some 40 members on the E-mail and can communicate very cheaply with each other. This year I used it to "summon" the subscriptions from those who paid annually and were on line. It saved a lot of overseas postage.

A TRULY HONEST MAN:

This publication has sold about 270 copies and we have about 200 plus left. We will continue to try to sell all these copies but it unlikely we will sell many more as the market seems filled. I would remind you that it is a masterly piece of research and extremely well

presented, a book that the Society can be proud of. So please keep looking for outlets.

IDEAS:

If there are things you think we should be doing, please write to me and let me put your ideas to the Committee. As a world wide one name society it is not feasible to undertake the type of research and provide members with data that local family history societies can do, but, we do try to put the entire family of Moxons together. So, if you have not sent your family tree to John Moxon Hill do so now as you may find a lot of new relatives/cousins are there for the asking!!

THANK YOU:

Firstly and most importantly, on behalf of all the membership, I would thank the Society Officers, John, Warren, Jane and Christopher, and all the Committee members for their dedication and work that keeps the Society running well. After organising 9 Gatherings I am very grateful to Diana Trotter for volunteering to take on this task. I wish her well and I am looking forward to attending the Gathering at Bristol.

I have carried out quite a few jobs for the Society and I must say that you are a very friendly and appreciative group of people. It is a great pleasure to work with you all.

Finally, I reckon to be the luckiest member of the Society, beat this if you can, since joining into the earliest of the events organised by Jimmy and Dick Moxon,

I have made a lot of good friends,

I have learned to research my family history

I have received a lot of help from fellow members

I have an interesting hobby in my retirement,

AND BEST OF ALL, IN THE SOCIETY, I found SUE, a wonderful wife and fellow family historian. See Moxon magazine No 20 Front page.

Sue and I extend our best wishes to you all.



IN MAY, 1956 Louis Armstrong's All Stars were in Great Britain playing the last gigs of a long and tiring overseas tour, sponsored by CBS and Edward R. Murrow. Murrow requested that Louis and his entourage stop off in Ghana for two days before returning to the United States.

Robert Raymond was on home leave in May 1956, when Moxon recalled him to assist with the Armstrong visit. In his excellent book on Ghana - Black Star In The Wind - Raymond provides a detailed account of the whirlwind tour. *"That night I went round to James' house. We played a few Armstrong records, just to get into the mood, then worked out a programme. We were forced to recognize that there was a fixed number of hours between Armstrong's arrival at nine a.m. on Thursday morning and his departure at noon on Saturday. We reluctantly conceded that some of these hours would have to be set aside for eating, and probably for sleeping (although, James, I think, placed great reliance on the legend that jazz musicians, by taking narcotics, could do without sleep)."*

Next day James cabled the programme to New York:

FIRST DAY MET AIRPORT ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS THEN FORMAL CALLS GOVERNOR PRIME MINISTER AFTERNOON DRIVE THROUGH CITY EVENING PRESS PARTY NIGHT OPENAIR CONCERT THIRTY THOUSAND PEOPLE AFTERWARDS VISIT NIGHTCLUBS SECOND DAY STUDIO INTERVIEW LUNCH UNIVERSITY THEN OPENAIR DISPLAY TRADITIONAL DANCING DRUMMING EVENING PRIME MINISTERS PARTY NIGHT THEATRE CONCERT FINALLY JAM SESSION PARAMOUNT THIRD MORNING ON BEACH PROCESSION TO AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE

Soon, the CBS TV film crew arrived. Gene De Poris, leader of the CBS team, was not happy with the hectic schedule. He was adamant that the night-time Open Air Concert be filmed during daytime for lighting reasons. This was agreed to, and fortunately so, because more than 100,000 fans would turn out for the afternoon performance, on a work day! Despite De Poris' protestations, the remainder of the busy schedule remained unchanged, as Moxon kept reminding him that "In Africa, Armstrong is more than a band leader, he is a symbol."

For Louis' arrival at the airport, Moxon had invited and provided transport for all 13 of Accra's nightclub bands. Shortly before the plane arrived the bands took up their positions and the crowd, which would reach 10,000, slowly began to build. Raymond describes the scene after touch down, as the 13 bands strike up a highlife "All For You, Louie, All For You"

Bristol Gathering 8th to 10th September 2000

THE GATHERING this year will be in Bristol, at The Redwood Lodge Hotel.

The outline program will be:

Friday:

Afternoon tea as delegates arrive.

Reception at 6-00 p.m., followed by the Annual General Meeting at 6-30 p.m.

After dinner we will be showing three videos - the Volta Dam, featuring Jimmy, a 10 minute video of the CBS "60 Minute" interview with Jimmy, and a video about the history of Bristol.

Saturday:

We will be touring Bristol by coach and on foot. There is much to see in the centre of Bristol. Afterwards, we hope to see the replica of the ship in which John Cabot set sail from Bristol to discover Nova Scotia and Newfoundland in 1497. Near by is Isambard Kingdom Brunell's S.S. Great Britain. Before Dinner on Saturday, there

will be a talk, illustrated by slides, by Mr. Reggie Watters, Chairman of the Coleridge Society "Bristol - the thriving city of Coleridge and Wordsworth, and its commerce".

Sunday Morning we will have a guided tour around Clifton, to see some "Georgian Gems", and of course Brunell's Clifton Bridge.

There is so much to see in Bristol, that we are certain to have a marvellous weekend.

We hope as many of you as possible will be joining us in Bristol - so return the booking form enclosed with this Magazine a.s.a.p. !

The Gathering is being organised by our new Gathering Organiser, Diana Trotter of Hartshorne, Derbyshire.

Satchmo and Jimmy "Jazz up" Ghana in 1956

IN 1956 GHANA was preparing for independence the following year. Under the new Prime Minister, Kwame Nkrumah, Jimmy had been appointed Director of The Department of Information Services. Robert Raymond, an Australian, was one of his assistants. It was this department which received the request for assistance in planning Satchmo's All Stars two day visit.

The following is a shortened version of that displayed on www.libertyhall.com.stamp/Ghana.html, which in itself is a mix of E.T.Mensall's report in the New York Herald Tribune of 24th May 1956, with extracts, in *italics* from Raymond's book "Black Star In The Wind"

"Then the spirit took charge. The crowd suddenly swarmed over the fence into the prohibited tarmac area, and the two cultures met with explosive zest. The police and customs officers watched helplessly. De Poris and his men sweated and shot film frantically. Ajax Bukana gallantly rushed to greet Velma Middleton, Armstrong's twenty-stone blues singer. He took her by the hand bowed gracefully, and led her past the crowded airport fence in an absurd, joyous gavotte. A dozen trumpet players swung in behind Armstrong. They blew their hardest in his ear as they marched along. The Americans, now with the tune between their teeth, blew as hard as anyone, led by Armstrong's swinging, driving trumpet. As the animated mass of players and singing people moved across the tarmac, gathering strength and impetus all the time the noise and the clamor rose to the skies in the greatest paean of welcome Accra had ever known."

Following the exuberant welcome, the Armstrong party was taken by motorcade to their quarters in Accra. The Armstrongs, staying with James Moxon, then departed with Moxon for a two and one half hour luncheon with Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah.

Later, as they approached the Polo Ground, the site for the 2-30 open air concert, Raymond and the band members were stunned - the entire area for several hundred yards in each direction was filled with people. According to Raymond: *"It was an overwhelming, almost frightening, sight."*

At 3:15 p.m., the Prime Minister's car finally delivered the Armstrongs. As the band began to play amidst wild cheering, the crowd tried to spread out to dance. Eventually, the speaker system was disabled and, as people at the far end of the field attempted to move closer, the band stand and camera equipment came into danger. After several numbers it was necessary for the band to depart.

The next scheduled event was a reception for the Armstrongs at James Moxon's. Raymond recalled: *"I looked in at James's reception. Armstrong was the most famous person to visit the Gold Coast since the Prince of Wales in the nineteen twenties. Everybody in Accra we had invited, and some we had not, stood round talking to Armstrong and his men*

Raymond soon departed for E.T. Mensah's to check on the arrangements for the evening's jam session scheduled to begin at nine o'clock, where finally James Moxon arrived with the Armstrongs. *"The atmosphere and the music were so infectiously happy that nobody felt like getting worked up. The American musicians spent hours on the bandstand playing with the local men. Trummy Young who must have had an unquenchable enthusiasm for music, played every number. He was the comedian of the group, and occasionally finished a frantic solo lying on his back, working the slide of his trombone with his foot."*

Friday morning, the Armstrongs visited an Accra school. At noon Friday, the All Stars were taken to Legon Hall at the University for a luncheon. After preliminary greetings and a cocktail, the band was led into a great hall filled with students dressed in royal blue gowns. The All Stars took their seats at the large head table. The Master of Legon Hall, who took pride in his ability to establish immediate rapport with people by means of a single question, turned to Louis: "And I suppose you've had an enthusiastic response to your - ah - music wherever you've been, Mr. Armstrong?" he said gravely. Armstrong paused, holding a chicken leg. "There's cats everywhere, y'know!", he said, and went on with his lunch.

Upon arriving at Achimota College for the traditional drumming and dancing exhibition, the Armstrong party was welcomed by Phillip Gbeho and Beattie Casely-Hayford, the secretary of the Arts Council. These two somehow had been able to bring together Chiefs and representatives from all regions of Ghana and work out a seating plan that seemed to satisfy everyone. The Armstrong group was led to its place beneath a large umbrella. *"Then the entertainment began. Groups from each region, accompanied by their own drummers and musicians, came into the arena and danced in front of the visitors... The Americans watched, entranced. It was a great and moving tribute to a black man from beyond the seas. Louis and Lucille Armstrong sat sweating in the heat but loving it. They had Phillip Gbeho's small children perched on their laps, and drank from the gourd bowls of palm wine that were passed round. Edmond Hall sat quietly enjoying himself: 'We spend all our lives going round the world entertaining people,' he said in his gentle voice, 'but this is the first time anybody ever entertained us.'*

Then, when the last tribe had paid its tribute, Casely-Hayford introduced "Mr. Armstrong, the great American musician." The band opened with "Indiana", but there was no response from the audience...they had never heard music like this. Next, a number at a slower tempo...still no response. *"Then, away across the far side of the arena, a solitary figure arose. It was an old, old man, with a stave, from some northern tribe. Slowly, gravely, he advanced towards the band, in a kind of shuffle, attuned somewhere deep in his mind to the beat of the music. We waited. Was this the catalyst that would fuse the cultures? It was not enough. So an American took the initiative. Lucille Armstrong stood up and went out into the arena to join the old man. Side by side, under the bell of Armstrong's swinging trumpet they slowly danced, as Lucille watched the old*

man's feet shuffling in the dust, and matched his steps. She was an odd but significant figure in her crisp New York dress, dancing with the old tribesman in his cotton robe.

[see colour photo on page 12]

This was the turning point. As the American woman and the man of Africa danced, more and more people from around the arena got up and joined in.

Shortly thereafter, Louis espied a women in the arena who reminded him of his mother. After finishing his number, he ran to James Moxon and told him what he had seen, saying "I know it now, Jim. I know I came from here, way back." Upon returning to James' house, Louis sent off a number of telegrams to friends in the United States explaining what he had seen.

That evening, the All Stars were the honored guests at the Prime Minister's reception, after which they went to the Opera House for their final performance. The last number of the evening, "Black And Blue", was dedicated to Prime Minister Nkrumah. Following the show Beattie Casely-Hayford presented gifts to the band and gave a short speech of thanks.

The final event was a brunch at Moxon's house, and most of the people who had met the All Stars stopped in to say goodbye. Louis explained his dieting techniques to James (20 stone) and left him with a lifetime supply of Swiss Kriss. On the way to the airport the entire group stopped for a while at Christiansborg Castle for a final moment of relaxation before the flight. No farewell had been arranged at the airport - it had not been necessary; a number of the bands and a large crowd from Accra had already gathered to say goodbye. *"Perhaps the most celebrated - and certainly the most popular visitors the Gold Coast ever had, stayed only two days."*

My thanks to Jack Ciccola, of Cape Cod for permission to reproduce large extracts from his "Liberty Hall" web site.

JMH

1881 Census Statistics

JOHN S EARNSHAW, Member of Bretton West, Yorkshire, has analysed the distribution of Moxons throughout England, Scotland and Wales, using data from the 1881 Census on CD-ROM.

A total of 1800 Moxons are listed, and, as might be expected, over half (981) were in Yorkshire. The next highest concentrations were London (140) and Cambridgeshire (126). He also analysed where all the 1800 had been born - Yorkshire 986, Cambridgeshire 148, London 99.

Scotland lists 13, Wales 11, Ireland 5, India 3, Canada 2, Isle of Man 2, At sea 1, France 1, USA 1.

The ratio of those living in London (140) to those born in London (99) gives a good indication of the overall population movement from the country areas to the capital City.

Local Boy Makes Good

The Story of William Milson Moxon

by Graham Jagger

IN THE MOXON MAGAZINE, No. 4, October 1989, Joan Rendall wrote about the will of Dr Walter Moxon, who died in 1886. In the history of the Moxon family, perhaps no one person is surrounded by so much mystery as Walter is. The *Dictionary of National Biography* states that he was born on 27 June 1836, at Midleton, Co. Cork, the son of an Inland Revenue officer who was remotely related to Edward Jenner, the discoverer of smallpox vaccination. But apart from this enigmatic reference, the *DNB* provides no further personal information and many questions remain unanswered. In the quest for further material concerning Walter, and the possible link with Jenner, a remarkable story about Walter's father, William Milson Moxon, began to emerge. As the headline in the *Scarborough Daily News* might have read one morning in the middle of 1867, "LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD".

William Milson Moxon was born in 1808 at Scarborough, Yorkshire, into a family of hosiers whose names and origins are not currently known. After what was probably a very elementary education he joined the family business but by the time he reached the age of nineteen William was feeling the urge to spread his wings. In the Spring of 1827 he applied for a job as an Excise officer.

In the early years of the nineteenth century, the Excise was quite separate from Customs, and was not, as it is today, linked together in the phrase 'Customs and Excise'. Excise duty is a tax imposed on the manufacture, sale, or consumption of specific commodities, or on licences to pursue certain occupations. Excise taxes are fixed, absolute charges, usually levied for the purpose of raising revenue, and are, in effect, indirect consumption taxes. The burden of such taxes is borne by the consumer in proportion to the amount of the purchase. The first national excise taxes were levied in 1643 by the Long Parliament to raise funds for the impoverished government. This was supposedly a drastic, temporary measure, but the excise taxes proved so useful that they were never repealed, although in recent years VAT has replaced most of them. Within a century this method of raising revenue became indispensable and almost every article was subject to an excise tax. The whole excise system was unpopular with the poor for it taxed necessities like beer, malt, candles, soap, leather, starch and similar commodities. Shopkeepers who sold these things could be compelled by the government excisemen to produce a receipt, showing that tax had been paid on them.

Why William wanted to join what must have been an unpopular profession is not clear. In his application he specifically requested that Richard Ness, an Excise Officer of Kentish Town, London, train him. It seems clear that William knew Richard who may have been a relative and who was perhaps responsible for selling to him the idea of joining the Excise.

On 22 March 1827 William was interviewed for the post of Officer of Excise. The interviewer found that he "is a likely man to make a good Officer. He is healthy and active, and not encumbered with debts; is ... of respectable Character and well affected to the present Government; he ... proposeth for his securities Thomas Jenner Coal Merchant of St. Ives

Huntingdonshire, and George Hart Hatter of No 205 Holborn London. ... I have examined the above mentioned William Milson Moxon, and find him well qualified in every Respect ...; he understands the first four Rules of Vulgar and Decimal Arithmetic ...". The reference to Thomas Jenner is another clue to the possible Edward Jenner connection.

Having successfully completed the interview, William then had to take an oath to the effect that neither he nor anyone known to him had paid a fee to be admitted as an Excise Officer. The Public Record Office retains this oath in William's impeccable handwriting.

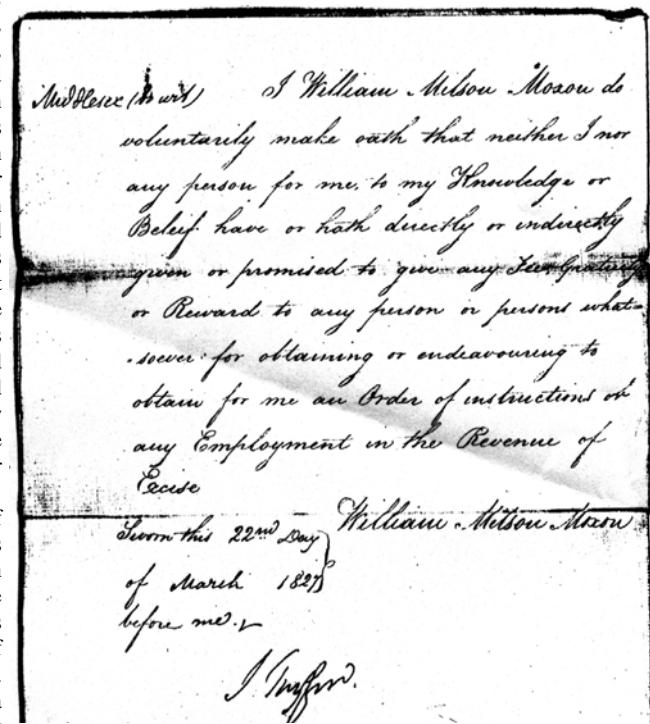
Within days of his interview, William began an intensive six-week period of training. At the end of this time, his immediate superiors, William Perrin and Richard Ness, were able to state that "... Mr. William Milson Moxon ... is qualified for surveying Common Brewers, Victuallers, Maltsters, Chandlers, Sopers, Tanners, Brandywine Tea and Tobacco Dealers, he can cast Excise and Malt Gages both by Pen and Rule, hath taken Gages and Stocked for six weeks in Kentish Town Division and duly entered his surveys in Books prepared by him for that purpose - from which he hath made True vouchers and Abstracts - is provided with proper Instruments and Instructions and in every respect well-qualified for the Employment of an Officer of Excise".

For the purpose of collecting excise duties Great Britain, which then included what is now the Republic of Ireland, was divided into a number of areas called Collections. The physical size of a Collection varied greatly and depended on the amount of trade: large towns such as Bristol, Leeds and Sheffield each formed a Collection, while in rural counties there may only have been one or two Collections. Each Collection was split into a number of subdivisions, synonymously called Districts, Divisions, or Rides. Each Collection was presided over by a Collector. Under him each subdivision was presided over by a Supervisor who was responsible for a number of Officers. In each subdivision the Officers would have had the help of one or more Assistants - back-office personnel who would probably have done most of the routine paperwork.

On having completed his training William had to wait for a suitable vacancy to become available. It was to be about a year before he could start on the bottom rung of the Excise ladder. On 2 June 1828, he was appointed

Assistant at Brentford, Surrey Collection. Evidently William's diligence impressed his superiors for, only six months later, on 16 December 1828, he was promoted to the post of Officer of Malling 2nd Ride, Rochester Collection. William stayed in Kent for over seven years and it was during this period that he met and married Ann Collins, a 'fair maid of Kent' who, in the next twenty years or so, was to bear him a large family.

Perhaps to minimise the possibility of corruption, it was Excise policy to ensure that its officers spent no more than a few years in any one post. Officers were moved regularly, perhaps by being posted to a distant Collection or, in some cases, by swapping roles with another officer in an adjacent area, as happened with William's next move. On 13

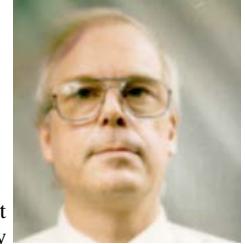


The oath written in William's own hand.
Original held in the P.R.O.

April 1833 it was ordered that "John Smith, Officer of Maidstone 1st Ride and William Milson Moxon, Officer of Malling 2nd Ride, Rochester Collection, exchange Stations".

The early weeks of 1836 saw a dramatic change in William's life: on 16 February of that year he was ordered to County Cork, Ireland, and became Officer of Midleton 2nd Division, Mallow Collection. As well as having to set up home in a strange country with a young family, Ann was expecting another child. On the 27 June, Walter was born.

William's stay in Ireland was to last only six years, but it was a tumultuous time in the history of Ireland when Daniel O'Connell, one of the great figures in Irish history, was at the height of his career. The Act of Union had



been passed in 1800, and Ireland was now subject to the parliament at Westminster. The most prominent issue in the early years of the century was the Catholic demand for full emancipation. Most of the penal laws had been repealed in the 1780s and 1790s, but it was not until 13 April 1829 that full Catholic emancipation was passed into law. O'Connell's victory in this campaign left him as the hero of the Irish people and his influence with them was higher than ever before. In the years that followed, he was to launch the second great agitation of his career - the campaign for Home Rule.

After only six months as Officer of Clonmel 3rd Division, Clonmel Collection, a post to which he had been moved from Midleton in April 1842, William was called back to England; soon enough to avoid the greatest calamity in Irish history, the Great Famine of the late 1840s and early 1850s.

During the next seven years William and his family were to see a bewildering number of moves; from Yorkshire in the north, to Northamptonshire in the midlands, to Bristol in the west and to London. During these years, William rose steadily through the ranks of the Excise. On 4 October 1842, Thomas Hand, Supervisor of Leeds 2nd District, Leeds Collection, being ill, it was ordered that William Milson Moxon officiate for him. This was William's first promotion, from Officer to acting Supervisor. This was a line-management position in which he was responsible for a number of Officers within a district. Only four days later, William was given a different role, that of Examiner - in today's terms an internal auditor - in the Leeds 2nd District, Leeds Collection.

After only six months in Leeds, William was moved again, this time to Derbyshire where, on 22 April 1843, he became Examiner officiating in the Chesterfield District, Sheffield Collection. A year later, on 11 May 1843, he was moved yet again and became Supervisor of Towcester District, Northampton Collection. Evidently Northamptonshire was not to William's liking and within a year he was looking for another move. At the beginning of June 1844, William heard down the Excise 'grapevine' that James Graham, Supervisor of Nailsea Heath District, Bristol Collection, had been promoted to another post. William asked that he be transferred to this now vacant post and his request was granted on 11 June 1844.

The next two and a half years were to be a period of stability and tranquillity for the Moxon household. Only six months after the move to Bristol, William's youngest son, Edward, was born on 24 November 1844. On his birth certificate William is described as "Supervisor of Excise".

Such a respite was bound to come to an end, and by the end of 1846 things were beginning to stir in high places. On 11 December 1846 the Commissioners of Excise ordered "that the character of William Milson Moxon, Supervisor of Bristol 2nd District, Bristol Collection, be examined and laid before the Board". Clearly the Civil Service moved rapidly in those days and by the middle of the following January the results of the investigation into William's character were available. On 25 January 1847 it was ordered that "William Milson Moxon, Supervisor of Bristol 2nd District, Bristol Collection, whose qualifications for promotion have been examined and approved, be a Surveying General Examiner of the 4th Class at

£250 per annum".

For the first time we have a record of William's salary. £250 per annum was a good income guaranteeing a very comfortable standard of living when the average skilled artisan would be lucky to earn £50 a year. It was this promotion which rocketed William into the upper echelons of the Excise. For the first time, in 1849, he was listed in the *Imperial Register*, a publication listing all those above a certain rank in Her Majesty's service.

As a Surveying General Examiner, William had something of a roving brief that would include recruitment, training and general oversight of the work of the Excise. From time to time he would be posted round the country to fill in for senior personnel who were ill. Thus, on 12 March 1847 as James Bridgewater, Collector of Rochester Collection, was indisposed, William was ordered to officiate for him. This would have been a happy time for William and his family for he was now back in the area where he married Ann some two decades earlier.

William continued to progress up the Excise ladder. In 1851 the *Imperial Register* lists his promotion from Surveying General Examiner Fourth Class to Second Class. Only four years later, in 1855, the *Imperial Register* lists "Surveying General Examiner, First class - Wm. Milson Moxon, Esq.". William had made the grade - on the 1861 marriage certificate of his son Walter to Selina Eckett his rank or profession was given as "Esquire": no mention here of Excise!

William's apotheosis was complete when, in 1867, his promotion to the post of Chief Accountant, Excise was announced, one of the highest positions to which a Civil Servant could aspire in Victorian England. Truly, for the people of Scarborough, the local boy had made good!

The generous financial support of the Moxon Society in funding research in the Excise papers (class number CUST 47) at the Public Record Office is gratefully acknowledged. A fuller account of the results of this work will be published in due course. In the meantime research is continuing into this interesting branch of the Moxon family and particularly its connection with Edward Jenner.

London to the fact that there is an excellent eating place called "Moxon's Fish Restaurant" at 14 Clapham Park Road, London SW4 7BB (tel: 0171 627 2468); we had a family meal there a few months ago, and can thoroughly recommend it. In addition to a wide range of fish dishes, there were lots of other things to choose from on the menu, and a good selection of wines. The proprietor is one Robin Moxon, whose great aunt lived at Cawthorne near Wakefield. I told him that I would recommend his restaurant to Moxon Society members, and so write to you now to keep my promise!"

This letter was unavoidably held over, due to lack of space in previous Magazines. Ed.

Dr. Alvin L Moxon Honoured

LAST JULY The Ohio State University hosted "The Alvin Lloyd Moxon Honorary Lectures on Selenium and Vitamin E". The Preface to the Proceedings read "*In honor of Alvin Moxon's ninetieth year of life and his outstanding career, the Department of Animal Sciences and the Department of Preventative Medicine present a national symposium in appreciation of his research. While Al's career included many endeavors, the distinguished work on selenium was his first love. Consequently, many of us were nudged into selenium research by this eminent agricultural chemist. The symposium provides reports of twelve presenters from the national arena. When the symposium is completed, we will have moved in time from the chemistry of "alkali disease" to the modern molecular biology of selenium and vitamin E.*

Alvin of Wooster, Ohio, has been a longstanding Member of the Moxon Society, and recently sent me a copy of a letter he had received from Jimmy Moxon in 1945. Jimmy had met a U.S.A.A.C. officer in Accra, who told him there were "Moxons" in Brookings, Dakota. Jimmy had addressed the letter to "The Moxons of Brookings", and it was delivered! And so began a friendship spanning over 50 years !



Moxon's Fish Restaurant

Don Moxon, Member of Beccles, writes:

"Dear Editor,

I write now, in advance of your Wakefield Gathering, and for inclusion in the next Moxon Magazine, to draw the attention of members and friends resident in or visiting

**Dr. Alvin L Moxon
Professor Emeritus
The State University of Ohio**

EDWARD MOXON - THE PUBLISHER

1801-1858

By John Moxon, Member of Southampton.

EDWARD MOXON was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire on 12 December 1801, the eldest son of Michael and Ann Moxon. Michael married Ann Watson on 30th December 1800 and they had a family of four boys and four girls.

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.

Edward was fortunate to be selected to attend the Green Coat School, a charitable institution, established to educate the poor of the town. At the age of nine Edward was apprenticed to a local bookseller, Edward Smith. It was evident, from an early age Edwards' interest in books and in particular, poetry.

He left his home town in 1817 and set off to London. Little is known of his first four years in the capital but in 1821 he joined the publishing firm of Longmans. During his time with Longmans he worked himself up in the company, eventually taking charge of one of the country departments. These years brought him into contact with many literary figures of the time, contacts that would prove invaluable in future years.

During his late teens and early twenties Edward was reading steadily and writing verse. In 1824 he submitted his poems to the poet and essayist Charles Lamb for his criticism and advice. Lamb took to the young man immediately, not for his poetry, (it was clear that he would never be a notable poet), but for his open, friendly demeanour. He became a regular visitor to the Lamb's household and kept Charles and his sister Mary supplied with news of the trade and a selection of the latest books.

With Lamb's encouragement Edward published his first book *The Prospect and Other Poems* in 1826 through Longmans the firm in which he was one of their "best hands". Also in 1826 Edward visited Wordsworth in the Lake District, carrying a letter of introduction from Lamb. It was the first of many visits that were to last until Wordsworth's death in 1850.

In 1828 Edward, ever keen to advance himself, moved to Hurst, Chance & Co, a publisher located in St Paul's Churchyard. In 1829 Hurst, Chance & Co published their employee's second volume of verse, "Christmas", dedicated to Charles Lamb.

At this time one of Edwards' most influential literary friendships was with the poet and wealthy banker Samuel Rogers. Rogers was an important ally in the forming of Edward's literary fortunes.

When, in 1830, Edward set out as a publisher it was Rogers who lent £500 to ease the precarious financial path of the first year. "Album Verses" by Charles Lamb was the first book to bear the imprint Edward Moxon 64 New Bond Street, London. The second book, was more significant in that it set the tone of future productions from the Bond Street premises. Rogers had withdrawn his established favourite narrative poem "Italy" from his own publishers. He gave it to Edward to produce a prestigious edition illustrated by JMW Turner and Thomas



Edward Moxon
1801-1858

Stothard. This book was beautifully presented, type styles and layout were simple but elegant and the small steel engravings are regarded as classics of their kind.

Edward's friendship with the Lambs not only brought literary benefits but also an introduction to his future wife, Emma Isola.

Emma Isola was born in Cambridge on 12th April 1808, the daughter of Charles and Mary Isola, and was one of a family of four boys and two girls.

Her father, Charles Isola was a graduate of Emmanuel College and was elected to the post of Esquire Bedell in 1797. This was the year in which his father Agostino Isola (an Italian exile) had died.

Agostino was a much respected teacher of Italian and Greek and the University elected Charles to the post of Esquire Bedell, in as much a token of affection for Agostino, as for Charles' suitability to the post.

In October 1814 Emma's father died at the early age of 40. This tragedy was compounded in June of the following year when her mother Mary died aged 32. The family were scattered amongst Mary's relatives and the task of raising Emma fell to her maiden aunt, Miss Humphreys.

Little is known of her upbringing until the chance meeting with Charles Lamb and his sister Mary in the summer of 1820. The Lambs often spent their summer holidays with friends in Cambridge and it was on a visit to an acquaintance, Mrs Paris, with whom Miss Humphreys and Emma lived that they first met. The Lambs took an instant liking to young Emma and she was invited to stay with them in London during the next school holidays.

When Emma started school at Dulwich in 1822 she began to visit the Lambs more frequently and eventually, when Emma finally left school in 1827, took up permanent residence with them. At this stage the Lambs

set about finding her employment as a governess. A suitable position was eventually found and on 17th April 1828 Emma took the post of governess to the family of the Reverend Williams in Fornham All Saints, Suffolk. Having had the company of Emma in their household for the previous 12 months, Charles and Mary found Emma's departure left a large gap in their lives.

Emma holidayed with her adoptive parents whenever possible and it was after an extended Christmas and New Years visit in 1829-30 that Emma's health took a dramatic turn.

After returning to Suffolk with a persistent cold Charles received an alarming letter on 25th February that Emma had developed a life-threatening "brain fever" (cerobro-spinal meningitis). The fever lasted several days, when her life hung in the balance but Charles and Mary were overjoyed to receive news on 1st March that the worst was over and Emma was showing strong signs of recovery. When Emma was strong enough at the end of March, Charles travelled to Bury St Edmunds to collect her and they returned to London on a Mail Coach. Emma was never to return to the Williams's household.

1833 was a milestone year in Edward Moxon's life. The publishing business had flourished to such an extent that he felt confident enough to move to larger premises at 44 Dover Street, Piccadilly.

In the first few years of business Edward had relied upon literary contacts made in association with Rogers and Lamb. They were well established writers with little attendant risk in publishing their works, but in 1832 he was delighted to open an association with a promising young poet. Alfred Tennyson was a young Cambridge graduate and Edward had taken an instant liking to the man and his work.

The first edition of Tennyson's Poems ran to 600 copies but due to unfavourable reviews only 250 copies had sold after the first two years. It was an association that was to last 28 years, both on a personal and business level. Tennyson's rise to fame was thus not one of overnight success and it is unlikely that the Moxon publishing house made any money from the association during the first 10 years. Tennyson had been so stung by the criticism of his 1832 volume that it took Edward 10 years to persuade Tennyson to publish again.

Now on a firmer financial footing Edward also felt he was able to support a wife.

Edward married Emma at St. Georges, Hanover Square on 30th July 1833, Charles Lamb gave Emma away and after honeymooning in Paris, they returned to live in the apartments above Edward's bookshop and publishing house in Dover Street.

Edward and Emma had started their family in December 1834 when Edward Isola was born. They had seven other children, two boys and five girls, they were; Emma, Lucy Gertrude, Charles Isola, Mary Louisa, Catherine, Maria Wordsworth and Arthur Henry.

Emma took a lively interest in Edward's literary life until an ever expanding family took



more and more of her time. In 1841 Emma and Edwards' first born, Edward Isola died at the age of seven. This was a doubly upsetting time in the Moxon household as Edward was at the same time being sued for the publication of a blasphemous libel. The publishing of an unabridged version of Shelley's Queen Mab had brought with it a celebrated court case but thankfully, despite being found guilty, Edward was not punished for the technical infringement.

In 1835 Wordsworth moved his business to Moxons and enjoyed a resurgence in popularity under his new publisher.

In the early years of their marriage Edward and Emma were great socialisers, holding regular literary breakfasts and luncheons for some of the most prominent names in London society. The apartments in Dover Street were open house whenever Wordsworth and Tennyson were "in town" and they both stayed on numerous occasions.

Emma would also accompany Edward on his trips around England and the continent and occasionally she would visit old school friends unaccompanied. Emma was an accomplished amateur artist and recorded some of her visits in pen and ink sketches, although few examples now exist in family hands.

Finally in 1842 Edward's chivvying paid off when Tennyson's Poems in two volumes became an instant success and the fortunes of poet and publisher became inextricably linked.

Edward was unlike other publishers of the day in his business dealings. He was a lover of poetry who indulged himself in the publication of works that he himself found uplifting. It says much of his taste, in that after the death of Charles Lamb in 1834 he appears not to have solicited other opinions in what he should or shouldn't publish. It is clear that he could have made more money publishing inferior works underwritten by wealthy authors but he chose not to do so, and at a time when poetry wasn't selling as well as 20 years previously he not only made a living from publishing, he made his fortune.

His relationships with many of his authors was not just on a business footing. He was a social friend of both Wordsworth and Tennyson, accompanying Wordsworth on a trip to Paris, Wordsworth's children on a holiday to the Pyrenees, and Tennyson on a tour of France and Switzerland.

Edward was by the early 1840s a well respected and successful publisher. His list of authors read like a who's who of Victorian poets and when in 1843 Wordsworth was offered the post of Poet Laureate it was Edward who was entrusted with the task of receiving the appointment at St. James's Palace.

Like many wealthy Victorians Edward was an inveterate traveller. Not for him the confines of the office or bookshop, he spent a large proportion of his business life cultivating literary contacts at home and abroad. When they were able Emma and the family accompanied him but only during his summer visits to Broadstairs, on the Kent coast. These summer trips were not solely for pleasure but a rest-cure. It is evident from letters that from as early as 1837 Edward suffered frequent bouts of serious ill-health. During the 1830s and 40s it seems to have had little effect on his business but in the last decade of his life it's significant that few new names were added to his list of writers.

When Wordsworth died in 1850 Tennyson

accepted the position of Poet Laureate. It was a time of great success and public recognition for the poet and his publisher. Earlier that year, after much urging from Edward, Tennyson had agreed to the publication of his elegiac reflections on the death of his friend Arthur Hallam. "In Memoriam" was a critical and commercial success and is recognised as his greatest work.

In 1849, reflecting the Moxon family fortunes, Edward's younger brother William, by now a wealthy London barrister, had an imposing house built on Putney Heath. It's unclear whether William ever intended the house for himself as he seems never to have lived in it. Later, William bought Tidmington House in the Cotswolds.

Edward, Emma and their children were ensconced there by 1851, as shown by the census return, along with Edward's mother Ann, sister Elizabeth and assorted servants. William at this time was still living in the long established family home at 105 Ebury Street. Brothers Alfred and John, both heavily involved in the bookshop side of the business were living in Dover Street.

Edward seldom published illustrated works but when he did he used only the best artists and engravers. Having set a very high standard with the publication of "Italy", using Turner for many of the illustrations, he set out in 1853 to produce a de luxe edition of Tennyson's poems. Tennyson was reluctant, at first, to allow artists to interpret his poems but when the services of "The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood" was enlisted his reticence soon faded. It was Edward however, who had the unenviable task of liaising with the temperamental artists. It was to take a heavy toll on his health. When the book finally appeared in 1857 at a price of 32 shillings it was received with mixed reviews. In an effort to appeal to the more conservative buyer Edward used several established artists as well as the radical Pre-Raphaelites. In the process the book pleased neither camp and consequently sales were slow. Although the publication is now considered a landmark in book illustration it lost the Moxon publishing house a great deal of money and had a

substantial influence in the collapse of Edward's fragile health.

On April 2nd 1858 Edward wrote his will and on June 2nd a codicil was added. Later that day he died leaving an estate of £16000.

Charles Isola, the eldest son, was 16 years of age at the time of Edwards' death. Something of a mystery surrounds Charles at this time as the belated codicil was added to Edward's will on the day he died, revoking several personal bequests to his eldest son. It was suggested (within the family) that Charles had a drink problem and that after a violent confrontation with a local publican he left for Australia in something of a hurry. This maybe somewhat fanciful but we do know that Charles did leave for Australia shortly after his fathers death and, although he returned in the 1860's, he took very little interest in the publishing business.

There is rarely a good time to die but Edward's passing was particularly inopportune. Earlier in the year Alfred, Edward's younger brother and stalwart of the company had also died. The two boys, Charles Isola and Arthur Henry weren't of age, Charles was 16 and Arthur 10.

The eldest daughter Emma was in her early twenties but in Victorian society she would never have been considered for a responsible company position. Edward's widow Emma was the main beneficiary and in compliance with Edward's wishes, Frederick Evans, (of the printers Bradbury & Evans) was appointed manager with an input from Edward's barrister brother William.

After Edward's death the title page of Moxon publications changed to Edward Moxon & Co.. The publishing house was still operating profitably but its strength was based on Edward's expertise and personal relationships with his authors. With the keystone missing, the fabric of the company was seriously undermined and a gradual decline was threatened if careful management wasn't exercised.

The first five years after Edwards death were reasonably prosperous. Under the management of Frederick Evans the sales of Tennyson had flourished and with every new

continued at foot of next page.



Tudor Lodge - the house that William Moxon built on Putney Heath in 1849. It appears that William never lived in the house, as Edward and his family were living there in 1851



In a past year, Jimmy looks up at the silk cotton tree in his garden at Onyaase. It is believed that the branches are antennae to The Gods..

Edward Moxon continued.

issue of the poets work all previous company records were exceeded. "Idylls of the King", in 1859 sold 40000 copies and in 1864 "Enoch Arden" sold 60000 copies as a first edition.

In 1864 James Bertrand Payne, a longstanding clerk in the company, was appointed the new manager, at a salary of £400. Soon Emma and Arthur, her younger son, made Payne a partner, an act that was to prove very costly for the Moxon family. Payne's business style was brusque and opinionated and was disliked by most, and by Tennyson in particular. It was Payne's publication of Tennyson's work without his permission that soured the previously cordial relations between poet and publisher. Despite the impressive sales from Tennyson's works few other popular writers had been added to the company list, and with the departure of Tennyson in January 1869, the fate of the famous publishing house was sealed.

In April 1869 Payne surrendered all his interests in the business for the princely sum of £11000 but the action was too late. Payne still managed the company from 1869 to 1871 under the name of Edward Moxon, Son & Co. and the company was then bought by Ward, Lock & Tyler. The purchase was made giving Emma "a large sum" and an annuity of £250 and a further sum to her children after her death.

The purchasers used the Moxon title for a further six years and in 1877 the name of Edward Moxon finally disappeared from the list

Under the Silk Cotton Tree

In Jimmy Moxon's garden in Onyaase, near Aburi in Ghana, stands a magnificent Silk Cotton Tree, some 200 ft. high. Akan beliefs hold that it's branches are the antennae to the Gods. Near to this spot, on 16th October last year, Jimmy was finally laid to rest, in the garden he loved, in the country he loved.

CHIEF NANA KOFI OBONYAA, ONYYAASEHENNE died in the Military Hospital, Accra, on 24th August, 1999. The funeral ceremonies, covering the 14th to 16th October, were arranged by The House of Chiefs.

Rev. Peter Hobson, John James Moxon (nephews) and Rebecca Jeffery (Niece) attended (see photo opposite) together with many friends, both from this country and from Ghana, including Senior Government figures. It was clear that Jimmy was well liked - not solely because he was the only formal White Chief in the whole of Africa - an undoubted honour - but also because of his friendly and honest nature.

After lying in state in the Aburi Palace, over the night of 15th October, Jimmy was placed in the coffin and taken outside into the town square, where the funeral service took place. Later that day, Jimmy was moved to his home in Onyaase, where the burial service was held, before he was gently lowered into a mausoleum, dug rather like a grave in the ground, lined with stone, and then sealed by concrete slabs, cemented in position. A headstone will be added later.

In England a funeral is usually a sombre affair, followed by equally sombre soft

refreshments. In Ireland, the sombre funeral is followed by a wake which generally turns out to be an excellent party!. In Ghana, there was nothing sombre about the funeral - solemnity certainly, but mixed with joyous celebration, stemming from the belief that people, and certainly chiefs, never die. Does not diversity make for a wonderful world!

Chiefs are not necessarily hereditary, so it was therefore an honour, that Jimmy's nephew, John James Moxon, son of Peter Moxon, and pictured opposite, was asked to become a chief of the Ashanti Tribe. He is now having to consider moving from Botswana to Ghana. He will be "enstooled" as a Chief in about 12 months time. So the "Moxon Clan" will live on in Ghana, with a younger Jimmy Moxon !

We congratulate him wholeheartedly.

JMH

(A photograph was taken of Jimmy lying in state. I have purposely not shown it, as I believe many, like me, will prefer to remember Jimmy as he was - always full of life - and often - even larger than life !)

of London publishers.

In reduced circumstances Emma and her family moved from the imposing house on Putney Heath to a more humble dwelling in the still respectable neighbourhood of Wandsworth. Tennyson was so distressed to learn of the decline in the family fortunes that he anonymously gave Emma an annuity of £300 until 1878.

In the mid 1870s Emma and her daughters moved to Brighton. Of her five daughters only Maria Wordsworth Moxon married, and her eldest girl Emma remained in the family home until her mother's death, at 11 Stamford Road, Brighton, on 2nd February 1891 aged 82.

Emma's literary connections brought obituaries in not only the local press, but also in the "London Illustrated News". The obituary in the "Sussex Daily News" was particularly effusive, speaking of "her most loving disposition, and the saintly character of her life, illustrated in a marked degree, the principal of keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace".

John Moxon (Southampton)

John Moxon is the Gt.Gt.Grandson of Edward Moxon, whose ancestors and descendants were discussed in "Roots 7" in MM24 (October 1999).

Ed.



Mourners at Jimmy's Funeral.

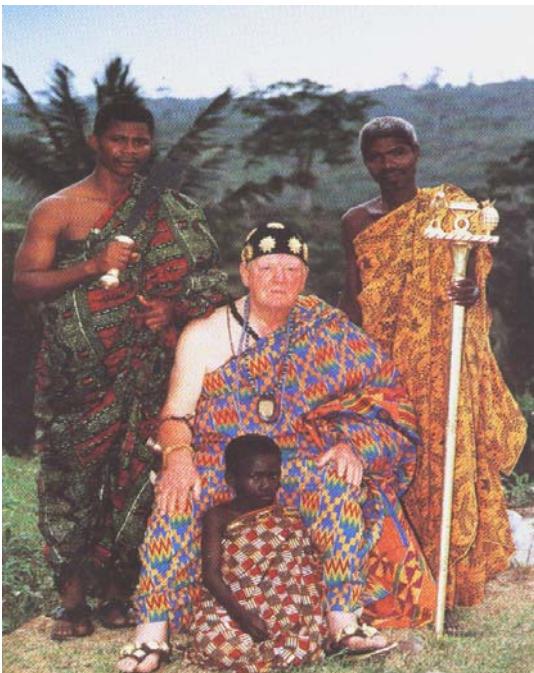
Left to Right: Rebecca Jeffery and John James Moxon, children of Peter Moxon, and Rev. Peter Hobson, son of Margaret Eastwood.

Right: Rev Peter Hobson displays the "Jimmy Moxon Tee-shirt", produced in Ghana to celebrate Jimmy's life.

Below Right: The Coffin stands in Aburi Town Square.

Below Left: Jimmy the Chief, from a picture he used as a New Year's card some years ago.

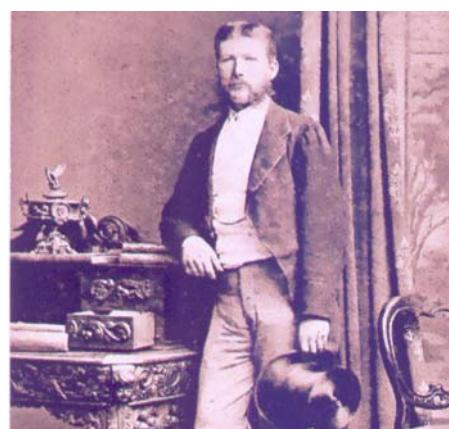
Top left and bottom right Photos by courtesy of Rev. Peter Hobson.



*Emma Moxon née Isola.
1808-1891*



*Arthur Henry Moxon
1847 - 1926
Youngest son of Edward and Emma Moxon*



*Charles Isola Moxon
He displeased his father to the extent that
Edward made a codicil on his death bed,
cutting Charles out of his will.*

Some Members of



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John and Sue Moxon



Membership



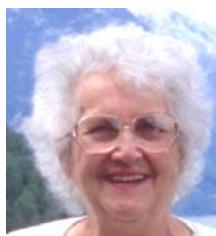
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Gaylord "Mox" Moxon
of Fallbrook, California,
U.S.A.



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Many thanks to all those Members who sent in photographs.

the Moxon Society



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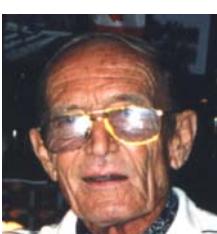
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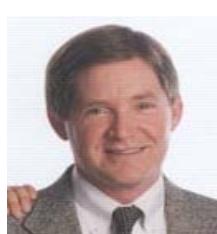
No ! He's not a Moxon -
just a laid back Aussie.
They are so laid back
Downunder, that only
one sent in a photo ! And
their cousins, the Kiwis,
are no better !



Bob and Danielle Wanchek
of Los Molinos, California, U.S.A.

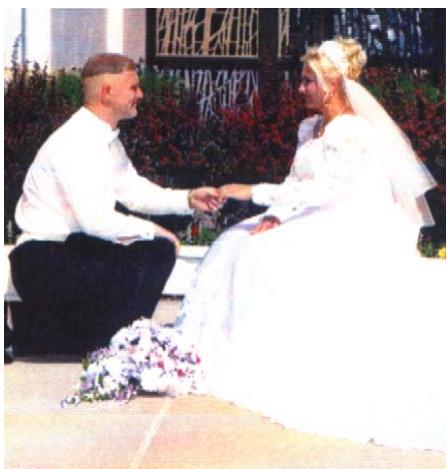


Len and Penny Moxon
of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

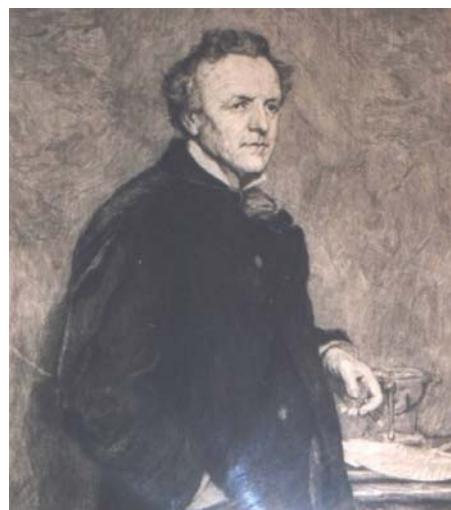


Keith and Soona Moxon
of Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.





*Michelle and Adam Bird
See "An Horrific Honeymoon"
column 3 on page 16
Photo by Diane Nygaard,
Member of Aurora, Colorado, U.S.A.*



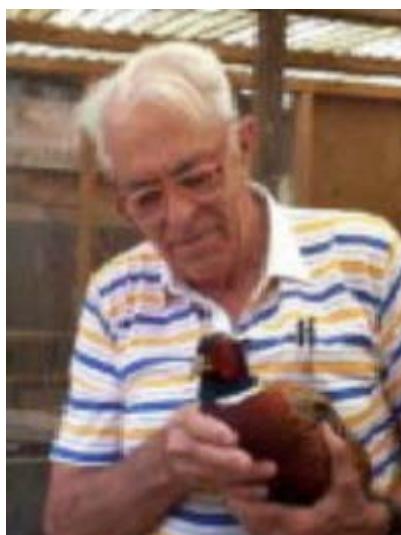
*Charles Moxon (1808-1890)
"The Royal Decorator"*



*Helen Orchardson née Moxon (1853- ?)
Charles' daughter and Quiller's wife.*

Both original paintings are by Sir Quiller Orchardson, and are held in the Tate Gallery, who have given their kind permission for reproduction in The Moxon Magazine. The copyright of both pictures remains with the Tate Gallery, and they must not be reproduced without their express consent.

(See "Roots 8" on pages 14 to 15)



*Gaylord "Mox" Moxon,
with one of his pheasants.
See "Knowing our Moxons" on page 13*



*The Bishops Table Hotel, Farnham.
Owned by Oliver Moxon in the 1960's/70's.
Reproduced from the Hotel's current brochure, with their kind permission.
(See "Roots 8" on pages 14 to 15)*



*Lucille Armstrong dances with the old, old
Tribesman at Achimota College.
See "Satchmo and Jimmy 'Jazz up'
Ghana in 1956" on pages 2 and 3*



*"Dead Man's Penny"
A Bronze Memorial Plaque, awarded to the
next of kin.
(Actual size about 5 inches diameter)
This example awarded to William Sellers'
family.
See "Hull to Hell" on page 17.*



*Both Tom and Thomas were awarded medals
like these.
Left: 1914-15 Star for having served in a
theatre of war before the end of 1915
Centre: The British War Medal for overseas
service 1914-20
Right: Holders of the British war Medal also
received the Victory Medal.
See "Hull to Hell" on page 17.*

Knowing our Moxons No. 14

Gaylord "Mox" Moxon.

GAYLORD MOXON'S North American ancestral roots lie in Hants County, Nova Scotia and Carleton County, New Brunswick, Canada. His great grandfather, Henry Moxon was born in Shubenacadie, Hants County, Nova Scotia and his grandfather Isaac was born less than thirteen kilometres away in Nine Mile River. In 1858, Henry moved his family to Carleton County, New Brunswick. Isaac worked with his father farming and lumbering.

At the age of twenty-one, Isaac set off to seek a more prosperous life in the United States. This evolution was a very popular one for young Canadians at that time. After working in different locations across the States, Isaac settled in Humboldt County in California. Isaac began working in the woods when he first settled in California in 1881. In 1884, Isaac experienced an accident in the woods and switched his focus from lumbering to farming. Over the years, Isaac built his farm acquisitions to thousands of acres of land. He married Emma Amelia Nelson on December 14, 1884 and they had five children. The third living son of Isaac and Emma was Clarence Hector Moxon.

Clarence served in the Navy and then returned to California to work on one of the family's ranches. Clarence married Grace Lois Perrin on September 15, 1920. Clarence and Grace raised a family of six boys; Gaylord, Alvin, Clarence William (Bill), Bruce, Glenn and Larry.

Gaylord Emory Moxon, or Mox, as he is more widely known, was born on February 13, 1922. He first lived in the family's log cabin built by his father until the family moved to Arcata Bottom (California) when he was two years old.



Gaylord in 1924, aged 2

Mox has had a successful life especially in terms of his careers. When asked what his occupation should be listed as, he was unsure, and for good reason. Mox has led two distinguished careers, one in the military and the other as an entrepreneur of companies that represent his two main interests – electronics and aircraft.

Mox's military career began in May 1942 when he was sworn in as a Naval Aviation Cadet. One of Mox's accounts on what World War II was like revolves around activities on July 20-21, 1945 when the crew he was a part of was patrolling the Chinese Coast. Their mission was to eliminate a target. On the first pass there were no direct bomb hits. On the second pass the target came alive and Mox's plane was significantly damaged. Although still able to return to home base, the seriousness of the situation was not over. They radioed ahead that they would need assistance as soon as the plane landed in the water, due to the large shell hole in



Gaylord in 1944

the bottom of the plane's hull. The crew plugged the hole as best they could with a bunk bed mattress and they started their final approach. Although the plane suffered other landing problems the crew was able to land safely. Some crew sustained injury, however, Mox was not injured and the plane was quickly taxied to a beaching area.

Mox was one of the first Allied pilots to witness the utter devastation of the atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, whilst taking reconnaissance photographs.

Mox's business life began before his military career. In 1940, he received his first class Radio Telephone License that enabled him to operate any commercial radio or television transmitter in the United States. Mox always had a great interest in electronics, and although he could have continued in the military, as many men did, his desire was to return to electronics. Mox worked for various companies in this field before starting his own company, Moxon Sales.

Moxon Sales was a manufacturer's representative selling various pieces of electronic instruments for use in the aerospace industry. Mox was the sole employee operating from his home for the first three to four years.

The company eventually evolved to become Moxon Electronics Corporation and



Gaylord browsing a Moxon Electronics Corporation catalogue in 1966

then Moxon Incorporated.

The company grew from a one-man operation to have offices in Los Angeles, San Mateo, and San Diego, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Cherry Hill and Hackensack, New Jersey.

Moxon Electronics supplied equipment for the successful tracking of the "Sputnik" spaceprobe. In 1977, Mox sold Moxon Incorporated.

Even though he was a busy and successful businessman he still made time for his family. By the time he started his own company he had been married to Grace Doggett for seven years and they had three daughters, Connie, Roxanne and Allyn. Grace and Mox divorced in 1986.

His skills as a pilot enabled Mox in 1961 to pilot his mother, father, wife and three daughters on an international tour beginning in Arcata, California. Some of the stops included: Reno, Nevada; Denver, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois; Toronto and Ontario in Canada; Boston, Massachusetts; New York, and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mox first met Maxine Jennings whilst Maxine was working for Moxon Electronic Corp. After the aerospace industry began to decline he had to lay Maxine off due to lack of work. Maxine later forgave him, and they married on August 18, 1994.

His love of flying and airplanes is further evident from one of his main interests. In 1963 he founded Mox Air. Mox Air is a company that refurbishes vintage aircraft. Some of the aircraft Mox has restored are the Lincoln Page, Curtiss Robin and Ford Trimotor.

Gaylord has also had a great interest in genealogy. He began intensely searching for Moxon connections in approximately 1985. Mox has completed a large portion of the research that has been done on the Moxon's descending from James Moxsom from Wiltshire, England. Mox has travelled to Canada and England to research his ancestry.

Mox has also contributed to his community. He was an honored guest at his former high school's homecoming in 1962. While attending Arcata High School, Gaylord was president of the 1938-39 class, head band major, Class A basketball player and a track team member.

Mox operates a website (www.moxon.org) which includes his family genealogy and information on Fallbrook where he currently lives. Information supplied in the Fallbrook section includes up-to-date weather which is collected from Mox's home weather station and a program on his computer.

Although retired, Mox is as busy as ever. His days are spent operating his website, caring for his pheasants, working on the Moxon genealogy and much more. (see colour photo of Mox with a pheasant on page 12)

Our thanks to
Natasha for this
article, and to Mox,
who she persuaded
to recount his life
story!

Ed.

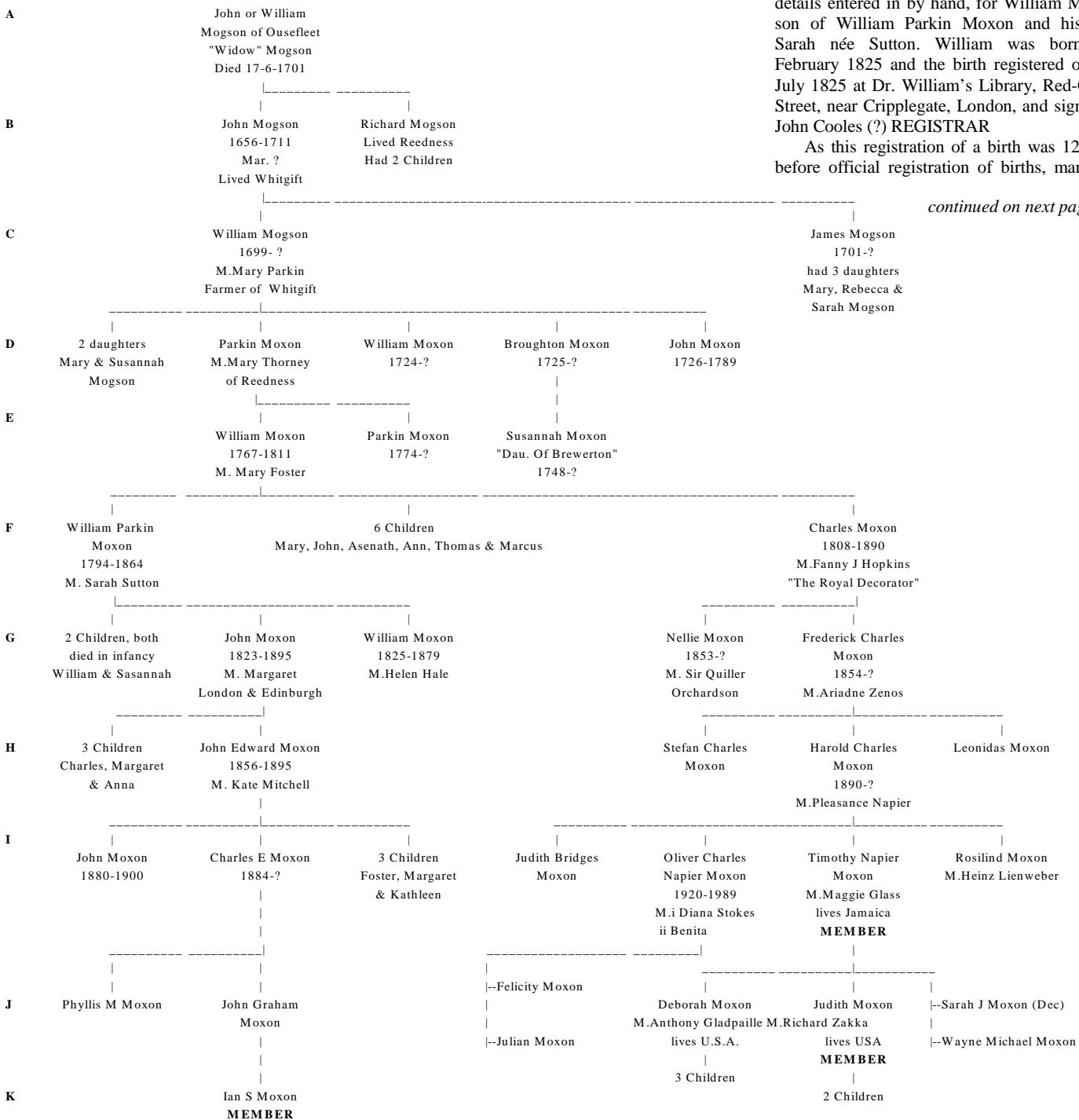


Roots 8

OUSEFLEET is a small village on the south bank of the River Ouse, about 5 miles downstream from Goole in Yorkshire. Here, "Widow" Mogson was buried on 17-6-1701 - it is a pity that the Cleric could not be bothered to record her name in the Parish Register! She is believed to have been the wife of either a John or a William Mogson.

It was one of her descendants, Oliver Charles Napier Moxon (5 I on tree) who, in response to Jimmy Moxon's circular about the forthcoming publication of "The Moxons of Yorkshire" (MoY), provided the basic details of

THE MOXONS OF OUSEFLEET, YORKSHIRE. (MX16)



Broughton Moxon (4 D), where the record of his daughter's baptism gives his name as "Brewerton". It was during the lifetime of this fourth generation that the name changed from "Mogson" to "Moxon"!

In Jimmy's "Moxon Archives", I came across a small circular wooden container, 4½ inches tall and 1¼ inches diameter. Inside were two rather tattered small documents. The first was a certificate for the Freedom of the City of London, dated December, 1843, granted to William Moxon, the son of William Parkin Moxon, and late apprentice of Thos. Hinky (?). (see 3 G) The second document is a birth certificate, on a pre-printed form, with the details entered in by hand, for William Moxon, son of William Parkin Moxon and his wife Sarah née Sutton. William was born 23rd February 1825 and the birth registered on 29th July 1825 at Dr. William's Library, Red-Cross-Street, near Cripplegate, London, and signed by John Cooles (?) REGISTRAR

As this registration of a birth was 12 years before official registration of births, marriages

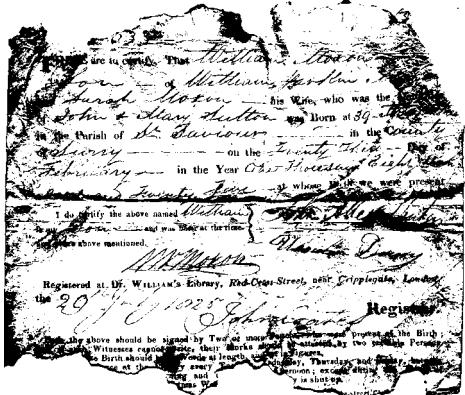
continued on next page

and deaths was introduced in 1837, I was mystified. Graham Jagger came to my rescue ! He found the e-mail address of Dr. William's Library, and had an interesting response from Dr. David L. Wykes, Director.

" — The Register of Dissenting Baptisms is no longer kept in the Library. The registers were closed in 1837, and, as with most nonconformist registers, they were subsequently deposited with the Registrar General.

Although often referred to as "Dr. William's Library" registers, they are correctly described as the General Register of Protestant Dissenters, which was kept by the Dissenting Deputies at Dr. William's Library, and was intended to provide a similar form of official registration for dissenters to that provided by the parish registers. Because a fee was payable to the Librarian of Dr. William's Library (who kept the register) those who registered their children tended to be the wealthier dissenters, who any way had property which came within the laws of inheritance. —"

We know very little about the early generations of this family. "The Moxons of Yorkshire" records, in a chapter about Moxons in London, "Next of the extrovert Moxon Yorkshiremen who stormed the capital was



William Moxon's Birth Certificate, issued by The Registrar at Dr. William's Library. (pictured about half size)

Charles Moxon, who did so as a house-decorator via an apprenticeship in Edinburgh.

He was clearly artistic as well as technically competent. His daughter, Helen, married Sir Quiller Orchardson R.A., best remembered for his study of Napoleon Bonaparte on board H.M.S. *Bellerophon* en route to St. Helena and exile. Orchardson's portraits of Charles Moxon and his daughter Helen hang in the Tate Gallery. (See colour pictures on page 12).

One of the techniques that he developed to a state of perfection was the "marbling" of pillars to have the appearance of real marble. He was commissioned by Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's busy Consort, to "marble" the Buckingham Palace pillars and redecorate the palace throughout and so great was his success that, after that, he had commissions to redecorate many of the stately homes of Britain. He was soon dubbed "The Royal Decorator".

Referring to the earlier Moxons (Mogsons) being bargees, Jimmy continued "And this has been a continuing Moxon occupation till modern times since we have heard from a first generation Australian Moxon that his grandfather sold off his fleet of Humber keels and barges as recently as 1960.

Amongst Charles' great grandchildren is Oliver Moxon, remembered for his wartime R.A.F. novels with a Far East setting, now "Mine Host" of one of Jamaica's most exotic seafood restaurants, "Moxons of Boscobel."

Sadly, Oliver died in 1989, only two years after "The Moxons of Yorkshire" was published. The family tree is based on the information that he sent to Jimmy. (The full tree is MX16)

Some months ago, I received a query from Gaylord (Mox) Moxon, Member of Fallbrook, California, asking if I knew anything about an Oliver Moxon, who had, at one time, owned "The Bishops Table Hotel" in Farnham. Mox had uncovered some newspaper cuttings, which showed Oliver to have been a most interesting character. At that time I did not: since I only knew of Oliver Moxon of Boscobel, Jamaica. However, enquiries at the Museum of Farnham, soon revealed that these two "Olivers" were one and the same.

Mr. Chris Hellier of the Museum, was most helpful, and sent me more information about Oliver. Even more interesting ! So, I contacted Oliver's younger brother, Timothy, Member of Jamaica - even more interesting! and in particular, I found that Timothy, too, had led a similarly exciting life !

Oliver and Timothy were at Gresham School together in Holt, Norfolk. In December 1939, they were both acting in a play by J.B. Priestly "Bees on the Boat Deck", Oliver playing Bob Patch, and Timothy the Hon. Ursula Maddings. Acting remained in Timothy's blood - years later in Jamaica he earned the dubious distinction of being the first person ever to be killed in a James Bond film !

When war came, Oliver joined the R.A.F., to be followed two years later, by Timothy. Timothy recalls that in the summer of 1942, he was pilot training on Tiger Moths at Denham "a small grass airfield nestling in the wooded beauty of Buckinghamshire". Whilst waiting his turn to fly, Timothy was lying on his back, gazing "into the azure of a perfect English summer day".

"Suddenly there was a mighty roar overhead, the distinctive whistle of a Rolls-Royce Merlin engine and, low over the trees, a Spitfire. It circled once and dropped into a neat three-point landing to taxi up to the Nissen hut which was our mess hall." The pilot jumped to the grass, as the trainees crowded around the legendary fighter. "As the pilot removed his leather helmet, I recognised my brother, Oliver". Until Timothy shipped to Canada, six weeks later, "I basked in the reflected glory of that summer day and my hero worship was unbounded!".

Oliver's initial war service included flying Spitfires, escorting Flying Fortresses on daylight raids over Germany. He went on to distinguish himself in the "forgotten war" in Burma, where he served in the front line in the jungle.

After the war he continued to fly, and wrote many books about his experiences during the war, and also romantic and imaginative novels.

In the 1960's, Oliver owned the "Bishop's Table Hotel" in Farnham (see picture on page 12) becoming very well known in the locality - not only because he was an excellent "mine host", but because of various other activities. In 1966 he formed a group to hunt



Oliver Moxon and Benson
with the extending dog lead, now very common,
which Oliver invented and patented.

the elusive Surrey puma, and also the "Brilliant Failures Club" for people with obvious talents who somehow never made it to the top !

Driving around in his open topped Bentley, Oliver set a pace of life that few could equal - to the extent that a Mr. Moxon (no relation) wrote to the local paper asking them to be specific about which Moxon they were writing about !

Oliver had a great interest in politics, standing as a parliamentary candidate several times in strong Conservative seats and bringing the Liberals in ahead of Labour. On one occasion he campaigned against Sir Edward Heath in Bexley.

In 1972 he and Benita, his wife, went on holiday to stay with Timothy in Jamaica, fell in love with the island, and stayed permanently. He opened an internationally famous restaurant "Moxons of Boscobel", which attracted the famous, including Henry Kissinger and Pierre Trudeau - and Edward Heath - his old parliamentary adversary - apparently they hit it off very well !

He then got very much involved with local life and local politics, using some of the profits from the restaurant to build a local school (in an area where illiteracy was 63%) He went on to become a local councillor (the only white one in Jamaica), chairman of two hospitals and a Justice of the Peace.

Many thanks to Gaylord Moxon, Chris Hellier, Timothy Moxon and his daughter, Judith Zakka for their considerable help in the writing of this article. We hope to learn more of Timothy Moxon in a future article.

JMH

Memorial Service for Two Brothers

Major Peter Moxon and Roland James (Jimmy) Moxon, O.B.E.

Ashford Carbonel 10th November, 1999.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE was held in St. Mary's Church, Ashford Carbonel, near Ludlow in Shropshire to give thanks for the lives of two brothers, each English, but who chose to adopt Africa as their homeland.

Major Peter Moxon (1918-1996) and Roland James (Jimmy) Moxon (1920-1999) both lived the larger portion of their lives in Africa, Peter finally settling in Zambia, and Jimmy in Ghana.

Peter died at his Luansobe Estate (Zambia) on 26th April 1996. An obituary, written by Jimmy, appeared in MM 18 (October 1996). Peter married twice - first Francis Labey of Jersey (a Moxon Society member) with whom he had three daughters, and secondly Aggie Lipenga of Nyasaland, with whom he had two daughters and a son, John James Moxon. Some of John's adventures as a big game hunter were recorded in MM 2 (October 1988). See page 12 for photo including John and one of his sisters, Rebecca.

The memorial service was conducted by the Vicar, Rev. Vic Roberts, ably assisted by Rev. Peter Hobson, nephew of the two brothers.

Tributes to Jimmy were made by David Lord and Dr. Cen Jones - both long time friends.

Rebecca Jeffery then paid tribute to her father, Peter Moxon, "He loved to sit in his favourite old armchair from the Butts on the veranda of Villa Jenny, the last house he built overlooking the beautiful Mintente - a swampy, grassy meadow - the virgin forest beyond, lush with huge, leafy trees gently waving in the hot afternoon breeze with the sun shining brilliantly. He would sip a cool mosi - the Zambian local lager - from his favourite brass beer jug, inherited from his uncle Rex (father's brother) whilst reading a novel; classical music by Mozart floating by. A scene of utter peace and tranquillity.

Peter Moxon loved this corner of Africa with an almighty passion. Luansobe estate - the 5000 acres of forest he acquired later in his life in 1981 - is tucked one and a half hours drive away into the Zambian bush from the Copperbelt town of Ndola, Central Zambia. It is a haven of woodland trees, lush vegetation and wildlife. He once exclaimed "where on earth could you be given 5000 acres of the most beautiful virgin forest, teeming with such abundant flora and fauna? This is surely heaven on earth."

He pursued his hobby and profession, farming, with tremendous energy, cultivating many acres of all types of vegetables, fruit and trees. He reared thousands of all types of domesticated birds, beef cattle and pigs. The few times he visited England he would return with a large variety of eggs to hatch and rear. He was a well known successful commercial farmer, supplying much of Zambia with farm produce, including jams, pickles, sauces and chutneys. He loved to show you around his kingdom. Two miles from Villa Jenny on the edge of the forest was a hilly, rocky spot overlooking the Luankuni river where he dreamed of building his English-styled manor house; and two more miles further on was "sunset corner" on the edge of the forest

overlooking a dammed river-bed. He loved to sit there, sipping afternoon tea and reading or gazing at the warm, beautiful sunsets.

He would start the day by listening to the BBC World Service at 6 am and whistle happily as he shaved. He would stride briskly, followed by faithful little Whiskey - the mongrel puppy - to see to the pigs or to the cattle kraal to oversee the dipping and servicing of his beef cattle. Every new-born calf was noted and given a familiar or a humorous name, such as Specklebum.

He loved hunting with his only son, John. They would often return with a bird or bush-buck for supper. Through Peter's example and encouragement, John became an accomplished farmer and lover of the African wilderness and wildlife.

The life and soul of parties, he entertained people from all walks of life. Some visitors would come for a night and end up staying for three months. He was always ready for a pint in the road-side taverns.

He spoke affectionately of all his family in England. His mother, Evelyn and the Butts, her beautiful Shropshire home. His father, Thomas Allen, a headmaster and classics scholar at Denstone College. He spoke with mischievous humour of his brother Jimmy and sister Margaret and all the frightful things they did together as children in Shrewsbury.



Major Peter Moxon

We learned about our cousin, Peter, the late Philip and David Hobson, and of Frances Moxon, his first wife, and our three half sisters, Elizabeth, Diana and Penny.

Peter was a caring, loving loyal and proud father who always sang our praises, giving us confidence and faith in ourselves.

He once announced "Zambia shall have my bones". Indeed they are lying in a most beautiful corner of the land that he so loved and cherished - like his brother Jimmy - under the shade of some magnificent, leafy African trees, a small walk from his villa. Peter Moxon - grandfather, father, uncle, brother, and husband to Aggie. A man of Africa. You

have left a huge void in our lives. May you rest in peace."

After the service, refreshments were provided in the Schoolroom, followed by a film show staged by Rev. Peter Hobson and Dr. David Hobson (Margaret's sons) showing some of the film shot by Peter during Jimmy's funeral.

Margaret, Peter and David made all the arrangements, and I am sure that the two brothers, Jimmy and Peter, would have thoroughly enjoyed the whole afternoon !

JMH

Donation to M.F.R.T.

The Moxon Family Research Trust, gratefully acknowledges a donation of \$100 from Diane Nygaard, Member of Aurora, Colorado.

An Horrific Honeymoon

Diane also wrote to tell us about the ordeal her daughter, Michelle, and son-in-law, Adam, suffered on their honeymoon. But the problems started before then! First, Michelle was left behind at her own rehearsal dinner. It got worse when the wedding flowers were left at home, four bridesmaids dresses didn't fit, and then Michelle's great-grand-mother choked at the reception, and had to be aided by a Boy Scout.

Michelle and Adam had planned their honeymoon on the cruise ship "Ecstasy". The ship had only just left port, and the passengers were preparing for a gourmet dinner, when there was an announcement that there was a fire on board. Michelle said "When we got into the hall, it was smoky, and they were already sealing the doors shut. That's when I thought of the Titanic!"

Early next day, they were on a flight home to Colorado, and looking forward, a whole year later, to honeymoon part II.

One passenger had complained of smoke half an hour before the announcement was made. In the meantime he was in his cabin, and saw on live television, pictures showing smoke billowing from the ship, taken from a camera on the beach!

See colour photo of the happy couple on page 12.

This article was carried over from last October's Magazine, due to lack of space.

Ed.

Hull to Hell

Three Moxon Cousins in The Great War

By Judith Ayre (née Moxon) Member of Beverley

Congratulations ! Judith and Ralph had a baby daughter, Alys Katherine, on 15th September, 1999. Judith says they purposely chose the old spelling for Alys.



"Are there any soldiers in your family?"

Having spent numerous evenings at the Library with me, some years ago, while I looked for Georgian and Victorian Moxons in Hull, my husband - to - be decided it was about time to angle some research towards his own interest in military history. I only knew of one Moxon from Hull (called Thomas) who had been killed in the Great War, and my Grandfather had served in the Coldstream Guards at some time. It was not a promising start but I mentioned the subject to a friend who worked in a Library and that week, purely by chance, she came across "Thomas Moxon" listed in a Volume of "Soldiers Died in the Great War" and noted his details. I sent Dad into the loft in search of his Father's medals but due to some over-efficient filing it took almost a year before they were found. However, we persisted with our research and I can now say "yes, there were soldiers in my family" - three of them served in the Army during the Great War and these are their stories.

The history of Hull as a port and the structure of the workforce in 1914 meant recruitment from the City into the Forces was mainly expected to be into the maritime services - Royal and Merchant Navies. While this was true, large numbers of volunteers also came forward for the Army, and Hull sent four "Pals" Battalions to France. The Pals Battalions (part of the East Yorkshire Regiment) formed part of the 92nd Brigade, 31st Division, and were known (formally and informally) as:-

1st Hull Battalion (10th Service Battalion) - the Commercials

2nd Hull Battalion (11th Service Battalion) - the Tradesmen

3rd Hull Battalion (12th Service Battalion) - the Sportsmen

4th Hull Battalion (13th Service Battalion) - T'Others

Private Thomas (Tom) Moxon was the one soldier we knew had died in the Great War. He was the youngest son of Joseph and Annie Moxon of Hull and his death is mentioned in a letter written by his sister Ethel. Thomas was born in 1889 and was 25 at the outbreak of War. He enlisted in the 11th Battalion after recruitment of the Pals began in Hull at the end of August 1914. Training started on local recreation grounds but by November men were being sent to the East Coast to act as a Coastal Defence Force. By the middle of 1915 Tom and his colleagues were in Ripon undergoing larger scale training as parts of a Brigade and a Division, but during the Spring Tom had time to get married (in Hull) to Gertie Noden. Overseas service began with Garrison duty at the Suez Canal during the Winter of 1915/16 and then in March 1916 the Hull Pals were shipped to Marseilles and moved north through France in preparation for the battle of the Somme. All four Battalions were held in reserve (for an attack on Serre) on the first day of the battle and were based in the northern sector of the battlefield, which saw some of the highest casualty rates. They saw

action during the next two weeks, in what became known as the Battle of Albert.

The 11th Battalion then took part in the Battle of Ancre - also part of the Somme Campaign - during November 1916, and in operations on the Ancre during February and March 1917. However, by the end of 1916 the Battalion was desperately in need of new men and officers due to the high casualty rates and men were moved around to try and reform the Battalion. It was probably around this time that Tom moved or was transferred to the 9th Service Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment who had been fighting in Belgium. This Battalion seems to have been in training during the early Spring of 1917 until the beginning of April, when they moved into the front line of the Hill 60 sector which was south east of Ypres. There they were subjected to heavy bombardment prior to an enemy attack on the trenches. During these few days Tom suffered fatal injuries and died of wounds on 10th April 1917.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission told us that Tom was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium - the site of nearly 10,000 War Graves. He is also commemorated on the headstone of his parents' grave in Hedon Road Cemetery in Hull. Tom and Gertie did not have any children and Gertie remarried at some time after the War.

The East Yorkshire Regiment also contained Battalions of regular and territorial soldiers and these saw overseas service before the Pals. When I received the details of Thomas Moxon from 'Soldiers Died in the Great War' I used a research agency to obtain basic details about his service, but when these arrived it was apparent we had found a second Thomas Moxon.

This was Thomas William Moxon, born in 1894 in Hull, the eldest son of Joseph William and Sarah Ann Moxon, and a distant cousin to Tom. Thomas was 20 at the outbreak of War and as a Private in the territorial 1/4th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, was mobilised on the 5th August 1914 to form part of the 150th York and Durham Brigade, then training near Newcastle.

Thomas arrived in France on 17th April 1915 in time to take part in actions around Ypres - the soldiers being taken near to the front line in motor buses. The Ypres experience was a baptism of fire and resulted in losses, although at this point territorial soldiers were really regarded as part of the reserve force and spent much of their time on the move, at everyone's beck and call, providing support where it was needed most. Thomas and his fellow soldiers' experience of the War varied from long, quiet spells in the trenches to major battles which saw the Battalion almost obliterated. In September 1916 they were involved in the battle of Flers Courclette which was part of the third phase

of the Somme. It was however more notable as being the first time tanks were used in the War. In early April 1917 the Battalion suffered huge losses in the Battle of Arras, including most of the officers who were killed when the British creeping barrage of shells dropping ahead of the attacking line moved too slowly. In October, during the Second Battle of Passchendaele, the troops held a front line consisting of a set of shell holes and yet managed to gain all their objectives in the face of full enemy fire.

However, it was in 1918 that the Battalion saw action in three major battles - the defence of the Somme crossings in March against a major German offensive, the battle of the Lys in early April where the Battalion was outflanked and lost communications with other British forces, and in May the battle of the Aisne. The first two battles both resulted in such large numbers of casualties that on each occasion the Battalion had to be almost reformed, but the Aisne was the final blow.

The 1/4th Battalion were holding a quiet front line near Craonne, north of the river Aisne, when on 26th May news was received of an imminent German attack. At 1am on 27th May a two and a half hour storm of gas and high explosive shells was unleashed by the Germans, destroying British trenches and allowing German troops to overwhelm the British. Isolated groups of men survived - the majority were killed. At the end of the battle just over 100 men (a tenth of the Battalion) could be accounted for, and the 1/4th Battalion effectively ceased to exist. Having survived all the previous assaults and reformations, Thomas was among the men killed on the 27th and his body was never found. He is commemorated on the War Memorial in the public square in Soissons - one of 4,000 men who died in the Aisne/Marne battles and who have no known grave - and on the East Yorkshire Regiment Memorial in Beverley Minster.

Both Tom and Thomas were awarded medals for their service and these would have been sent to their next of kin. Firstly, both qualified for the 1914-15 Star having served in a theatre of War before the end of 1915. This medal has a red, white and blue ribbon and carries the recipient's name on the reverse. Holders of this medal also qualified for the British War Medal, cast in silver and worn with an orange/black/white/blue ribbon. This was given for overseas service from 1914-20 and was named along the edge. Holders of the British War Medal also receive the Victory Medal which was cast in bronze and worn with a rainbow coloured ribbon. (See colour photograph for examples of these medals and their ribbons on page 9) In addition, the next of kin would have been awarded a named bronze Memorial Plaque about 5" in diameter. Many families cynically referred to these as the 'Dead Man's Penny'. (See colour photo on page 12) When we found my Grandfather's medals, he too had British War and Victory Medals which meant that he had been overseas between 1914-20. The Coldstream Guards were able to provide a copy of his service

continued on next page

record, which included his record for the Great War, and this proved very interesting.

Frederick Henry Moxon (Fred) was a cousin to Thomas Moxon, and he enlisted in Hull in March 1915, stating that his trade was a Groom and that he was 19 years old. In fact he was only just over 16 years and had already had one unsuccessful attempt at enlisting behind him. He joined the Army Service Corps (ASC) in the Remounts Section where his experience with horses could be put to good use. The ASC was seen as a 'safe' unit - one in which the enthusiastic but underage volunteer could be put to work without the Army being accused of letting schoolboys go into the front line trenches. However, the ASC was also a target for abuse by the troops who considered that it was composed of shirkers and cowards, hiding behind the lines and living an easy life. In reality the work of the ASC was often hard and dirty - without it food, ammunition and equipment would never have reached the troops fighting the War.

Fred was sent firstly to a depot at Swaythling in Hampshire where he was trained and qualified as a Shoeing Smith. He was then posted to France in June 1916 to a Remount Depot. The location of the depot was not easy to find but it was probably near Le Havre, and this was where Fred spent his war. He was working with some of the half million horses that were an essential part of the day to day transport system, providing mounts for officers, draught horses to haul guns, and transport columns to pull supplies and ammunition from the rail heads to supply dumps nearer the front line. All the horses had to be kept in good health, so Remount Depots were essential to



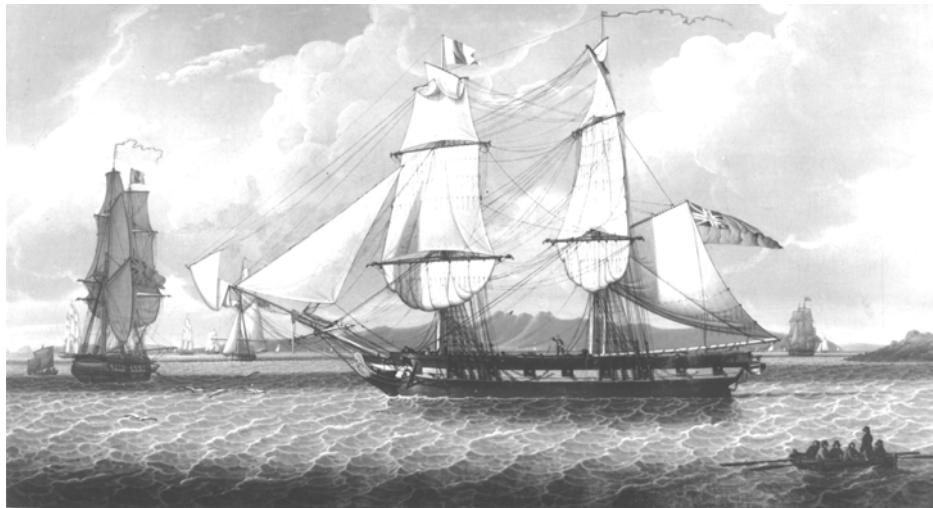
Fred Moxon (1899-1968)
Army Service Corps.

maintain the horse transport system. It was March 1919 when Fred was demobbed at Woolwich Dockyard and he came home to Hull where he continued to work as a Shoeing Smith. In 1921 he re-enlisted to serve for three years as a Farrier in the Coldstream Guards - and this time he told the truth about his age.

The Great War was undoubtedly one of the major historical events of the twentieth century and yet, so often, the individual men who fought, and their stories, are lost amongst

An Update on Roots 5

In Roots 5 (MM 22 October 1998) we discussed the Moxons of Ebbesborne Wake, Wiltshire, and their descendants. John and Sue Moxon have researched the "Navy Lists", and have found out further information about Lt. James Moxsom.



The Brig "Ariel" (Painted in 1811)

A very similar ship to the Brig "Columbia", on which Lt. James Moxsom served 1813-1817
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WE HAD LONG wondered how James Moxsom, could have described himself as "Lt. James Moxsom of the Brig Columbia", when it appeared that he lived in Nova Scotia from

1813, when he married, until he died !. John and Sue Moxon's research of the "Navy Lists" has revealed some of these answers. Putting their research in date order with Natasha

the horrors of the battles and the sheer numbers of casualties. They were, for the most part, ordinary men of which these three Moxon cousins from Hull were typical.

The Moxons, like so many families drawn into the War, played their part - but not all of them came home.

Acknowledgements:

Hull Pals - David Bilton

Somme - Lyn MacDonald

The East Yorkshire Regiment in the Great War 1914-18 - E. Wyrall

The York & Lancaster Museum, Rotherham

The Royal Logistics Corps Museum, Camberley

Moxon's research in Nova Scotia, reveals:
23rd Mar. 1813 appointed Lieutenant and attached to the Brig Columbia.

Early 1813 Brig Columbia at Chatham (having a refit ?)

6th Jul. 1813 James married Harriet Ann Proud in Halifax, Nova Scotia. (James shown as Lt. of Brig Columbia).

Later in 1813 the Brig Columbia was in the Mediterranean.

Early in 1814 Brig Columbia was in Portsmouth. Later in 1815, Brig Columbia was in East Indies. 1817 James Moxon shown in Navy List, but not attached to any ship.

1817/1818 James Moxon goes on to half pay. i.e. in effect placed on the "Reserves". See Note

15th Sept. 1817 James and Harriet Moxon convert land in an Indenture (All parties from Rawdon, Hants County, Nova Scotia)

1819 James and Harriet's first child, Caroline born in Centre Rawdon, Hants County, Nova Scotia

18th Nov. 1824 James married Margaret (Mary) Fisher in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia. (We do not know Hannah's date of death)

1826 Henry Moxon son of James and Margaret born.

1st Feb. 1856 James listed as retired with rank of Commander. (Aged 68?)

Jan. 1857 Navy lists James as "Unfit for Service" (aged 69?)

1871 Census James aged 84 (84th year ?) living with son Henry.

9th Sept. 1871 James Moxon died.

Note: John Moxon informs that, in times of peace, when Naval Officers were not required

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for duty, they were put on to half pay.

If the Brig Columbia was in Chatham for a longish period for refit, James would have had time to sail to Nova Scotia, marry Harriet Ann Proud, and then return to ship in time to sail to the Mediterranean, back to Portsmouth and then to the East Indies. It seems quite probable that he did not then return to Nova Scotia until he left the Brig Columbia (i.e. was listed as not attached to any ship in 1817) and put on half, pay also in 1817. He was back in Nova Scotia by Sept. 1817, when he was a party to a land indenture. Their first child, Caroline, was baptised in 1819 (helping to confirm that he was not in Nova Scotia between his marriage and late 1817).

Before becoming a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, I believe James would have had to serve as a Midshipman for a number of years, in order to acquire his seamanship skills and experience. So he will have joined the Navy quite a few years before 1813. As a midshipman, he must have been on a Royal Navy ship, which had visited Halifax, where he fell in love with Hannah Ann Proud. It appears that as soon as he received his promotion to Lieutenant, and had the chance, off he went to Nova Scotia to marry! - leaving Hannah almost immediately to return to England and join his ship for its tour of duty in the Mediterranean.

The Royal Navy was fully occupied in the early part of the 1800's. Napoleon was a threat, and there was the defeat of the French at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The Navy blockaded ports and countries that sided with, or helped the French. These blockades were destructive of American commerce, and brought about the war between America and Britain in 1812, and the burning of the White House. After supporting Wellington with supplies for his victory over Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815, the need to preserve a high level of naval forces declined, and this probably resulted in Lt. James Moxon going on to half pay in 1817.

The war with America in 1812, would involve the Royal Navy, and this might well explain James being in Halifax around that time, and first meeting Hannah.

Clearly, some more research is necessary.

JMH

Wentworth Woodhouse

DURING THE 1998 Gathering in Wakefield, we visited Wentworth Woodhouse Mansion. Some few months before, the owner, an industrialist, had become insolvent, and the mansion was in the hands of the Receiver, who, it was presumed would be attempting to sell it off to the highest bidder.

On 19th May, 1999, The TIMES carried a small news item:

"The mystery identity of the new owner of Wentworth Woodhouse in Yorkshire has been revealed as a Mr. Newbold. He bought the Grade I listed mansion, which is reputed to be one of the finest country houses in England, to use as a private residence after 100 viewings took place and more than 1,500 brochures were sent out by

The Moxon Web Site

LAST OCTOBER Harry Moxon set up the Moxon Society Web Site at:
www.moxon.org.uk and has been improving it ever since.

Over 40 members are now "on the net", and are able to correspond by e:mail (a third of the Membership). So it was high time we had a web site - not only for the benefit of our members - but also as a powerful, and very economical, means of advertising the Society to all parts of the World.

The site gives a brief description of the Society, including photographs of Jimmy Moxon, and several Committee Members. It includes a file which anyone can "down load", and then interrogate to determine if their ancestors are known to the Society. If they are known, then they can trace other known relatives.

Well done, Harry!

Five other members have their own web sites:

Timothy Moxon www.montego-bay-jamaica.com/houseboat/index.html

Gaylord (Mox) Moxon www.moxon.org

John S Earnshaw www.btinternet.com/~john.s.earnshaw

John Waring Moxon www.btinternet.com/~jwmxon/index.html

Thomas Werner Moxon www.moxon.com

So, we are keeping up with the latest technology.

If you are not already on the "net", you really should consider getting up-to-date with 20th. Century technology - before we get too far into the 21st. Century !! The advantages are limitless. Letters can be sent by e:mail anywhere in the world for the cost of a local telephone call (In fact, for the cost of a B.T. minimum charge of 5p, probably a dozen different letters could be sent !) Many of the photographs appearing in this Magazine were sent to me as attachments to e:mail letters.

GET WITH IT !

the agents."

A further article appeared in The Sunday Times on 9th January, 2000, reporting that John Ryan (founder of Ryanair - the Irish airline) had originally thought of buying the mansion and moving it stone by stone to a site in Ireland! He gave up the idea when he realised that as a Grade I listed building this would not be allowed. It was eventually sold to Mr. Newbold for £1.5M

What a place to have as your own private residence !

JMH



Dorothy Moxon

We regret to report that Dorothy Moxon, wife of Glen Moxon, Member of Byron Bay, NSW, Australia, died on 7th January. She had been in declining health for the last four years. We send our heartfelt condolences to Glen and his family.

"Where there's a Will" continued from

Burdett of Denby, Yorks. married John Moxon. (Circa 1584)."

This union of the two families preceded the Will by 100 years, but bear in mind that ordinary people then took far more interest in their forefathers than is customary today. (Moxons excepted of course!). We have only to refer to the Old Testament in the Bible to read of the many generations of who begat whom. Even today, would we not know our blood relations of the year 1900?

We cannot rule out the fact that Margaret may have been a direct descendent of Maud Burdett and John Moxon. Bear in mind also that there is just an outside chance that the Burdett family could eventually link the Moxons to a Royal House. (See "Us Royal? You Must be Joking!" - Page 3 Moxon Magazine No 23.April 1999)

More research needs to be done!

Watch this space !

Joan is repeating her plea, published in the last Magazine, for our overseas Members to send her copies of Moxon wills made and proved in countries other than the U.K. We are trying very hard to make this Magazine as interesting as possible, and to appeal to our Members World Wide - but we do need your help ! Her address given below.

Joan also asks:

"What did you do for the Millennium? How did you spend New Year's Eve? Do you think it was a great event or simply an over-rated waste of time and money?"

We would like to have your views and are hoping that as many Moxons as possible will respond. We are a far-flung family with members living all over the world. If sufficient numbers reply, their comments will become a valuable historical record of this unique period of time, which we shall keep for posterity.

You need not write at length - just a few sentences will do.

Send your thoughts of the Millennium, and copies of Wills, to :

Joan Rendall, Bushaven, 3, Chestnut Drive, Bushby, Leicester. LE7 9RB, England.

Joan has already started us off with her contribution, which is held over due to lack of space.

May I also make a plea for articles of either general or specific Moxon interest for inclusion in future Magazines. At present, we are relying on a small group of regular contributors.

So ! Come on - put pen to paper, and send to either Natasha or to me, or drop us a line or e:mail, with any ideas you may have. See addresses "box" on page 20

Ed.

"W here there's a Will..."



24th in the

In the name of God Amen, the twentieth day of October in the second year of the reign of our sovereign Lord, James the second by the grace of God King of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the faith etc. and in the year of our Lord 1686 . I Margaret Moxon of Barnby in the parish of Cawthorne in the county of York; spinster being sick and weak of body but of good and perfect mind and memory (praise be God for the same) and knowing the uncertainty of this life on earth and being desirous to settle things in order do hereby revoke all former wills by me heretofore made and do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say first and principally I command my soul to almighty God my creator assuredly believing that I shall receive full pardon and free remission of all my sins and be saved by the precious death and merits of my blessed saviour and redeemer Christ Jesus and my body to the earth from whence it was taken to be buried in such decent and Christian manner as to the executors hereafter named shall be thought meet and convenient and as touching such worldly estate as the Lord in mercy hath lent me my will and mind is the farm shall be bestowed and employed as hereafter by this my will is expressed. First my will and mind is that my debts and funeral expenses be first of all paid out of my whole goods and personal estate. Item I do hereby give and bequeath unto Mrs Frances Burdett daughter of Sir Francis Burdett of Birthwaite Baronet the sum of fifty pounds of lawful English money. Item I give and bequeath unto Alice Barber my sister the sum of twenty pounds of lawful English money. Item I give and bequeath unto my nephew John Barber and to Mr. William Barnby and to Rebecca the wife of Francis Turton of Barnby aforesaid to each of them five pounds of lawful English money: Item I give and bequeath unto Mr. Peter Filmay of Silkstone fifty shillings. Item I give and bequeath unto Gervais Cutler Mrs Elizabeth Elrorb Mrs Elizabeth Bowden and to her daughter Mrs Mary Alott and to Mrs Ann Watkin to each of them a mourning ring and to Mrs Priscilla Bossvile five shillings. Item I give and bequeath unto Mr Robert Barnby Mrs Mary Barnby and Mr Edward Smithson to each of them twenty shillings of lawful English money. Item I give and bequeath unto Mr Francis Burdett and Mr Eglinton Burdett sons of the said Sir Francis Burdett Mrs Mary Barnby the younger Mr Henry Wolrich Mary Twistleton Sara Bagshaw Mary Barber Sara Barber and Janet Walshaw to each of them ten shillings of lawful English money. Item I give and bequeath unto Robert Kay and Ann Woodhead five shillings a piece and my will and mind is that all the legacies before mentioned shall be paid by my executor hereafter named within one month next after the farm shall come to his hands and be received by him and not before and I do hereby nominate and appoint the said Sir Francis Burdett sole executor of this my last will unto whom I give and bequeath all the rest of any goods and personal estate whatsoever not herein by me formerly disposed of for and towards his satisfaction for his pains and trouble which may fall upon him in the due execution and performance of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written 1686.

Signed: Margaret Moxon

Signed sealed published and delivered in the presence of us:

Thomas Hall jurat

John Horon

Probate was granted in January 1687.

Buried in Cawthorne on 21st November, 1686

NOTES on the WILL of MARGARET MOXON dated 20 October, 1686.

The spinster Margaret Moxon drew up her Will in 1686, during the brief, three year reign of James II, that disastrous monarch who fled the country in 1688, dumping the Great Seal into the River Thames as he left. Less than forty years previously, Charles I had lost his crown and his head during the Civil War, which culminated in

the formation of Cromwell's Commonwealth. Thus Margaret lived out her life in turbulent and revolutionary times indeed.

Margaret Moxon was a woman of some wealth and substance. Surprisingly, most of her estate was left to the titled Burdett family.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE MOXON MAGAZINE

"The Moxon Magazine" is supplied free of charge to members of The Moxon Society, i.e. the cost of provision twice a year is included in the membership fee. Extra copies however or back numbers may be ordered (either by members or non-members of the Society) at £5 per copy (add 20% for overseas airmail postage). Send your orders to John C. Moxon at 1, Pinetree Close, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8DX. Overseas payment by **Sterling Money Orders** or cheques in favour of "The Moxon Society".

THE MOXON MAGAZINE

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who were the main beneficiaries. Moreover, Sir Francis Burdett was employed as the sole executor of the Will.

In appointing him, Margaret almost appears to grovel, leaving him the residue of all her estate after the bequests were settled, "for and towards his satisfaction for his pains and trouble".

In the end it was the Burdetts who squandered away her wealth. If Margaret comes over as something of a parvenu, who plays down her yeoman ancestry and considers herself as one of the gentry, then one might think that it was rough justice and that she only got what she deserved.

Sir Francis Burdett's Father died in 1644 leaving debts of £1,600 and an estate worth only £800. He had made no arrangements for the guardianship of his little son and heir, then aged two years. Francis, the first baronet completed the ruin of his family's estates by his own profligacy and dissipation. Seemingly, it would not have taken long for Margaret's legacies to be scattered to the four winds. I felt compelled to investigate the Burdetts more closely and found their early pedigree in a book entitled, "The History of Penistone". In it there was an entry which made me feel that I had been too hasty in my condemnation of Margaret. It was this: "Maud, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Burdett

continued at bottom of column 3 on page 19

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