



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

THIS IS OUR thirtieth issue! It is now over 15 years since our Founding Editor, James (Jimmy) Moxon, first conceived the idea of "The Moxon Magazine". What inspiration and foresight he had!

Many thanks indeed to those Members who heeded my plea for material in the last Magazine - I hope you all enjoy their contributions.

You will probably think that the following sounds like a gramophone record stuck in a groove! But the Magazine does require new material for every issue - and I have very little towards next April's issue! **So, if you have not done so yet, please put pen to paper (or preferably digit to keyboard!) and send something in to me.** It is ages since we had a contribution from North America - so what about it? Relevant photographs do enhance an article - these can be copied and returned to you. (see back page for my address)

In our last issue, The President and I asked for comments on the format of future Gatherings, and the possibility of organising Regional Gatherings. We had only two responses! So we assume that the majority are happy with the present arrangements, which will continue unchanged.

We have just had another excellent and enjoyable Gathering, this time in Wakefield. Our many thanks go to Diana Trotter who made all the arrangements.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to The Society:

Leslie Moxon of Boston Spa, Yorks.
Karl Julian of Maine, U.S.A.
Howard K Gregory of Hoghton, Lancs.
Mrs. Kathy Marshall of Wakefield, Yorks.
Richard Moxon of Neenah, WI, U.S.A.
Mrs. Joan A Clarke of Marston Mortyne, Bedford (Re-joined)
Mrs. Angie Elsworth of Bristol.
Steven R Moxon of Brookings, S. Dakota, U.S.A. (son of New Member, Richard)
J.Tom Moxon of Rogers, Minnesota, U.S.A.
Mrs. D.Morandin of Milton, Ontario, Canada.
Paul G.Moxon of Pontefract, Yorks.
(These last two are the daughter and son of Fred and Vera Moxon, Founder Members)

HAPPY FAMILIES !

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Moxon Society Gathering in Wakefield

THIS YEARS ANNUAL GATHERING was held in Wakefield, over the weekend of 29th August to 1st September. Our venue was the Travel Inn and adjacent Holmefield Beefeater, where we dined and had our meetings.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were laid on in the lounge when delegates arrived on the Friday afternoon.

The AGM was held at 6-00 pm (see minutes in the separate document circulated with this Magazine).

At 7-30 pm we had a most interesting talk by Mrs. Gill Briscoe, Chairman of The Pontefract and District Family History Society. Her subject was the West Riding Settlements - a subject she has studied in great detail, and has been a major force in producing the West Riding Settlement Index.

Many years ago (long before the advent of the National Health Service and Social Services) individual parishes were responsible for looking after their own poor and sick. Thus vagrants from other parishes were soon moved on! In order to regularise the movement of people and their families, the system of "settlement" was introduced. Before being allowed to settle in another parish, it was necessary to obtain a statement from their original parish that the person(s) wishing to move would not become a burden on their new parish. Many of these documents have survived, and can provide invaluable information to the genealogist about the movement of their ancestors. But where to find the documents? The Settlement Indices give brief details, and if necessary, enable the researcher to find the original documents if they wish to study in more detail.

Mrs. Briscoe illustrated her talk by showing samples of documents using an overhead projector. The Settlements were all part of the Poor Law Acts introduced and amended many times over the years.

From our (the Moxon point of view) the index is disappointing - only one entry for Moxon and variants - "Caleb Moxon, wife and son David, from Hoylandswaine to Sandal, 3 January 1720/21".

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Briscoe for her most interesting talk.

Dinner was then taken in the Holmefield Beefeater Restaurant.

At 9-45 the next morning, we assembled for the customary group photographs.

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Presidential Letter No.6

WE WERE very sad and shocked to learn of the tragic death of Harry Moxon. On behalf of the Society, I sent a card to Gwynneth to express our sorrow and offer our condolences. Harry was a very active member of the committee, who originated the web site that has brought in quite a few members. We miss him greatly.

Our Society seems to be developing well and is becoming much more "with it". We have a web site and have carried out DNA testing of one family line that goes back to the 1500's. On top of this our numbers are steadily increasing and this means our income improves. I don't know whether you have noticed, but our annual subscriptions have remained the same for the 12 years we have been in existence. This is largely due to the economies that John Moxon Hill has introduced in the production of the Magazine. By using the latest desktop publishing programmes, he has turned this from a slow and expensive monster into a slick all electronic modern sprite. Well done John.

Our publishing programme of member's family histories continues, but we need the support of all our members to purchase more of the books that have prepared and the Society has published. I mention this because we have very adequate stocks of all books except the one that contains the colour photographs of the Great Yarmouth Moxons. Strangely, this most expensive book has nearly sold out. Please note that all the books we publish are better placed on your book shelves than feeling sad and unwanted whilst being stored in my attic.

Sue and I, together with Dymps and John Moxon Hill, recently took up an invitation from Birgit and Jim Moxon to attend a family gathering in their favourite holiday area in Northern Wisconsin. There were a total of 25 Moxons, all descendants of George and Ada Moxon who gathered to enjoy each other's company and visit the places of local interest. Who should we meet there but Alvin and Margaret whom we have welcomed in England on many occasions. It was great to be with them on their home ground and their hospitality was generosity itself.

What great travellers our American cousins are. Margaret's son Keith, with Soona his wife and their three children, made a round trip by car of 4,400 miles to collect Margaret, join in the Gathering and then return home. What a feat of endurance that must have been and what an example of family togetherness! Apart from the fact that it would be impossible to do a drive that distance in England, most of us living on this tiny Island could not do that sort of mileage without needing a long spell of rest to recover! I understand Keith went back to work the day after arriving home.

By the time you read this Presidential "blurb", another successful Society year will have passed by. I am hopeful we will be able to recruit some younger members on to the Committee, so that they can take over from those who have rendered many years of stalwart service to the Society.

John C Moxon

Wakefield Gathering continued

continued from page 1

The steps from the lawn up to the hotel patio provided an ideal setting for the photographs - see colour page 12.

We left, aboard the coach, first heading for Cawthorne, where Diana Trotter, who organised the weekend, had arranged for us to visit the Cawthorne Jubilee Museum. The Museum is run by a Committee of Cawthorne Residents, who over the years have raised many thousands of pounds towards its upkeep and extension. They made us most welcome and provided morning coffee. The Museum is full of many exhibits from the Cawthorne area, going back many years, including such "wonders" as a two-headed lamb (stuffed) and a horse's gall-stone, about 8 inches in diameter. A note then explains that horses do not have gall-bladders, and it is assumed the stone is from elsewhere!

During the very first Gathering in 1989, we had visited the Museum, and, among others, had met the late James Moxon and his wife Connie (Connie is featured in a short article on page 14).

On hearing that Connie had been ill, Frank Mathewman promptly offered to take Joan Rendall and me to see her. We were pleased to have the chance to meet her again after so long.



Connie Moxon of Cawthorne.

At 95, the most senior member of the Society

A few others went up to the Church to see the grave of "Nathaniel Mokeson, Minister of Denby, Derbys". It was this grave stone which had enabled Joan Rendall to connect the Moxons of Derbyshire to Cawthorne. On their way back to the coach, they heard a cry for help from the Museum toilet. It was Birgit who had somehow got locked in! This delayed them, somewhat, resulting in the coach being late leaving for our next destination The National Coalmining Museum at Caphouse.

This was a most interesting experience, since, having been stripped of battery powered watches, mobile phones, matches, lighters and cigarettes, and donning hard hats, we were taken in a mining cage down some 450 metres to the museum, housed in the old workings. Here were reconstructed scenes from the very early days of mining, up to the present. An example of the old days showed a miner working in a seam not much more than 18 inches high, with his wife moving the coal out on a small sled through a door operated by their son, to tip it into a trolley to be taken to the pit head. The miner had a candle for light. The boy, sitting outside the door

would have been in total darkness, except when opening the door for his mother. These sort of conditions remained for many years, until an Act of Parliament banned the use of young children and women working in the pits in 1842.

After the tour, we had chance to look around the exhibits and photographs in the Visitor Centre, before going to the cafeteria for lunch.

Then back on the coach to go on to Leeds, where we had the choice of either visiting the Royal Armoury Museum or on to Kirkstall Abbey and the Abbey Museum.

Back at the hotel, Graham Jagger and I gave a short talk about the results of the Male Y-Chromosome Test Programme (see page 3 for a report).

This was followed by dinner.

On Sunday morning we had a choice, either to visit Nostell Priory, or follow a route planned by Steve Moxon, Member of Sheffield, around the Bradfield area where the early Moxons lived - see Steve's article on page 7.

Both excursions were in our own cars, rather than incur the costs of a coach.

Nostell Priory is not a priory! It is a magnificent country house built on the site of a 12th century Augustinian priory demolished by order of King Henry VIII - that well known vandal, responsible for the desecration of so many priories, abbeys and monasteries.

The house, which is now maintained by the National Trust, boasts the largest collection of Chippendale furniture in the world. On a mantelpiece in one of the rooms there are two casts of naked pugilists, about 18 inches high. Apparently a young girl was heard to comment, "So those are the people who designed all this furniture - The Chippendales!"

The ceilings and wall plaster ornamentation, often in bright painted colours is very fine, but "overwhelming"! The walls are covered in "old masters", and in my opinion the whole effect is over-done. Call me a philistine if you like! The conducted tour took about 2 hours, and was most interesting. Afterwards, we went for a walk down to the lake, which was very tranquil, with swans and ducks swimming around lazily in the warm afternoon sunshine.

Christopher and Jane Micklethwaite with Barbara O'Neill did the alternative tour. Christopher writes, "On the Sunday of the Gathering we followed a Moxon trail according to excellent suggestions and advice from Steve Moxon who has established the root of the surname, Moxon, as being "son of Matthew" at Midhope, South Yorkshire, where a Moxon was first named in a deed of 1250. (See page 7)

We visited churches in Cawthorne, Midhope and Bradfield, photographing tombstones and homesteads. We picnicked at Cone Royd, Silkstone Common and motored slowly through Hoylandswaine village, another stronghold of Moxons until 1750. We enjoyed the most spectacular scenery on a perfect summer's day. We were grateful to Steve for his notes and only wish he could have been our guide."

Diana Trotter is to be congratulated on organising such an interesting and enjoyable weekend.
Ed.

DNA Y-Chromosome Test Programme.

IN THE APRIL (2002) Magazine we outlined the proposals for the testing of Y-Chromosome samples from six male Moxons, one each from six major Moxon Family Trees. These tests have now been completed, and we can now publish the results.

But first, you need to know a little about the male Y-chromosome. The following is a brief summary of the documentation sent out with the results to each donor by Oxford Ancestors Ltd., of Oxford, who carried out the analysis.

The costs of the whole exercise (£660) were funded by The Moxon Family Research Trust.

The following is based on the comprehensive notes issued to each donor by Oxford Ancestors, which run to 11 pages. Additional information has been gleaned from a number of web sites

What is a Y-chromosome?

Chromosomes are packets of DNA contained within the nucleus of the body's cells. Most of them come in pairs, with one of each pair being inherited from the father and the other from the mother. However, the Y-chromosome is the exception. For a start, only males have a Y-chromosome, which they inherit from their fathers. But there is something else unusual about the Y-chromosome. While all the other chromosomes are packed with genes that control the myriad functions of the human body, the Y-chromosome has only one gene of any real importance - the 'sex-determining' gene. This is the gene that makes males male. Incredibly, without it, all human embryos would turn into females and all babies would be girls.

How can the Y-chromosome be used for genealogy?

The Y-chromosome traces an unbroken paternal genealogy back into the past. If two men trace their paternal lines back to a common male ancestor, then they must both have inherited his Y-chromosome. The Y-chromosome traces these connections through time without any need for written records. So two men, or a group of men - perhaps with the same surname - might suspect, having researched the genealogical records, they are related through their paternal lines. By comparing their Y-chromosomes this relationship can be explored.

Do Y-chromosomes follow surnames?

Yes. All the evidence so far is that they do. With his own name, Professor Sykes showed that over half the men in a random sample of present day Mr Sykes' had inherited the same Y-chromosome from their common ancestor, the first Mr Sykes, who lived near the village of Flockton in West Yorkshire, England in the late 13th Century. Other surnames that have been researched also have similar patterns.

Are all Y-chromosomes the same?

Fortunately they are not; otherwise they would be of no use to genealogists. Like all chromo-

somes, the Y-chromosome is made of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), which changes, very slowly, over time. By choosing for the Y-Line analysis, parts of the Y-chromosome DNA with a known rate of change, we can identify up to half a million different Y-chromosomes.

What is the nature of these changes?

DNA can change in different ways. Think of DNA as a long word made up of chemical letters. The simplest sort of change, or mutation, (from mutate - 'to change' in Latin), is where one DNA letter changes to another. Analysis of this type of mutation forms the basis of our Matriline service. Although Y-chromosomes also change in this way, they don't do so often enough to be useful in genealogy. So we use another kind of DNA mutation to distinguish between different Y-chromosomes. Again, thinking of DNA as a long word, this type of change shows up as repeating blocks of the same letters.

Can you give me an example?

The four chemicals that make up DNA can be abbreviated to the letters A, C, G and T. Imagine a small stretch of DNA with the simple sequence CTG that is repeated over and over again:

-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-CTG-

On one Y-chromosome, the sequence CTG might be repeated 15 times, as in the example. But on a different Y-chromosome there might only be 14 repeats, while in another there could be 16. By measuring the number of repeats at a number of different locations on the Y-chromosome, we can begin to build up a Y-chromosome signature. We determine the number of repeats at ten different locations to build up the Y-Line signature.

There are, in fact, 22 markers which make up the complete Y-chromosome. Oxford Ancestors select the 10 most significant markers for analysis. The reasons are simple. To analyse more markers would increase the cost, and some of the markers not analysed are more suitable for the determination of paternity cases and for forensic use than for genealogical purposes. Utilising the 10 markers, Oxford Ancestors claim that if two men have the same 10 markers, then there is a 96% probability that they have a Common Paternal Ancestor (CPA - this abbreviation will be used in the text which follows)

Mutations:

Statistically the probability of a mutation occurring in one marker of the Y-chromosome is 2% (or 1 in 50). Thus there is this 2% chance that a son's Y-chromosome could be different to that of his father by a single digit in one marker. Thus on average it would be expected that the Y-chromosome would change by one digit in one marker in 50 generations, or if we were considering two men with a CPA going back 25 gener-

ations, then there would be the probability that there would be a single digit difference in one marker between them.

How is the Y-Line certificate read?

The Y-Line certificate consists of three parts: (see colour reproduction on colour page 5)

Part 1. On the left is a ladder with ten sets of coloured rungs. These represent the ten sets of DNA repeats that were analysed to build up a Y-Line signature. To the left of this ladder, in faint lettering, are the scientific names for the ten locations or markers. This is shown so that, should anyone wish to, they can compare one Y-Line signature with other published scientific data. Oxford Ancestors give the actual data, not an encrypted version. The coloured rungs show the range of repeat lengths for each marker that have been found in Y-chromosomes throughout the world. Their size ranges are also shown in faint lettering on either side of the ladder.

Part 2. In the middle is a black ladder with only one rung coloured for each marker. This is a particular Y-chromosome signature, passed down to a male from generation upon generation of his paternal ancestors.

Part 3. On the right are ten boxes containing the number of DNA repeats for each of the ten markers used. Read from top to bottom, this is the Y-Line signature. This digital readout can be used to compare one Y-Line signature with those of others.

Illegitimacy:

We are all used to seeing entries in Parish registers, such as, "James the son of John and Mary baptised --". We assume that James is the legitimate son of John. If Mary had had an affair with a man who was not a "male-line" relative of John, then James Y-Line would be very different from that of John.

The Results:

In TABLE I on the next page, the "digital" readout shows the 10 results for each of our donors. Along the top are shown the markers numbered 1 to 10, and also the scientific name for each marker. The Oxford Ancestors' Interpretations are given at the bottom of Table I.

TABLE II is a continuation table giving the known genealogical summary for each Donor.

Oxford Ancestors Interpretation:

We queried item 3, and received the following explanation:

The reason we said that the CPA that Richard shares with Donald, John and Christopher probably lived more recently is because we made an assumption (based on the fact that three of the signatures were identical) that the signature for Donald, John and Christopher is the "core" signature for the Moxon family and so this could have been passed through many generations and several different branches.

Therefore if this is the case, any mutations away

continued at foot of next page.

Y-Chromosome Results

Table I (As supplied by Oxford Ancestors)

Name	Sample Number	DYS19	DYS388	DYS390	DYS391	DYS392	DYS393	DYS389I	DYS389II	DYS425	DYS426	
Marker Number		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Donald Moxon	Y4735	14	12	24	11	13	13	10	16	12	12	A
John E U Moxon	Y4755	14	12	24	11	13	13	10	16	12	12	
Christopher John Moxon	Y4796	14	12	24	11	13	13	10	16	12	12	
Prof E Richard Moxon	Y4795	14	12	24	10	13	13	10	16	12	12	
Thomas Jules Moxon	Y4859	15	12	23	11	13	13	10	16	12	12	B
Fred Moxon	Y5176	15	12	23	09	13	13	10	16	12	12	

INTERPRETATION

- 1) The Y-Line signatures for Donald, John and Christopher are identical, indicating that they have a recent Common Paternal Ancestor (CPA).
- 2) Richard's Y-Line signature only differs from Donald, John and Christopher's at one marker (DYS391), showing that he clearly shares with them a CPA.
- 3) The CPA that Richard shares with Donald, John and Christopher probably lived more recently than the CPA shared by Donald, John and Christopher, alone.
- 4) Donald, John, Christopher and Richard's Y-Lines can be gathered into one group (Group A).
- 5) The signatures for Thomas and Fred differ at only one marker (DYS391), indicating that they share a recent CPA (Group B).
- 6) The signatures of Group A and Group B differ at two or three markers.
- 7) Group A and Group B's CPA most probably lived over 1,000 years ago.

Table II

DONOR	Tree Refs.	Earliest Known Ancestor	Place	No. of Generations	No. of related Members
Don Moxon	MX06	Samuel Moxeson Died 1763	Ferry Fryston, Yorks.	7	6
John E U Moxon	MX14 + MX01	Charles Mokeson Died 1592	Cawthorne, Yorks.	11	29
Chris. J Moxon	MX11	John Muckson Bur.1815	Stewkley, Bucks.	6	8
E Richard Moxon **	MX12	Robert Moxon c1470-c1538	Lofthouse & Rothwell, Yorks	14	4
Tom J Moxon **	MX05 +(MX38,MX12)	William Moxon c1475-1541	Chirwell & Beeston, Yorks.	14	16
Fred Moxon	MX15,MX27,MX26	John Moxon c1525-1579	Silkstone, Yorks.	13	8
NOTE: ** Originally Richard and Tom were thought to be 13th cousins (but see text)				Total Members	71

from this core would have been more recent in origin.

However, it would only be possible to be more certain if this was the "core" signature if more core samples were analysed, which is why we used the word "probable".

The alternative argument is that Donald, John and Christopher are very closely related (e.g. brothers) and that the two different branches (one containing the difference which is seen in Richard's signature) originated before any of these individuals was born. In this situation there would be no indication of which was the "core" signature and therefore the most likely explanation would be that the CPA that Richard shares with Donald, John and Christopher probably lived earlier than the CPA shared by Donald, John and Christopher alone.

Additional Conclusions:

1 "The Moxons of Yorkshire" (M of Y) shows two brothers, Robert Moxon (c1470-c1538) and William Moxon (c1475-1541) with a father probably named William - page 17. However, on page 105, the father of Robert is shown as probably Ralph Moxon!

If these two were brothers, then Richard, who is descended from Robert, and Tom, who is descended from William, would be 13th cousins. Since their Y-Lines are one digit dif-

ferent in each of three markers this relationship is most unlikely to be correct. Moxon Family Tree MX12 will now have to be redrawn as two separate trees.

2 When we look closely at the tree on page 17 in M of Y, and read the text, it is apparent that some assumptions were made (based on the available facts)

a Robert Moxon (c1470-c1538) of Rothwell and Lofthouse had a son William (born c1499 and buried 21-10-1552 in Rothwell)

b William had one son, James Moxon of Outwoodside (c1545-1620)

Outwoodside is 2 miles north of Wakefield, and 3 miles south of Rothwell. Thus Richard's Y-Line is that of these basically Wakefield Moxons. Richard's Y-Line is only one digit different in one marker, from those of Don, John and Chris. Thus we can conclude that the Wakefield Moxons are very closely related to the Moxons of Ferry Fryston, Cawthorne and Stewkley.

3 William Moxon (c1475-1541) made a will, in which he mentions three sons, Ralph, Thomas and John.

Referring to Table 4 in M of Y (page 43), we can follow the descent down from Thomas through Henry (1545-?) to Henry baptised 16-

12-1587. Judith Ayre (Member of Hull) researched John Moxon of Yarmouth's ancestors back to Hull, where the last named Henry moved. Thus Tom's Y-Line represents the early Hull Moxons and the Leeds Moxons. (I refer to Henry and his family as being the early Moxons in Hull. The later Moxons in Hull, which included the Bankers, who went into liquidation, are descended from the Pontefract Moxons).

4 A surprising result is that of Fred. His ancestors originated in Silkstone, an adjacent parish to Cawthorne, and we had expected that his Y-Line would have been the same as John's. It is, however, one digit different in each of three markers, making them very distant relations. In fact Fred's Y-Line is nearer to Tom's, being different on one marker only. So it would appear that the Silkstone Moxons and the Leeds Moxons are fairly closely related.

5 Chris's earliest known ancestor was John Muckson, who having married Joanna Gobley at Eaton Bray, in Bedfordshire, moved to Stewkley and baptised their first son on 4-11-1770. The big question is - by what route did John Muckson, or his ancestors, move from Yorkshire, being related to the Cawthorne Moxons?

continued on page 10 at foot of column 2

MOXON REUNION - TELEMARK, WISCONSIN AROUND THE BONFIRE AT TELEMARK POINT (See article on page 6)

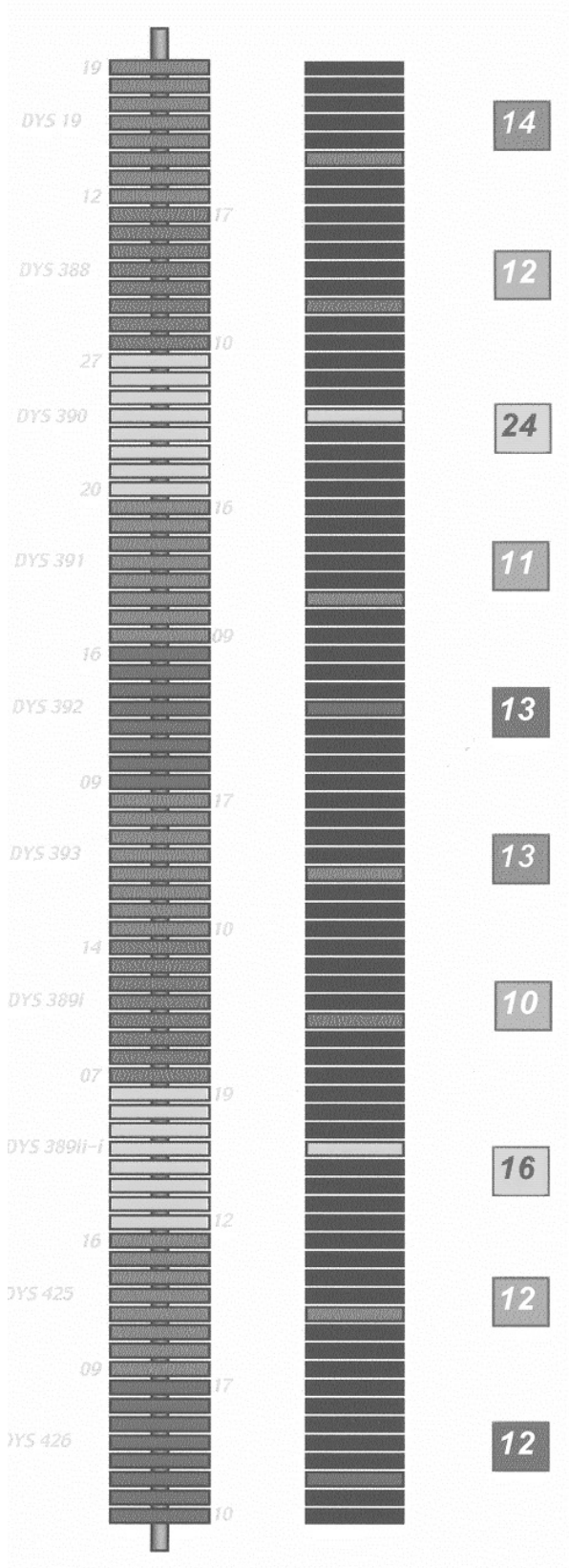
Composite Photo. (Photos taken in a hurry - my back was burning from the fire!)

- Soona
Anne
- Keith
- Stephanie
Kevin
- Dympis
Moxon Hill
- John
- Sue
- Ingrid
- Andy
- Alvin
- Birgitt
- Alex
- Paula
- Mark
- Margaret
- Tom
- Richard
Edna
- Gloria
Jean
- Tyler
- Adrian



Male Y-Chromosome

Photo © Oxford Ancestors Ltd.
See article on page 3 & 4



MOXON REUNION

AT TELEMARK, WISCONSIN, U.S.A.

The Moxon Reunion (sometimes labelled the “Moxon Rebellion” by some younger attendees!) is an occasional reunion of the descendants of the five sons of George and Ada Moxon. It was held this year on 1st to 4th August, at Telemark, 3 hours drive North of Minneapolis, and about 1½ hours drive South from the South Western shores of Lake Superior. The event was organised by Jim and Birgit Moxon. John & Sue Moxon, Dymps and I, were honoured to have also been invited.

JMH

THE VENUE, the Telemark Lodge Resort had been selected by Jim and Birgit (pronounced “Beergit”, with a hard “g”) as they have a timeshare at Telemark Point, eleven miles away, which is part of the resort. The Main Resort offered ample accommodation for those attending.

Although the Reunion was officially from 1st to 4th August, the four of us met Jim, Birgit and Alvin in Minneapolis on the previous Saturday evening for dinner. On the Sunday, Jim ferried us to the airport, to collect our rental car, and then we followed them to Telemark, stopping off at a scrumptious Ice Cream Parlour on the way!

Unfortunately in Minneapolis, and for the first few days at Telemark, the weather was very hot with exceptionally high humidity - we “Brits” were pole-axed! However, by Thursday, after a couple of thunderstorms, the weather became fresher, but was still very hot.

The Chequamegon National Forest around Telemark is a mixture of grassland, woods and lakes - and all very scenic.

Before the Reunion started, Jim and Birgit took us to Bayfield on Lake Superior for a boat trip around the islands and Raspberry Island Lighthouse, a walk through the local woods, and arranged a canoe trip on the river Namakagon. Due to the heat and humidity, I am ashamed to say that all four Brits ducked out of the canoe trip!

The reunion proper started on Thursday evening when we all met up at the local “Lakeside Hotel” for dinner. Then back at the Telemark Resort, Birgit had organised a meeting room, where John and I gave a short talk about the Moxon Society, its aims and achievements. For this, both of us wore the Moxon ‘T’ shirts printed by Lucy, the daughter of Simon and Margaret Moxon of Brisbane, who are distant cousins of those present.

On the Friday, Jim and Birgit organised a picnic at the “Copper Falls” beauty spot. Here, the river wound its way through the woods and valleys, spilling over many spectacular water falls. In many places the water was copper coloured from the minerals it collected - hence its name. It was about a 2 mile walk up one side of the river, over a bridge, and back the other side to another bridge, back to the car park. And all very pretty.

That evening we all went to the Garmisch Hotel, originally built by a German immigrant - and looking distinctly “Bavarian”, where we had another excellent dinner. John and Sue presented Alvin with a small cloth rosette, carrying the words, “Ageless Wonder”, which Alvin wore all evening - see colour photo on page 12.

Tyler, the young son of Tom and Gloria, was also celebrating his birthday, so we sang “Happy Birthday” twice!

On Saturday, a “convoy” went up to Bayfield and across on the car ferry to Madeline Island, for a picnic. Although there was some rain, it did not spoil the enjoyment.

Later, that afternoon, Alvin treated the whole party to a two-hour sight-seeing boat cruise around Lake Namakagon, to celebrate his 93rd birthday (actually it was the week before). Birgit provided a “picnic” meal and home made ice-cream. That evening, after the boat trip, we went to Jim and Birgit’s timeshare, on the shore of Lake Namakagon, for a bonfire. (See page 5 for a colour photo of those at the bonfire).

Much too soon it was necessary to say our farewells, as most had to leave fairly promptly on the Sunday morning. All enjoyed the “Moxon Rebellion” and Jim and Birgit are to be thanked for organising such an excellent event. Sunday morning, it was back to Minneapolis, and we were delighted that Keith and Soona led the way, particularly through the City. Many Thanks.



Jim and Birgit Moxon



George and Ada’s five sons, left to right, Alvin, Erwin, Milton, Duane and Vernon. (Photo 1991)

George was the Gt.Gt.Grandson of Samuel Barker Moxon, who emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1836. Samuel was the grandson of John Moxon of Great Yarmouth (1689-1736)



Milton and Edna Moxon (sitting) with their five sons, left to right, John Thomas (Tom), Delwyn, Gerald (Jerry), David and Richard. (1991)

OUR MOXON SURNAME ROOT

Steve Moxon, Member of Sheffield, has researched the Ronksley MSS, held at Sheffield Archives, and has found some surprising facts, concerning the early Mokesons/Moxons of Bradfield in South Yorkshire.

This is a summarised version of his full report, which The Society hopes to make available in the future in a 'Moxon Booklet' format.

FOLLOWING RESEARCH showing that the whole Moxon family began in the south-west of the West Riding of Yorkshire as Mokeson/Moakson, recently I have made findings which put this conclusion beyond reasonable doubt and, furthermore, confirm the suspected actual derivation. A total of thirty-five mostly 'hitherto unknown' abstracts of very early or early documents have been located which are either Mokeson (Moxon) deeds or, in some cases, deeds Mokesons have signed as witnesses. I say "hitherto unknown" in that most have not been catalogued by The Yorkshire Archaeological Society, so they will not have been found in research so far in connection with the Moxon family. The documents are all for Bradfield Parish, the earliest being for Midhope (a village in the far north of the parish not far west of Penistone, on the western edge of what I have identified as true Moxon heartland, which I have explained as the likely epicentre because of the limit to westward agricultural expansion posed by the adjacent inhospitable high moorland) and only later ones relate to places near Bradfield (village) proper. Not only do a number pre-date all other Moxon records so far found, but a group of them actually proves foremost surname expert Dr George Redmonds' "son of Matthew" derivation of the Moxon surname.

The earliest (or so I thought: see further below) are three precisely contemporaneous deeds which are clearly to do with the same family grouping by virtue of the very crucial evidence of the 'Moxon' surname derivation we've been looking for -- and which we could hardly have expected would present itself so helpfully.

The following abstract transcriptions appear in the Ronksley manuscript collection at Sheffield Archive:

* Dated the seventh year of Edward III, 1333: "Robert filius Mathei de Over Midehop dedi William filius meo. An assart called Haselynhedd 'in mora inter aquam de Don exparte boriale et illum vivulam quod vocatur Haswod broke exparte Austral'." (The Latin translates as: 'lying in moor between the water of the Don on the North and the rivulet which is called Haswod Brook on the South'. 'Filius meo' does not mean 'son of meo', by the way; 'meo' just refers you back to the first name mentioned. In this case, William is son of Robert.)

* Dated the seventh year of Edward III, 1333: "Robert filius Mathei de Over Midehop dedi William filius meo. Three acres and a rode etc in Over Midehop on death of said Mathei. Also

land which was William Wyting's in the same village."

* Dated the tenth year of Edward III, 1336: "Hugh filius Robert Mokeson de Midehop to William my brother. Mokerode in Midehop and a rode of arable land."

The first two deeds state identical parties: Robert, son of Matthew of Upper Midhope, is giving land to his own son, William. The third deed is also giving land to a William, but the granting is being done not by William's father but William's brother, Hugh, who is indeed given as the son of a Robert, and is also grandson of a Matthew since 'Mokeson' 'means' 'son of Matthew' (according to international surname expert Dr George Redmonds); so that the overlap of family relations fits perfectly with the assumption that the deeds relate to one and the same family. It could be coincidence that there was exactly the same family constellation at the very same time in two parallel but entirely separate families, but at the very low population levels such as there were at this remote spot, this possibility is very unlikely.

The **Eureka!** bit, of course, is that in the third deed the family has moved on a generation and instead of being long-windedly 'surnamed' 'filius filius Mathei' is called Mokeson, but in the other two there is no surname except 'filius Mathei'. 'Mathei' can only be 'Matthew' and we know that this is, by the experts' conviction, the root of 'Moxon' (via the pet name 'Mocok'). The great piece of luck that all three deeds are so exactly contemporaneous, strongly supports the conclusion that they are snapshots of the same family group. The only possible conclusion is that the addition of a third generation is enough to force the recorded 'filius Mathei' directly to Mokeson. Remember this is documentation, not direct transcription of speech. In speech, 'Mathei' would be in pet form as 'Mocok' and 'filius Mathei' would be 'Mocok-son', which would then fairly immediately be denuded of the middle syllable to be shortened to 'Mokeson'. The speech precedent would then have forced the documentary change. The beauty of the documentary evidence here is that we have direct proof that Mokeson is 'son of Matthew'! Up to now we have had to take on trust that Dr George Redmonds was right, because we did not have an instance of 'Mokoc'-to-'Mokeson', and neither had we a 'filius Matthew (Mathei)'-to-'Mocok'.

It is not just the 'caught-in-the-act' very formation of the surname which is the coup here; it is also the dating of the transition. At 1333/1336 these are the very earliest recordings

of Moxons bar the Ossett instance (see below), and already by this time we have three generations. On this basis alone, Midhope in Bradfield parish has to be the favourite place of origin of the whole family -- if we accept the experts' theory that a single origin is the most usual case with surnames (though with a pet name taking a simple '-son' suffix, I myself don't see why the name couldn't have cropped up in more than one place independently). But even by 1336, Mokesons -- or, rather the 'filius Mathei'/'Mokes' before them -- must have been around at Midhope for a while, because one of the deeds refers to 'Mokerode'. 'Rode' means 'royd', a clearing; usually an area of land felled of trees (an 'assart'); so 'Mokerode' can only mean a piece of land granted to a certain 'Moke' (Mocok, Matthew). The Matthew of the deed might be the one that the royd is named after, but his father or grandfather could also have been called Matthew. Even taking the (younger) Matthew we know existed, he is the oldest of the three generations in the deeds, so that still subtracts a further good few years off the *anno domini* count for Mokeson Midhope 'year zero'.

All this made me think back to Dr George Redmonds' citing of what he took to be the two very earliest examples of Moxon forms: in Wakefield court rolls. One was in Ossett grave-ship (which I've suggested is likely to be linked to nearby Middleton and in turn a migration from Silkstone parish area: which is next door to Midhope) and one less explainable outlier in Bradford -- though Sylvia Thomas of the West Yorkshire Archive Service makes no mention of this in her article for The Moxon Magazine in 1993. As regards the Bradford outlier, it could well be that Dr Redmonds is in fact citing a Bradfield Mokeson since the date he gives is "1340s" and there are deeds for Mokesons dated at this time at Midhope in Bradfield parish, including one below in 1344. The reason would be simply that 'Bradfield' has been found to have been mis-spelt in so many records -- including the Moxon Society's own wills index -- and this is just another example. 'Bradfield' was formerly spelt 'Bradfeld' which could even more easily be taken as 'Bradford' in 'court-hand'. True enough, Midhope is just over the border in Hallamshire and therefore the place itself is just outside Wakefield jurisdiction, but Langside and anywhere over the river to which Mokeson land abutted, where Mokesons must surely have ventured, would be under Wakefield jurisdiction. Given the disputes that arose over the 'no-man's land' that this was, then if Mokesons did get into any bother which could not be sorted out at the manor court then this is where such a dispute would likely arise.

I rang Dr Redmonds and he agreed that a Bradfield/Bradford confusion could be an issue, though he confirms that some Wakefield Court Rolls for Bradford have been restored; though he can't recollect if this was the source for the 1340s instance he cited to me -- and my own note from the phone conversation is ambiguous. Either way, he pointed out that it is not necessary to explain every 'outlier' because sometimes there can be a parallel "by-name" cropping up in some other place with no connection

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

to a surname's early heartland and which only lasts for a lifetime; it does not become hereditary. This would be the most likely explanation should the Bradford instance turn out not to be a phantom. The Ossett instance appears not to be ephemeral though, because Sylvia Thomas in her article cites Thomas' daughter, Alice, in 1349. The Wakefield Court Rolls restoration is ongoing so it may be that there is more evidence as to a Bradford line.

On a look through the more expanded abstractions in the huge volumes of the Ronsley collection I found a much earlier deed still, which takes us back through the 1300 barrier:

* Dated 1262: "Helyes de Midhope -- William de Ekilrode -- A piece of land in Midhope called Ekilrode between the Shay broke and the way which leads ad ecclesiam de Bradfield and butts on the Spring broke on the East. Testators: William de Schefelde, John filius Alie, John de Berneside, Daw Hanson de Nether Mydhope, Robert Mokeson de Over Middop, et al."

Now, Ronsley notes that the deed: "purports to be an original ... but the hand is more like Henry VI ... I should not have expected a date to a deed of this kind so early." Interestingly, the deed is still just as important for us even if Ronsley's suspicions are right and the deed is a fabrication to forestall land disputes. Elias de Midhope was the great Lord at this time and he and his ancestors had been for some time even then. If this deed was a concoction, then he would have made doubly sure that the witnesses or 'testators' were convincing. That is, why bother getting someone to sign in support unless either they themselves really could vouch for the historical truth or be believable in this regard of Elias de Midhope's claimed right of possession? Even if the deed is a fake this would not mean that Elias de Midhope's claim was false: he would be making up this deed in order to bolster the claim he already had in historical fact by common agreement but lacking in documentation. How else would he get the signatures of those who otherwise could have made a rival claim? Unless he put the witnesses under duress, in which case the purpose of the fabrication fails: nobody believed it and nobody had to because Elias could impose his land monopoly by force.

So this Robert Mokeson must have had some standing by virtue of his local family connections. The Mokesons even at this time of the dawn of records were not 'comers-in' to Midhope. The date is also in effect not spurious. Again, if the deed was to be convincing then everybody must have had confidence that there really had been a Mokeson -- a Robert Mokeson, even -- around in 1262.

This stands regardless of the date the deed was concocted. Of course, there would not have been Mokesons as such, because the surname would not have been formed then, but the family line were Mokesons in retrospect. This is the other fact that shows up the likelihood that the deed is 'after the event'.

There are piles of other early deeds for Upper Midhope either relating to Mokeson

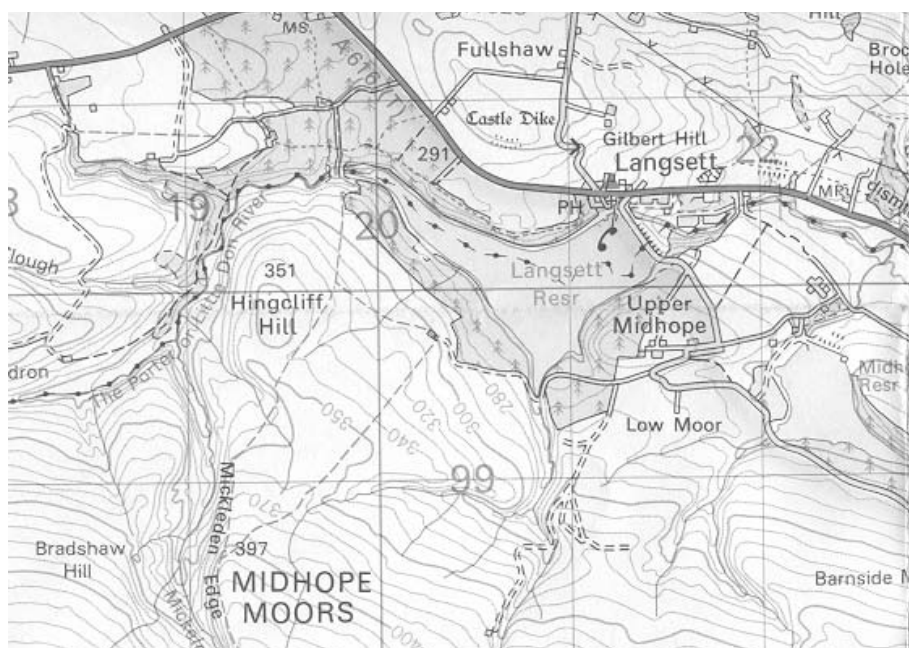
holdings or with Mokesons as witnesses. Ditto, though a little later for Ughillwood near Bradfield village itself. Space precludes even giving summaries here. From all these deeds it is very clear that whatever Mokesons were up to in/near Bradfield village, in the far north of the parish Upper Midhope Mokesons had really got themselves organised at a very early time. This lot look like the forerunners of the yeoman farmers of Hoylandswaine, and Cawthorne and Stainbrough, all three being places at no distance; Hoylandswaine especially -- Upper Midhope and Hoylandswaine are on the immediate edge of opposite borders of Penistone parish.

The other thing the deed abstracts give us are the more precise places where Mokesons were living in Upper Midhope. 'Mokerode' (see above) still survives today on standard OS maps as 'Mauk Royd', an area lying to the west of Upper Midhope pretty well exactly abutting the south bank of the Langsett Reservoir, and so had not extended down as far as the river. The eight-volume Placenames of the West Riding gets the root of this placename wrong because Smith, the author, is not aware of the earlier name and assumes Mauk Royd derives from Mal(e)kin, a diminutive of Matilda". (Incidentally, it now looks like Smith could well have made the same mistake regarding Mokin House in Cartworth, because parish records show early-ish Mokesons at Cartworth.) There is also marked, on the 1854 OS map, 'Mauk Royd Head' which marks the edge of field systems before the start of the moor proper. Of course, moor has encroached on this land so that the still existing stone walling serves merely to section off pieces of moorland. The lower Mauk Royd has more of the appearance of formerly farmed land than just the presence of stone walling. At the foot of

Mauk Royd Head and just above Mauk Royd is a ruined complex of substantial buildings marked on the map and known locally as North America. A recent re-naming, obviously. Smith gives no derivation for this, but perhaps at the time of the first major waves of emigration it was thought that trying to make a go of such inhospitable land was tantamount to the rigour experienced by New England settlers!

'Mydhop Hedd' is another fairly specific placename associated with Mokesons (from a 1511 deed of Moxon land holdings), and this is very clearly the area now called Town Head in Upper Midhope (or Over Middop as then called) village. This is almost a separate hamlet because it is just separate from the main group of buildings marked Upper Midhope, but as the name states it is part of the village. As for dwellings in the village itself, we know that a Robert Mokeson lived in the main part of the village, somewhere near the east end, because (in 1424) another villager had: "a messuage lying at East end near messuage of Robert Mokeson on West."

Of these places it may be that Mauk Royd was the original Mokeson homestead. The lands appear to have been extensive, given the identification of Haselynhedd (see above in the first mentioned deed, but there is no space here to go into this) well to the north of Mauk Royd, and the Midhope village holdings to the south. Mauk Royd stands between these, and a brook named Ollerynkar in a very early deed can be identified with a watercourse flowing through Mauk Royd. This would not be a case of a placename giving rise to a surname -- as at the nearby Ranah Stones (the source of the surname Reaney, as in PH Reaney the author of the famous surname dictionary) -- but the place which was named after the earliest holders of the Moke(son) surname.



Bradfield is 7 km South and 5 km East of Upper Midhope

MAP OF THE AREA

Scale 1 km squares.

The early Mokesons would hardly recognise the area now!

For more detail refer to Landranger Ordnance Survey Map No.110 (Sheffield & Huddersfield)



Rev. Richard Moxon (1792-1836)

Curate of Ilkeston (1823-1836)

Mr. John Davies of Ilkeston wrote to us recently, asking if we were interested in Rev. Richard Moxon. We were! Mr. Davies sent a copy of brief biography of Richard Moxon, taken from, "Trueman's History of Ilkeston", published in 1880 (pages 64-67).

Mr. Davies is researching the outcome of letters written by Rev. Richard Moxon on behalf of John Barkin, a former soldier, who believed that he was due a share in the Prize Money when his regiment, The 73rd Foot, captured a Spanish battleship involved in the Siege of Gibraltar, in 1782. Watch this space!

FOR A PERIOD of 13 years this gentleman was the Curate of Ilkeston, during the non-residence of the Vicar, the Rev. J. Brown, viz., from 1823 to 1836, in which latter year he died, beloved and lamented, it is no exaggeration to say, by all who had in any degree formed his acquaintance or taken note of his consistent and upright career. Of him it might truly be said, in the words of the poet Goldsmith:

"At Church, with meek and unaffected grace,
His looks adorned the venerable place;
Truth from his lips prevailed with double sway,
and fools, who came to scoff, remained to pray."

Many persons are still living who can remember the ministry of Mr. Moxon, and are able to bear testimony to the general feeling of regret expressed on every side when the sad tidings of his death became known. To these a brief account of the reverend gentleman's antecedents and early life will undoubtedly prove interesting and acceptable. The following memoir was written by Benjamin Moxon, his brother, and was published, in conjunction with some of his sermons, in 1837:

"The Rev. Richard Moxon was born at Pontefract, in the county of York, March 21st, 1792. He was the second surviving son of Benjamin and Sarah Moxon, of that town. His father was an architect and master builder, and at the period of the birth of his son, Richard, was in full and most respectable business. The sun of prosperity gilded his path, and to the narrow scan of human foresight, he appeared to be laying a foundation for the future welfare and advancement of his family. These pleasing prospects were, however, at once blighted by sudden death, in the 33rd year of his age; leaving a widow and three young children to struggle with all the difficulties which his early and unexpected removal had unavoidably occasioned. Richard was only ten weeks old on the death of his father. Both his parents were members of the Wesleyan body, and were personally acquainted with the Rev. J. Wesley. In infancy and youth Richard was distinguished for health and a vigorous constitution, and his boyish days for love of play and sprightliness of disposition. He was sent for some years to the Grammar School at Pontefract; and afterwards obtained a situation in a mercantile house at Hull.

His mother died in March, 1810, and from thence dates the period in which his mind began to be drawn to spiritual objects, under a deep sense of his previous sinfulness and formality.

At the expiration of his apprenticeship he gave up his secular pursuits, and devoted himself to the work of the ministry. For some years he was engaged as a local preacher among the Methodists, during which his zeal in the service of his Divine Master often carried him beyond the bounds of prudence in the exercise of his voice, and eventually so weakened it that he was compelled entirely to desist from preaching. Having remained as a clerk in a banking-house at Hull for a time, by slow degrees he recovered the powers of his voice, and was introduced to the Hull clergy, who recommended him to place himself under the direction of a private clergyman. He complied with this advice; was ordained by the Archbishop of York, at Bishopthorpe, on the 19th of December, 1819, and was licensed to the curacy of Sutton near Hull, and assistant curate to the adjoining parish of Drypool. He was ordained priest on the 17th December, 1820. It was deemed needful that his church at Drypool should be taken down, rebuilt, and greatly enlarged; and his last sermon in the old church, which had stood for ages, was so deeply interesting and affective, that to this day recollections of it are cherished by many who still survive him.

His heart was much set on the new church, but it soon became evident that his health would not prove equal to his duties, especially in the damp atmosphere of Hull. The Vicar of Ilkeston, having sustained an affecting and solemn bereavement in the sudden death of his wife, was anxious to leave the Vicarage and engage a curate. Mr. Moxon was applied to, with a description of the dry and elevated character of the country; and the result was that arrangements were soon made between the Incumbent and himself, and he entered upon his duties as Curate of Ilkeston on May 25th, 1823.

His first text was, "Brethren, pray for us." He seemed to be peculiarly suited to the scene of his labours, by the combination of great caution, with overflowing kindness, extended liberality towards those who might differ from him in religious sentiments, with unflinching attachment (when needful to be shewn) to that Church in which he ministered, and towards which, from close investigation, that attachment increased to his dying hour. During, however, the period of his residence at Ilkeston, he was no stranger to the deep waters of affliction; for although the situation was far more favourable to his health, yet he had abundant evidence that he was no longer a strong man,

but that his constitution had sustained such a shock from his early exertions as must subject him to frequent interruptions in the performance of his professional duties. This was to him a source of painful privation, for he had great delight in conducting the services of the Church.

Throughout the whole of his lengthened illness of two years, when often unfit to leave the house, he hardly ever missed uniting with his people in humble supplication for the Divine blessing on the services of those clerical brethren who during that period supplied his place in the desk and pulpit. The illness which terminated his life commenced in an attack of the influenza, brought on by visiting a dying person on a very severe day in April, 1834. This rapidly reduced his strength, and left extreme irritation of the trachea, with hoarseness.

Those who were acquainted with him when in comparative health were mournfully struck with his altered appearance, for from being remarkably corpulent, not weighing less than twenty stone, he was reduced to ten-from having usually the blush of health beaming on his fine, open countenance, it then wore the pallid, sunken aspect of internal wasting disease. Up to his death he never entirely kept his bed. The evening prior to his death he sat up rather later than usual, with a clerical friend, who had kindly travelled about thirty miles to take his services and Sacrament on the following day (Good Friday). After delightful intercourse, he cheerfully retired to his room.

The following morning realised a wish he had often expressed - that he might die on Good Friday - for his nurse, on approaching his bed at an early hour, found that a blood vessel had broken in the night, and that his happy spirit had winged its flight into the presence of that Saviour who, as on that day, died for his sins.

The state of feeling called forth proved that his parishioners had lost their attached friend, as well as their faithful pastor; and the sight of hundreds who crowded to his funeral, and hung with breathless silence over his grave, was indeed overpowering to myself and my sister, who had accompanied me from Hull. It may truthfully be said of him, that he lived in unity with all men, making many friends, but no enemies."

As a token of their sorrow, the parishioners caused a monument to be erected over the grave

continued on next page (foot of col.1)

The Gregorian Calendar

When Joan Rendall was writing "Where There's a Will" - see back page - she noted that Thomas Moxon had written his will on 29th February. Having written about the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar in 1752, in our last issue, and thinking that Leap years were only then "invented", she sought Graham Jagger's advice. This was his response.

THE PROBLEM with the calendar is that a calendar year has to have in it a whole number of days. The solar system, however, is not so regular. It takes about 365¼ days for the Earth to orbit the Sun. So if you have 365 days in a calendar year, the calendar slowly gets more and more out of step with where the Sun is. Christmas could easily land up in the middle of Summer. What had to be fixed was the vernal equinox (an astronomical event) which, by tradition, had to be on 25 March. This 'out-of-stepness' was certainly known to the Egyptians and Babylonians some two millennia before Christ.

It was the Egyptian Pharaoh, Ptolemy III, who, in 238 BC, suggested a running cycle of three 365-day years followed by a leap year of 366 days to take into account the ¼ day discrepancy between the calendar and the Sun. Julius Caesar picked up on Ptolemy's suggestion and in 46 BC launched what we now know as the Julian calendar. By Caesar's time things had got so bad that in order to bring the calendar back into line the entire year of 46 BC ended up stretching an extraordinary 445 days. Caesar called it the "ultimus annus confusionis", "the last year of confusion". It was Caesar who decided that February would have 29 days in a leap year instead of the 28 in 'ordinary' years.

The Julian calendar worked tolerably well for over 1000 years but it was noticed, probably in the 12th century, that this calendar had itself

Rev. Richard Moxon continued from previous page.

of Mr. Moxon. It stands on the south side of the Church, and is enclosed with palisades, but almost hid from view by two large weeping ashes. The slate panel on the north side of the monument bears this inscription:

Sacred to the Memory of
THE REVEREND RICHARD MOXON
(Curate of this Parish during 13 years;)
Who Departed this Life April 1st, 1836,
Aged 45 Years.

"The Lord is my portion."

This tomb was erected by his sorrowing parishioners as the last tribute of respect to their faithful minister.

Many thanks Mr. Davies for this interesting piece about Rev. Richard Moxon.

Richard Moxon's earliest known ancestor was his Gt.Gt.Grandfather, William Moxon of Pontefract, Builder and Master Mason, who married Prudence Houldle in 1677 (see Moxon Family Tree MX21 and "The Moxons of Yorkshire" page 52.)

developed some slippage. It turns out that this was because the length of the solar year is not 365.25 days, but more nearly 365.242199 days. Thus the Julian calendar very slightly overcompensated for the Sun's motion. Some means had to be found of not having a leap year every now and again to remedy this defect.

In 1576 an Italian doctor, Luigi Lilio, invented the calendar we now use: if the year is divisible by four, then it is a Leap year and we add one day on to February; if the century year (e.g. 1800, 1900, 2000, etc.) after being divided by 100 is divisible by four then it too is a leap year, but not otherwise (e.g. 2000/100=20 is divisible by 4 so 2000 was a leap year, 2100/100=21 is not divisible by 4 so 2100 is not a leap year). It has been estimated that Lilio's calendar will not need reforming for over 6,000 years!

After some argey-bargey Lilio's proposals met with wide acceptance and on 24 February 1582 Pope Gregory XIII signed the Bull (see note) which was to bring in the Gregorian calendar. There was a great fuss because the introduction of the Gregorian calendar meant putting the clock forward by 10 days in order to make the vernal equinox come on 25 March.

It was not until 1752 that Great Britain

adopted Gregory's calendar. By then the discrepancy between the Julian calendar and the Sun had increased by a further day, so in England we lost 11 days, and not the 10 that the Catholic world lost 170 years before. From 1753 the new year began on 1 January and not as before, on Lady Day, 25 March. The rest, as they say, is history!

The real purpose of this note is to let you know the results of half an hour's reading about the calendar. Although I have several books on the history of time, etc., I just used one here: David Ewing Duncan, The Calendar, Fourth Estate, London, 1998.

NOTE: Bull - A formal document issued by the pope, written in antiquated characters and often sealed with a leaden seal - the "bulla".

Graham Jagger

It seems likely that England resisted adopting the Gregorian calendar in 1582 simply because it was a Roman Catholic "invention" - and we were Protestant. It took another 170 years for us to see sense!

I have always been amazed at how much the Romans were able to achieve, when one considers the numerical system they used. How did they manage their astronomical calculations? Try multiplying CXI by XXXIV, and see how you get on, and then divide by XXIII! Answers on a postcard!

Ed.

Elizabeth Moxon and the London Marathon

ELIZABETH MOXON - the daughter of Dr. Richard and Mrs. Frances Moxon is pictured here with her parents and brother, Andrew, after completing the London Marathon in 3 hours 43 minutes. She is a medical student at Keble College, Oxford, and after her final exam next June, will commence her first year as a Junior Houseman at the Radcliffe Hospital Oxford.

Elizabeth is the Granddaughter of Barbara and the late Rev. John Moxon who was one of the Founder Members of the Moxon Society, and a former Trustee of The Moxon Family Research Trust.



DNA Y-Chromosome cont.

6 Don's earliest known ancestor was Samuel Moxeson who married widow Lydia Walton on 12-11-1728 in Ferry Fryston. Where did he come from, being related to the Moxons of Cawthorne?

Discussion:

Thus we have two groups of Moxons, who share a Common Paternal Ancestor, perhaps over 1000 years ago.

1 Those Moxons of Cawthorne and Wakefield with descendants in Stewkley and Ferry Fryston.

2 Those Moxons of Silkstone and Leeds with descendants in Hull (early Hull Moxons) and Yarmouth.

Oxford Ancestors have also informed us that the Y-Lines of our six donors do not indicate that we are of Viking ancestry. Since we believe that our ancestors originated in Yorkshire, and not the North of England, Scotland, Scottish Islands, or Northern Ireland, it is unlikely that we are of Celtic origins. They say, "At present there are no validated tests to distinguish if people are of Celtic or, for example, Anglo-Saxon origin, although research is currently underway in this area."

One major consideration has not yet been mentioned. So far we have not been able to determine what proportion of the male caucasian population, either in England as a whole, or in Yorkshire, in particular, share the same, or very similar Y-Line as our six donors. We need this information, before considering if further tests are worth funding.

The Moxon Bookshop

BIOGRAPHY OF REV. GEORGE MOXON 1602-1687

Compiled by Jane Micklethwaite, it covers the three periods of Moxon's life - In England - his ministry in Springfield, America - and finally his return to England, to face more tribulation. 36 pages, including 15 contemporary illustrations.

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If payment in Sterling presents a problem, please contact John for advice.

Help Needed!

AT LEAST three other Moxon Family History Booklets are in preparation, and we hope that the publication of the above first four, will inspire more Members "to put pen to paper"! Most members will be preparing their booklets by word processing. Are there any members who have a "Desk Top Publishing Program", such as MS Publisher, who would be prepared to convert word processed text and pictures into an A5 booklet format?

If you are not very proficient, help can be given. Go On! Have a go! GO ON, GO ON, GO ON! (with apologies to The Inland Revenue) Please contact the Editor. (see back page)

OBITUARIES

GAYLORD MOXON HARRY MOXON



WE REGRET to announce the death of Gaylord Emory "Mox" Moxon, who died on 31st July this year. The Graveside Service was held on 6th August, at the Fallbrook Masonic Cemetery, Fallbrook, California. Recognising his wartime Navy Flying career, Military Honours were provided by a U.S. Navy Honor Detail.

Mox had been a member of the Society for many years, and was featured in "Knowing our Moxons, No. 14" in MM No.25 - April 2000.

He joined the Navy as a Naval Aviation Cadet in 1942, and saw action in the Pacific. He was one of the first Allied pilots to witness the utter devastation of the atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, whilst taking reconnaissance photographs.

After leaving the Navy, Mox started his own business, "Moxon Sales" selling electronic instruments to the aerospace industry. Working initially on his own, the business expanded until he had offices in Los Angeles, San Mateo and San Diego, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Cherry Hill and Hackensack, New Jersey.

Now named Moxon Electronics Corporation, he first met his second wife, Maxine who, as an employee he had to lay off, when work declined. They married in 1994.

After selling his business, Mox concentrated on his love of flying, renovating old aircraft under his company Mox Air. He also got fascinated by genealogy in 1985 and traveled to Canada and England researching his ancestors - (see "Roots 5 - The Moxons of Ebbesborne Wake" MM No.22 October 1998)

Another great interest was in his pheasants - seen holding one in our photograph above.

Mox set up a web site www.moxon.org which showed his genealogical research, interesting facts about Fallbrook and the locality, and had a live update on the weather in Fallbrook from his own, automated and computerised, weather station.

The Society has lost two gifted Members, Mox Moxon and Harry Moxon



IT IS WITH SADNESS that we report the death of Harry Moxon on 8th April, last. He had been working underneath his car when, apparently, the jack slipped. Gwynneth returned from shopping to find Harry crushed to death.

An interim inquest was held the following Friday - which would have been Harry's 76th Birthday. The funeral was at Overdale Crematorium, Bolton, on the 18th April, when the Chapel was full, with many having to stand.

He had been a Member and Committee Member of the Moxon Society for many years, and more recently had set up the Society's Web Site www.moxon.org.uk

Harry has, over the years, contributed a number of articles to the Magazine concerning the origins of the name "Moxon".

In his book, "The Moxons of St. Helens", Ron Moxon, Harry's brother, states, "*Harry was an exceptionally gifted scholar - firstly at Preston Grammar School where all the three boys were educated - and later at Oxford. At PGS he was two years younger than the average class age when he passed his school exams. And at Oxford he obtained his B.A. degree with time left on his scholarship which allowed him to take a supplementary B.Litt.*"

After leaving university he worked for a time at the Standard Chartered Bank of South Africa but later returned to Preston and qualified as a Cost Accountant. Then he took up a post with the CWS in Manchester, (in 1972 as an I.T. expert to introduce their computer systems) where he worked until his retirement.

He married Gwynneth Robinson, a widow with two children in 1970 and took up residence in Bury, only moving much later to Ramsbottom."

It is obvious that Gwynneth's children took to Harry, and loved him, as their father, and their children became his grandchildren.

He played chess, not only for his college, Lincoln College, but also for the university.

He was a lifelong and active member of the Labour Party.

He and Gwynneth enjoyed walking, and took a great interest in nature, joining the RSPB some years ago. He had many wide ranging interests including the theatre.



Moxon Gathering at Wakefield

TOP LEFT: Members on the steps of the Holmfirth Beefeater Pub.

Left to Right: Top Row: Margaret Eastwood, John E.U.Moxon, Jim Moxon, John McKeown, John C. Moxon

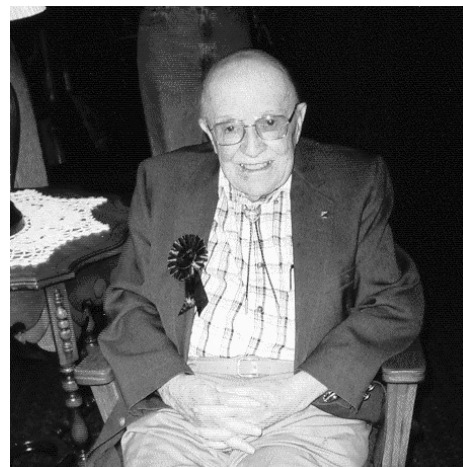
2nd. Row: Sue Moxon, Warren Eastwood, Graham Jagger, Alvin Moxon, Birgit Moxon, Diana Trotter.

3rd Row: John Earnshaw, Christopher Micklethwaite, Ann Moxon, Robert Rendall, Rosemary Mans, Dymps Moxon Hill, Barbara O'Neill, Wendy Moxon.

Front Row: Sue Earnshaw, Don Moxon, Jane Micklethwaite, Gillie McKeown, Judy Huggett, Joan Rendall.

LEFT: About to go down the Mine at The National Coal Mining Museum.

Left to Right: Robert Rendall, Sue Earnshaw, John Earnshaw, John Moxon Hill, Wendy Moxon, Don Moxon.



Alvin Moxon

A Delayed Celebration of his 93rd Birthday
in Telemark.
(Birthday was 25th August)

The Moxon Society Executive Committee

Saturday 16th March 2002.

At Dymps and John Moxon Hill's House - before getting down to business.

Photos by President John Moxon.



Graham Jagger Judy Huggett Fred Moxon
Joan Rendall Vera Moxon Warren Eastwood



Gwynneth Moxon* Robert Rendall* Margaret Eastwood Fred Moxon
Christopher & Jane Micklethwaite
(* Not Committee Members) Sue Moxon Dymps Moxon Hill*

The Beatrix Potter Connection

By Joan Rendall.

This article is based on the introduction, written by Nigel Jee, to *The Choyce Letters*, published by *The Beatrix Potter Society*. Nigel is cousin to Joan and was closely related to Louie Choyce.

We thank The Beatrix Potter Society, and Nigel Jee, for their kind permission for this reproduction.

DID YOU KNOW that one of our Moxons not only worked for Beatrix Potter, but later corresponded with her to such an extent that her letters are now published in a single volume entitled, "The Choyce Letters - Beatrix Potter and Louie Choyce, 1916 - 1943"?

Louie Choyce was the grand-daughter of Thomas and Louisa Moxon who farmed at Palace Farm, Witham-on-the-Hill, Lincolnshire. Here, they raised 15 children. Their eldest child was Eleanor Jane who married Benjamin Coley Choyce. This union produced 5 children and Eleanor Louisa was their eldest child, but she was always known as Louie. It was this Louie Choyce who worked for and corresponded with Beatrix Potter.



Louie, at her sister, May Choyce's Wedding in 1914 at Portishead

Louie was born in 1876. Her father, Benjamin Coley Choyce, was a cousin of the pre-Raphaelite artist, Sir Edward Burne-Jones, whose wife, Georgina Macdonald was an aunt of both Rudyard Kipling and Stanley Baldwin. This explains the tenuous references to these worthies in some of the letters. When Louie's correspondence with Beatrix Potter began, she was already 40 years old. She had been the governess to Denys Lowson, later to become Lord Mayor of London. In 1916 however, he had been sent away to school and Louie was looking for a change in occupation. The Women's National Land Service had just been founded and Louie had apparently seen a letter in *The Times*, in which Beatrix Potter had complained that although women were still commonly employed on northern farms, they were leaving the land because they could earn more money in munitions factories.

Louie Choyce had some experience of farm work and wrote to Mrs William Heelis, as Beatrix Potter had then become, offering her services on the farm. This began a friendship

and correspondence, which continued, intermittently until Beatrix Potter died in 1943.

Louie's offer was accepted. Mrs Heelis's farm was at Hill Top, Sawrey, in close proximity to Lake Windermere, set in beautiful countryside, in the Lake District. As soon as she arrived in Sawrey, Louie went down with the measles - at least, that is what the doctor insisted it was, although Mrs Heelis was quite sure it was influenza accompanied by a heat rash. Her letter of 29th April to Mrs Lowson reassures her that Louie had probably caught it on the train and that Denys had probably not been exposed to it. Her letter of 2nd May, to Louie's mother, assures her that Louie is recovering well. She still thinks it was flu and had offended the doctor by saying so. Health is a theme running through all the letters, a preoccupation which may come as a surprise in these days of modern drugs.

Louie was overwhelmed by the beauty of the Lake District and formed an immediate liking for her new employer. In a letter dated 25th May 1916 she tells her mother:

"It is so lovely here now that the lilacs are out and there are such quantities and the azaleas are wonderful. I have never seen so many so fine. It is perfectly beautiful... I get up early but Mrs Heelis isn't a bit of a driver. She finds me odd jobs if it is too hot or wet to garden and never fusses. I simply do like her exceedingly."

Louie seems to have stayed at Sawrey for the remainder of the war and there are no further letters until 1921, by which time she had returned to the south and resumed her job as a governess. Her posts seem to have been temporary ones, however, she often spent at least part of the summer at Sawrey.

Mrs Heelis's letter of 13th May 1921 announces that, "The lilac and azaleas and apple blossom are out. I hope our singing bird will arrive before they are over - rail strike permitting."

As several other letters refer to Louie's singing, it appears that she had a good voice, or at least was not shy of using it. She accompanied herself on the piano, which may explain the references to a piano in several of the letters. In May 1939, recovering from a serious illness, Mrs Heelis threatens to sleep in it since William, her husband was such a restless bed-fellow. In her will, she left the piano to Louie but it does not seem to have survived in the family.

By those who knew her, Louie seems to have been something of a character in Sawrey village, keen on country dancing. Mrs Heelis did not dance herself, but sat and watched while her husband and Louie joined in energetically. In 1922, when Beatrix Potter was preparing Cecily Parsley's Nursery Rhymes for publica-



"Now, my dears", said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, "you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden: your Father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor."

**Illustration from THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT by Beatrix Potter.
Copyright © Frederick Warne & Co., 1902, 2002.**

Used with the kind permission of Frederick Warne & Co.

The Company points out that it is exactly 100 years since they printed the first edition of "The Tale of Peter Rabbit"

tion. Louie contributed the rhyme, "We Have a Little Garden". She wrote three verses though all were not used.

Sometimes on her summer visits, Louie was accompanied by her brother, Tom. Nine years her junior, he never seems to have had a regular job. At the end of their lives, Louie and Tom shared a home together, at Swindon.

In 1941, with the lack of labour and wartime restrictions making farming ever more difficult, Louie and her brother, Tom, were invited to live at Hill Top Farm for an indefinite period. A letter dated 8th May 1941 explains that Mrs Heelis was concerned about the empty house with its valuable contents and the danger of it attracting evacuees. Thus Louie and Tom stayed there for two years, before moving south again.

Louie never married.

In the year following Beatrix Potter's death, when Margaret Lane was collecting material for her biography, Beatrix's husband, William Heelis suggested that Louie might have preserved some of her letters. This was indeed so and now the correspondence has been kept for posterity.

If you wish to know more, the book, "The Choyce Letters: Beatrix Potter and Louie Choyce. 1916 - 1943," can be obtained from, The Sales Manager, Beatrix Potter Publications, 9 Broadfields, Harpenden, Herts. AL25 2HJ, U.K. The current price for the book, including postage and packaging, is:- £7, Overseas £8-50

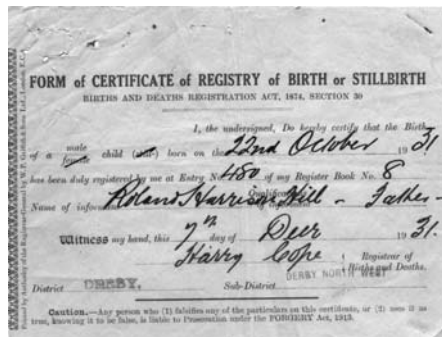
A Genealogical Nightmare!

WE ARE ALL familiar with the difficulty in tracing some of our ancestors. Either the family moved away whilst one child was born (and Christened) or the Cleric forgot to make the entry in the Parish Register, or the Register has been lost, etc.

I pity the poor future genealogist who might be attempting to trace my ancestry! You might think that with the fairly distinctive name Roland John Moxon Hill, it would be easy to trace my Birth Certificate dated 1931. Right? - Wrong!

For a start, knowing that I was brought up in Utttoxeter in Staffordshire, he might first look in the Staffordshire records, but would draw a blank. I was born in the Maternity Hospital in Derby. If he knew this fact, then when he trawled through the Derbyshire records, he would also draw a blank!

Before reading further, have a look at my Birth Certificate:



It merely registers the birth of a male child - no name! - and it is quite legal.

There was discord within the family about what names I should be given. This is undoubtedly the reason why my Father did not register the birth until 6 weeks after I was born - and even then, names had not been decided.

My paternal grandparents wanted me to be named Thomas, after my grandfather. Mother, however, wanted me named John, after her father. Her eldest sister had already named her son John, and said that it would be ridiculous to have a cousin, also named John. (In the end, her son, a few years older than me, got called "Big John" and I got called "Little John" for many years!)

There was a second problem, Mother, and her family, were staunch Anglicans, Father, and his family were staunch Methodists. There was thus some acrimony regarding the Church in which I should be Christened. The "Hill" family thought it would be a slight on them if I was Christened in the Utttoxeter Anglican Church and not the Utttoxeter Methodist Church!

The "discussions" went on for four months.

Finally a compromise was reached, when, eventually, I was Christened on 28th February 1932 in Lullington Parish Church (the village near Burton, where mother was born and lived)

I was named Roland, after my Father, John after Mother's Father, and Moxon after Mother's maiden name. The story goes that they were still arguing about my names, whilst driving to Lullington!

Lt. James Moxon, R.N.

Researched by John and Sue Moxon

Extract from O'Byrne's - A Naval Biographical Dictionary
(from the Portsmouth Library - Navy Section)

WE FIRST mentioned Lt. James Moxsom (Moxon) R.N. in "Roots 5" - The Moxons of Ebbesborne Wake, Wiltshire (MM 22 October 1998) where we recorded that he founded a long line of Moxons in Nova Scotia. Later, in MM25 (April 2000) we recorded some details of his Naval Career after receiving his commission. John and Sue have now determined his earlier days in the Navy.

JAMES MOXON Appointed Lieutenant in 1813

On Full Pay for 10 years (to 1813) and then Half Pay for 34 years.

James Moxon entered the Navy, 23 Sept. 1803, as an Ordinary seaman, on board the ZEALAND 64 (64 Guns), Capt. Wm. Mitchell, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Bartholomew Sam. Rowley at the Nore;

Served as Midshipman, from March 1804, to May 1805, in the VETERAN 64, Capts. Rich. King and Jas. Newman, and ACHILLE 74, Capt. R. King, on the Channel and Cadiz stations; and in Oct. of the latter year joined the CLEOPATRA 32, Capts. John Wight, Wm. Love, Robt. Simpson, and Sam. John Pechell. Under Captain Pechell he assisted, on his arrival in the West Indies from Halifax, at the capture (the British ships JASON 32 and HAZARD 18 in company) of the French 40 gun frigate LA TOPAZE, 22 Jan. 1809, after a very spirited action fought chiefly between the CLEOPATRA and the enemy; and in the ensu-

ing month he co-operated in the reduction of Martinique.

From Oct. 1810 until Nov. 1812 Mr. Moxon served, again at Halifax and also in the North Sea, the greatest part of the time as Master's Mate, in the SWIFTSURE 74, flagship of Sir John Borlase Warren, and in the CHRISTIAN VII 80, and IMPREGNABLE 98, bearing each the flag of Admiral Wm. Young.

He was promoted, 27 March 1813, to a Lieutenantancy in the SAN DOMINGO 74, then the flag-ship of Sir J.B. Warren; and he was afterwards employed for several months in 1813-14 in the COLOMBIA sloop, Capts. John Kinsman and Henry Ducie Chads, and TERPSICHOIRE 32, Capt. Wm. Bowen Mends, both on the North American station.

He has been on half-pay since June of the latter year.

Notes - F.P. Full pay
H.P. Half pay
No. after each Ship's name - no. of guns.

Editor's Note: He had met Hannah Ann Proud when his ship was operating out of Halifax between 1810 and 1812. Whilst the Columbia was being refitted at Chatham, he dashed over to Nova Scotia to marry Hannah, then back for service in the Mediterranean, before Columbia returned to the North American Station. Then 34 years on half pay, farming in Nova Scotia! Not bad going!

Connie Moxon

Member of Cawthorne

Was Featured in an Article in Yorkshire Life Magazine in November 2001
about Cawthorne

Written by Gill Haynes, who spent her early days living in the Village.
Part of that article is re-printed below, courtesy of Yorkshire Life.

AT 94 CONNIE MOXON is Cawthorne's oldest resident to have spent all her life in the village and she has many happy memories of when deer roamed the fields and cows were herded up the main street for milking. Her father was the sub post master and one of her jobs as a child was delivering letters around the village on her bike, consequently there were not many people she did not know. One of four, her

brother Walter, was named after Sir Walter Stanhope, of Cannon Hall. This came about one day when Sir Walter, then in his later years, was pushed from the hall in his cane bath chair down to the post office - just as Connie's mother had given birth to her baby son.

Connie was also a keen golfer and played on the village's former nine-hole golf course, where evidence of one tee can still be seen. The village also had an open-air swimming pool. No doubt many villagers would love a golf course today.

Thus this fictitious future genealogist, would not have found my Birth Certificate, and would have had to have had the inspiration to search the Lullington Parish Register for my baptism!

Whenever I have needed to produce my Birth Certificate, I have always shown my Baptism Certificate as well - and never had a problem.

(Roland) John Moxon Hill

Although 94 when the above article was written, Connie is now 95.

Connie's late husband, James, who those Members who attended the first Gathering in 1989 will remember meeting at the Jubilee Museum, provided most of the information for Moxon Family Tree MX02.

See photo of Connie on page 2.

Ed.

Samuel Barker Moxon

By Bob Moxon Browne

Bob Moxon Browne Q.C., (Member) lives in London. He is descended from the Browne family which married into the early Moxons of Great Yarmouth. Since those days, the eldest son in his family has always had "Moxon" included as a Christian name.



THE OTHER DAY, while engaged on some quite unrelated work, I came across the fact that in the year 1800, the Mayor of Great Yarmouth was one Samuel Barker. The name rang a bell - as it will to the many American descendants of Samuel Barker Moxon, born in Great Yarmouth in 1760, emigrated to America in 1836 and died in Rochester, New York State in 1847. (Note 1)

So who was Samuel Barker? And why did the father of the American Moxons bear his name?

Mayor Samuel Barker was the son of Samuel Barker of Lowestoft (about 15 miles south of Yarmouth) a substantial merchant and a member of an old-established Lowestoft family (Note 2) who claimed the right to arms: *"Barry of ten or and sanguine over all a bend gules"*. (Note 3)

Samuel junior moved to Yarmouth, setting up a large house (at Fassett's Row running between Howard Street and King Street but destroyed by German bombs in the Second War). He quickly rose to prominence as a merchant and, as mayor of the town, deserves a footnote in history as a friend of Admiral Lord Nelson. Nelson was himself of Norfolk birth, and as we shall see became a freeman of Yarmouth, where he first set foot in England after the Battle of the Nile, on 6th October 1800, and whence he sailed for the Battle of Copenhagen, in March 1801.

Nelson's arrival in Yarmouth after the Battle of the Nile is well-documented, not least because he was accompanied by his scandalous paramour, Lady Hamilton, and her complaisant husband, Sir William. The three of them were greeted by the Mayor, who organised a service of thanksgiving, and made Lord Nelson a freeman of the town, before giving him (and presumably also the Hamiltons) dinner at his house in Fassett's Row. (Note 4)

Nelson was evidently impressed with all this fuss made over him: the next day he personally directed the Naval Agents, Messrs Marsh & Creed, to pay *"£50 for his Worship the Mayor, to be distributed by him"*.

Nelson was back in Great Yarmouth in March 1801, before setting sail in the battleship *St George* for the Battle of Copenhagen. Before sailing, he must have renewed his acquaintance with Samuel Barker, who subsequently sent Nelson his congratulations on a great naval victory. Nelson, a tireless letter-writer, replied from on board the *St George*, anchored in Kiøge Bay off the coast of Copenhagen, on 27th April 1801:

"My dear Sir, - I feel truly sensible of your kind congratulations on the success of his majesty's arms. The zeal and spirit of the navy I never saw higher than in this fleet. The French have always, in ridicule, called us a nation of shopkeepers, if our goods are better

than those of any other country, and we can afford to sell them cheaper, we may depend upon our shop being well resorted to. If I land at Yarmouth I shall most assuredly pay my personal respects to you, not only as a gentleman who has shown me great civilities, but also as the chief magistrate of a borough of which I have the honor to be a freeman. I beg you will have the goodness to present my best respects and good wishes to every individual of the corporate body."

So why did Samuel Barker Moxon bear the same names as his contemporary, the hospitable Mayor?

In fact it is easy to make the link between Samuel Barker, Mayor of Yarmouth, and Samuel Barker Moxon, father of the American Moxons. Samuel Barker Moxon got his forenames from his mother, Jane Barker, who married Thomas Moxon (the second son of John Moxon of Yarmouth) in the mid-1700's. Jane Barker was a sister of Samuel Barker of Lowestoft, (Note 5) and therefore the Mayor's aunt. So Mayor Samuel Barker and Samuel Barker Moxon were first cousins.

For completeness - but at the risk of complicating this account - I should add that there is in existence (Note 6) a manuscript pedigree of the Moxon family, drawn up in about 1912, which shows that Samuel Barker Moxon was the grandson rather than the son of Thomas Moxon and Jane Barker. Although not impossible, this seems unlikely, given that there were only 38 years between the birth of Thomas Moxon in 1722 and the birth of Samuel Barker Moxon in 1760. According to this family tree, Samuel Moxon's father was also called Samuel (no other details are given) so if there was some confusion that is not surprising.

I have not been able to discover when Samuel Barker the mayor was born, but he was probably at least 10 years older than his cousin, being sufficiently well established to buy his house in Fassett's Row in 1779. The age gap is confirmed by the fact that in 1784, when Samuel Barker Moxon was 24, he was made a freeman of Yarmouth. The record describes him as a *"grocer of London"* and the apprentice of *"Samuel Barker"* - i.e. almost certainly his older cousin. So as well as being related, it seems the two men were in business together, and, as early as 1784, trading in London. Although the description *"grocer"* may sound comparatively humble to our ears, in the 18th century the word was apt to describe any merchant who bought *"gross"* (i.e. wholesale) and sold at net, or retail, prices. It is possible that with bases in the Ports of Yarmouth and London, both Samuels were in quite a substantial way of business as importers - perhaps of coffee, sugar, spices and other commodities from the West Indies and other parts of the expanding empire.

Today the numerous family of Samuel Barker Moxon have every reason to be proud of their descent on his mother's side from the Barkers. This old family were every bit as well-respected as the Moxons, and seem to have been firmly established in Lowestoft for several centuries. I have no doubt that further research there (and/or in the very user-friendly Norfolk Record Office) would easily yield much more information than has been revealed by my own rather casual investigation. I can think of no better excuse for one of our American cousins to take a summer holiday on the east coast of England!

Footnotes:

- 1 See *"Lost Moxon Tribe Re-Surfaces After 150 Years"* Moxon Magazine No. 5, April 1990, and a number of subsequent articles about this branch of the family in America.
- 2 An ancestor, Sir Edward Barker, fought for the King in the Civil War, and in 1643 was taken prisoner by Oliver Cromwell.
- 3 Ten alternating gold and red stripes overlaid with a diagonal yellow band.
- 4 See *"Perlustration of Great Yarmouth"* by Charles J Palmer Vol 1 p. 399.
- 5 See *Perlustration of Great Yarmouth* Vol 1 page 401.
- 6 In the Walthamstow Museum in East London - near where Thomas Moxon of Leyton (1792-1869) lived.

"Where there's a Will", continued from page 16

official. To take away this building might even have been to have taken away Leonard's livelihood, but of course, we shall never know. The practice of leaving money to close personal friends for the purchase of mourning rings for the deceased, is indeed an old one. There is something very personal about a ring that would be carried on one's finger in the years to come. Such a bequest is acknowledging the testator's esteem and regard in which he holds his nearest and dearest friends. It shows that the bonds of true friendship cannot be broken by death and what a comfort the mourning ring must have been to the recipient.

Thomas, our testator, was a member of one of the two Moxon clans who came to settle in Kingston-upon-Hull. It was Henry, Thomas's Father, who set his roots down here and it was Thomas's grandson who later moved on to Great Yarmouth, where the Moxons prospered as a sea-faring family. The later Moxons of Hull, who earned their money as Bankers, Financiers and Ship owners, stem from a different branch of the Moxon family, emanating from Pontefract, Yorkshire. It should be noted though that both these prosperous families contributed much to the very life-blood of their chosen town, being involved in the running of the local government there. They were also generous benefactors.

All this prosperity finally came to an end when the Moxon Bankers of Hull lost all their money.

Finally, it should be added that this really is, *"The Last Will and Testament"* in the series as we have run out of suitable Wills to publish - unless, of course, some kind and thoughtful person sends us a copy of an interesting family Will.

“**W**here there's a Will...”

29th in the Series By Joan Rendall
Will of Thomas Moxon of Hull
 Dated 29th February 1671/2 Proved 14th May 1672



In the name of God, Amen. The 29th day of February, Anno Domini 1671, Anno Regis Casoli Secundo the 24th. I Thomas Moxon of the towne of Kingston upon Hull Merchant being sicke in body but of sound mind and perfect memory, praised be God for the same, do make and appoint this my last will and testament in forme following. First I committ my soul to the hands of Almighty God who gave me it hoping for the salvation thereof in and through the merits and satisfaction of Jesus Christ my Saviour and Redeemer. And my body to the earth whence it came to be buried in the Trinity Church Yard so with my mother as with conveniency may be. And for the worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me I do give and dispose of the same as followeth.

First I give and bequeath to my wellbeloved wife the summe of four hundred pounds in full of all her claime out of my estate, which she hath promised to accept of in full of all her claim out of my estate.

And I do give to my son Henry Moxon the summe of three hundred pounds in full of all his claime out of my estate.

Also I give to my sons Thomas, John and Leonard and to Dorothy and Anna my daughters to each of them two hundred pounds apiece in full of all their claime out of my estate.

And my will is that whereas a great part of my estate doth now lye beyond sea and so lyable to uncertainty if either any debts prove bad or any losse happen in its return.that an equal abatement be made by each of my children out of the severall bequests made to them proporconably and according to such loss.

And the rest of my goods and chattels my debts and legacies paid and funerales I give and bequeath unto my wellbeloved wife whom I make sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

And I do give unto my son Leonard all that my mesuage or tenement with its appurtenances in Grimsby in the County of Lincolne which I purchased of Mr. John Brame being now used as the custome house to have and to hold to him the said Leonard my son and to his heires and assigns for ever.

And I do earnestly intreat my good friends Mr. Joh Foils and Mr. Robert Mason to be supervisors of this my will and to be aiding and assisting to my said executrix in the due execucon of this my will. And I do give unto each of them twenty shillings to buy them rings.

Witness my hand and seale the day and year abovesaid Tho: Moxon signed sealed and published in the presence of Robert Mason, James Wilson.

Probatum

The will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, probate being granted to Anna Moxon, widow and executrix, on 14th May 1672.

Notes on The Will of Thomas Moxon

THE WILL of Thomas Moxon of Kingston upon Hull, dated 29th February, 1671, presented me with a problem before I had even read to the end of the first line. It was the date that puzzled me. Surely 29th February, Leap Year's Day, did not exist before the year 1751/2? In the last

edition of the MM magazine, I had contributed a brief article about it, entitled, 'A Little Useless Comment' so was my Useless Comment even more useless than I had intended? I had implied that the extra day of 29th February was added to the calendar in 1751/2. This preyed

on my mind and so I decided to give Graham

Jagger a ring, as he always appears to be the fount of all knowledge on these thorny subjects.

A few days' later, when I received his reply, it so fascinated me that I asked him if it could be produced in full in this edition of the MM. [See Page 10]. I have subsequently checked my last article and found it to be correct except for the origins of Leap Year's Day. My apologies.. However, it should always be remembered that in 1751/2, New Year's Day was changed from 25th March to 1st January, making the year of 1751 little more than nine months long. This can so easily cause confusion for the family historian. Even our late President, Jimmy Moxon fell into a trap here. In his book, *The Moxons of Yorkshire*, on page 84, he tells us that John, the founder of the Staffordshire Moxons and his brother, Thomas, the founder of the Leicestershire branch, were twins. This was not so and realising his mistake, a footnote was then added on page 86 of his book to set the record straight.

Thomas, our Will-maker, left estates in two counties, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. In addition he left estate which 'doth now lye beyond sea'. This explains why the Will was proved in The Prerogative Court of Canterbury and not that of York, where the majority of northern Wills were usually processed. ,

The contents of the Will are clear and concise. Thomas, a wealthy man indeed, divides his estate between his large surviving family of 4 sons and 2 daughters, but only after ensuring that his wife will remain financially secure for the rest of her life. Leonard appears to have gained rather more than his siblings in the legacy stakes, being left The Customs House in Grimsby. It seems likely then that Leonard may have worked in the building as a Customs

Continued at foot of previous page.

THE MOXON SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President & Acting Secretary: John C.Moxon.

Membership Secretary: Suzanne Moxon.

Both of 1, Pinetree Close, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8DX. Tel: 01983 296921

e:mail john.moxon@virgin.net

Chairman & Editor: John Moxon Hill, 15, Belvedere Rd. Earlsdon, Coventry. CV5 6PF. Tel: 024-76672797

e:mail john.moxonhill@which.net

Minutes Secretary: Diana Trotter, "Pippins", 55, Brook Street, Hartshorne, Derbys. DE11 7AH. Tel: 01283819414.

Treasurer: Warren Eastwood, 4, Southdown Close, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2JU. Tel: 01625-424731. e:mail warrenandmargaret@amserv.net

The Moxon Web Site:

moxon.org.uk

The New Moxon Society Web Site:

www.moxonsociety.org

Web Master: John S Earnshaw of The Coach House, Bretton Park, Wakefield, WF4 4JX

Tel: 01924 830357

e:mail john@westbretton.com

Magazine Proof Reader: Dymps Moxon Hill

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Chairman: Dr. John E.U.Moxon, West Lodge, Christchurch Street West, Frome, Somt. BA11 1EH.

Secretary to the Trustees: Jane Mickelthwaite, 59, Grantham Road, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 7NG.