



THE MOXON MAGAZINE

The Magazine for the Moxons, Established by James Moxon in 1988
Founding Editor and First President of the Society
No. 34 October 2004 Published April and October

DURHAM GATHERING



MEMBERS ON THE GREEN IN FRONT OF THE CATHEDRAL

Left to Right: Birgit Moxon, Graham Jagger, Jim Moxon, Sue Moxon, Gwynneth Moxon, Angela Jagger, John E U Moxon, Ann Moxon, Ron Moxon, Judy Huggett, Alvin Moxon, Clare Moxon, Diana Trotter, Sue Earnshaw, John Earnshaw, Gillie McKeown and John C Moxon.

ON WHAT MUST have been one of the most glorious weekends of the summer, 20 members of the Moxon Society met at Collingwood College in the University of Durham for the annual Moxon Gathering. In addition to members from the length and breadth of England, it was a delight to meet again Alvin, Jim and Birgit from the USA.

As always, the first item on the programme was the annual general meeting. Some members of the committee thought that the time to retire had come, and two officers thought that after a number of years service it was time to hand the baton to younger hands. Margaret and

Warren Eastwood retired and John Moxon (Isle of Wight) relinquished the post of Secretary. John Earnshaw was elected Treasurer in the place of Warren, and Sue Earnshaw nobly volunteered to take on the mantle of Secretary from John. Warren and John were warmly thanked for their years of sterling service. Graham Jagger was elected President and John (Isle of Wight) became Vice President.

Saturday morning began with a hearty breakfast and a brisk walk down the hill from Collingwood towards Palace Green, on one side of which stands the cathedral facing, and greatly dwarfing, the castle. A guided tour of the

castle was followed by coffee in the cathedral refectory and a tour round the cathedral, visiting its two most sacred places, the tomb of Saint Cuthbert at the east end and that of the Venerable Bede at the west.

After lunch, which was taken by many in the cathedral refectory, and by a couple of the more bibulous members of the party in a local pub, we journeyed to the Beamish open-air museum. This museum aims to portray life as it was in the north-east at the turn of the nineteenth century. Many buildings of this period have been transplanted from nearby towns and

continued in column 2 on next page.

Photo by John McKeown.



RETIRING PRESIDENT'S LETTER No 10

IN THE LAST issue of the magazine I mentioned that we needed new faces taking charge of some of the tasks associated with the running of the Society because the present incumbents were not getting any younger. We were not overwhelmed with volunteers but two lady members and a gentleman said they would take care of the magazine distribution, the old magazines and the "Moxon" books, store them and then post to members when they are asked for.

The first member to volunteer was Mrs Joan Clarke of Marston Morteyne in Bedfordshire and by return of post I very thankfully accepted her offer. Soon afterwards Mrs Patricia Bascombe of Ashurst near Southampton sent a note offering to do the same task and I thanked her very much but I had to tell her that the vacancy had already been filled. Whilst John Moxon Hill was on holiday in Australia, he received an offer from Mr. Kenneth Moxon of Castell Talybont, near Conway. He also has been thanked.

I do commend all three members for volunteering and setting an example to other members to follow. None of the tasks we are seeking to fill with younger members are very difficult to carry out or time consuming but we do need some changes at the "top" in order to ensure continuity of the Society. In particular, new people will bring with them new ideas to the running and the aims of the Society that I think is now needed.

Many of these jobs are interesting and rewarding and also provide the means of being in touch with our membership thereby making new friends and acquaintances.

More recently, John S Earnshaw, Web Master, has volunteered to become Treasurer. Many thanks, John - offer "snapped up"!

So, come on you younger members let's hear from you!

JCM

WANTED

A Member, who has some experience of Desk Top Publishing (DTP), or willing to learn, to help out in the preparation of *The Moxon Magazine*, with a view to becoming Editor in a few years time. DTP programs are easy to use, being similar to Word Processing programs. If necessary the Society could assist in the procurement of a suitable program.

Please contact John Moxon Hill for a "no obligation" discussion. (see back page for contact details).

Modern communications would easily cope with a non U.K. resident Editor.

Please contact John Moxon Hill for a "no obligation" discussion. (see back page for contact details)

rebuilt on the site of what was once a working coal mine. The rebuilt town boasts a number of shops, the co-op for instance, a bank, and a working pub (not nineteenth century prices, though!). Opposite the rebuilt school and Methodist chapel was a marquee labelled 'Beer Tent'; the President considered it his professional duty to conduct a quality assurance audit of this establishment.

Travelling round the large area of the museum was made easy by the open-topped tram which ran round the perimeter of the site.



Alvin amazed us all by abandoning his wheelchair and climbing up the steep and narrow stairs of the tram to the top deck like someone half (a third?) his age!



Dinner on Saturday was followed by a talk on the history of Durham by David Butler who, in the midst of what seems to be a very busy life, is an archivist in the Durham Record Office. David's talk was greatly appreciated and fitted in well with what we had seen on our tour of the castle and cathedral earlier in the day. The formal part of the Gathering ended with the presentation to Alvin of a model of the tram, the stairs of which he had earlier scaled, as a memento of this daring exploit.

We all look forward to meeting in Winchester next year on Friday, 2nd September 2005.

JG

See page 10 for Photos of Society Officers

Editorial:

I AM DELIGHTED!

I am delighted to welcome John S Earnshaw as our new Treasurer, and Sue Earnshaw as our new "Hon. Sec.", and also Joan Clarke, who will be taking over the distribution of this Magazine shortly.

I am sure you will all join with me in thanking Warren Eastwood for his sterling service to the Society as Treasurer for many years, and also Margaret Eastwood, who joined the Committee, originally as Assistant Secretary to the late Jimmy Moxon during his long periods in Ghana, and then as a General Committee Member, who has now retired.

Our thanks are also due to Diana Trotter who stepped in to help John C Moxon when he took on the role of Acting Secretary, by becoming Minute Writer for Committee meetings and AGM's.

I am delighted to publish three articles by "Young Moxons" in this issue. I fear, that in at least two cases, some gentle "arm twisting" went on - but the results certainly justify the means! Matthew Walters (page 5) has used an interview style - which is a first for the magazine, and reads very well.

Why shouldn't other members do a little off-spring arm twisting too? Come on! Let's have more "Young Moxon" articles.

I am delighted at the response of members in providing plenty of material for this issue. Please keep it coming in - this magazine is not like many TV stations - we do not do endless repeats! We need lots of new material for each issue.

The Society is looking for three volunteers to help with the following: Membership Secretarial duties and Research Co-ordination

Assistance with the editing of the magazine, with a view, in a year or so, to become editor. Details are given elsewhere in this issue.

And finally, I am delighted that the Gathering in Durham was such a success, Dymps and I were so sorry we could not attend.

JMH

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to The Society:

The Honourable Edward Moxon Roberts, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

Mr. A C Moxon of Pickering, N.Yorks. U.K.

Mr. Paul D Moxon of Walmer, Kent U.K.

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THE MOXON FALLEN IN WORLD WAR II

IN AN ARTICLE in the April 2004 edition of *The Moxon Magazine* I wrote about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and gave a list of all those bearing the Moxon name who fell in what was then called The Great War. In this article I have given a list of all those Moxons who fell in World War II.

This list differs from that for World War I in that civilian casualties are also included. There is, for example, the Moxon family of 355

Walworth Road, London, which was wiped out when St. Peter's Church shelter, Liverpool Grove, in which they sought refuge, was destroyed by enemy action.

Like the previous list, this list gives an indication of the widespread distribution of the Moxon name. As well as the individuals from the Moxon heartlands of Yorkshire, there is also a representative of the Canadian branch of the family.

The names of many in this list will already be known to Moxon researchers: others may be new discoveries whose place on the Moxon Family Tree is yet to be fixed.

The copyright of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is gratefully acknowledged.

Graham Jagger

Name	Rank	Date of Death	Age	Regiment	Additional Information	Grave/Memorial
Alfred Chenoworth	Leading Aircraftman	20 March 1944	21	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	Son of Edward and Rose Edith Moxon, of Sheerness, Kent.	Ambion War Cemetery, Indonesia
Arthur	Able Seaman	22 October 1943		H.M.S. Hurworth, Royal Navy		Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire
Arthur Henry	Civilian	29 October 1940	59	Civilian War Dead	of 355 Walworth Road. Husband of E. Moxon. at St. Peter's Church shelter, Liverpool Grove	Metropolitan Borough of Southwark, Civilian War Dead
Barbara Diana	Civilian	29 October 1940	11m	Civilian War Dead	Aged 11 months; of 355 Walworth Road. Daughter of Gnr. John J. Moxon, R.A., and of Elsie May Moxon. at St. Peter's Church Shelter, Liverpool Grove.	Metropolitan Borough of Southwark, Civilian War Dead
Charles Henry Hope	Corporal	19 December 1940	26	2 nd Bn., Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment	Son of Charles and Mabel Moxon, of East Peckham, Kent	Imtarfa Military Cemetery, Malta
Claude Frederick	Gunner	13 December 1944	21	55 (The West Somerset Yeomanry) Field Regt., Royal Artillery	Son of Frederick Norton Moxon and Phyllis Mary Moxon, of Northfleet, Kent.	Nederweert War Cemetery, Limburg, Netherlands
Cyril	Private	6 August 1943		1 st Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment		Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
Elsie May	Civilian	29 October 1940	24	Civilian War Dead	of 355 Walworth Road. Wife of Gnr. John J. Moxon, R.A. at St. Peter's Church Shelter, Liverpool Grove.	Metropolitan Borough of Southwark, Civilian War Dead
Eric	Private	17 July 1943	28	8 th Bn., Durham Light Infantry	Son of Charles and Emily Moxon, of Chapeltown, Sheffield	Catania War Cemetery, Italy
Eric	Corporal	8 October 1945	23	11 th , Royal Tank Regiment, R.A.C.	Son of James Thomas Moxon and Gertrude Moxon; husband of Charlotte Moxon.	Manchester (Philips Park) Cemetery, Lancashire
Ernest	Gunner	7 October 1942	22	A Bty., 11 (Honourable Artillery Coy.) Regt., Royal Horse Artillery	Son of Frank Taylor Moxon and Edith Gertrude Moxon, of Bradford, Yorkshire	Bari War Cemetery, Italy
Fred Henry	Flying Officer	1 July 1944		12 (R.A.F.) Sqdn, Royal Canadian Air Force		Vernou-en-Sologne Communal Cemetery, Loir-et-Cher, France
Frederick	Ordinary Telegraphist	11 March 1943	34	H.M.S. Harvester, Royal Navy	Son of William and Anna Moxon; husband of Alice Annie Moxon, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.	Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent
George Edward	Lieutenant	9 June 1944	31	4th County of London Yeo. (Sharpshooters), R.A.C.	Son of George Henry Denison Moxon and Helena Florence Moxon; husband of Florence Joan Elizabeth Moxon, of Norbury, Surrey.	Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France
Harold	Private	25 October 1942	27	2 nd Btn., Seaforth Highlanders	Son of Fred and Ann Moxon, of Mexborough, Yorkshire; husband of Mary Moxon, of Mexborough.	El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
Harry	Sergeant	23 November 1942	24	161 Sqdn, m Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	Son of William and Annie Moxon; husband of Jessie I. Moxon, of Highgate, Middlesex.	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey
Harry Raymond	Gunner	16 July 1943	24	3 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery	Son of Harry and Blanche Moxon, of New Earswick, Yorkshire.	Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand
J R	Ground Engineer	26 January 1945	35	Ground Engineer British Overseas Airways Corporation	Son of Richard and Jessie Moxon; husband of Beatrice Moxon, of Walsall, Staffordshire.	Cairo New British Protestant Cemetery, Egypt
Joseph Richard	Private	15 September 1947	35	Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps	Husband of Anna M. Moxon, of Sweetsburg	Cowansville (ste. Rose-de-Lima) R.C. Cemetery, Quebec, Canada
Ralph Ronald Edwin	Sapper	18 August 1940	21	48 Bomb Disposal Sec., Royal Engineers	Son of Frederick William Edwin and Margaret Moxon, of Walthamstow, Essex.	Aldershot Military Cemetery, Hampshire
Rowland	Civilian	13 December 1940	57	Civilian War Dead	of 68 Grove Street, Pitsmoor. Husband of Mary Jane Moxon. at Grove Street.	County Borough of Sheffield, Yorkshire (West Riding) Civilian War Dead

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Name	Rank	Date of Death	Age	Regiment	Additional Information	Grave/Memorial
Wallace	Lance Corporal	27 May 1940	36	7 th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment	Son of Henry Harry and Ellen Moxon, of Birmingham; husband of Amy Frances Moxon, of Great Barr, Birmingham.	Esquermes War Cemetery, Pecq, Hainaut, Belgium
William	Signalman	19 June 1945	34	IV. Corps Sigs., Royal Corps of Signals	Son of Ernest and Mary Ann Moxon; husband of Ivy Alicia Moxon, of Peckham, London.	Rangoon War Cemetery, Myanmar
William Harold Walter	Sapper	7 November 1943		256 Field Coy., Royal Engineers	Son of Charles T. and Nellie Moxon, of Rainworth, Nottinghamshire	Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy

NATIONAL BURIAL INDEX for England and Wales

THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES has announced the completion of the **Second** Edition of the National Burial Index, containing over 13 million burial records from Anglican parish, nonconformist and

cemetery **burial registers** throughout England and Wales. The record timescale ranges from 1538 to almost present day.

No monumental inscriptions or details of death registrations are included.

It will be available as a 4 CD set for £45 from 1 September.

Contact nbi@ffhs.co.uk or phone 0161 797 3843.

If you already have a copy of the first edition, then the second edition can be obtained for £25, **BUT**, as one of the previous CD's has to be returned, phone for details.

READERS LETTERS

This is an extract of the letter written by Leslie Moxon to John and Sue Moxon, when he paid his annual subscription.

Dear John and Sue,

We were interested to hear that you had watched the Queen Mary II travel to her home port for the first time, since my father returned to the States in 1936 on Queen Mary I, after spending a year in China. Win and I had a tour of her several years ago at her home port in Long Beach, California.

This new version sounds like quite a ship!

Leslie and Win Moxon
Members of Wayne, PA, USA.

Another letter sent with their annual subscription to John and Sue Moxon, who live on the Isle of Wight.

Dear John and Sue,

I thought you might be interested to know that we have just booked a trip on Queen Mary II. - a Bath Travel Special. We fly to New York from Bournemouth, spend two days in NY where we shall see our son and daughter-in-law, and then cruise back to Southampton on QM II.

Did you know that my grandfather, Reginald Moxon (Jimmy Moxon's uncle) was vicar of East Cowes in the late 1930's, and then vicar of All saints, Ryde, during the war. We always spent out summer holidays either at Ryde or Sea View.

My Aunt Gwen (née Moxon) and her husband also lived in IoW during the 1940's. Her husband was Governor of Parkhurst Prison. I have very fond memories of the island, and we have made various visits back in recent years.

Helen Rowe,
Member of Salisbury.

A MOXON FOUND AT PARKHURST PRISON In The Isle of Wight

By Sue Moxon

JOHN AND I VISITED the Parkhurst Prison Museum, an evening trip that had been arranged by the Isle of Wight Family History Society. Parkhurst is a major prison, one of three on the island. It was a very interesting visit but being Family Historians we had to scrutinise every index for any of our surnames.

The only one of our family names came to light and that was a Moxon. William Henry Moxon - Aged 10 - released to a Philanthropic Society on the 4 January 1855. During the period 1838 to 1863 some 4088 juveniles passed through Parkhurst Prison; 2524 were transported to the "New Lands". Parkhurst was first built in 1798 as a Military Hospital and medical asylum for children of soldiers. In 1838 it was converted into a juvenile prison mainly for boys awaiting transportation to Australia. At the time that young Moxon was being held in Parkhurst the boys were not transported but could be sent to "philanthropic" organisations, which were privately run reformatories.

When we next visited the National Archives at Kew we searched for his criminal record and found he was sentenced together with a James Bushell (aged 11) at the Quarter Sessions at Dover, Kent on the 31 March 1854. They both received 4 years prison sentence for misdemeanour in obtaining goods under false pretences. The records state that they could not read or write and had no trade.

Fellow Member Barbara O'Neil stepped in to help us by searching the records at the Family Record Centre and she discovered a William Henry Moxon of right age. He was born in Milford in the New Forest, Hampshire and his parents are named as John and Emmeline Moxon. John Moxon stated his profession as Coachman at the time of William Henry's birth.



We really felt that we wanted to find out more about this young lad so we visited Hampshire Record Office at Winchester.

There seems to be quite a clutch of Moxon/Moxom's around Lymington and Portsmouth areas. We found the marriage of John and Emmeline Moxon (not Moxom this time) at Christchurch on 13 August 1839.

We have not been able to trace William Henry on any census after his release, and he does not appear on the 1881 census. Perhaps he went back to Prison? Or maybe he was transported after all? We have repeatedly asked the question "how come he was sentenced in Dover"? What we have been able to uncover is that, at the time of his sentencing, the Quarter Sessions at Maidstone were so overloaded, that many cases were sent to the Court at Dover. The connection with Lymington Hampshire and Kent is not known but he may have been employed in coastal traffic or perhaps he ran away from home to become a sailor.

We felt so sorry for this lad that we felt we wanted to find out as much as possible about him, but we now seem to have come to a dead end. Perhaps one day, as the Moxon Society records become much more extensive, we will find out more about him.

Sue Moxon

Is any member able to add any more to this sad story?

WANTED

Member willing to take over the duties of Membership Secretary from Sue Moxon who after eight years, wishes to retire.

Contact Sue (see back page) for a "no obligation" discussion.

TREE CLIMBING!

Matthew Walters follows Ken Moxon's ancestry research

"You don't ask a man if he originates in Yorkshire - if he does he will tell you. If he doesn't, why embarrass the man?" Ken Moxon slumps back into his chair, a wide smile beaming from cheek to cheek. In his hands, he clutches the culmination of almost four years of dedicated research. This is a file that holds the answers, Ken tells me, that he has been seeking to find for decades.

"I started my search in 1942, my first year at Grammar School," Ken reminisces. "When I first met my Maths Master, T.A. Lewis, he asked me if I was related to John Moxen, whom he had met at university. I was unable to confirm or deny any relationship since I'd never heard of him".

"The incident was repeated in 1943 when I met one of my Welsh Language teachers, Mr. G. O. Jones. He commented that I was unlikely to be related to John Moxen, since our surnames were spelt differently.

"Maybe it was coincidence, but the incident was repeated for a third time when, in 1944, I was asked by a new Headmaster whether I was related to John Moxen. I was angered by his response of 'funny boy' when he realised that the spelling was different and I told him that the name was spelt both ways. It was at this point my search began - I resolved to find out why this anomaly occurred."

Ken met John Moxen at his grandfather's funeral in 1957, and discovered that John was his father's second cousin. He continued to keep in touch yet his letters expressed his annoyance at Ken's spelling of the family surname. "John's son had checked the records at Somerset House, and was insistent on spelling the surname with -en. Many years later I found the reason for the change in spelling - my great grandmother was illiterate and had signed her marriage certificate simply with an 'X'."

When I ask Ken about his initial research, he laughs. "On my first attempt I found a Moxon who had been executed for treason. This terminated my research until computers came on the scene."

Ken explains how DNA testing has helped to correct his family tree.

"Unfortunately my Grandfather, William Moxon, was orphaned at the age of six and had been brought up by his older sister. When I asked him about his father he was vague, he thought that he was either a ship's captain or a guard on the railway. He knew that his own place of birth was in the city of Bangor. After my Grandfather's death I obtained a copy of his marriage certificate where he had recorded his father's name as George Moxon, occupation as a railway porter or guard. The 1881 Census for Bangor listed the family's address, siblings and his father's age and place of birth as Liverpool. His occupation was as a guard or breaker. I.G.I. recorded his christening in 1840 at St. Peter's Liverpool. His parents were George Moxon and Catharine Moxon.

Their marriage was also recorded in St. Peter's Church Liverpool. I obtained a copy of



Ken Moxon

the marriage certificate where George's father was listed as Joshua, occupation as a weaver. Catharine's father was William Evans, his occupation a joiner. The groom's occupation was blank. His wife's occupation was as a cook. A search of the film recording the christening showed George Senior to be a sailor. Their address was also recorded as Warren Street Liverpool. A search in the archives at William Brown Street Liverpool showed that the family resided in St. David's Place off Warren Street Liverpool. This area was heavily bombed during the war and was demolished when Liverpool was rebuilt. The Royal Mail building by Lime Street was built on the site. His age revealed his year of birth as 1815. A 'Y' recorded his place of birth - this could have been interpreted as Yorkshire or confirmation that he had been born in Liverpool. I failed to trace them in the 1851 Census in Liverpool and surrounding districts including Birkenhead.

"I often wondered why my great grandfather had come to Anglesey to work on the railway. The first commercial railway had started in Liverpool. The Chester and north Wales railway were never able to buy any rolling stock and had to rely on the London Northern Railway to run the service for them. The L. N. railway took over completely when the Chester and North Wales Railway went bankrupt shortly after. My G.G. grandmother Catherine's death was recorded in Amlwch, Anglesey in 1842 when her son was only two years old. I then found that her birth was recorded at Newborough Anglesey in 1813. This was probably the reason why he came to Wales since his relatives were still living in the region.

"Every time I tried to trace Joshua Moxon on the I. G. I. I was offered a choice of three Joshua Moxons in Darton in Yorkshire. It was at this stage that I joined the Moxon Society. I received a copy of three family trees and the most important was MX35, where George's birth was recorded. Since MX35 was accompanied by a warning that the information it contained had not been verified, I verified all the information contained in it by viewing the var-



ious films and microfiche at the Latter Day Saints Library in Rhyl. I eventually managed to trace the family back to circa 1677 in Tankersley, Yorkshire. My 'brick wall' came at this stage with the news that the records for the preceding 26 years had been lost or destroyed.

"It was during this period that the Society had decided to use D.N.A. techniques offered by Oxford Ancestors in an attempt to link one or more of the family trees of various members. I followed the results of the first tests with some excitement and curiosity. I was very pleased to take part when the chance was offered, and was rather perplexed when the result came linking me to other trees in Silkstone. I had to try and find the link for myself, meaning further research.

"I returned again to I.G.I. and remembered that Joshua's occupation had been listed as a linen weaver on the record of George's birth. I couldn't understand why it had not simply been stated as a weaver".

"Historical research showed that the machine invented by "Shoddy" was in use by that time to re-cycle waste material and presumably the name carried the same stigma of inferior quality that shoddy refers to today. George was born in Kexborough in the parish of Darton and I managed to buy a booklet listing all the residents in Kexborough in the 1851 Census. Joshua was listed aged 66. Joshua's place of birth was listed as Hoylandswaine, in the Parish of Silkstone. His wife's name was Mary Mokeson as in MX35. When I contacted John, he immediately sent me three family trees including MX26 showing a Joshua as number 26 born in 1785, corresponding with Joshua's age in 1851.

The D.N.A. showed that this was the correct Joshua, and not the Joshua born in Darton. This meant that I had been following the wrong tree. I really should have heeded the warning that accompanied the tree.

"When you are operating from a distance errors can occur. Without the D.N.A. result I would have been very reluctant to dismiss several years work. It would be interesting to find out how many members are in a similar position, and how they have verified their work. I can now work with more confidence on MX26 with the hope that I can go even further back." Connecting the three trees now takes me back to 1531.

A tale that spans over five hundred years - you don't get many of those, I think to myself. Ken smiles.

"Getting older has many benefits. When you realise that wrinkles don't hurt and that the

continued at the foot of column 3 on page 6.

FIONA HILL “DOWNUNDER”

This is her response to Diana Moxon’s plea for “Younger Moxons” to send in their experiences.

I LOVED AUSTRALIA from the day I arrived, August 1998. I had backpacked for 5 months through India, China and South East Asia with two girlfriends, and our last stop in Asia was a two week “holiday” in Bali with some friends from home to treat ourselves after our hard travels and to get ready for working life in Sydney.

Unfortunately we slipped right from the careful awareness we had developed during our time in Asia into holiday mode all too easily, and Kate and I both had our wallets stolen within the same 24-hour period.

We arrived in Sydney 2 days later with the grand total of AUD\$100 (£40) between us and hopeful that new visa cards would arrive soon - not the best start we could have had!

We soon gave up on trying to sleep off our jet lag amidst the snores of our fellow roommates in our hostel at Kings Cross, and decided to go and explore. From that moment I was smitten; Sydney has a certain feel about it that drew me in and made me want to stay. The CBD is quite compact and we soon walked down to the Opera House, Harbour Bridge and Botanical Gardens. The pictures don’t do them justice.

We found jobs and a flat amazingly quickly and happily settled into life in Sydney. New Zealand was the chosen venue for Christmas and New Year, which we enjoyed with our parents, and then headed back to Australia to see some more sights. Our trip brought us up the East Coast, via endless lush beaches, the Great Barrier Reef and Rain Forests, over to Darwin and Kakaduo National Park, down through the Red Centre, Ayres Rock, on to Adelaide, Melbourne and back to Sydney (with a few pub stops on the way!).

I stayed in Sydney for a further 4 months until my visa expired. I was devastated to be leaving, but apart from overstaying my visa or a shot gun wedding there seemed no way that I could stay for longer. I finally arrived home in England in December 1999, just in time for Christmas, and started a temping job at Marconi in Coventry almost immediately. I had not previously considered a job in Telecoms; and took the temping position only as a stopgap to save some money and think about my career. Surprisingly, I really enjoyed the work, and found myself accepting a permanent position after 3 weeks.

As luck would have it, the job involved supporting the Australian distributor. Telecoms was booming, and in February 2001 Marconi made the decision to open a full office in Sydney and asked me to come as part of the team. Unlike my original job offer in Marconi I couldn’t accept this one quickly enough!

It’s now February 2004, and I have been here in Sydney for nearly 4 years – time has flown! I miss my family and friends from the UK, but am lucky that they come to visit heaps, and have made some great mates here. I’m living near Manly with an awesome view over the harbour and a 10-minute walk to the surf and



Happy 30th. birthday!

only an hours drive to the wine regions and mountains. The weather is sunny nearly every day and the lifestyle is fantastic.

.....and how good was the World Cup Rugby!

Fiona is the daughter of John and Dymps Moxon Hill. As John and Dymps were leaving for Australia in mid-March, and the April Magazine had to be printed before they left, this article had to be carried over.

Fiona has now left her rented apartment, with this fantastic view, and bought an apartment in Harbord, just north of Fairlight, about a kilometre from Freshwater (ocean) beach.

WANTED

A Member, who has some experience of Desk Top Publishing (DTP), or willing to learn, to help out in the preparation of *The Moxon Magazine*, with a view to becoming Editor in a few years time. DTP programs are easy to use, being similar to Word Processing programs. If necessary the Society could assist in the procurement of a suitable program.

Please contact John Moxon Hill for a “no obligation” discussion. (see back page for contact details).

Modern communications would easily cope with a non U.K. resident Editor.

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weeds on the lawn are the same colour as the grass, another day’s growth will not matter. You have time to reflect and investigate our history. You appreciate the difficulties of living in those times. You develop a sense of pride in you’re ancestors knowing that whoever they were, without them we would not be here.”

MW

View from Fiona’s balcony, overlooking North Harbour. On the left, partially obscured by the trees, are the “Heads” - the entrance to Sydney Harbour, and beyond, the Tasman sea.



TOM MOXON OF MINNESOTA

JOHN AND SUE MOXON had a telephone call from Tom Moxon in late February this year. John recalls: "Tom from Minnesota who was at the Wisconsin Gathering for the last day sent me an email on the evening of Friday last saying he was in Eastbourne lecturing a group from India and the course had finished a day early. He wondered if we could meet on the Saturday as he was near to us. If we couldn't make it he planned to visit Stonehenge. As Stonehenge is only 35/40 minutes from Southampton I phoned him and explained that we were going to London to visit an aunt of Sue's who was celebrating an 80+ birthday but would leave in time to be at the Red Funnel ferry terminus in So'ton at 5 pm. We met Tom as arranged and had a good chat for a couple of hours. He then set off for a Gatwick hotel as he had an early flight the next day".

We received the following from Tom;

It was a nice visit and I so appreciate your being able to work your schedule on such short notice. I had no glitches in finding the hotel and it was very nice in the country along the highway. I have to tell you what happened next. I awoke in the middle of the night and misread my watch so got completely ready to leave, when I took another look and discovered it was 2:00 AM instead of 8:00 AM.

What a relief as I thought how terribly tired I was!

I arrived back in Minneapolis on Sunday night at 6:00.

Tom.



Tom Moxon with Sue Moxon

Photo by John Moxon

John and Sue, Dymps and I, met Tom at the Moxon Reunion at Telemark, Wisconsin in July 2003 - see Moxon Magazine No.32 (October 2003) page 7

Ed.

RESEARCH IN BUDAPEST

By John C. Moxon

ONCE MORE SUE and I have been in pursuit of our ancestry. This time it was to go to Budapest to see if we could find the city apartment block where I was born and then to find the house in the hills of Buda that my parents moved into in order to get out of the rather hot and humid city centre.

I lived there for 4 years between 1927 and 1931 so I had no memories of either of the places, only photos. Furthermore, I had not been encouraged to return to Hungary once the Iron Curtain fell as there was some instances of people born there being held as "dual nationals".

After the Russians had left and Hungary was in the EU it was all clear so we took one of those "City Breaks" and had a great time despite the weather being somewhat indifferent. Budapest is two cities divided by the river. The one named Buda is the older whilst Pest has all the administrative buildings in it and the major shopping centres. The two cities were first "joined" by the Chain Bridge built by Daniel Clark in 1820.

The city apartment block in Pest where I

first saw the light of day is an "Art Nouveau" building from the post WW1 period and we found to be quite undamaged and in pristine condition despite the ravages of the war and subsequent revolutions. The siting of the flat was quite romantic, being located right on the banks of the Danube looking over the river to the hills on the opposite bank that hold the Royal Palace and the ancient city of Buda. That was the side that the Germans and Russians between them absolutely flattened in early 1945.

In contrast, the old house in the Buda hills that we moved to soon after I was born was redeveloped in 1939 so that was a bit of a disappointment but at least I could see what the location looked like. One extra discovery was finding the office block where my father worked. It is still there and rather grand.

If you are interested in architecture and the decoration of imposing buildings then go to Budapest, it takes some beating on that score plus the fact that the food is wonderful, the people friendly and their history is very, very interesting.



John in front of the iron security gate and inner main entrance to the city block in which his father had his office.



41 Katana Joseph Utca,
This is the block of flats in which the family rented the first floor and where John was born. It is on the river bank/promenade and has fortunately survived the war.



Budapest. View from the Fisherman's Bastion looking north with Buda in the left foreground and Pest on the right. In the centre is the Margaret Bridge that connects the two halves of the city and has the centre abutments on the Margaret Island. John's parents' city flat was very near the right hand end of the bridge.

SUSAN MOXON AND HER DAUGHTERS

By John C.Moxon

John Moxon's grandfather, Rev. George Henry Moxon, married three times. John and Sue have researched the history of George's first wife, Susan Catherine née Mallalieu, and her daughters. The first part of the story is taken from John's privately published book, "The Reverend George Henry Moxon 1825-1903" – which describes George's marriage to Susan, and then his abrupt departure to Canada in 1869. The second part is the result of John and Sue's research into Susan, her two daughters and her grand daughter.

PART I

George appears to have decided to become a Minister in the Moravian church and from this we may assume he had a calling for pastoral work and care. On the 4th January 1851, at their Fairfield Moravian Church in Manchester, Minister John Rogers, ordained George as a deacon in the Moravian church. A visit was made to this place to see if a record existed of this event, but nothing was found.

Some time in the next two years he was appointed to a pastoral post in the Moravian Settlement at Kilwarlin in Northern Ireland. This settlement is located close to Hillsborough, a few miles south of Belfast.



Kilwarlin Church

From an illustration in the booklet "The Moravians in Ireland", published by the Irish District of the Moravian Church.

In the Census of April 1851, we also find a reference to his first wife, Susan Catherine Mallelieu, who was aged 23 and was a teacher in the girl's school at Fulneck. On the 1st of March 1853 George returned to Fulneck in order to marry Susan at Calverly Parish Church, Bradford. On the wedding certificate he was described as a Moravian Minister living in Kilwarlin, Ireland. George then took his bride to Kilwarlin, to live and work there.

Very soon afterwards, Susan gave birth to a daughter, born on the 28 December 1853 in the Minister's House at Kilwarlin. (A honeymoon baby). The little girl was christened Harriet Susan in the following January.

A second daughter, Charlotte Jane, followed nearly four years later.

Following a period of about eleven years service at Kilwarlin, George, in 1863 and at the age of 38, was promoted to the post of "Labourer in the Congregation and Director of the Academy and Ladies School" in the Gracehill Moravian Settlement, near Ballymena, Northern Ireland. This appointment demonstrates that George was a capable minister, well thought of and able to make some fairly rapid progress in his professional career.

George now entered upon a dramatic

period in his life that eventually caused him to make a major change to his career. On the 14th October 1869 there was a meeting of the Provincial Elders Conference at Gracehill, and it was recorded in the minutes that "*Brother Moxon has retired from his position there and they deeply regret the loss of his services*".

The cause of George retiring from his post at Gracehill was an accusation, by means of a whispering campaign, of "improprieties" which had happened some four years previously. No witnesses came forward and the Elders concluded there was nothing to be proved. They were strengthened in their belief by an impassioned letter from his wife Susan. The accuser was again asked to make a statement to another Elder. This time there were differences in some of the details stated earlier, whilst the girl, said to be the victim, strongly denied anything had happened and she was willing to do so on oath.

It was arranged that George would face his accusers and confront them face to face, but he fled the Settlement before this happened, leaving his wife to explain to the Elders that his nerves had given way. Nowhere in the minutes of the Elders conference is there any reference to what these "improprieties" were, but we can reasonably conclude that sex entered into it somewhere.

PART II

When George Henry Moxon left Gracehill in Northern Ireland for Canada in 1869, his wife Susan went to live in the Moravian Settlement at Ockbrook with her sister Harriet nee Mallalieu who was married to her cousin William Mallalieu. Very sadly and unexpectedly, within a few weeks of her arrival, Susan died of epilepsy exhaustion.

Her two daughters were then brought up by Harriet and William. Presumably, it would have been impractical for the girls, aged 12 and 16 years, to be sent to Canada to be looked after by George, who was living on his own in Toronto. Susan's story is related in my book "The Rev George Henry Moxon."

A visit to Derbyshire in April 2004 provided the opportunity for Sue and I to go to the Ockbrook Settlement, the burial place of Susan Catherine. On arrival we found that a coffee morning was taking place and the church was open to visitors. We were received very cordially and given permission to visit the Sisters' burial ground and take photographs of the Settlement.

Susan was well liked and a loving reference to her appears in the diary of Harriet

Libbey, a lady who attended the Girls School at Fulneck and later married the Rev James Connor.



The Moravian Settlement Church at Ockbrook, Derbyshire.



The Memorial Tablet of Susan Catherine Moxon nee Mallalieu, who died unexpectedly on 27th November 1869

HARRIET SUSAN MOXON

Harriet was born on 28th December 1853 in the Minister's house in Kilwarlin, County Down, Northern Ireland and was baptised on the 22nd of January 1854.

She would probably have been brought to Ockbrook when 16 years old at the time George went to live in Canada. She was known as Hattie and appears to have returned to Northern Ireland, but this time she went to the Gracehill settlement and lived there for some time between 1869 and 1881.

Hattie married Aline James Nelson and had

continued on next page

a daughter who was christened Charlotte Mabel. By the time of the 1881 census Hattie was a widow aged 27 and living in Ockbrook. It must have been very sad for Hattie to be left by her father at the age of 16, to lose her mother so dramatically and then to be widowed whilst she was still a young woman. No doubt she was supported by her faith and the kindness of the people in the Settlement community.

She died in the Ockbrook Settlement on the 26th August 1946 at the good age of 92 years



*The Memorial Tablet of Harriet Susan Nelson
née Moxon,
in the Sisters' section of the Ockbrook burial
ground near to her mother's place of rest.*

CHARLOTTE JANE MOXON

Charlotte Jane was born ca 1858 whilst George and Susan were living in Kilwarlin, County Down where George was the Minister in the Settlement there. From the Civil Records it appears that Susan must have returned to the Fulneck Settlement to have her baby or she travelled soon after the baby was born because the child is registered in the Wyke district of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

We have not discovered very much about Charlotte Jane's life except that she married William Jones Birtill and had two sons. Her descendants have flourished and we believe, may still be active in the Moravian Church.

She would have been taken to Ockbrook by her mother at the age of 12 and may have spent the rest of her life there. The 1881 Census for England and Wales reveals Charlotte Jane's presence at the "Swallows Nest Settlement" in Ockbrook, Derbyshire. She is aged 23 at the time and not married.

CHARLOTTE MABEL NELSON

According to the 1881 Census, Charlotte Mabel Nelson was born in the Fulneck Settlement in Yorkshire and was aged 4 years at the time of the census, giving her birth year as 1877. It is reasonable to assume that most of her life was spent at Ockbrook but we have no record of her education or of any training she undertook nor when she moved to Ockbrook.

According to the Reverend Michael Rea, the present Minister at Ockbrook, she was a determined and a strong minded lady who took an interest in all things around her.

As an example of her determination, she vigorously fought the local council and any builder to ensure that alterations and new buildings around the Settlement were in keeping with the existing surrounds and ambience. Some of the

Settlement buildings are grade 2 listed, which I suspect would please her immensely. Charlotte also mapped the area around Ockbrook, showing all the fields, and various boundaries in the greatest detail and accuracy.

The Reverend Rea also told us that she turned the Lecture Hall and Sunday School building into an Auxiliary Hospital for wounded soldiers in the 1914/1918 war and tended them as a nurse. Charlotte continued with her interest in her WW1 war work as a nurse and applied her industry and talents to the Red Cross. Her many years of dedicated work in support of this organisation resulted in her receiving the honour of Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Charlotte never married and died at the age of 79 on the 25th July 1956 and rests in the Ockbrook burial ground.



*Charlotte Mabel Nelson
in her nurse's uniform*



*The Notice Board attached to the Sunday
School building, and the Plaque
commemorating the use of the building as an
auxilliary hospital during WWI*

WANTED

Member willing to take on the duties of the Research Co-ordinator for the Society Contact John Moxon Hill for a "no obligation" discussion - see back page for contact details.



**MISS C.M.NELSON
MBE**



*Charlotte's actual MBE and extant photo-
graph, preserved in the archives at Ockbrook
to honour her memory.*



*The Rev. and Mrs. REA
Mr. Rea is the Present Minister in Charge of
the Ockbrook Settlement,
whose life was influenced by Charlotte Mabel*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am most grateful to Rev. Michael Rea and Mrs. Rea for their willingness to allow me to photograph various places in the Ockbrook Settlement and also for finding and showing me the memorabilia of Miss Charlotte Nelson.

JCM



*Sue Moxon studying the commemorative stone
of Harriet Nelson in the Sisters' Burial Ground
at Ockbrook Settlement.*

RESTORATION OF A DIESEL MULTIPLE UNIT

By Chris Moxon, grandson of V.P. John C Moxon

My granddad asked me to write an article for the Moxon Magazine about me, and what I do in my spare time, so here it is..

My name is Chris Moxon, I am aged 12, and live in Stockport, near Manchester. At the moment, I spend a day a week working on a preserved railway, restoring an old diesel train. It is called a D.M.U., which stands for Diesel Multiple Unit, and the one I work on is made up of 2 coaches with diesel engines under the floors.



The Diesel Multiple Unit

It is on the Churnet Valley Railway in Staffordshire (U.K.) and we are hoping it will work later this year (2004)

I do all sorts of things on it, as there are such a wide variety of different things to be restored.

Probably one of the funniest times was in 1999 when there were 4 of us standing by the Fire panel on one coach and one was trying to test the alarm bell by poking the insides with a screwdriver. The next thing that happened was that the fire extinguisher went off with the result of a huge cloud of smoke, yelling, running in all directions, tripping over each other in panic and the unpleasant experience that two of us had falling into a bush trying to get away. The co-owner wasn't too pleased either!

The most volunteers we have had at any one time were six, but two lost interest after a couple of years and one only attends at holiday times because he is at boarding school. The regular team is just three, the co-owner, my dad, and myself. I suppose its really only two and a half because I can't do some of the jobs where manpower is needed (mostly the mechanical stuff) but I can help out with the smaller jobs, (mostly the interiors).



*Chris Moxon
The Author*

The most boring job by far was the seats and the seat frames. Oh, I could write chapters about them, every screw had to be taken out with cross head flat head or different screwdrivers. Other D.M.U.'s have about 7 screws holding the seat backs on, but ours have 38 - Typical!

Then these seat frames had to be cleaned down and hand painted. Doesn't sound that bad for a family car does it?

But consider that our D.M.U. can hold 118

people in 52 seat frames! - It was a nightmare that went on for weeks, I'll never forget it, then we had to put them all back together again. The recovered headrolls were a nasty business, and the finished seats didn't always want to bolt into the holes provided.

Although this sounds like hard work, it's the highest pocket money "add-on" I get, and I enjoy the work and am looking forward to travelling in it up and down the Churnet Valley Railway later this year.

Chris Moxon

*Come on! Let's hear from other
"Young Moxons".*

Ed.



Chris at work, painting the exhaust pipes

WANTED

Member willing to take over the duties of Membership Secretary from Sue Moxon who after eight years, wishes to retire.

The duties entail keeping the membership records up to date, printing out address labels for magazine distribution, and furnishing membership statistics.

Contact Sue (see back page) for a "no obligation" discussion.

SOCIETY OFFICERS AS ELECTED AT THE SEPTEMBER AGM.



Graham Jagger
President

John C Moxon
Vice President



John Moxon Hill
Chairman
& Editor



John S Earnshaw
Treasurer
& Web Master



Sue Earnshaw
Secretary

Sue Moxon
Membership
Secretary



Diana Trotter
Gathering Organiser

Knowing our Moxons No.18

EDWARD MOXON ROBERTS

By Len Moxon of Nova Scotia



EARLIER THIS YEAR the Society was pleased to welcome, as a life member, the Honourable Edward Moxon Roberts, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. I "discovered" His Honour while researching the voyages and exploits of Captain John Moxham using the Internet and the services of the Maritime History Archive at Memorial University in St. John's, the provincial capital. Captain Moxham was one of the Newfoundland Adventurers featured in the April 2004 issue of Moxon Magazine.

This is not to suggest however that the two are related. Edward's mother was Mary Katherine Moxon, born in Truro, Nova Scotia in 1912, a daughter of Edward Gilmour Moxon and Charlotte Hanson Moxon. Edward, the elder, came from Rawdon in Hants County, Nova Scotia while Charlotte was from New Brunswick. It seems, therefore, that the family is descended from the Moxons of Ebbesbourne Wake in Wiltshire, many of whom emigrated to Nova Scotia in the early 19th century. They were featured in MM No. 22 of October 1998 in articles by John Moxon Hill with extensive research by Natasha Moxon and the late Gaylord 'Mox' Moxon. The connection however has not yet been confirmed and is a "work in progress."

And now a short geography lesson for those members who may not be too familiar with the map of Canada and the location of Newfoundland and Labrador. In your world atlas you will see that on the east coast of Canada the province is the closest point in North America to the UK (three and a half hours behind UK time). It consists of a large island, Newfoundland, affectionately called "The Rock" as well as, to the west, Labrador, on the Canadian mainland, next to Quebec. They are one province.

Edward Moxon Roberts became the 11th Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador in November 2002. A lawyer by profession, he has taken an active part in the legal and public life of the province for 40 years. As a student at the University of Toronto between 1957 and 1964, he developed an interest in public policy and journalism, editing the university's student newspaper and working his summers at a Newfoundland radio station as news editor.

Mr. Roberts entered provincial politics in the general election of 1966 and remained a member of the House of Assembly in Premier Joey Smallwood's government until 1985 when he did not seek re-election. In 1992 however,



The Honourable Edward Moxon Roberts, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

Premier Clyde Wells requested him to return and he remained a member, serving also under Premier Brian Tobin, until 1996. During his time in the House he held a considerable number of ministerial appointments including Attorney General and Minister of Justice.

Mr. Roberts was called to the Bar of Newfoundland in 1965 but did not enter full time practice until 1978. He conducted an extensive litigation practice and has appeared before courts at every level from the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador to the Supreme Court of Canada. He became Queen's Counsel in 1979.

He has served as Chairman of the Board of Regents of Memorial University in St. John's and was recently appointed by that board to the Board of Trustees responsible for the University's campus in Harlow, Essex, England. He has a passionate interest in the history of Newfoundland and Labrador and is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in history at the University.

Mr. Robert's wife, Eve Hargraft Roberts, is a lawyer whose practice until her retirement in 1997 was in matrimonial and estates law. She became Queen's Counsel in 1989 and has had a lifelong interest in human rights issues. A lover of the Newfoundland and Labrador landscape,

she is a keen painter and reader.

Members may be asking themselves what is a Lieutenant Governor and what are his or her duties. Canada is a constitutional monarchy and as such must have a representative of the monarch in each province as well as at the national, or federal, level. Lieutenant Governors fill the provincial roles while in Ottawa, the nation's capital, the position is Governor General, currently held by Her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson. The term for a Lieutenant Governor is normally at least five years. The appointment is made by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister of Canada.

The duties of the Lieutenant Governor parallel those of the Queen. The Lieutenant Governor must always ensure that the post of Premier is filled following resignation or death and that a Government is in place following defeat at an election or in the House of Assembly. Additional governance responsibilities include: administering oaths of office to Members of the House of Assembly and Ministers of the Crown so they may take up their duties; summoning, proroguing and dissolving

the House of Assembly; assenting to legislative bills in order for them to become law; and signing into force Orders-in-Council, Proclamations and other official documents on the advice of Cabinet.

The Lieutenant-Governor fulfills a ceremonial role at the opening and proroguing of the House of Assembly. At other times, he or she is the host for members of the Royal Family and other dignitaries during official visits to the Province. Hospitality is offered at Government House for visitors to the Province as well as representatives of charitable organizations within the Province and recipients of awards.

The Lieutenant Governor serves as Patron of various non-profit organizations in the Province that are engaged in work for the public good.

We welcome His Honour to the Society and hope that through his known family history and Society resources it will not be too long before the missing links are found.

For more about Edward, the history of the Governors of Newfoundland and Labrador, Government House and links to other provinces you may visit <http://www.mun.ca/govhouse/>.

CHARLES MOXON

THE ROYAL DECORATOR

By Graham Jagger

In *The Moxons of Yorkshire* (page 88) we read that:

"[One] of the extrovert Moxon Yorkshiremen who stormed the capital was Charles Moxon who did so as a housepainter via an apprenticeship in Edinburgh. He was clearly artistic as well as technically competent. ... One of the techniques that he developed to a state of perfection was the 'marbling' of pillars to have the appearance of real marble. He was commissioned by Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's busy Consort, to 'marble' the Buckingham Palace pillars and redecorate the palace throughout and so great was his success that, after that, he had commissions to redecorate many of the stately homes of Britain. He was soon dubbed 'The Royal Decorator'."

In view of Charles Moxon's apparent fame it is surprising to find that, apart from one brief remark (to the effect that Sir Quiller Orchardson R. A. - his son-in-law - painted his portrait; see illustration), there is no mention of him in any of the usual works of reference. Plainly some research was necessary to form a clearer idea of Moxon's involvement with work at Buckingham Palace.

A letter to archivist at The Royal Archives at Windsor Castle elicited the following information:

"I have been able to find a few oblique references in our records to confirm that Moxon worked on the decoration of the ballroom at Buckingham Palace in 1855 and 1856. Unfortunately, our papers about this work are very slight, and the nature and extent of his role are not revealed in our papers. In fact, most papers about work done to the fabric of the Royal Palaces in the nineteenth century are to be found in the records of the Office of Works, which are in ... The National Archives"

"One other thing that I did find was, that as a result of this work, in 1856 Moxon received a tradesman's warrant as Housepainter and Decorator to the Queen. This was awarded by the Lord Chamberlain's Department, the records of which for this period are [also] in The National Archives"

To follow up the advice given by the archivist a professional researcher was employed to conduct an exhaustive search of the records of the Office of Works and the Lord Chamberlain's Department at The National Archives. His findings form part of the following narrative.

On 13th July 1837, Queen Victoria accompanied by her mother drove in state from Kensington Palace to take up residence, the first Monarch ever to live at Buckingham Palace. This Royal palace lacked certain facilities, which were highlighted following the marriage



*Charles Moxon
'The Royal Decorator'*

The original portrait is by Sir Quiller Orchardson, son-in-law, and is held in the Tate Gallery, who have given their kind permission for this reproduction.

of Victoria to Prince Albert in 1840. Edward Blore was commissioned to provide additional accommodation, and a Chapel. His new wing (the eastern façade facing The Mall) comprised of a 240' (73.1m) gallery on the first floor, designed to link the royal corridor in the north wing to the household corridor in the south wing. After completion of this new eastern façade, the only other major structural addition to the palace was a ballroom and associated rooms in the south wing, built in 1854 by James (later Sir James) Pennethorne. Charles Moxon was invited by Pennethorne to tender for the decoration of these new rooms. His estimate, dated 13 October 1854, is as follows:

33 High Street Marylebone
October 13th 1854

Sir,

Agreeably to your instructions I have made Estimates for the Decorations required in the New Ball Room, Anti [sic] Room, Approach Gallery, Promenade Gallery, and Supper Room at Buckingham Palace, which I beg to submit to you as under.

Estimate for New Ball room	£2947-16-7
Do Anti Room	£276-16-6
Do Approach Gallery	£297-18-1
Do Promenade Gallery	£1280- 7-2
Do Supper Room	<u>£1534-10-0</u>
	<u>£6337- 8-4</u>

In consideration of the credit which I trust the Decorations of such magnificent rooms as the Ball Room and Supper Room may do me, these Estimates have been calculated at the lowest possible prices, insuring the best quality of work, but I am further induced to execute the whole of the above mentioned works to your entire Satisfaction, including all Scaffolding, Specimens and all incidental expenses for the even sum of Six Thousand Three hundred pounds. Trusting that this will meet your approbation.

I have the honour to be Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
Charles Moxon

To James Pennethorne Esq

In present-day terms, this estimate is worth something in excess of £300,000 and must have represented a vast investment in both materials and man-power. James Pennethorne passed Moxon's estimate on to his superiors with the recommendation that it be accepted. But there was a sting in the tail; the work had to be finished in just six months - by the spring of 1855. Pennethorne's recommendation is as follows:

Buckingham Palace - South wing
7 Whitehall Yard
October 24th 1854
Sir,

I have to request the favour of you to lay before the Chief Commissioner of Her Majesty's Works, &c the enclosed Tender from Mr Charles Moxon offering to execute the Decorative Painting at Buckingham Palace (according to the Drawings I have had the honor to submit) for the sum of £6,337-8-4 viz (*The letter then listed Moxon's estimates*)

I have also enclosed a Statement made up to the present time which shows (as I believe) the Funds available for all the Works of the South Wing; and the estimated cost of all the Works already executed or commenced and which also show a balance of £8,334-12-4 available for the two works not yet commenced or contracted for - viz. - The Decorative Painting and the External Enclosure - Presuming therefore Mr. Moxon's Tender to be accepted there will remain a sum of about £2,000 applicable to the Iron Railings, Gates, &c.

The calculations of quantities upon which Mr Moxon's Tender is based, have been carefully made conjointly by a Surveyor on his part, and by Mr Norris on the part of the Crown:- and the price at which he has monied out these quantities are low as compared to other similar Works.

The five Rooms to which the Tender refers are now completed as far as practicable before

Painting, and are all sufficiently dry for Mr Moxon to commence forthwith, except the Supper Room, parts of which it may be found advisable to postpone for a time, or perhaps even beyond the next Season:- but, -as it is desirable one Contract should include the whole - as the painting of these large Rooms in the elaborate manner proposed must occupy considerable time - and as it is understood to be greatly desired that all the Rooms if possible should be completed fit for use next Spring - I would request the Chief Commissioner to authorize me to accept Mr Moxon's Tender on condition of the Works being commenced forthwith and continued with the greatest expedition: - and reserving to the Commissioners a power to postpone the Supper Room (or parts of it) until such period as circumstance may render advisable.

The sum of about £2,000 which will then remain for the External Enclosures will not be sufficient for that purpose - and (according to the present Statement) there will be a deficiency of about £1,500 - unless it should be reduced by further accumulations of Interest on Exchequer Bills, &c - I however beg leave to observe that the Works which have been done include Gas and other fittings (especially the former) to a much greater extent than was originally contemplated, and that the external Enclosures have been considerably extended by the removal of the New Street to a greater distance from the Palace: -(the expenditure upon the Gas fittings though considerable), is really most economical because sun burners are to be used instead of large Chandeliers - and the advantage gained to the Palace by the further removal of the Street cannot be doubted.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
James Pennethorne.

To T. H. Philipps Esq

Endorsed on back:

Buckingham Palace South Wing 5252

J Pennethorne

Transmitting Tender by Mr Moxon for Painting at £6,337-8-4 and Statement showing that the available funds will not be sufficient for the External Enclosures.

24 October 1854

Write to Mr Pennethorne giving authority Mr Pennethorne having stated that the Chief Commissioner had promised him that such authority should be given.

It is not clear from the records whether authority was in fact ever given. It is certainly the case that in the meticulously kept palace accounts no record exists of any payment being made to Moxon for the work. Perhaps realising the magnitude of the task he was about to undertake he thought better of it and withdrew his bid.

Some eighteen months later, on 12 March 1856, Charles Moxon was awarded a Royal Warrant as Painter and Decorator to the Queen (see illustration). This was probably on account

of some distempering and gilding he carried out in the dining room at Buckingham Palace for which he was paid £58-8-6¼ in March 1856.

Some two years later Charles carried out his last job at Buckingham Palace. On 23 March 1858 he was paid £6 for 'painting two Pedestals in Sienna, black and gold, and white marbles'.

This is the only mention in the Palace accounts of Moxon carrying out any marbling.

Charles Moxon's association with Buckingham Palace lasted from October 1854 to March 1858. In these two and a half years he earned just £64-8-6¼ on Palace work, a mere £6 of this being attributable to marbling. Had he successfully carried out the great 1854 proposals, he would undoubtedly have been in great demand throughout the country; perhaps it was only on account of the royal warrant that he became known, either during his lifetime or shortly after his death, as 'The Royal Decorator'. Although there seems to be some basis of truth in the passage from *The Moxons of Yorkshire* quoted above, the available evidence suggests that it is at best something of an exaggeration.

Acknowledgements

The financial support of the Moxon Family Research Trust during the preparation of this article is gratefully acknowledged.

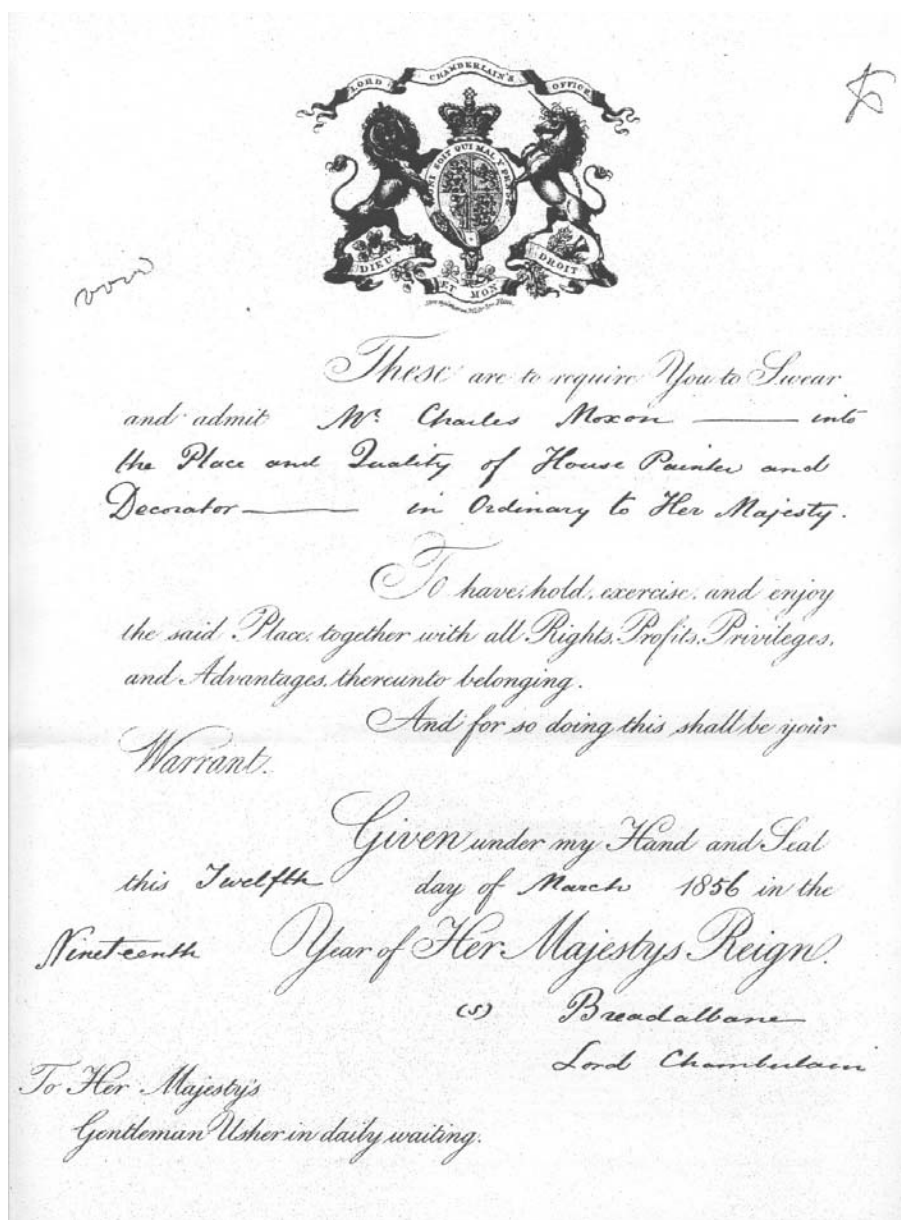
Note:

In *The Moxons of Yorkshire* (page 111) reference is made to a small pamphlet of 30 pages privately printed by Charles Frederick Moxon in 1897 entitled *Charles Moxon, (1808-1890) 'The Royal Decorator'*. I have been unable to trace this work and should be most grateful to hear if any reader knows of the whereabouts of a copy.

Graham Jagger

See also "Roots 8" - pages 14 -15, and colour photo on page12 in Moxon Magazine MM25 - April 2000.

Ed.



Charles Moxon's Royal Warrant

SERGEANT HARRY MOXON

2nd YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

2 October 1866 to 12 March 1915

By John S Earnshaw



John S Earnshaw

John has responded to the request for articles for the magazine, by sending these letters written by his G.G. Uncle Harry Moxon, who enlisted with the Green Howards in 1904, and was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle on 12 March 1915. Many families received letters from loved ones expressing the hope of returning home again soon - only to be shattered then to receive a final devastating letter from his officer in the field. . . .

Sept. 1904 **Richmond Barracks**
Address: Pte H Moxon, Reg No 6013, A Company, PWO Yorks. Regt., 3rd Battalion, The Barracks, Richmond, Yorks.

Dear Sister

Just a few lines to let you know how I am getting on. I am now at Richmond Barracks. I set off from Pontefract at 10 minutes past 3 yesterday, and got to York at 4 o'clock. I had to wait there one hour, so I had a look round. I saw the old walls and York Minster. I also had to change at Darlington and wait there 1½ hours, it was about 10 o'clock when I got here. I don't think Richmond is a very big place. The Barracks are up on a hill, they can see a long way out of the windows. It is the Alexandra Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment, known as the Green Howards that I am in. I think I shall be up about 7 weeks. Love to all from your loving Brother, Harry

Am now in uniform have got my kit bayonet etc today

Oct. 1904 **Richmond Barracks**
Dear Sister,

Just a few lines to let you know I am getting on alright. We have been having a sham fight today, it was better than drilling. I went to a supper at the Wesleyan Soldiers Home down in the town on Saturday night; there are all kinds of games and books there. There is a Recreation Room and a Reading Room at the Barracks. I generally go to the Gymnasium at night, when I do not go out. We are going to start route marching on Friday. That is once or twice a week they march about 6 or 8 miles away from Barracks and back. I have to clean my belt rifle and bayonet every day and all the other straps once a week. We can go out after 3 o'clock and we have to be back at 9.45 unless we get a pass then we can stop out till 12 o'clock. I am very comfortable in the barrack room. There are 2 fires in and we have five thick blankets and two sheets each. Being in the army is a lot better than I thought it would be. I would not care if I was going to do three years. I know nearly all the rifle exercises now. I am three squads higher than some lads that listed when I did. They all have to be vaccinated when they list, mine are better now. There is a good Band here it goes in front at Church parade. I think this is all I have to say at present. I hope you are all well at home.

From your loving Brother,

Harry

P.S. Remember me to Joe and Willie Earnshaw and G Gilbey if you see them. The badges are one cap badge and two collar badges.

LETTERS 1914 -1915



Harry Moxon

Now Sergeant, 2nd Bn. Yorkshire Regiment

26 July 1914 **Barnard Castle**

Just a line to let you know I am getting on alright. How are you getting on with the hay. I suppose it will have been queer weather for it lately as we have had a lot of rain here; it has been cold too. Is the corn looking anything like harvest yet. It is a nice place here for scenery and there is a large Museum here. I knew there was one but had no idea it was the large fine building that it is. Hoping you are all first rate.

17 Aug. 1914 **Redcar**

I was pleased to receive the letters from you and Polly, tell Father to do as he thinks best with the sheep. I expect the bullock of mine would be best kept a bit if there is plenty for it to eat. I expect the war will last for several months at least as it has not properly started yet - it may last a year or two. We are not allowed to leave this place, no one is allowed to come inside without a pass and there are sentries all around with loaded rifles. What shipping there

is keeps close to the coast and there are destroyers further out patrolling up and down. I was on guard over the searchlights last night with 10 men.

8 Sept. 1914

Redcar

We have been ordered to be ready to go to the front anytime but I do not suppose we shall go just yet as it would not do to send too many troops out of this country till they have got rid of the German Fleet. I expect we shall be here a good bit yet. They have put a lot of extra searchlights along the coast lately and flash them over the sea at night. You need not bother about me as I am alright and I think I can look after myself. I should like to go on the continent for a month or two to have a look around.

16 Sept. 1914

Redcar

I was pleased to receive the letters from you and Hubert. Tell Hubert I will bring him a present when I come home. How is young Freddie at Bretton and Edwin at Midgley getting on, I expect Hubert still comes at dinner time. Did you get many rabbits this harvest. We were in tents and as we have only one blanket it was not very warm at nights. We are now in corrugated iron huts. The British and French seem to be doing very well just now. I think they allowed the Germans to get well into France and Belgium so that we could get among them and cut them off. I expect it will be better fighting country and then the Germans will have a lot of forts on their boundary. It will be a bad job for the German people as a terrible lot of their soldiers will be killed compared with ours and I expect they have homes like us. The Germans fight in close formation, that is large masses of men together so that they will have more confidence and when they do win a battle it is by sheer weight of numbers. They cannot get their men to fight like ours in extended order. Our men fight in single lines 3 to 6 paces between each man and so they take more killing than the Germans and then our men are a lot better shots than theirs. The Germans would be nowhere if it was not for their artillery they seem to have some good guns.

1 Oct. 1914

Barnard Castle

It is the first time for me to come home next Saturday but if the war cloud does not blow over, I expect I shall get sent somewhere on the East coast instead. They have stopped all leave and will not let anyone go away even for

continued on next page

a day. Russia has mobilised; Germany and France are doing the same, then they will mobilise in this country. I should not mind being a few months on the French frontier, which is where they would most probably send the British troops but perhaps it will all be settled by Saturday. As far as I know the binder is alright for starting except that the driving wheel is one cog higher at one side than the other but I think it will work alright.

4 Oct. 1914 Richmond Barracks

I was pleased to receive your letter on Sunday, but was sorry to hear that Father is not well, I hope he will soon be better. It will be rather awkward at home if I am not able to come for harvest. The Germans might have waited another month. We were having holiday and sports on Monday but about the middle of the afternoon the bugle sounded the assembly and we had to start pulling the tents down and pack up and march 16 miles over the hills to Richmond Barracks. I think they are waiting for orders from headquarters. Perhaps we shall stay here a bit. I don't want you to be the least bothered about me - as I am quite alright as long as things are alright at home.

22 Oct. 1914 West Hartlepool

I am in charge of the Dock guard today. It is alright. I stop in the Harbour Master's office and every now and then have a walk round the sentries to see if everything is alright. I have some sentries on the dock gates and some in charge of the torpedo nets that stretch across the mouth of the harbour. How are you getting on with the potatoes, I just wish I could come home for a week or so to help to get them up.

11 Nov. 1914 West Hartlepool

I think we shall be leaving here tonight. We have been ready waiting all day for the order to move off. The trains have been waiting at the station since last night. They do not tell us where we are going but I expect it will be Southampton or somewhere down there ready for going across to the continent. We are ready for the front, we take nothing with us only what we can carry in our pack on our back.

13 Nov. 1914 Basingstoke

850 of us left West Hartlepool this morning at 11.00 am. I will write when we get to our destination. We cannot get to know where we are going but I thought I would write so you would know I had moved. I will post this at the next station we stop at.

13 Nov. 1914 Southampton (10:00 p.m.)
Arrived Southampton docks, going on board ship.

15 Nov. 1914 Havre, France

We arrived here after 24 hours in the Channel. We are waiting instructions where to go. We cannot put what we like in the letters or I could write a good long one.

19 Nov. 1914 Havre

We have been at two different camps since we came here. Our regiment has been split into several lots and sent to different places. It is up

to the boot tops in mud nearly everywhere. All the tents I have been in have been in fallow fields. I don't think I have seen a grass field since I came here. Milk cattle are tethered in rows in the fields eating rape and mustard. It does not take long to get the people to know what we want. I got all the main words off on the first day or two.

27 Nov. 1914 Rouen

We have had a couple of inches of snow but it has been nice the last two days.

29 Nov. 1914 France
6013 Sgt H Moxon, No.Corp 2nd Yorkshire Regt, Base Camp, 7th Division, France

Dear Sister

Just a line hoping to find you all well. I am getting on alright, how are things going on at Bretton? I expect mostly same as usual. It is nice country round here something like it is round Bretton only the houses are a bit more fancy. I have written 3 or 4 letters home, ask Bertha when she comes if they got them alright. Hoping you and Tom and young Freddie are in good health. I am first class.
From your loving brother, Harry

3 Dec. 1914 Rouen

I am alright, nothing to grumble about and plenty to eat. I have been to three different camps since I came here, most of our Regiment went straight into the firing line as soon as we landed. I happened to be in the Company that was kept back at base. I expect we shall join the others before long.

14 Dec. 1914 Rouen

We have had a lot of rain lately, and have had to dig channels around the tents to drain the water away. Rainy weather is not the best sort under canvas - we are camped in a mangold and cabbage field. Most of the French troops wear red trousers and caps and blue overcoats - they do not wear khaki like us. The Germans wear a kind of silvery grey clothes. Do not worry about me being cold or anything else. I have been able to keep warm and dry until now and I get plenty to eat.

29 Dec. 1914 Rouen

On Christmas Day we got a present from Princess Mary - a box of chocolates and a card. We had nothing special here this Christmas except the present we got. I was on outpost duty. I could just do a dinner of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding for a change. The meat is stewed here but we cannot expect to have things as we would like them.

1 Jan. 1915 Rouen

I am moving up to the front either today or tomorrow.

20 Jan. 1915 The Front

I am up in the firing line, we are stopping in a barn. We are going into the advanced trenches tomorrow night.

31 Jan. 1915 The Front
It was snowing last night. The trenches

we are in are about the width of the field in front of our house from the German trenches. We can hear them singing the German National Anthem and giving three cheers for the Emperor. Our artillery started shelling them at 6 o'clock in the morning, the shells were just clearing our heads and fairly raining on the German lines. The Germans shell us occasionally but it has been mostly rifle fire up to the present. Just behind my trench is a farmhouse blown down, stacks of unthrashed corn knocked over and cattle lying dead all around.

8 Feb. 1915 The Front

I was pleased to receive your letter with the handkerchiefs and buttons - they were just the things I was wanting. I can get plenty of clothes but the things I would like are a bit of cake and a few mints. Just for a change as it is nearly all hard biscuit and tinned beef here. We do () days in the trenches () days out. When we are out of the trenches we are in reserve just behind in empty houses or farms. We are in a state I can tell you when we come out of the trenches - daubed up to the neck in mud. There is no sleep in the trenches as if we happen to keep still too long our feet are like lumps of ice. It is always wet underfoot where we are and we have to keep bailing the water out. The Germans are firing at us and us at them, both with artillery and rifle, day and night. The firing was very heavy last night and the night before. It was a sight to see, the shells bursting in the air half a dozen together and the big guns flashing; it was one big roll like thunder for two hours. They are Bavarians in the enemy's trenches opposite us - they have some good singers among them and often sing and play mouth organs. We get about two table spoonful of rum each morning we are in the trenches. I have seen in some of the papers where someone was wanting the Government to do away with the rum ration. But anyone who has had a few nights in the trenches hope it will not be as by morning everyone is nearly dead with the cold and the rum warms one up and gets the blood circulating again. I could fill pages but perhaps I might be saying too much as it all has to be before the censor. We have to dodge out of the trenches at night for water and sticks to make a fire to make tea. It tastes queer as it is always smoked and with no milk. One of the men in my section got killed a couple of nights ago as he was stepping down into the trench with a bundle of wood. We have lost a few men lately.

23 Feb. 1915 The Front

I was just passing the church when two shells went through the roof and I went inside to have a look. The shells had made a mess of it inside, a lot of monuments were smashed and most of the woodwork by the altar in splinters. The churches round here are not much to look at outside but they are grand places inside. I think it is a shame the Germans shell them like they do. It is a bit better in the trenches now we have got some pumps and we are putting down boards to stand on.

It has been a white frost the last few mornings and it was snowing one night last week
continued on next page

when we were in the trenches. Some of the air-men are very daring. I think they deserve a special medal if anyone does. There was one aeroplane up yesterday over the German lines, the German shells were bursting all round him and they were firing at him with machine guns but he did not seem to mind and kept hovering round trying to locate their guns. I have plenty of clothes but there is only one thing that bothers me and that is cold feet with the ground being so wet. A large number of men have been sent to hospital with frost bitten feet. Enclosed is a couple of shrapnel shells burst in the air and scatter the bullets all around.

2 March 1915 The Front

I thank you at home for the parcel which I received. I could not write until now as we have been in the trenches. We lost a few men this time mostly from shell fire. I am first class, hoping you are all well at home.

5 March 1915 The Front

We are moving to another position. The Canadians are taking our place.

9 March 1915 The Front

I write this on the eve of a battle. I am going to put it inside an envelope directed to you with instructions to post it if I get killed. If I am killed in action, I die with a good heart and am not afraid to meet my Maker. If I do not see any of you at home again I hope to see you all in Heaven where war will be no more and German and Briton will be as one. I send my love to Father and you and all my brothers and sisters and relations and friends. May God comfort you and give you long life and happiness. Do not grieve for me. I die for my King and Country as a soldier should doing my duty.

From you ever loving son,

Harry.

Letters following Harry's Death

2 April 1915 Letter from Lt. G F Hadow, Yorkshire Regiment

Dear Mrs Moxon

I am answering your letter as your son happened to be in my platoon and he happened to have been shot in the trench quite close to me on the morning of the 12th. It was during a counter-attack of the Germans. Your son was behaving himself splendidly and it will probably be very consoling for you to learn that he suffered no pain being shot through the head and instantly killed. Your son was buried alongside the graves of other men of this battalion about a mile to the north of the village of Neuve Chapelle. I'm afraid I have put this all very clumsily.

Yours truly

10 April 1915 Letter from L/Cpl F Wood, Yorkshire Regiment

Dear Sir

I am writing to you in regard to your son's death, the late Sergeant Moxon, who was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle on March 12th,

1915. I must say he died a hero and I can tell you he is a great loss to our Company as he was well respected by all the men and also the Officers. I was next to him when he was killed and he never spoke a word before he died. He was shot in the head by a sniper and the same night we dug a fine grave and buried him. I took two Princess Mary's Boxes out of his valise and also his watch and his cap badge so I am forwarding you them. I am very sorry for the delay but I have been waiting for your address and I have just received it. Allow me to say it again. Your son died a hero's death and no man in 'B' Company of the 2nd Yorkshire Regiment was so well respected as the late Sergeant Moxon. I can assure you I have lost a good friend - not only me but a good many more.

Sergeant Harry Moxon's Memorial is at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.



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Sergeant Harry Moxon's Medal

The medal is the 1914 Star, established in 1917 and awarded to all those of the British and Indian Expeditionary Forces who served in France or Belgium between 5 August 1914 and 22 November 1914, and is in the keeping of John Waring Moxon.

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