



THE MOXON MAGAZINE

The Magazine for the Moxons, Established by James Moxon in 1988,
Founding Editor, and First President of the Society.

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Editorial

MANY THANKS to all those Members who have contributed articles or material for inclusion in this Magazine. After so many years, during which Jimmy Moxon, and a very few stalwarts, had struggled to fill even eight pages, it is most heartening now to have sufficient to fill sixteen pages. Please ! Please ! Keep these articles flowing in. I am certain the added variety makes for a much more interesting Magazine.

The original Eagle, which has appeared on all past issues of this Magazine was drawn by Jimmy Moxon, by tracing around the Eagle depicted on the front cover of "The Moxons of Yorkshire" with a felt tip pen. Modern technology now allows us to show the original.

In this issue, we report on two "Gatherings" - The Society Gathering in Bristol, on 8th to 10th September, when 35 attended, and The Moxsom-Moxon reunion held in Nova Scotia, on 13th August, when our Canadian Cousins attracted over 90 attendees - three times more than in Bristol. Well done Nova Scotia!

After such an enjoyable Gathering in Bristol, superbly organised by Diana Trotter and ably aided by John and Gillie McKeown, we look forward to seeing all participants again, joined by many more members, at the 2001 Gathering in Kew, London. The April 2001 Magazine will be giving full details. Please note that due to the difficulty in finding suitable, and economical, accommodation in London, the event will most likely be held on Friday 31st August to Sunday 2nd September, 2001. This is unfortunately, a necessary departure from our normal tradition of holding the Gathering during the second weekend in September.

The first year of the New Millennium is nearly over!

All the Committee Members wish you a Very Merry Christmas, and a Very Happy New Year !

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to The Society:

Barrie Clement of West Mosely.
Mrs. Pamela Coxon of Penzance)
Mrs. Josephine Reed of Vancouver) sisters
John Lane of Leiden, Holland.
Mrs. Wendy Kaye of Vancouver.

Moxon Gatherings in Bristol & Nova Scotia

THERE HAVE BEEN two Moxon Gatherings over the last three weeks. One, the Moxsom-Moxon Reunion held in Nova Scotia on 13th August, and the other, The Moxon Society Annual Gathering in Bristol, held on 8th to 10th September.

Both these events were highly successful, and enjoyed by all those who attended.

The Moxsom-Moxon Reunion in Nova Scotia.

See colour photograph on page 10.

THE REUNION was held on Sunday, August 13th, 2000. The day began overcast and began clearing as the afternoon wore on. Approximately 90 people attended the gathering travelling from various locations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Those who attended the reunion were descendants of Joseph and James. Joseph and James were brothers who left England in the 1800s and settled in Nova Scotia. The reunion was held on John Moxsom's farm in Hardwood Lands, Nova Scotia. This land has been owned by the Moxsom family for 168 years. The children enjoyed a tractor-pulled hayride while some of the adults played a game similar to horseshoes and others mingled. After the children arrived back at the farm, a potluck supper was enjoyed by all. We hope to see as many, if not more, family members from Canada and the United States at the next reunion in 2001.

Natasha Moxon
Associate Editor

For a fuller account of the ancestors of those who attended this Reunion, refer to "Roots 5" in Moxon Magazine No. 22 (October 1998) and "Update on Roots 5" in MM No.25 (April 2000).

It is interesting to note how the different branches of this large family spell their surname "Moxsom" and "Moxon".

JMH

Member's Photographs

IN THE next Magazine, we want to publish more photographs of Members and their spouses. If your photograph did not appear in last April's issue, then please send a suitable photo(s), either by post or e:mail to me. See back page for my address.

JMH

Moxon Society Gathering in Bristol.

See colour photographs on page 7

THE ANNUAL Moxon Society Gathering was held at the Redwood Lodge Hotel, Failand, just outside Bristol, on 8th to 10th September.

The Gathering was organised by Diana Trotter, Member of Hartshorne (near Derby) very ably assisted by John and Gillie McKeown, Members of Clifton, who know the area very well.

Tea, coffee and biscuits awaited the delegates' arrival on the Friday afternoon.

Following a reception at 6-00 p.m., the Annual General Meeting of the Society took place at 6-30 p.m. The Minutes of the AGM are included separately in the envelope containing this Magazine. The AGM was followed by dinner at 8-00 p.m. - thus ensuring that the business of the AGM was completed in a timely manner (just!).

The hotel had recently suffered an extensive fire in the kitchens; this did not affect the food, which was excellent, but did result in the service being rather slow. However, this encouraged conversation!

After dinner we showed a video of Bristol, in order to give a foretaste of the following day's tour, and the CBS 10 minute video of The "60 minute" program interview with the late Jimmy Moxon.

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Presidential Letter No.2

SINCE THE ISSUE of the October Magazine last year, your Committee met in April and the main item to report is that the work of the officials and the strength of the Society has been growing.

In my last message I asked for any ideas on running the Society from the any reader of the Magazine/member but so far none have been forthcoming. So I am assuming you are quite happy with the way your Officials and the Executive Committee decide to run the Society. This does not mean we will stop thinking and working for you.

Our latest idea is to offer to subsidise the printing of family histories that our members may have prepared, or plan to prepare, for publication. This has been put to the Trustees of the Moxon Family Research Trust and they have endorsed this with some provisos that limit the amount paid and that the Editor of the magazine and Chairman of the Trustees agree that the substance in the proposed book is suitable for publication as a book rather than as an item in the magazine. Some notes have been prepared and are included with this issue of the magazine.

The sales of the book "A Truly Honest Man" have now almost ceased and the Trustees have agreed to write off the remainder of the costs and the stock of copies that are left for disposal or sale equal the deficit that was incurred when the book was published. Some of the stock is to be issued to local libraries and the remainder will be held for sale or disposal within the Society. The production of the book has raised the status of our Society within the ranks of family history societies and in some academic circles, so we have a publication that shows our strengths and abilities and is something to be proud of. It was a worthwhile project that has benefited the Society.

We are thinking about what research aids may be purchased to assist our members in their research and this will be ongoing during the coming year.

I will take this opportunity to wish all our membership well, to thank you all of you for the support your membership gives to the Society and, in particular our Committee members and Officers.

John C Moxon

STOP PRESS Family History Booklets

GWEN SAUVAGE has risen to the occasion, and has volunteered to have a go at writing a family history booklet about "The Staffordshire Moxons". (see President's letter, AGM minutes, and enclosure with this Magazine for booklet proposals.)

WELL DONE GWEN!

How about some volunteers from other families?

continued from column 3 on page 1

A coach had been arranged for the Saturday Tour, which left the hotel promptly at 9-45 a.m.

Our first call was to the Ship Museum, where we were able to go aboard Isambard Kingdom Brunel's *S.S. Great Britain*, in dry dock, and now almost completely restored. President John C Moxon had been involved, some years previously, through his firm Reynolds Chains, in the supply of chain links for the restored steam engine's drive to the propeller shaft.

Group photographs were taken with the *S.S. Great Britain* in the background. We also had the opportunity to go on board the fully working, full-sized, replica of the *Matthew*. The thought of crossing the Atlantic in such a small ship (and returning!) was appalling! John Cabot, under a patent from Henry VII, sailed the original *Matthew* to North America in 1497, and explored the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Back to the coach for a visit to Bristol Cathedral, where a conducted tour had been arranged. From the Cathedral, the coach took us to the Industrial Museum, where, unfortunately, we only had time to see the section on Bristol's part in the Slave Trade. Bristol's 18th century prosperity was built mainly upon the slave trade. (The Museum would certainly be worth a second visit!)

We then walked across Bristol's Millennium Bridge (not so grand as the one in London - but it does not sway, and is open!) to have lunch at one of the many dockside cafés in this completely refurbished area.

After lunch, and a welcome sit down, the coach took us to St. Mary Redcliffe, parts of which date back to 1185. Queen Elizabeth I, when visiting in 1574, described the Church as "the goodliest, fairest and most famous parish church in England".

Then on to Red Lodge, which has a Georgian exterior and contains the oldest surviving Elizabethan panelled rooms in Bristol. Outside there is a pretty knot garden. Red Lodge is the survivor of two lodges to the palace where Queen Elizabeth I stayed in 1574.

Our next stop was at the Bristol Museum

and Art Gallery, where we were torn between seeing the exhibits and having a welcome cup of tea in the Museum café!

On our return journey back to the hotel, we went via the Downs to see the sensational Sea Walls, and, in the distance, further along the river, Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge.

At 7-00 p.m. we had a very interesting illustrated talk by Tom Mayberry, Committee Member of the "Friends of Coleridge". Both Coleridge and his friend Wordsworth had works published by Edward Moxon "The Publisher".

Dinner followed at 8-00 p.m.

Sunday morning we assembled in the lecture theatre at 9-40 a.m. to fix which members would take their cars to Clifton, for a guided tour of the Suspension Visitor Centre, and then around Clifton, guided by Mike Pascoe, Director of the Centre. The Visitor Centre contains many details of the tenders for the building of the bridge, including the suspension bridge proposed by Brunel. Brunel won the contract, and started work. Lack of funds curtailed operations, and the bridge was finally completed after Brunel had died. It is said that he smoked 40 cigars a day.

Clifton was developed mainly in the Georgian and Regency periods, and there are many fine examples of this architecture. Clifton boasts the longest Georgian terrace in the country - Royal York Crescent. It was in one of these houses that Eugénie, stayed for a short period, prior to later becoming the Empress Eugénie.

The tour, and the weekend, ended for most of us on the patio of the Avon Gorge Hotel, overlooking the river and the Clifton Suspension bridge, whilst we partook of refreshments, before heading home, or returning to the hotel to collect luggage.

A most interesting and enjoyable weekend, thanks to Diana Trotter and John and Gillie McKeown, who made all the arrangements.

JMH

2001 GATHERING AT KEW.

THE FINAL decision on where to stay in Kew has not yet been made. London Hotels are notoriously expensive, and could easily result in the weekend costing double the norm. We felt this was unacceptable, and Diana Trotter, Gathering Organiser, has been looking at alternatives. The best, so far, is for us to stay at St. Mary's University College, bordering the Thames, in Strawberry Hill, a very short distance from Kew.

The accommodation would be in single ensuite rooms - there are no twin rooms. The College already has a large reunion booked for the second weekend in September 2001, and this would mean we could not have the sort of other facilities we normally enjoy. However, if we chose the first weekend in September (Friday 31st August to Sunday 2nd September) then facilities would be available.

We would dine in the College Refectory, in with other guests, but could have a bar

entirely to ourselves, seating about 60, for the whole weekend. This would be suitable for our AGM and "After Dinner" speaker. Further, if we wished, we could have a cold buffet in the bar on one of the evenings, instead of dining with everyone else in the Refectory.

The college has ample car parking.

Apart from visiting The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, we will learn more about the Bentham-Moxon Trust, largely funded by Louisa and Alfred Moxon, and containing over 1000 water colour paintings of Alpine Plants by Louisa. John Moxon (President) hopes that we could also have a short conducted visit around the Family History Centre (formerly the P.R.O.)

Where ever we stay, we look forward to a most interesting weekend. Full details will be given in the April Magazine.

INQUESTS, SUICIDE, DEATHS and TRANSPORTATION.

Following requests for articles, a number of Members have responded very positively. We thank them, and hope that these reproduced below, will spur on others to put pen to paper !

The first two Inquest Reports were sent in by Barbara O'Neil, Member of Swindon, Wiltshire.

Barbara had researched these at the London Metropolitan Archives, Northampton Road, London, EC1R 0HB. who have given their kind permission for reproduction in The Moxon Magazine. Their copyright is preserved.

So far, we know nothing about these two unfortunate individuals.

Both Inquests were held in the County of Middlesex (to wit) *sic* where John Wright Unwin was Coroner. To our ears the wording is archaic, and in neither case were any witnesses mentioned !

AN INQUISITION indented taken for our Sovereign the King at the Sign of the Horse & Groom in the Hamlet of Ratcliffe....in the County of Middlesex, the fourteenth Day of December in the first Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth before John Wright Unwin, Esquire, one of the Coroners of our said Lord the King for the said County, on view of the Body of Thomas Moxham then and there lying dead, upon the Oath of the several Persons whose Names are hereunder written, and Seals affixed, good and lawful Men of the Said County, duly chosen, and, who being then and there duly sworn and charged to inquire for our said Lord the King, when, how, and by what means, the said Thomas Moxham came to his Death, do, upon their Oath, say That on the thirteenth day of November in the year aforesaid Thomas Moxham being on board a certain ballast lighter then and there lying in the River Thames at he Hamlet and County aforesaid and a certain ship over?.... them passing in the said river did happen accidentally and by misfortune that the said vessel struck the mooring rope of the said ballast lighter and the said rope pulled the said Thomas Moxham overboard into the waters of the said river, wherein he the said Thomas Moxham then and there suffocated and drowned of which said Suffocation and drowning he the said Thomas Moxham then and there instantly died.

And so the Jurors aforesaid and by oath aforesaid upon the oath aforesaid do say that the said Thomas Moxham in..... and by means aforesaid accidentally caused his death and no other

In witness whereof as well the said Coroner as the Foreman of the said Jurors and the rest of the Fellows, have to this Inquisition set their Hands and Seals, this Day, Year and Place first above written.

(Signed) John Wright Unwin Coroner

John Starkey	John May	Thomas Attfield
Adam Burboy	Robert Steele	J Churcherson
Richard Fuller	Phillip Barton	Richard Daniel

Reference: Ratcliffe No 47 Inquisition Thomas Moxham Casually drowned
14th December 1820 MJ/SPCE 2415

AN INQUISITION indented taken for our Sovereign Lord the King at the Sign of the London Hospital in the Parish of Saint Mary Whitechapel in the County of Middlesex, the eighth Day of February in the Sixth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, before John Wright Unwin, Esquire, one of the Coroners of our said Lord the King for the said County, on view of the Body of Elizabeth Moxam then and there lying dead, upon the Oath of the several Persons whose Names are hereunder written, and Seals affixed, good and lawful Men of the Said County, duly chosen, and who being then and there duly sworn and charged to inquire for our said Lord the King, when, how, and by what means, the said Elizabeth Moxam came to her Death, do, upon their Oath, say, That on the fifth day of February instant in the year aforesaid at the Parish and County aforesaid the said deceased being in her Room in a house situated as aforesaid, it so happened that the said deceased was then and there sitting by the fire side when the clothes which she had on her body accidentally casually and by misfortune took fire by reason whereof, and from the smoke and flame arising from the said fire the said deceased was then and there suffocated and burnt of which said suffocation and burning the said deceased then and there died. And so the the Jurors aforesaid upon their Oath aforesaid do say that the said deceased by the means aforesaid accidentally casually and by misfortune came to her death and not otherwise.

In witness whereof as well the said Coroner as the Foreman of the said Jurors and the rest of the Fellows, have, to this Inquisition set their Hands and Seals, this Day, Year and Place first above written

(Signed) John Wright Unwin Coroner

Henry Wright	W Johnson	Wm. Richardson
Stephen Marshall	W Brook	Wm. Friar
G Grove	Robt Packer	C Fuller

Reference: Whitechapel No 28 Inquisition Elizabeth Moxam
Casually burnt 8th February 1825 MJ/SPCE 2415

We are indebted to John and Sue Moxon for researching the "TIMES" newspaper indexes, and obtaining cuttings, for the following four items.

Dr. Moxon Drowned. 1883

Dr. James Henry Harman Moxon, the grandson of Thomas Moxon of Twickenham, and son of John Moxon and Sarah Ann née Drake was born on the 12th August, 1847. He married Julia Isabel Parrott of Clapham in 1871. They had four children, born between 1872 and 1881, all baptised in Cambridge, where Dr. Moxon was Law Lecturer at Trinity College.

Aged only 36, he tragically lost his life by drowning. There were two reports in the "TIMES". The first merely reported the drowning incident, but the second, reporting the

verdict at the Inquest, must have upset his family terribly !

Times 24th May, 1883.

DROWNED.- Dr. Moxon, of Trinity College, Cambridge, well known in aquatic and skating circles, has been accidentally drowned at Baitsbite, on the Cam. Until lately he was Law Lecturer at Trinity.

Times 26th May, 1883. INQUEST.

Yesterday an inquest was held at the University Arms Hotel, Cambridge, by Mr. Henry Gotobed, borough coroner, on the body of the late Dr. Moxon, the circumstances of whose death have already appeared in these columns. After a protracted inquiry, the jury returned a verdict that "Deceased, while in a fit, was suffocated in a ditch".



"A portion of the boat in which the first Trinity Boat Club won the Head of the River, May, 1873. Coach J.H.H.Moxon."

Picture Courtesy of Susan Lowther-Pinkerton (Member of Alderton, near Ipswich)

JMH

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Suicide of Benjamin Moxon Varley

From the "Times" 29th January, 1849.

SUICIDE OF MR. VARLEY.- Late on Friday evening Mr. Mills, deputy coroner for Middlesex, held an inquest at the Holland Arms Tavern, High Street, Kensington, on the body of Mr. Benjamin Moxon Varley, aged 56 years, the well known engraver and jeweller of No. 80, Fleet-street, and No. 27, Edwardes-square, Kensington, who shot himself on Tuesday last. It appeared from the evidence gone into that the deceased, who had succeeded his late father some years since, was a bachelor, and was found by his housekeeper about 1 o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday last, lying on the floor of his bedroom, quite dead, and some blood oozing out of his mouth. An alarm was instantly raised, and a surgeon sent for, who promptly attended, and pronounced life to be quite extinct. No suspicion was at first entertained that he had laid violent hands on himself, but on the body being moved a small pistol, which had recently been discharged, was discovered under part of his clothing, and under the body was the fellow pistol, loaded with ball. On the deceased's mouth being carefully examined, it was ascertained that he must have placed the muzzle of the pistol in his mouth, and fired into thereof, as the ball could be perceptibly felt under the scalp at the top of the head. No report was heard, nor had the pistols, which were new, ever been seen before by the servants or any of his friends. All the witnesses concurred that the deceased had never exhibited the slightest sign of lunacy, or ever threatened to destroy himself, and in the absence of clearer testimony the jury returned a verdict "That the deceased had shot himself, but there was no evidence as to the state of his mind at the time" - *Observer*.

Comments:

If his age was quoted correctly, then Benjamin Moxon Varley was born c 1793. But who was he, and from whence did he come ? The combination of his names is most intriguing!

William Moxon, mason, married Sarah Varley in 1737. His son, the well known banker, merchant and shipowner, Richard Moxon of Hull, had a son named Benjamin Varley Moxon, who was born in 1772, died in 1779, and was buried in the family grave at Sulcoates (Kingston on Hull). William had a brother, born in 1725, named Benjamin. This Benjamin had a son, grandson and great-grandson, all named Benjamin. The grandson and great-grandson were the well known chemists and druggists in Hull.

However, the deceased's name had the "Varley" and "Moxon" interchanged.

Is any Member able to offer an explanation, or shed any light ?

William Moxon Transported

The Times 12th March, 1841:

The Crown Court - (Before Lord Chief Justice TINDALL)

William Moxon, aged 37, was indicted for stealing a sheep on 6th January, the property of one Thomas Walduck.

Mr. Birch prosecuted the prisoner, whom Mr. Power defended.

Mr. Walduck is a farmer, and on the afternoon of the 6th of January all his sheep were safely folded in their snow covered fields. About midnight his nephew was returning from a "Twelfth-day" evening party, and when he approached the pastures where his uncle's sheep lay he thought he heard somebody walking in the "crumpy" snow by the road side. He looked over a hedge, and then saw a man walking briskly with something heavy on his shoulders. Suspecting him to be no true man, the nephew called upon him to stop, a summons he not only refused to obey, but which made him only walk on faster. The nephew then ran alongside the hedge, and posted himself at a gap through which he rightly judged the party would come, and as soon as the man with the bundle came to the gap, the nephew made a rush at him. The man then threw down his burden, and then commenced a gallant but unequal chase, the man the pursued, the nephew the pursuer. Finding himself likely to be beaten in the race, the man threw himself on his face in a snow drift, in the hopes to hide himself; but after he had laid there cooling himself for some time his enemy found him, turned him over, told him he knew him, and went his way. In a short time the constable was called up, and the prisoner taken into custody, when a large lump of snow was found adhering to his coat, and a small lump of wool to one of his temples. The sheep was found by the constable, and proved to belong to the prosecutor.

The Lord CHIEF JUSTICE summed up the evidence, and the prisoner having been found guilty, was sentenced to be transported for ten years.

Editor's comments:

A very similar report appeared in "The Buckinghamshire Herald" on 13th March 1841.

Mr. Walduck farmed in Stewkley, and his nephew recognised William Moxon, so it is safe to assume that William Moxon lived in or near Stewkley. Moxon Family Tree MX11, shows the Moxons of Stewkley, and from this tree it would appear that the above William Moxon, who was said to be aged 37 in 1841, was the son of John and Rebecca Muxeon, baptised in 1802 (did he know his exact age ?). William married twice, firstly Elizabeth Emerton in 1821, who died in 1839, and secondly, Widow Hannah Chandler in 1840. He had eight children by Elizabeth, between 1822 and 1838, but three died in infancy before Elizabeth died. Hannah already had four children from her previous marriage, so there were nine children in the family, although some of William's older children had moved out by the Census of June 1841. Did his new wife complain too much about their poverty, which pressed him into sheep stealing ?

We may never know what happened to William after he was sentenced, if in fact he was transported, and if so where (Australia ?) or how Hannah managed to look after their children. The 1841 Census shows that the children living with Hannah in King Street, Stewkley, were, William Moxon aged 20 (bapt. 1822) Sarah Moxon aged 16 (bapt. 1825) and Hannah's own children, Susan Chandler (aged 14) Elizabeth Chandler (aged 10) Frederick Chandler (aged 7) and Sarah Chandler aged 6. William's other surviving children, Nathaniel (9) Rebecca (8)

Elizabeth (8) were not in Hannah's household on the day of the Census. Perhaps, after William was sentenced, other members of the Moxon family looked after them? Hannah is not shown in the 1851 Census for Stewkley. Only Nathaniel is listed, then aged 20, an agricultural labourer, living with the Mead Family.

In 1849, Robert Moxon (one of William's younger brothers) together with his wife Sarah and some of their children, emigrated to Australia, aboard the "Sarah", finally settling in Bathurst - some 150 miles west of Sydney, in the fertile plains beyond the Blue Mountains.

People who were transported to Australia were not kept in prison for their transportation period. They were, in effect, released on bail into the community. At the end of their sentence they were free to return to England - but at their own expense. Many could not afford to return, so stayed. Many others chose to remain, and if they could afford the passage, sent for their wives and families to join them.

Did William persuade his brother, Robert, to emigrate ? Did Hannah, and some of the family, also emigrate to join William ? Is this why Hannah was not listed on the 1851 Census?

Tom Moxon of Queensland, sent us a short list of "Moxon" convicts arriving in Hobart, Tasmania. One was William Moxon (Convict No. 56024) who sailed on the "Tortoise" from Plymouth on 26 October 1841, arriving on 19 February 1842. Was this the above William ?

There are still many "loose ends" !.

Seven Members of the Society are descended from the Moxons of Stewkley. One, Judy Huggett, of Kings Lynn is a Gt.gt.granddaughter of William, the others are Gt.gt.grandnieces or nephews - Val Lancaster of Adelaide, Chris Moxon of New Zealand, Peter Moxon of West Sussex, Pauline Munro of Leicestershire, Edith Moxon of Bathurst, Australia and Don Moxon-Blake of Cumbria.

My thanks to Sylvia Merrett who researched the Census Returns for Stewkley.

Death of Thomas Moxon of Leyton.

Tom Moxon, Member of Oxenfold, Queensland, sent us this article.

Tom writes: *I am enclosing herewith a copy of the description of the death of Thomas Moxon of Leyton written by his son, James, in longhand, in the book containing all of the details of the administration of his estate. Charles St.Denys Moxon and James Edward Moxon were the administrators of the estate.*

The article may have some general appeal in that the language used, and the setting give some idea of the commercial world in London at that time. Unfortunately it does lose some significance in the typed version.

How we came by this vivid piece of family history I wish I knew. One would have to surmise that for some reason it was given by James to his brother Thomas (who carted it to India with him ?) who then gave it to his son, Thomas Frank, who brought it to Australia when

he settled here, in Brisbane River, and it would have been in that office (also used by my father) at the time of T.F.'s death in 1936.

James Edward Moxon wrote:

Thomas Moxon of Leyton in the Co. of Essex and of the London Stock Exchange died 6th April 1869 (suddenly) at his office No. 3 Copthall Court, in the city of London, aged 76. Born on 2nd May 1792

Married 6 January 1820 to Elizabeth Browne of Kingham, Norfolk, who died at Leyton as above 10 April, 1858 aged 55.

Our father, who had been suffering for some time previously from one of his frequent attacks of gout had returned to his business pursuits in the city for some few days before his sudden end. He had expressed himself as "feeling pretty much himself" again and had asked me to accompany him on that same afternoon in which he died so soon after 4 o'clock as I could conclude with the business letters etc. to the West End where he wished me to help him to make choice of a new Dessert Service (sic) for his use at Leyton.

He had during the forenoon moreover inter alia taken the considerable number of dividends on the Govt. Funds (due & payable that day at the Bank of England) in connection with the Business at Copthall Court & otherwise - and himself entered them (as usual.) in the Cash Book there. He had also lunched at his Club House in Old Broad Street & after returning had gone into the Stock Exchange to see after some limits in the markets. He was on his way thence to No. 3, at or about 2-15 p.m., the pavements being wet and somewhat slippery, and he having on a pair of American Rubber Goloshes, when he was seen to stagger & fall down near some low steps at the entrance doorway of the first House on the right hand side just after entering Copthall Court from Throgmorton Street by Mr. Faulconer, of the firm of Faulconer and Downer, Stockbrokers, of No. 12 Copthall Court, nearly opposite to where he had fallen, who knowing him & thinking it merely an accident, after seeing that he was being attended to by others, at once came on to No. 3, to state what had occurred.

I immediately proceeded with him down the Court & found our father, who had been taken up the steps, on the floor of the House just within its Entrance doorway, in an easy position, his head and shoulders supported by one of two clerks who were assisting, with a small number of onlookers.

He seemed to be simply unconscious, somewhat as if in a fit, with the eyes closed, the face pale and wholly unable to speak & motionless - I felt his pulse, unfastened his necktie and shirt collar, which was evidently a relief, and sprinkled water which I had asked for on his face & wetted his lips with it - saying to him 2 or 3 times that "it was his own son James who was doing this and who was attending to him".

But neither sound nor motion then appeared. The crowd, now fast collecting thronged the doorway & I thought it best to endeavour to remove him to his own offices so nearby: which with the assistance of the 2 young men, the clerks, whose names are at foot of this was speedily effected and we placed him at full length on the long bench with one of the old Goldsmid chairs, just within the Entrance door - with his head and shoulders slightly raised and my brother Harry supplying me with water for him - also with a little spirits from a flask, to

endeavour to restore consciousness, but without avail, pending the arrival of the Doctor Mr. Chance of No. 59 Old Broad Street, who had been sent for & came very shortly - but just previous to his arrival our Father after giving vent to one long drawn sigh, collapsed & Mr. Chance on his arrival pronounced life to be extinct. This was at about 3 p.m.

Upon his leaving, the body was carried by myself & my brother Harry into the Inner office (his own) & there placed by us decently at a full length upon the large writing Table at which he always sat when writing - some people came in on business, others from time to time to enquire, as to his state, though we had fortunately been little disturbed in that way at the most critical time and it now became absolutely necessary for me to attend to the Cash and other matters before the Banks were closed, which I accordingly did, though in a sad state of mental & personal disquietude.

Later on my brother & self made the necessary arrangements with assistance of the Housekeeper (Mrs. Key) to remain all night ourselves in the office & pending the decision which we had been told must be first obtained as to the necessity for an Inquest - nor did we thus cease to care for and watch over our Departed Parent until very late on the evening of 7th when the Inquest Question had with some difficulty been negotiated and the Body was removed in a Hearse to the Residence at Leyton - where it was subsequently seen by the family medical attendant Mr. Crompton & interred in the Churchyard of that Parish in the same grave with our Dear Mother, on the 10th April 1869.

Names of the two clerks who assisted me & kindly on the 6th April 1869.

Mr. B.E.Green - clerk to Mr. Ambrose Smith Stock & Sharebrokers, 5 Angel Court, of 3 Circus Road St., Johns Wood.

Mr. Wm. C. Hill - clerk to Mr. S.Bergel, Stock & Sharebrokers 2 Copthall Court Chambers.

(signed) James Moxon

Editor's comments:

Charles St. Denys Moxon was the eldest child, and James Edward Moxon the second eldest child of Thomas Moxon of Leyton. James Henry Harman Moxon, whose Inquest details appear on the previous page, was their first cousin, being the son of Thomas' elder brother, John Moxon.

James Edward Moxon was the father of Alfred Edward and Margaret Louisa Moxon, who bequeathed a large sum of money to Kew Gardens (The Moxon-Bentham Trust) and also over 1000 water colour paintings of flowers by Louisa. - See MM 15 (April 1995), MM 16 (October 1995), MM 19 (April 1997) and MM 23 (April 1999) for further details of this illustrious family.

The Gathering in 2001 will be at Kew, where we will see, and find out more about, Louisa's paintings.

Joseph Moxon Indicted for Shooting.

The Times 13th August 1867.

The Crown Court, Leeds Circuit, Before Mr. Justice KEATING.

Joseph Moxon, a collier, was indicted for shooting at William Broadhead at Wath-upon-Dearne, on 2nd of June, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

Mr. West and Mr. Vernon Blackburn appeared for the prosecution: the prisoner was not defended by counsel.

The prosecutor, who is a gamekeeper to Earl Fitzwilliam, was in Low Wood, at Wath, on the day in question, when he saw the prisoner and two other men engaged in ferreting for rabbits. He went up to them, and put his hand on the prisoner's shoulder, when the poachers attacked him and began to beat him on the head with bludgeons. The prisoner endeavoured to get possession of the gamekeeper's gun, and at length succeeded in raising the hammer and getting his finger on the trigger. The gun was at this time pointing in the direction of the keeper, who had been forced down upon his back on the bank of the hedge. The prisoner then discharged one of the barrels, the shot just missing the keeper's side, and passing into the bank on which he was lying. The keeper said "For God's sake, don't shoot me."; but the prisoner, who had by this time got entire possession of the gun, cried out that he would blow him through, and endeavoured to fire off the other barrel, which, however, he was unable to do, as the trigger was defective. The other poachers continued to strike the keeper with their bludgeons, until the latter promised not to follow them if they would spare his life, and they then withdrew into the wood, keeping their faces towards the keeper. As they were getting over the fence, the gun, which the prisoner still held, went off, and appeared to jump from his hands, and on examination, turned out to have burst. In addition to the identification by the keeper, the prisoner was seen by other men shortly after the struggle going away from the direction in which it had taken place, and their description of his dress corresponded with articles found in his house. On the 4th June the prisoner went to a surgeon, and stated that he had hurt his hand from the bursting of his gun, while he was out shooting small birds.

The prisoner in his defence repeated this statement, and proposed to call witnesses to provide an alibi.

The witnesses, however, did not answer to their names, and he was Convicted and sentenced to four years penal servitude.

We know nothing about this Joseph Moxon. It is unusual for his age not to be given to the court, so we do not even know when he was born.

Does any member lay claim to this villain being an ancestor?

If you have any stories, or anecdotes about Moxons, either related or not, please pass them on, through these pages.

JMH

Knowing our Moxons - No.15

Timothy Moxon of Montego Bay, Jamaica.

"You must understand, however, that Timothy has been an outstanding pilot, scintillating actor, captivating raconteur, etc. but his filing ability is nonexistent." Carolyn Barrett - Business Associate, explaining why Timothy had mislaid my address !

TIMOTHY MOXON is the third World War II pilot to feature in these pages. In our last issue, Natasha Moxon, in "Knowing our Moxons No.14" wrote about Gaylord (Mox) Moxon of California, who was one of the first Allied pilots to witness the utter devastation of the atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, whilst taking reconnaissance photographs. In "Roots 8", also in the last issue, we recounted a little about Oliver Moxon, Timothy's elder brother, a Spitfire pilot who escorted American Flying Fortresses on daylight bombing raids over Europe, and later fought in "The Forgotten War" in Burma.

Two years after Oliver joined the R.A.F., Timothy followed in 1942. He recounted his early pilot training on Tiger Moths at Denham, where one day a Spitfire landed. All the trainees crowded around the legendary fighter, as the pilot jumped to the grass. *"As the pilot removed his leather helmet, I recognised my brother, Oliver. Until I shipped to Canada for further training, 6 weeks later, I basked in the reflected glory of that summer day !"*

Timothy became a Halifax Bomber Pilot, and then towards the end of the war, switched to flying Horsa Gliders in the Glider Pilot Regiment.

Timothy's daughter, Judith Zakka, Member of Greenwich, New York, writes:

"My father has had many adventures in his life all around the globe, has met many fascinating and international personalities, and done many interesting things.

After his R.A.F service, he was a stage actor in London where he appeared in "Charley's Aunt", "Dial M For Murder", "Top of the Ladder" at the St. James Theatre, directed by Tyrone Guthrie, where he played John Mills' son.

He married Margaret Stewart Glass from Glasgow in 1954.

When I was born in 1955 he decided to become an airline pilot for BOAC and was based out of Lagos, Nigeria, where we lived for two years. Then, when my sister, Deborah, was born in 1958, we moved to British Guyana where he worked as a private pilot for Reynolds Mines. We lived in Georgetown, Guyana and then moved to a remote American settlement in the jungle called Kwakwani. One had to fly in and out because the roads were usually impassable and forest fires were a menace.

On a business trip to Jamaica, my father fell madly in love with the island and moved us to Kingston in 1961, where he began working for Crop Culture, Limited, doing aerial crop dusting. This is extremely dangerous work and many of his friends were killed because the terrain is mountainous and the bright yellow Agricultural Category planes were very heavy to get off the ground. Timothy is known as one of the best pilots in Jamaica. In one incident, very thick pylon wires were put up over an area of Jamaica which was the territory that Dad covered. No one bothered to notify the Aviation Authorities and consequently Dad's plane



Timothy Moxon

From "Spotlight Casting Directory - Rank Organisation - 1951"

became entangled in the wires (which thankfully had no power in them) and his plane dived into a house, flying straight into the bedroom of a man who was sick in bed ! Needless to say, Timothy escaped unharmed and people appeared in droves, out of nowhere, many smoking cigarettes while gasoline was pouring from the plane! I am sure the patient in bed has still not recovered from his ordeal! However, he was rewarded with a brand new house, nicer than the one he had owned previously.

There have been quite a few film productions in Jamaica and Dad was in the James Bond film "Dr. No". He played the part of Strangways - a spy. He has the dubious distinction of being the first man to be killed in a James Bond movie, and is usually invited every year to the annual James Bond Festival held in Scotland. At the last one, in 1999, Dad got a standing ovation and has been asked to appear in the next Bond movie - though he does not know if he will. He has played character parts in "Come Spy with Me", "Return to Treasure Island" and "Scott of the Antarctic" as well as several other movies.

He has been in many lead parts in an amateur production company called "Montego Bay Little Theatre" such as "Don't Drink The Water" and "Count Dracula". Apart from that he also bought old houses and renovated them.

He then started "Timair" a Caribbean inter-island air charter business. Upon retirement, eight years ago he sold "Timair" to the owners of Appleton Rum, who still run it under the same name, and have expanded the operations.

Since he retired he has been running the Houseboat Restaurant - a very popular place for the locals and also airline crew because it

is close to the airport. (See photographs on the opposite page) He has been trying to finish a book but we don't know whether it ever will be finished!!! All this at the age of 76.

For my sister, brother and myself he was always an amazing man. Always on the go, very social too. He knew many interesting people, Noel Coward, Mick Jagger, Lady Diana Churchill, John Mills, etc. He has a terrific sense of the comedic, is a wonderful entertainer and gave us some great fatherly advice over the years while we were growing up. My sister and I are trying to slow him down - but I doubt our "harping" will make one iota of difference !"

Timothy's web site states *"The Original Houseboat Restaurant has been many things over the past thirty five years. Some of them unmentionable! It is without doubt, the most romantic little hideaway you will find anywhere. Anchored in the lovely Bogue Lagoon the houseboat is only five minutes from downtown Montego Bay. Step back in time to a more gracious era; Bogey and Bacall, Tracy and Hepburn and of course, Errol Flynn lurk in the shadows of the mahogany panelled dining room. Steve McQueen stayed on board during the filming of "Papillon". During the Jamaica World Music Festival, the houseboat was the "greenroom" to such musical giants as the Beach Boys, Rick James, Gladdys Knight and Aretha Franklin."*

Carolyn Barrett assists Timothy with the administration of the Houseboat Restaurant, and also operates speciality "off the beaten path" tours throughout Jamaica. *"Jamaica is a land of many contrasts, majestic rain forests, spectacular mountain vistas, scenic waterfalls, rivers teaming with giant tarpon, snook and crocodiles. Unfortunately, most people who come to Jamaica never even hear about these wonders of nature".*

Both Timothy's and Carolyn's web sites are linked to the "Drambuie Estate".

"When Jamaica was just a colony of the mighty British Empire, the royal family owned a twelve hundred acre plantation at the top of Long Hill. In 1946, once the war was won, the crown presented the plantation to Mr. Churchill. Winston gave away some parcels of his land to close friends. One such was given to Henry Mitchell, the owner of Drambuie Liquors. Now, for the first time, DRAMBUIE, not far from Winston's house, is available as your own private hideaway.

My thanks to Judith Zakka, who wrote most of this article. JMH

The Moxons in Bristol



FRONT ROW: Fred Moxon, Hilda Moxsom, Dymps Moxon Hill, Vera Moxon.
SECOND ROW: Jo Reed, Diana Trotter, Pamela Coxon, Rosemary Mans, Gillie McKeown, Joan Rendall, Gwen Sauvage, Margaret Moxon, Alvin Moxon, Gwynneth Moxon.
THIRD ROW: Harry Moxon, Ron Moxon, Jacqui Moxon, Les Moxsom, Yasmin Moxon, John Moxon Hill, Sue Moxon.
BACK ROW: Cecil Sauvage, John McKeown, Dr. John Moxon, Anne Moxon, Clare Moxon, Jim Moxon, John Moxon (S'hampton), Robert Rendall, Graham Jagger, John Moxon (IoW)

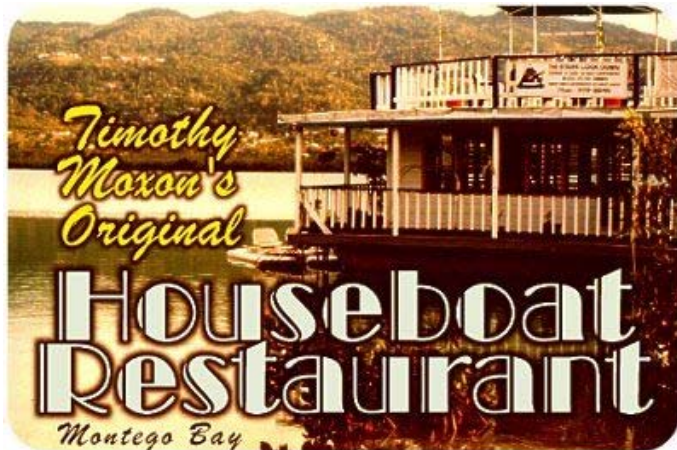


ABOVE: Dymps and the Matthew.

BELOW: The stern of S.S. Great Britain.



Knowing our Moxons - continued.



Picture of the Houseboat, taken from Timothy's Web Site
www.montego-bay-jamaica.com/houseboat/index.html



Timothy Moxon with daughter, Deborah Gadpaille.



LEFT: Timothy the pilot.
ABOVE: Judith Zakka, Member, Timothy's eldest daughter.
RIGHT: Timothy, with long time friend, Norma Stanley.



Down Memory Lane

Articles contributed by Society Members

POSTCARDS

MY MAIN HOBBY is collecting picture postcards, predominately of Cawthorne in Yorkshire where my family still live. However, at Postcard Fairs you may look through various categories in search of particular cards, and following the article in issue no.19 of the Moxon Magazine about May Moxon, the dancer, I was reminded that soon after I started collecting, I came across a postcard of a Miss Moxon. Such postcards of actresses/artistes were very popular during the postcard 'boom' between 1902 and 1918, but unfortunately I managed to lose the card along with 40 of a set of 'Tommy at the Front' World War I cards. Since the article I have been looking out for such an artiste with the name of Moxon and recently fell into conversation with another collector at the major annual four-day Postcard Fair in London in September, 1999, who turned out to be an expert on such cards. He gave me information about Miss Cyllene Moxon of whom at least three cards existed by different publishers. Early in the new year I was pleased to come across an autographed card of Miss Cyllene Moxon. It is obvious from the postcard back that a 'fan' had written to her asking for a signed photograph, and she had obliged by sending one, taken by Rita Martin, 27 Baker Street, London, W.1., to a Miss Rose Allas on 15.8.1922.

I advertise in the Picture Postcard Monthly for cards and recently had a response from a



collector whose interest is the theatre and music hall. He wrote to me explaining that he had some music by a Miss Constance Moxon. I subsequently obtained photocopies of what turned out to be coloured covers, lithographed by H G Banks, which contained music, songs by Miss Moxon. I understand that she was known as 'The Whistling Bluecoat Boy' and two of the illustrations have her wearing the uniformed coat of what I take to be Bluecoat School. The other has her dressed in an evening suit, as I believe she was a male impersonator. The



music was published by Francis, Day and Hunter copyright 1896 and 1899, and the song titles are 'The Whistling Bluecoat Boy', 'Like a Girl' and 'I'll Keep it There Till Father Comes Home'. Does this provide information for any member of the Moxon family?

On another occasion, looking through a postcard dealer's stock of Yorkshire cards for cards of Cawthorne and Cannon Hall, I came across one of Emley Cross, near Wakefield, by G E Moxon of Emley Post Office. It has not been postally used, but I think that it could date from around 1910.

It was commonplace for publishers to produce postcards for sub-postmasters to sell in their villages and to include the local's name, as in this case. Perhaps members of the Society



have a mild interest in postcards, especially in connection with their family's origins. I have a friend who is a postcard dealer specialising in churches and she has an extensive trade with members of Genealogical Societies and Family History Groups who are anxious to obtain postcards of churches, where their ancestors were christened, baptised, married or buried.

I hope that the information provided might be of interest to Society members and if any would like to correspond with me or contact me to discuss any postcard matters, especially about Cawthorne I should be pleased to hear from them. I am not an expert but have a keen interest in family/local history and enjoy reading the Magazine.

Christopher A Moxon,

70 Oxlease, Witney, Oxon., OX8 6QU, Tel & fax 01993 775277.

Christopher has some postcards of Cawthorne - the village from which some 26 members are descended. We would like to show some of these in a future magazine. Ed.

AUNT IVY REMEMBERED.

MY AUNT WAS Ivy Moxon, born in Sheffield in 1904 and died in 1981, aged 77. She was my father's sister and I adored her. I have many happy memories of visiting Aunt Ivy, and her husband, Bernard, at their home in Dore - a village six miles south west of Sheffield, where they had lived since getting married in 1936.

My Aunt was always full of fun and adventure. As a child she was a "tom-boy" - loved climbing trees, etc, and was "the leader of the gang". She grew up to love the outdoor life, encouraged by her father, Arthur William Moxon, who loved walking in the Derbyshire countryside (like his father before him) and every Sunday he would take Ivy and my father, Charles Moxon, walking with him.

Ivy excelled at all sports. She was particularly good at running and in 1930 received The Gold Medal for winning the Womens' Amateur Athletics Northern Counties 880 yards Championship Race. She also liked swimming and won several medals for life saving. She belonged to a tennis club and enjoyed tennis matches for which she won several prizes and she loved dancing for which she won many cups and trophies.

She was a remarkable lady and I will always remember her with great affection.



Ivy Beatrice Cobb née Moxon
1904-1981

Dancing with her husband, Bernard

Sylvia Merrett (née Moxon)
Member of Bedgrove, Aylesbury

Lady Penelope Dixie

TWENTY ONE Members of the Society are descended from the Moxons of Market Bosworth. When their ancestors lived there, most of the town and surrounding area was owned by the Dixie family.

Lady Dixie died in January this year.

continued at foot of next column

"How far would you go for your family's sake?"

Dr. Robert (Bob) K. Moxon, Member of Columbia, U.S.A., wrote about his father, Leslie Burnham Moxon, in "The State" (Columbia, S.C.) newspaper.

IN 1935 DURING the Great Depression and soon to graduate from high school, I asked my father, who was working only three days a week, if he could afford to send me to college. His swift reply was, "I can't afford not to send you to college!"

He had no formal engineering education, but years of on-the-job experience had trained him in the construction and operation of gas plants throughout the eastern U.S. (this was before the general use of natural gas.) In 1928, he had gone alone to Argentina's second largest city, Rosario, to build a gas plant there.

In 1936, he was asked to volunteer for a similar foreign venture, this time with an increase in salary, but halfway around the world to China. Would he go? Yes, of course, but only for the sake of his family.

He left in the spring, alone again, by ship to Japan and on to China.

His work completed and after many an adventurous experience in and around Peking, he returned by way of Manchuria and the Trans-Siberian Railroad, across Europe and on to visit the mother, brothers and sisters he had left behind in England in 1913.



Leslie Burnham Moxon

He returned to us in September, after circling the world, my first day at the University of Pennsylvania.

In his willingness to support our family and to ensure my education he had spent six months away from home.

He lived for 60 years more and survived in good health for 100 years, a blessing to his family and a superior role model for fathers for all time.

Leslie Burnham Moxon has featured twice in this Magazine. Once, when he celebrated his centenary (MM 16 - October 1995) and sadly, secondly, when we published his obituary in MM18 (October 1996). **Ed.**

continued from foot of column 3, previous page.



Lady Dixie

Her husband Sir Wolstan Dixie, 13th Baronet of Market Bosworth had died in 1975. Eight years later, Lady Dixie sold their famous Bosworth Park home, which is now an hotel. Her death marks the end of an era for the Dixie family - she was the last to carry the baronetcy title.

Joan Rendall

James William Moxon ascended Snowdon on a Francis-Barnett Motor Cycle in 1926.

James William Moxon, a keen motor cyclist, was born in 1900. We are indebted for this account of his exploits to Mr. F.A.Haskew, who, after the death of Violet Moxon (James' cousin) in October 1997, found a cutting from the Coventry Herald, dated 17th July, 1926, and passed it on to Diana Trotter, the text from which is reproduced below.

The pictures are reproduced by courtesy of The Vintage Motor Cycle Club Ltd.

INTO THE CLOUDS.

SNOWDON, WHICH REARS its summit to an altitude of 3,560 feet, has been ascended in a non-stop run by three 1¾ h.p. Francis-Barnett motor cycles fitted with Standard Villiers engines. The climbing of the highest mountain in Wales by motor vehicles has previously been accomplished. But never before has the attempt been made by small two-stroke machines, and this triple ascent is an outstanding achievement.



H.S.Jones, J.W.Moxon and Eric Barnett at the summit of Snowdon after their climb.

The Snowdon mountain railway track was utilised, and at 7-45 a.m. on Monday last a party from Coventry and Wolverhampton, including members and staff of the Francis-Barnett and Villiers Companies, left Llanberis for the summit in a special train to witness the attempt. Press representatives, photographers, and a cinematograph operator were included. A section was dropped on the way up to see the riders pass.

Owing to the early hour necessitated by the ordinary time-table, visibility was not good. The upper half of the mountain was in the clouds, and rain was threatening.

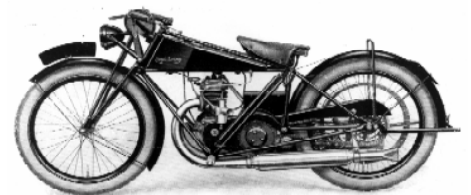
The track chosen was on the right-hand side of the metals. To effect a non-stop climb, no deviation was, possible, since the machines could not be ridden across the rails and central tracks. The path, once decided, had to be rigidly followed. At 8.30 the riders, Messrs. Moxon, Jones, and Barnett, started the climb from Llanberis Station in close company. The average gradient being one in 7.4, low gear was at once engaged, and it was necessary to adhere to this gear for the greater part of the climb. Before reaching the half distance the riders entered the clouds. Rain began to fall, and a high wind, estimated by the railway guard at fifty miles per hour, blew from the

right straight across the track. Had the wind blown from the opposite direction, the venture, calling for nerve and steadiness under any conditions, would have been highly dangerous. In several places the margin of the railway bed was on the very edge of a precipice. Frequently the riders had to take to the steel sleepers. On such sections progress was made by a series of rapid bounds spectacular enough, but what the riders' arms and wrists experienced can be left to the imagination.

The party at the summit could see nothing at a greater distance than about fifty yards. At that distance the rails were swallowed in the mist. Just as some doubt was being expressed as to the possibility of carrying through the ride under such conditions, a voice down the track called through the mist, "Here they come !" The rapid beat of an engine was heard, and in a few seconds Moxon arrived in the splendid time of 22 minutes. Barnett and Jones followed quickly, and the triple ascent of Snowdon by three small two-stroke machines had been accomplished, in spite of wind, cloud and rain. The machine ridden by Moxon was the one upon which he recently obtained highest award in the Scottish Six Days' Trial. At the

conclusion of that trial his engine was immediately sealed up by the officials of the Edinburgh and District Motor Club. The ascent of Snowdon was made with the seals intact, and these were afterwards removed by the Press Representatives at Llanberis before the assembled party.

That the 172 c.c. Villiers engine should be capable of such a feat after going through the Scottish Six Days without any mechanical attention or even decarbonising, is highly significant in a technical aspect, while no greater test of frame strength and transmission could be desired.



A FRANCIS-BARNETT Motor Cycle of the type on which the riders ascended Snowdon.

**1¾ h.p. 172 cc Two-Stroke
Price £38-10-0**



Nova Scotia Moxsom-Moxon Reunion August 13th, 2000

Back Row (l-r): Lisa McDonell, Jeannie Golding, Heather Nowen holding son Cameron, Marilyn Bullen, George Moxsom, John Moxsom, Marsden Moxon, Henry MacConnell, Paul Ripley, Roy Moxon and Shirley Moxon.

2nd Back Row (l-r) starting with Elizabeth Crawford in yellow shirt, Heather McDonell, Joanne McDonell holding Brittney, Connie McDonell, Michelle Moxsom holding Taylor, Amy Moxsom, Gordon Moxsom, William Moxsom, Russell Moxsom, Irene Forbes, Craig Webber, Gladys Webber and Ruby Ripley.

Row kneeling and seated (l-r): Debbie Moxsom, Angela Moxsom, Chelsea Golding, Bev Colpitts, Doris McMullen, Esther Moxsom, Margaret MacConnell, Cathy Lynds and Natasha Moxon.

Front Row (l-r): Dylan McDonell, Matthew Edwards-Ryan, Gerald Ryan, Chelsey Moxsom, Justin Farquhar, Sarah, Jessica, Tyler MacCallum, Louise Mullane holding Maria and Katrina, Ashley Lynds, Tracy MacCallum holding Nicholas, Michelle Lynds and Elizabeth Moxsom.



Great Chalfield Manor (see article on next page)

Encircled by a moat and defensive wall, with oriel windows and a Great Hall. Completed in 1480. Now owned by The National Trust.

LEFT: The front of the Manor, with the church on the left.
Photo: Joyce Chesmond Moxham

BELOW: The rear of the Manor and gardens.
Photo courtesy of the National Trust
www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Four Generations of Moxsons. From Ohio and Washington.
Alvin Moxon, Alexander Moxon, Andrew Moxon and James Moxon.



Roots 9

The Moxhams of Great Chalfield, Wilts. and their Descendants

GREAT CHALFIELD is a small village in Wiltshire about 2 miles west of Melksham. This area has been a "Moxham" stronghold since at least 1236, when Henry, the son of William, conveyed lands in **Mockesham** to Thomas Cusin and his wife, Juliana.

In Wiltshire there appear to have been three separate Moxham/Moxam family groups, unconnected one with the other. One group, centred in Ebbesborne Wake, were the family discussed in "**Roots 5**" (MM 22 October 1998).

The second group lived in the area bordered by Salisbury, Winterbourne, Idmiston and Boscombe. We know of no Moxhams descended from this group.

The third group were centred on Great Chalfield.

Joyce Chesmond-Moxham, Member of Holland, who is descended from the Moxhams of Great Chalfield, has done practically all the research on this family.

The early part of the family tree, shown on the next page, has been derived from her research, which, because it is incomplete, is merely a list of names and dates. It is not until we reach Christopher Moxham (A 3) that a proper tree can be drawn - and even then, there are some assumptions which are indicated by a "?" in the link lines.

Joyce has also researched generally in Wiltshire, and has found the following pertinent references in "**The History and Antiquities of The Manor House and Church at Great Chalfield, Wiltshire**" by T.L.Walker (1837).

"The estate known as MOXHAMS is of ancient origin. In 1236 Henry son of William conveyed to Thomas Cusin and Juliana his wife lands in 'Mockesham'. Henry de Mochesam occurs as a witness in a deed probably of the time of Henry III or Edward I (i.e. between 1216 and 1307 Ed.) Adam de Mockesham, who died in 1277, had held in Moxham 62 acres arable, 5 acres meadow, 2/3 acre pasture and 5½ acres wood. John de Mockesham held land in East Chalfield about 1300. John de Moke-sham was a juror at Bradford in 1342. John of Moxham and Robert his son occur in 1460 in deeds concerning Atworth Cottles. Christopher Moxham (B 2), who died in 1596, held a messuage called Moxham in the parish of Chalfield and various appurtenant lands. This estate was then held of Lady Sharington, and in 1610-11 when the inquisition on Christopher's death was made, it was held of Sir Anthony Mildmay and Grace his wife as of the manor of Woodrow (in Melksham, q.v.). Christopher left a relict, Joan, who enjoyed all the issues of the estate for six years after his death, and thereafter ½ of the issues up to the time of the inquisition. Christopher's heir was his son John (C 2). The estate apparently remained in the Moxham family until the end of the 18th century, if not later. In 1692-3 a messuage, 40 acres arable, 5 acres meadow, and 5 acres pasture in Moxhams and Great Chalfield were the subject of a conveyance by Christopher Moxham (E 2) and Anne his wife and James Moxham (F 3) and Thomasine his wife. In 1720 it was deposed that the parish of Great Chalfield consisted of three estates: Great

Chalfield Farm, Farmer Moxham's estate, and Bowood, all of which owed tithes. In the following year James Moxham (F 3), Christopher Moxham (F 4), and Susan his wife conveyed the estate to John Moxham (F 1). James Moxham (G 6), described as a sugar refiner of London, held Moxham's farm in 1783.

The jurors of 1671 reported that Mr. Bradshaw, the previous incumbent (rector) had had his diet, the keeping of a horse, and £16 per annum out of the manor of Great Chalfield in lieu of tithes.

They said that the then rector (John Wilton) had received an annual composition of £32 from the owners of the manor in lieu of tithes, together with the keeping of a horse. The rector also had £5 a year in tithes from Moxhams Farm and 10s. from "a ground lying within the same parish called Bowood". In 1705 the tithe amounted to slightly less: £32 from the tenant of the manor (John Sartain, holding of John Hall) and £4 from Christopher Moxham (F 4). In 1731 the tithe arising from the manor was compounded at £36. In 1783 the rector received in composition for his tithes £50 from the manor, £3.10s. from lands belonging to John Blagden of Gray's Inn, and in the occupation of John Reynolds, and 19s. from Bowood field. He also had tithe of hay, wool, and lambs for lands belonging to James Moxham of London (G 6), sugar refiner."

John Moxham (F 1) is said, by family tradition, to have had variously: plantations in Jamaica, sugar refinery business, confectionery business. He left these to his son, James (G 6), who in turn left them to John (H 1). John left them to Robert Hale Moxham (I 6). This is only partly corroborated by just two established facts. Firstly, James Moxham (G 6) is described as "sugar refiner of London" - see above, and secondly, in the 1871 Census, Robert Hale Moxham said he was born in Spanish Town, Jamaica (1837).

It would have been expected that wills would have confirmed the owning and passing on of plantations in Jamaica, sugar refinery and confectionery businesses - but there is no mention of these - just possible hints !

In his will, proved in 1748, John Moxham (F 1) says " - - - I John Moxham of Moxhams in the parish of Great Chalfield in the county of Wiltshire yeoman - - -". There is no mention of any business in London. BUT - later is the will "I do hereby ratifie and confirme the deed of gift made to my son, James Moxham (G 6) in January last." Was this the sugar refinery business ?

James Moxham (G 6) obviously never had children (or none survived him) as his will, proved in 1868, left his estate to his brothers, nephews and nieces, and the residue to Robert Hale Moxham "now of Spanish Town, Jamaica". No mention of a sugar refinery. It is believed that he sold the business, before retiring to Cudham, in Kent. Robert Hale Moxham returned to England soon after James' will was made in 1867, and married Isabella Young on 11 May 1870 at St. Luke's Church, Chelsea, and then settled in Cudham, Kent.

There is a web site, based in California, operated by Patricia Jackson at

www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com Part of this site can be accessed free, but the main content is accessed by subscription. I invested \$4 U.S. of the Society's funds for a one week search. The result was disappointing. Only two Moxam/Moxham records were found.

The 1833 Almanac for the Parish of St. John listed "William Moxham having 8 slaves and 2 taxable livestock" - probably horses. No address or occupation was given. This information suggests that he was Robert Hale Moxham's father - we have so far not found Robert's baptism record.

Only a few of the Almanacs have been transcribed. The earlier one, 1824, and the later one, 1840, did not list William Moxham. The fact that William had 8 slaves suggests a fairly well-to-do Englishman, having a reasonably sized house and garden, requiring servants, housemaids, cooks and gardeners. I have been advised by Madelaine Mitchell (mitchell@pullman.com) that often family oral history of plantation owners possibly means that William worked as an attorney, overseer or bookkeeper for a Plantation owner.

Under "Jamaican Registers and Wills", there is just one entry - for Charlotte Maria Moxam, who married William Rhodes Petgrave Wright (a Planter) on 2nd March, 1860 in St. Elizabeth Parish. Was she a daughter of the above William ?

Although the "Slave Trade" by British ships was abolished in the 1807, slave owners in the colonies were allowed to keep the slaves they already had, until 1837. The slaves in Jamaica rioted in 1833 - the ring leaders being hanged. But it was clear that this barbarous system could not last. The British Government therefore "bribed" the slave owners to give up their slaves, making them free in 1837, on receipt of compensation. The total amount of compensation paid out to British slave owners throughout the colonies was £20M - a colossal sum in those days. The slaves fared much worse ! They were not given any compensation, but once freed, they had to leave the plantations, find their own housing and fend for themselves. A number of those who were able bodied were given work on the plantations - but at pitiful wages - but had then to support their dependants as best they could.

Joyce is still struggling to research more of the Jamaican side of her family history.

Family tradition has always maintained that there were two brothers in Jamaica. Was John Moxham (H 1) that second brother ?

Who brought up Robert Hale Moxham, after William, his father, died in 1843 ? Did John Moxham bring him up ? There were many Hale families in Jamaica.

continued on next page.

THE MOXHAMS OF GREAT CHALFIELD. (MX continued from previous page.

(Unconfirmed lineage shown by ? GC = Great Ch: William, his father, died in 1843 ? Did John

1236 Conveyance of lands in Mockesham

1277 - Adam de Mockesham died

1300 - John de Mockesham held land

1342 - John de Mockesham juror & inquisition

1460 - John of Moxham concerned in deeds

Robert of Moxham

Moxham bring him up ? There were many Hale families in Jamaica.

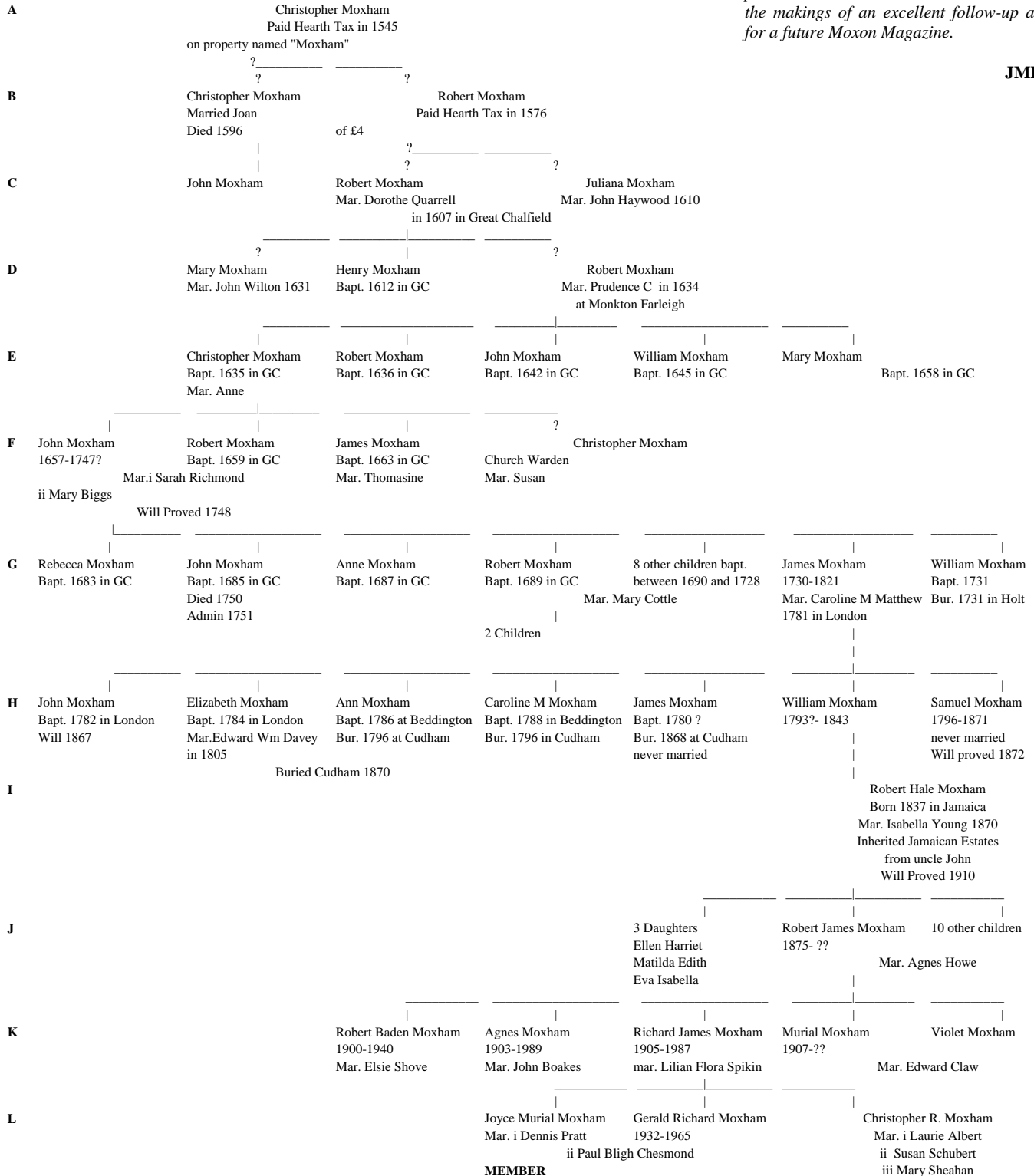
Robert's second name suggests that his mother may have been a Hale. Did the Hales bring him up?

Was Charlotte Maria Moxam his sister?

My thanks to Joyce for her interesting family history, which is still unfolding.

If, or should we say when, Joyce finds out more about her ancestors in Jamaica, and if, as family tradition maintains, they were plantation and slave owners, then there are the makings of an excellent follow-up article for a future Moxon Magazine.

JMH



BALLOONING

On 10th January, 1985, Timothy Moxon became the first Jamaican pilot to be awarded a Lighter-Than-Air-Free Balloon Commercial Pilots Certificate. This account appeared in the "In Flight" Magazine, published in February 1985.

AFTER MAKING the first (hot air) balloon cross-country flight in Jamaica, I wonder why it was never done before.

Hilton High Day Tour, a Jamaican company owned by Mrs. Norma Stanley, has been operating a moored balloon ride concession for almost two years. Mrs. Stanley decided it was time to train Jamaicans as pilots and offer free-flights as a tourist attraction, in addition to moored flights, on her 360-acre, estate. Hilton High's balloon was purchased from our Oakland company; Balloon Excelsior, Inc. and Mrs. Stanley hired me, Chief Pilot of our FAA Part 141 School, to instruct the first Jamaican balloon pilot.

Aviation in Jamaica is controlled by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) which, due to Jamaica's former British rulers, is strongly influenced and aided by CAA advisors from Great Britain. Another effective influence is the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency which is trying to stem the aerial flow of drugs into the United States through Jamaica. Mrs. Stanley and I met with CAD and CAA officials and we concluded that FAA regulations would be used in Jamaica because there is so much experience with ballooning in the U.S.

I've tried to fly in Oahu (Honolulu) several times to no avail; it's too windy. Since Jamaica and Hawaii are small islands on the

same latitude, I had reservations about flying in Jamaica. However, I found there are few similarities of weather and terrain between the two islands. The weather components that most influence balloon flying are similar between northern Jamaica and California; calm and cool in the morning with a chance of local, patchy fog in the valleys. A major difference, however, is the fact that the prevailing wind in Jamaica is from the Northeast (on shore) with a light, downhill (off shore flow in the morning at low altitudes; a fine wind compound for ballooning.

Terrain was another serious consideration as I contemplated free-flights on the island. Fortunately, Jamaica has many open areas with meadows and valleys facing in different directions, which are excellent balloon landing sites.

Recovery of the balloon from a road-free, impenetrable jungle was another problem I had imagined. "No problem," as the natives say. There are many small roads (without powerlines), and we had an excellent, home-grown chase/retrieval crew that knew the countryside well.

Our intensive, daily training regimen was accomplished in only two weeks, due to the facts that our ground crew was seasoned by

two years of moored work, and student Moxon was worldly-wise in the ways of aeronautics.

The actual free-flights were almost anticlimactic after my worrying about weather and terrain, and all the required governmental preparations.

On January 10th, shortly after dawn, we made an exploratory moored ascent on a 700-foot line. After determining the winds were light and of proper directions, we cast-off and began Jamaica's first free balloon flight. Timothy Moxon was at the controls, Norma Stanley was observer, and I was instructor/examiner, as we floated over trees covered with huge red flowers, small farms of banana and citrus trees, and miles of beautiful, varied scenery. The small hills were sparsely populated with an occasional tethered cow or goat and farmers and their little huts. There are few people, cattle and powerlines in Jamaica, allowing us to fly low and enjoy the flowers and exotic plants.

After completing the instruction and certification requirements, we made our final landing on a dirt road on the sugar plantation owned by Jamaican Member of Parliament Sangster. With the help of our crew (who was on the spot at each landing), and the small crowd that had gathered, we packed up and adjourned to the Sangster home for a champagne celebration with local bubbly.

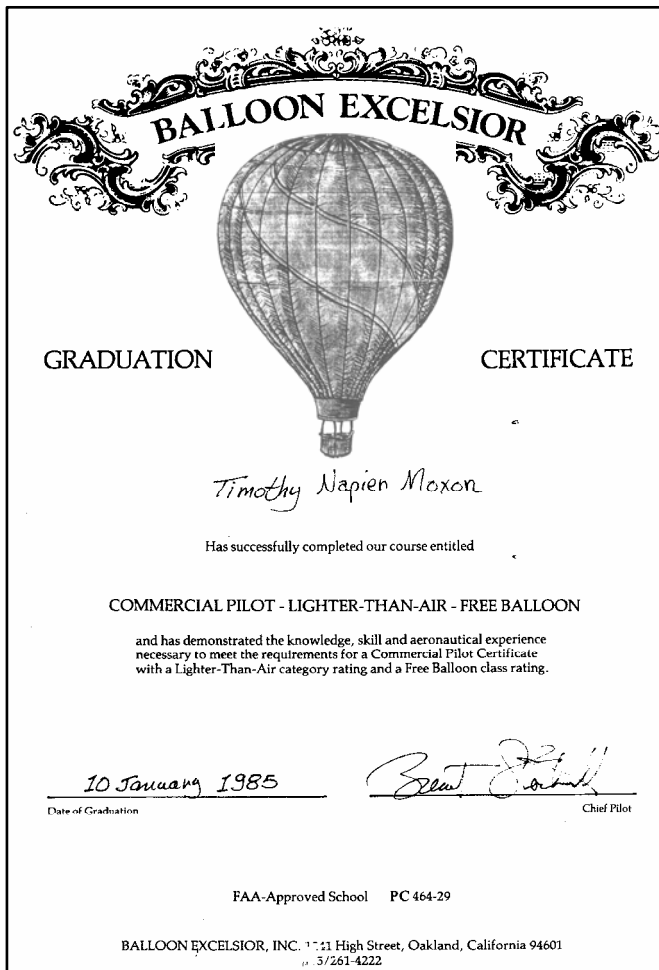
Balloons can operate safely in Jamaica. Weather and terrain are favorable and only technical, legal considerations prevent everyday balloon flights on the island.

Norma Stanley, Timothy Moxon and other influential Jamaicans, in an attempt to increase tourism, are now working to gain approval for routine flight operations, and possibly the First Annual Jamaican Balloon Race for 1986! I wish them good luck and "no problem."

**Brent Stockwell,
Chief Pilot, Balloon Excelsior .**

Many thanks to Judith Zakka for sending in this most interesting cutting.

**Timothy Moxon in 1944
Halifax Bomber and Horsa Glider Pilot.
See "Knowing our Moxons"**



Timothy Moxon's Commercial Pilots Certificate

Timothy Moxon, highly experienced international airman, was selected to be the first Jamaican resident certified to operate a commercial hot-air balloon on the island. Timothy's aeronautical experience includes flying military gliders and Halifax bombers in World War II, DC-3s and agricultural-planes (crop spraying) all over the world. Presently he is an agricultural pilot and runs a sightseeing flight operation in Montego Bay.

Gaylord "Mox" Moxon of Fallbrook, California.

Mox has been a "computer buff" for many years. This cartoon appeared in "The Chicago Tribune" in 1977 ! Mox was featured in "Knowing our Moxons" in MM 25 (April 2000).

In January 1999, Mox alerted me to a web site giving details of the film "Varsity Blues", just released, where three of the characters were named "Moxon". My e:mail to their web site asking how they decided to use "our" name went unanswered. Both these items were carried over due to lack of space.

Many thanks, Mox. Incidentally, it was Mox who first told me about Timothy Moxon's web site - see "Knowing our Moxons" in this issue.



Varsity Blues

PLOT SUMMARY for Varsity Blues (1999)

In small-town Texas, high school football is a religion. The head coach is deified, as long as the team is winning and 17-year-old schoolboys carry the hopes of an entire community onto the gridiron every Friday night. In his 35th year as head coach, Bud Kilmer (Jon Voight) is trying to lead his West Canaan Coyotes to their 23rd division title. When star quarterback Lance Harbor (Paul

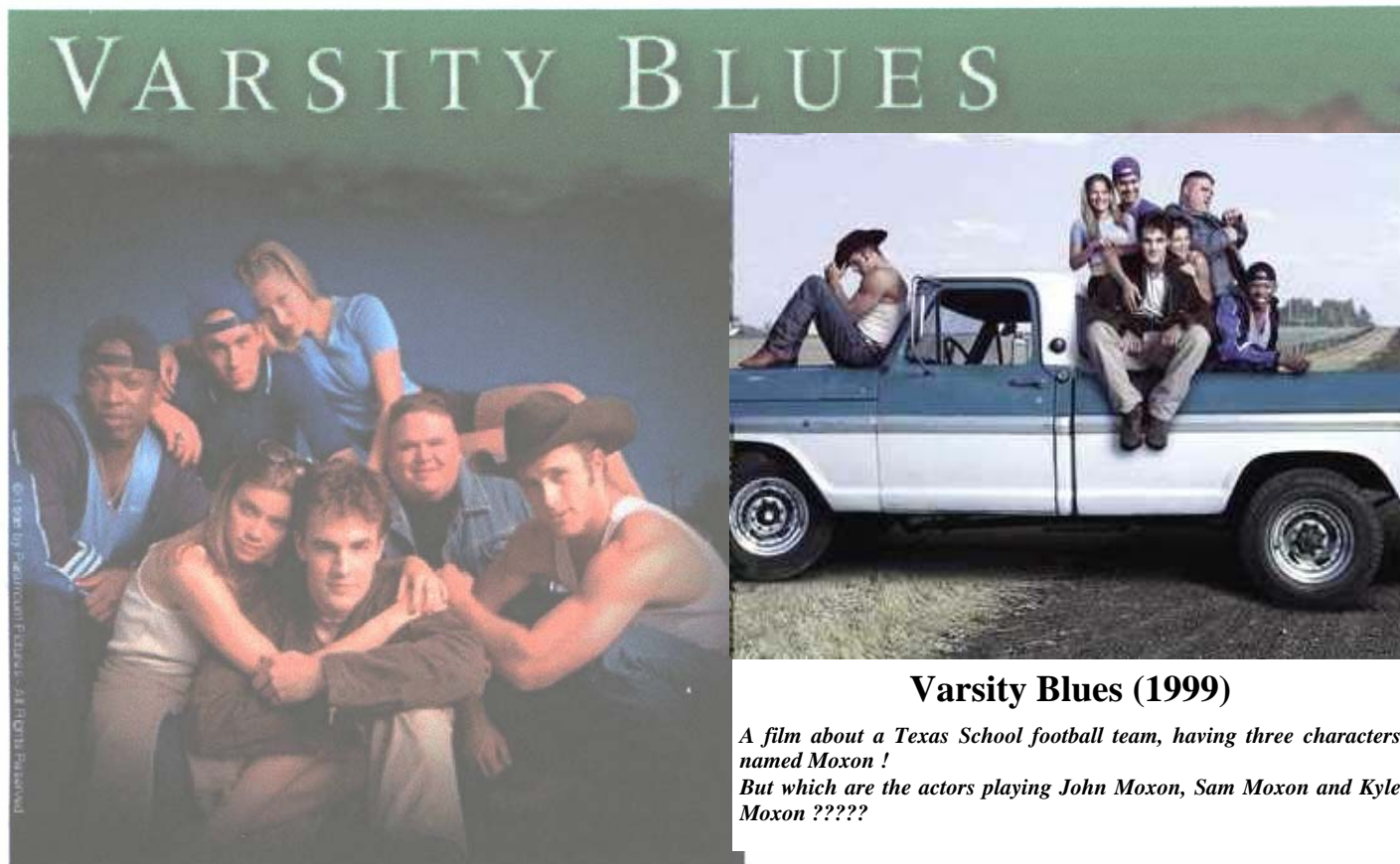
Walker) suffers an injury, the Coyotes are forced to regroup under the questionable leadership of John Moxon (James Van Der Beek), a second-string quarterback with a slightly irreverent approach to the game. "Varsity Blues" explores our obsession with sports and how teenage athletes respond to the extraordinary pressures placed on them.

Credited cast overview:

James Van Der Beek **John Moxon**
 Scott Caan Tweeder
 Thomas F. Duffy **Sam Moxon**

Ali Larter Darcy
 Ron Lester Billy Bob
 Joe Pichler **Kyle Moxon**
 Amy Smart Julie (Jules) Harbor
 Eliel Swinton Wendell
 Jon Voight Coach Bud Kilmer
 Paul Walker (I) Lance Harbor

See www.varsitybluesmovie.com



What did you do for the Millennium ?

Joan Rendall asked this question in the April Magazine.

These are the responses.

My Millennium.

By Joan Rendall.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR of 1999, I had been busily embroidering a large and complicated Millennium tapestry. The 16 pictures, illustrating the great achievements of mankind during the last 1,000 years, had almost defeated me in their complexity and twice I had come close to binning the work as "a bridge too far". However, I persevered and completed the embroidery saving the last stitch to sew just as the clock chimed in the new Millennium. Carefully, I worked this fact into the piece too, thinking it might be of interest to future generations. My children had generously informed me that my embroidery would become a family heirloom !

The final day of 1999 was a strange, almost unearthly day for me - a day of anticipation and suppressed excitement. In bidding farewell to the 2nd Millennium it was as if I were taking leave of an old and trusted friend and in its place about to welcome in a new, unknown one. I reflected upon my life during the 1900s with the realisation that I had indeed a lot to be thankful for.

What would the next thousand years bring, I wondered?

Robert and I chose to decline invitations and stay at home that night, watching the spectacular television coverage. I thought of my daughter and her family, keeping vigil in Durham Cathedral and of my grandson, Nicholas who would be working in The Dome. The minutes ticked on relentlessly and as the dying moments of the year were upon us; I stitched the last thread into my tapestry. We drank a health to the New Age before climbing the stairs to bed.

Early next morning, I crept quietly out of the room in the dark, not wanting to disturb Robert. Hastily, I donned warm clothing for there had been a slight frost during the night. Leaving the house I made for some fields overlooking a valley and walked for some distance through them. There was a pleasant crispness in the air and one could feel the grass crunch beneath one's feet.

I knew in some inexplicable way, that I had to be by myself to witness the sunrise on the New Millennium and so I walked deeper and deeper into the fields quite alone. My heart raced with excitement as the sun first tipped the horizon and then silently rose above it, heralding in the dawn of the great New Age.

I had taken a wine-glass filled with water to toast the occasion in those meadows, for surely water is the foundation of all life? I held the glass towards the rising sun and toasted the earth and all that is part of it, remembering my family, Moxons included, of course.

Soon now, the morning light had turned the cloudless sky to a pale, wintry blue. The mists still hung mysteriously around the valley yet the gentle rays of sunlight were even now painting the bare branches of the trees with gold.

It was all so beautiful. A flock of birds

were circling overhead quite unaware of the magnitude of the occasion.

Returning to the house, still clutching the empty wine-glass, I was at peace now and ready to meet the challenges of the 3rd Millennium, whatever it may bring. Born in the year 1922, I know that I have been privileged to witness the advent of the year 2,000.

One thing is certain, I shall never forget its birth.

Robert was now fully awake and I received a good ticking off for wandering alone in the fields before it grew light. Mindful of my safety, he pointed out that I could easily have been mugged or robbed and no-one would have heard my cries for help.

He was wrong, of course, for all those with malicious intentions would have imbibed so heavily the previous night that they would be sleeping off their drunkenness probably with a bucket by their bedside. I expect that it was the safest dawn for many a long year !

My Millennium.

**by Val Lancaster of
Adelaide**

I WROTE A SMALL book for my grandchildren, aged 6 and 9. It is called "1899". The theme was - what were their great grandparents doing when they too were entering a new century. I drew up a very simple family tree and explained how to read it. Next came photos, ages, addresses etc. of these 8 ancestors. Then pictures of what people were wearing in 1899. I included pages on school, toys, playing games in the street or park, shopping, transport, holidays, newspapers and inventions. I finished with a suggestion that they might like to write about what they are doing for their great great grandchildren!

I kept the language very simple and included plenty of pictures. I used my old typewriter, enlarged the print on the local library photocopier and "cut and pasted" the photos into place. I bought a ring folder with clear plastic sheets (a safe guard against grubby fingers!) and ended up with a 37 page A4 booklet which I presented to my two grandchildren just before New Year. They both thought it was real cool and that Nana is very clever. Now my two adult children want copies of their own!

I had great fun researching and writing the book and learnt a lot about my ancestors on the way. There's still plenty of time before the year 2000 ends for you to "Do something for the Millennium" so get your thinking caps on!

Well - come on ! What about it ?

Ed.

My Millennium

**By Tom Moxon of Upper
Coomera, Brisbane, Australia.**

TOM MOXON writes:

Re Joan - re New Years Eve.

For some people of a certain age the

millennium is a marker which is unrelated to the hoopla. Reviewing rather than previewing.

Had a lovely dinner on a balmy summer's night, on a veranda with old friends, frightened ducks out of the swimming pool with a cap gun; watched some spectacular dancing on the roof of the Opera House in Sydney on TV; couldn't wait for midnight to come so we could go to bed!

Obviously a lot warmer "Down-under" than in the Northern hemisphere ! Our daughter, Fiona, was in Sydney for the Millennium. After watching the spectacular fireworks display on the Sydney Harbour Bridge they went swimming off Darling Point - and then on to Bondi Beach for another swim !

Ed.

Our Millennium

Dymps and John Moxon Hill

WE SPENT the New Year almost "on the beach" at a friend's cottage 100 yards from the shore of a lovely bay in Donegal. It rained most of the day, so we watched the festivities spreading across the world from New Zealand, Westwards, through Australia, and on through Asia to Europe, on TV. The rain cleared away at dusk, and we were able to have our own fireworks display - not quite so grand as Sydney or Paris, but very enjoyable, never-the-less.

Then, in front of a genuine turf (peat) fire, we had an enormous dinner - Irish hospitality has to be seen to be believed !

After watching more on TV, we crept to bed. The first day of the New Millennium was well advance by the time we surfaced.

continued from page 16.

(Will of James Moxon)

Anxious to the end, James ensures that his youngest son, George will be provided with the necessary wherewithal to complete his time at Cambridge and expresses the wish that James, Joseph and Peter will faithfully see him through his education.

Money seems to fly backwards and forwards between the family members according to their temporary requirements, Does nothing ever change?!

Reading between the lines, James comes over as a devoted parent, anxious that every child should receive something. For Peter this was to be "one foal somewhat white faced, if I now die". This implies that James knew that he was terminally ill. He died 7 weeks later, leaving Agnes, his wife to survive for a further 17 years, living at the farm where she and her husband had reared their large family and where she remained in the bosom of her family until her death in 1637.

Joan Rendall

“**W**here there’s a Will...”

25th in the series.

By Joan Rendall



The Will of James Moxon of Outwoodside, dated 7th December 1620

In the name of God, Amen. The 7th of December and the eighteenth year of our Sovereigne Lord King James. I, James Moxon, of the Outwoodside, in the parish of Wakefield sicke of bodie but yet sound in mynde and remembrance do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, viz: first and principally I give and bequeathe my Soule to Almighty God, my Maker, Redeemer and Sanctifier, and my body to be buried in the Churchyard of Wakefield.

Item. I give to Elizabeth Moxon my daughter £10. 10s., which I did lett Josias have and he promised me he would pay it againe, as appears by his fres⁽¹⁾ and other particular notes howe I laid it out.

Item. I give to Peter Moxon one foale somewhat white faced, if I now dye.

Item. I give to poore of Stanley and Woodside 20s.

Item. I give unto William Moxon, unto whom I have assured this land, with the house where I nowe dwell, I say I give him 12d The rest of my children, I mean James, Joseph, Judith Cartmell and Josias and Peter and Daniel, in regard they have all their portions either in land or money, I give to everyone of them 12d. a piece. Also I give to everie of my godsonnes and goddaughters, to everyone a lambe. Also I hope that James, Joseph and Peter Moxon, my sonnes, having sufficient wherewith to pay to George Moxon out of my land in the rodes will do it faithfullie. Also in regard Daniel Moxon hathe £10 to be paid for him I give to Peter Moxon all my freehold land which I bought of George Hobson in the Kirkfield and Heathfield.

The rest of my goods not given nor bequeathed and my funeral expenses discharged I give to Agnes Moxon nowe my wife the third part, and the residue I give to Elizabeth Moxon my daughter whome I make my full Executrix of this my last Will and Testament.

Witnesses William Cartmell Robert Harrison

Proved 23rd January 1620/1

Notes: 1 £Res. Pounders, receipts

2 Tret.

NOTES ON THE WILL OF JAMES MOXON.

To honour the memory of our late president, James (Jimmy) Moxon, who died last year, it would seem fitting to publish the will of yet another James Moxon, whom Jimmy regarded as the father-figure, the great progenitor of his branch of the Moxon family, from whom he was a direct descendant. Not long before his death Jimmy asked me if I could let him have a copy of James's 1620 will in its original form, as he had only seen the modern type-script version. I was pleased to be able to comply with his request, knowing full well the pride that Jimmy felt in this remarkable fore-father.

James Moxon died within weeks of drawing up his Will in the year 1620. He was a yeoman farmer of sterling worth and some substance too, carefully managing his estate by buying and selling land whenever he thought it expedient, thus accumulating the funds to give his large family the best education that money could buy.

James's farmstead was situated by an obscure wood not far from Wakefield in the, cold sparsely-populated region of northern England. In this unlikely place, one might easily

imagine that he and his family would quietly slip into oblivion once their lives were passed, but this was not to be.

Through his example, James had taught his 7 sons and 2 daughters, the discipline of plain hard work and toil. Through his efforts, he had educated them and through the genes of him and his wife they were to inherit the priceless gifts of intellect and imagination. Blending these elements together, it is hardly surprising that his children were to hold honourable and important positions in the public life of the country.

At least three of them graduated through Cambridge, George his youngest son entering the college in the year of his Father's Will-making. George, who was a contemporary of Oliver Cromwell there, eventually took holy orders, like his brother, Josias. Being cited for non-conformity in 1637, he was forced to flee

the country for America, later to return to become perhaps, one of the most famous independent Divines of his time.

Another son, James, fathered the famous Joseph, the astronomer and mathematician who became Hydrographer to Charles 11 and who was one of the original Fellows of The Royal Society.

350 years later another prominent descendant was to emerge, namely Jimmy Moxon whose colonial service in Africa earned him an OBE from the British Crown. Amongst other activities, he became an author, journalist and publisher of repute, finally to settle in Ghana where he became the last formal white chief left on the African continent. For us though, his family, his great legacy was the founding of the Moxon Society which has brought us all together. What would the seventeenth century James have thought of this, I wonder?

Back to the Will which is clear enough. The old farmer had already surrendered much of his estate to his eldest son, William. This was a custom of the day. James and his wife Agnes, were to live there for the rest of their lives, probably acting as elder statesmen and gradually taking a back seat as the years took their toll. This legal transfer of ownership is referred to in the Will.

Anxious to the end, James ensures that his youngest son, George will be provided with the

continued at bottom of column 3 on page 15

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