



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:

WE HAVE HAD another excellent Society Gathering, although attendance was fewer than usual. We envy the Moxhams in Sydney who managed to attract 140 to their first Reunion!

We would very much like to have many more members attend the Society Gatherings, so what do we need to do to achieve this aim?

Tell us!

The Gatherings have followed a similar format since the very first Gathering held in 1989. Although it is held over a weekend, it is quite feasible for members to attend just for one day.

Looking at the group photo on page 7, perhaps the younger members think we are a lot of old 'fuddy duddies', but we certainly are not! (Perhaps you are thinking, "Well he would say that, wouldn't he!")

We have previously asked members (in the Magazine) if they would like a different format for the Gathering, but got a 'nil' response. So, if you think changes are necessary, come on! **Tell us!**

Our next Gathering will be held over the weekend of 7th to 9th September 2007 in Scarborough, which Diana Trotter, our Gathering Organiser knows well. Not only is there plenty to see, we have never yet had a seaside venue. There is an ulterior motive in selecting Scarborough. Diana wishes to retire from her Gathering Organiser role as she is finding it more difficult to travel long distances to suss out venues. Knowing Scarborough, she will not have to reconnoitre in order to make arrangements.

But, what happens in 2008? We do need to find a member willing to take on this important role. Do we have any volunteers, please? Would any member like to do a little gentle arm twisting on their son or daughter?

Finally, once again "the barrel is bare" as far as articles for future magazines are concerned. Members have responded well, enabling this issue to contain 16 pages. Apart from "Contacts" for the back page, there is nothing in the kitty for next April.

I could write an article about our trip on the "Puffing Billy" Railway in Victoria, Australia. However, I would much prefer to include an article about other member's travels, history or anecdotes. How did you manage to discover what happened to that elusive Great Uncle, who the family vaguely remembered? After years of searching, did you find the 'long lost' grave of an early ancestor—tell us all about it!

GATHERINGS GALORE!

IT HAS BEEN a busy year for the Moxons and Moxhams. We report the Moxon Gathering in Coventry on this page and the Moxham Gathering in Parramatta, Sydney, Australia on page 11.

Unfortunately we did not receive a report on the USA Family Gathering!

COVENTRY 8-10th SEPTEMBER

THE GATHERING was held at The Old Mill Inn in Bagington, a village just a couple of miles south from Coventry City Centre. Having carefully advised all those attending, and provided a map on how to find The Old Mill, the directions were unexpectedly disrupted by major road works!

The Old Mill dates back to Saxon times, although no Saxon remains are now visible. It is a typical "Olde Worldy" pub, but with modern accommodation.

The weather was very kind, and members were able to sit out on the large patio adjacent to the mill stream. We had a dining room to ourselves, and the sole use of an attractive conference room.

The programme followed the well tested format:

AGM on Friday evening, followed by dinner. On Saturday morning we travelled into Coventry City Centre, for a conducted tour around all three Cathedrals - Firstly the New Cathedral, where we took group photos on the steps, overlooked by Epstein's St. Michael slaying the Devil. Next the bombed out Cathedral, and finally the mediaeval cathedral, excavated a few years ago by the "Time Team". (This is a popular TV programme in the UK, where a team of expert archaeologists investigate historical sites around the country).

Then up to Millennium Square, where an arch commemorates Sir Frank Whittle - the Coventry born inventor of the jet engine.

Next to Broadgate, where the statue of Lady Godiva, naked on horseback, stands. Godiva is celebrated since she rode through the streets of Coventry to protest against the unjustifiably heavy taxes her husband, Leofric, was levying on the citizens. Our guide, Colin, got us there just before midday, when, as the

clock struck 12, a door, high up in a wall, opened and out came Godiva on her white horse. A door above Godiva opened and there was "Peeping Tom" - an ugly little man, leering at the nude Godiva. The story goes that everyone else bowed their heads so as not to look at Godiva, but Peeping Tom did look and was promptly struck blind!



Lady Godiva and Peeping Tom.

Photo by Don Moxon

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

ANOTHER MOXON Gathering has been and gone. These gatherings are very much the highlight of the Moxon year and it is good that we get together to share gossip, the odd pint, and even a bit of family history.

Next year's Gathering will be in Scarborough on the weekend of 7-9 September 2007 so please make a note in your diary. Looking even farther ahead the 2008 gathering, probably again on the second weekend in September – because that is the time of the annual English Heritage festival when admission to all places of historic interest is free, is likely to be in or near Wells, Somerset, a particularly delightful part of England.

Ed Moxon has taken on the responsibility of running the second phase of the DNA project, building on the sterling work of John Moxon Hill. The new results are already leading to breakthroughs in the understanding of our genealogy and in the coming year we intend to follow these up with an extensive programme of documentary research. The Moxon Family Research Trust has already earmarked funds to enable us to complete our collection of Yorkshire Moxon wills, treasure troves of valuable information. So watch this space!

From time to time members of the Society spot Moxon memorabilia being offered for sale at auctions or on eBay. As a result of being 'tipped off' I have already bought one book, *Stories from South African History* by William Moxon Brown, which I wrote about in the last Issue of *The Moxon Magazine*. Please continue to let the officers know if you spot anything which might be of interest.

I will finish by introducing you to a new word, or rather an old word with a new meaning, invented by my daughter: the verb *to moxon*. As I am sure you have guessed this is an irregular verb with many different, but related, meanings. Here are just a few: to attend family gatherings; to spend hours on the computer searching the IGI – usually in vain – for the long-elusive ancestor; to waste a fortune procuring what often turn out to be useless birth certificates; to write long emails to fellow sufferers of moxonitis... The list is almost endless.

I leave you with this greeting: *Happy moxonning to you all!*

Graham Jagger

OBITUARY LESLIE NEIL MOXON



WE REGRET to report the death of Leslie Neil Moxon on 2nd November, 2005 at his home in Wayne, PA., USA.

Those of us who attended the Norwich Gathering in 1999 will remember Neil and his wife Win. After the Gathering they stayed in Coventry for a couple of nights so that they could visit Market Bosworth - birthplace of Neil's Moxon ancestors.

They, and their three sons are long standing Members of the Society.

The following was reported in the Suburban and Wayne Times:

Leslie Neil Moxon, age 80, of Wayne, died at home on November 2, 2005 following a long and courageous battle with lung cancer. He was born in Baltimore, Md. and spent his early years in Narberth and Penn Valley, graduating from Lower Merion High School in the class of 1943. Immediately upon graduation he was inducted into the U.S. Army for duty in the European Theatre. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge and returned home in 1946 as a Lieutenant.

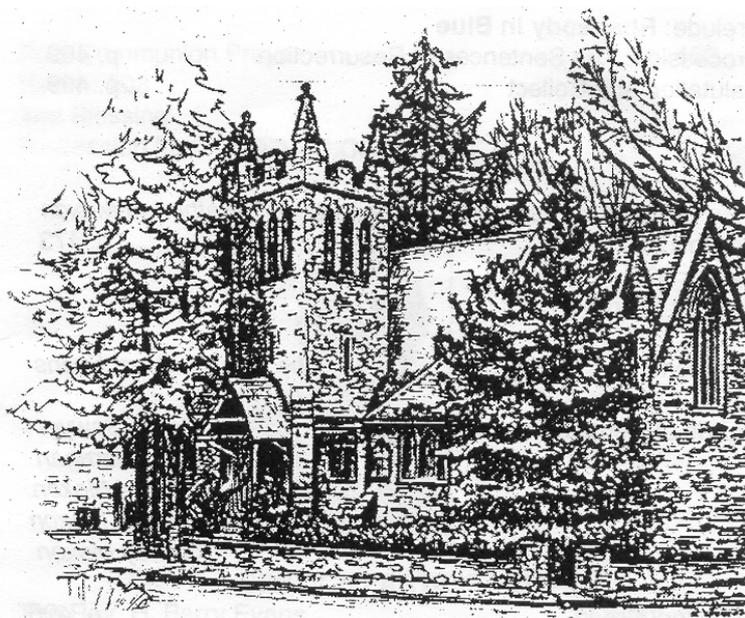
He was married to Winifred Lichty of Wynnewood (also of Lower Merion High School) in July, 1947.

Utilizing his substantial talents as a woodworker, he started a cabinetry and woodworking business in Bala Cynwyd shortly after his marriage. Soon thereafter he began the study of engineering at Penn State University. He eventually gave up cabinetry as a business and became an engineer in the design of structural steel. He was the Designer/Engineer of the steel for many notable buildings throughout the Philadelphia area, including the first pavilion for display of the Liberty Bell outside of Independence Hall in 1976. He retired in the early 1990's. At that point he pursued his special talent for creating fine furniture and beautiful pieces from wood. Furniture bearing his 'mark' will be cherished and appreciated by family, friends and lovers of fine cabinetry for generations to come. In addition, Mr. Moxon was an avid amateur historian, genealogist and gardener.

Neil was always interested and committed to civic responsibilities and participated selflessly and with distinction in local government for many years. Before his death he received three awards from state and local authorities for his 30 years service on the Upper Merion Municipal Authority. Public works of the authority were recently recognised by the EPA as the second best performing facilities in the United States.

He is survived by Winifred (Lichty) Moxon, his wife of 58 years; and three sons, Jeffrey Neil Moxon of Natick, Mass., Kendrick Lichty Moxon of Glendale, Calif., and Theodore Burnham Moxon of Chadds Ford; also a brother, Dr. Robert K. Moxon of Columbia, S.C., and seven grandchildren, Sarah Sawyer, Jeffrey Moxon, Jr., Brian Moxon, Audrey Van Stone, Theodore Moxon, Jr., Katherine Moxon and Annabel Moxon. He was predeceased by granddaughter Stacy Meyer.

A memorial service was held on November 7 at St Martin's Episcopal Church in Radnor.



SAINT MARTIN'S CHURCH
Radnor, Pennsylvania

DAVID MOXON OF NEW ZEALAND APPOINTED ONE OF THREE ARCHBISHOP AND CO-PRESIDING BISHOPS

Rev. David Bewley, Member of Nepean, Ontario, Canada, spotted this news item. We reported David Moxon's appointment as Bishop in MM12 (October 1883). For many years he was a member of the Society. Thank you David for this article.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia has opted for a new model of shared leadership that honours its three-Tikanga structure. The Primacy of the church will be amended constitutionally to comprise the three senior bishops, each carrying the title of Archbishop and Co-presiding Bishop.

General Synod/te Hinota Whanui, meeting in Christchurch this week, named Bishop Brown Turei (Te Pihopa o Aotearoa), Bishop Jabez Bryce (Pasefika) and Bishop David Moxon (Pakeha) to form the new-model Primacy, with the expectation that they would share the joint role fully and publicly.

Until the necessary legislative changes have been made, Bishop Brown will receive the formal title of Primate, described as "holding the taonga of leadership." The new Archbishops will each retain their present Episcopal roles, but will be supported in their primatial duties by the other bishops and the General Synod Standing Committee.

Speaking to Pakeha synodspeople, Bishop Moxon said he was accepting his new responsibility because he believed a shared Primacy was possible "in faith - even though there are new challenges and risks."

The three Archbishops will be installed as co-presiding bishops of the church during a service in Christchurch Cathedral on Thursday (May 11), beginning at 7.30pm.



David Moxon, when he was appointed Bishop in 1983

Footnote: To see short profiles of the new Archbishops, click on the "News" link at: www.anglican.org.nz

ANECDOTES FROM THE PAST

MY MOTHER was brought up on her father's farm, "Lady Lees", in Lullington, about 6 miles from Burton-upon-Trent. In later years she recounted anecdotes from farm life in the years before WWI, when she was a young girl.

Travel is enlightenment:

At that time many country people had never ventured more than a days walk from where they were born. So it was for old Joe, an "Ag. Lab." who worked for my grandfather and lived in one of the "tied" farm cottages. Special trains were often run for a days outing to the sea. Joe went on one of these from Tamworth to Blackpool. On his return, grandfather asked him how it had been, "Eh, master there were water as fer as you could see!", was his response.

Bull in a china shop:

Grandfather had bought a cow in Burton market. The next day he asked one of his young farm lads to walk into Burton to collect the cow. In the outskirts of the town, he was driving the cow along the road past rows of terraced houses, all opening out directly on to the pavement. It was a hot day and many of the front doors were open. Something startled the cow, and it charged through an open door into the parlour. The lady of the house shrieked, the lad went in and chased the cow out. When he got back to the farm, he told grandfather about the incident. "What did you say to her?" "Well" said the lad, "her said nowt - so I said nowt! I got me cow and cum 'ome!"

Caught redhanded:

One of the chores given to mother and her sisters was to go around the farm, collecting the eggs which the hens had laid. They noticed that one of the farm hands was also collecting eggs, and reported to their father.

As the man left at the end of the day to go home, grandfather was waiting for him. It was not obvious where he had the eggs - his pockets were not bulging! However, grandfather guessed. "So, my good man, they tell me you are stealing my eggs", he challenged. "Oh no master" he replied, patting his pockets to show there were no eggs hidden in them. Grandfather then slapped the palm of his hand hard on the man's cap. There was a cracking noise and egg yoke and white gushed out from under his cap, running down his neck and face. Apparently grandfather just roared with laughter, and sent the man on home.

A smelly tale:

Mother's youngest sister was playing tag, and to escape her chasers, ran across the top of the muck heap in the middle of the farm yard. Mostly it was hard, but when she encountered a soft patch she sank in up to her arm pits. Unceremoniously, grandmother grabbed her and held her under the outside well pump, pumping like mad to clean her up. "Eh missus!" said one of the farm hands, "she aint all violets!"

JMH

Dr. WILLIAM MOXON OF MATLOCK

Further to Graham Jagger's article, covering his research into the relationship of Dr. William Moxon to the Staffordshire Moxons (reported in last April's Magazine) Dr. John Moxon, member, and himself a Staffordshire Moxon, has written the following.



As for Dr William Moxon, it is interesting that we are involved with a doctor and the question of birth the wrong side of the sheet. Jimmy (our late President, James Moxon) was always talking of the two William Moxons fathered by my great grandfather seemingly both getting medical qualifications, one hardly talked about, the other becoming a municipal surgeon and possibly becoming mayor of Northampton (visiting which, Ann and I could not confirm).

Jimmy was sure one was illegitimate; his age was not far from the other William, but could not understand why both were called William.

He said that my father must have known William, because he was his father's brother. I duly enquired and my father said "Of course I

remember Uncle Billy. Jims (the name he called his older brother Rupert - Diana's Trotter's father) and I went to stay with him for a month in the school holidays. We were chasing about in the orchard and knocked over Aunt (I can't remember her name, Williams's wife) and we were given a thrashing and sent home, and the family never spoke to each other again!"

That was all I could get out of him; he didn't know of another William and really wasn't interested in his family history - he said he would rather watch the snooker on TV! Even showing him photos of our direct ancestors' grave stones in Maveson Ridware churchyard only got a polite response!

THE MOXON MAGAZINE DOES NOT CARRY COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS *But there are exceptions!*

IN MM31 (April 2003) Judith Ayre, née Moxon, member of Beverley, wrote an article entitled 'Benjamin Moxon's Patent Potion'. It included the advert shown immediately below.

Recently, Zoe Chaddock, member of Lymm, Chester found the second advert whilst trawling the web.

This product was one of Benjamin's later products, probably marketed from around

1830.

Judith concluded her article, "What is an aperient? Well this is where Benjamin's shrewd marketing ability reveals itself, because I doubt he would have made his fortune with a product called Moxon's Fizzy Laxative!"

Zoe also noticed Benjamin's address: 17½, Church Lane, Hull.

Thanks Zoe.

NEWS SNIPPETS

From the DAILY TELEGRAPH
17 June 2006

Gerald Hornby Moxon M.B.E.

Mr. Moxon, a member of the Yorkshire Bee Keepers Association, was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to bee keeping.

Does any member know Mr. Moxon?

From the TIMES May 11, 1802

LLOYD'S COFFEE HOUSE

May 8, 1802

SUBSCRIPTIONS for ERECTING a STATUE of the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT, Late First Lord of Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer for his diligent and valuable Services which he has rendered to his Country, In the Course of his able and upright Administration.

There followed 140 names, including:

Thos. Moxon £5 5s

This is undoubtedly one of the Shipping and Banking brothers, of which more follows:

From the TIMES Dec. 29, 1818

BANKRUPT

Richard William Moxon, George Moxon and John Moxon of Kingston upon Hull, Merchants (trading under the firm of Richard Moxon and Sons, and late bankers, trading under the firm of Richard, William, George and John Moxon)

Judith Moxon (now Ayre) wrote an article about the three brothers and their father in MM11 (April 1993). They had been successful Merchants and Bankers. Their father, Richard Moxon died in 1799 - a wealthy man, but by 1818 the businesses were failing, and bankruptcy followed. None of the sons had sons, so that branch of the family died out.

If you have any NEWS SNIPPETS, please share them with others, by sending them to the Editor for inclusion in a future magazine (see back page for address).

**THIS SPACE WAS
RESERVED FOR
THE NEWS
SNIPPET WHICH
YOU FORGOT TO
SEND TO US!**

MOXON'S

Effervescent Magnesian Aperient,

For Indigestion, Bilious Affections, Pains in the Head, Sick Headache, Casual or Habitual Costiveness, Nausea, Sickness, Heartburn, Piles, Fistula, Derangement of the Stomach and Head, caused by excess either of eating or drinking, and especially as a PREVENTIVE AND SAFE REMEDY FOR THE GOUT.

Many Testimonials of its efficacy, with other particulars, are inserted in the Bill wrapped round each Bottle.

PREPARED ONLY BY

B. Moxon & Sons, Manufacturing Chemists, Hull

And Sold in Bottles at 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 6s., & 11s. by all respectable Medicine Vendors.

Wholesale Agents:—Barclay & Sons, London; Raimes, Edinburgh, Liverpool, and York; Butler, Dublin.

M O X O N ' S

EFFERVESCENT

MAGNESIAN APERIENT.

THIS elegant Preparation possesses all the efficacy of the best Saline Purgatives, without their disagreeable taste and unpleasant operation. It acts upon the Bowels mildly, effectually, without pain or inconvenience, and does not induce any liability to take cold, or establish a necessity for the habitual use of Aperient Medicines; its effervescent character makes it grateful to the Stomach, however irritable.

It is of eminent service in Pains in the Head, Sick Headache, Casual or Habitual Costiveness, Bilious Affections, Nausea, Sickness, Heartburn, Piles, Fistula, and in all Febrile Affections; and is a certain remedy for the unpleasant effects of excess either in eating or drinking. The experience of hundreds has proved it to be the best, and perhaps the only safe, preventive of, and remedy for the GOUT now recommended as a Public Medicine. For these and other kindred disorders, and as a Family Purgative, it has met with the general approval and recommendation of Medical Practitioners during the *Twenty-five Years* which have elapsed since its introduction.

As an adjunct to the Harrogate, Cheltenham, and other Waters, its valuable properties are well known.

Many testimonials of its efficacy, with other particulars, are inserted in the Bill wrapped round each Bottle.

Prepared only by BENJN. MOXON and SONS, Manufacturing Chemists, 17½ Church-lane, Hull; sold in Bottles, at 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 6s., and 11s. by all respectable Medicine Vendors.

Wholesale Agents.—Barclay and Sons, Suttons, Edwards, Newberry, &c. London; Raimes, Edinburgh; Butler, Dublin; Bolton & Co. York; Musson, Quebec; Bradley, Moscow, &c. &c. of whom may be had their

CONCENTRATED

COMPOUND DECOCTION OF SARSAPARILLA,

Prepared according to the London Pharmacopoeia with the best Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla: as it contains no Sugar, or other useless ingredient, it is the most powerful and economical preparation of this valuable Root.

Sold in Bottles at 4s. 6d., 12s., and 22s., equal respectively to 6, 16, and 32 pints of the Compound Decoction prepared in the usual way.

PALACE FARM

By Joan Rendall, Member of Bushby, Leicester.

Joan has been a regular contributor to this magazine for many years. She wrote the popular "Where there's a Will" series, and many other articles. In MM6 (October 1990) she contributed 'Summer Holidays in 1904 for Alice May Moxon, her mother, at Palace Farm. The visit by Joan, Robert, Dymps and John Hill, to Witham and Palace Farm, referred to in this article, was published in MM 21 (April 1998) in "Knowing our Moxons - Joan Rendall".



I STARED in disbelief at the advertisement in The Property Mail, a supplement issued weekly by our local paper, The Leicester Mercury. There in front of my very eyes was a photo of the old Palace Farm (see colour photograph on page 7) where three generations of my Moxon ancestors had lived out their lives - and it was now on the market for the princely sum of £1,150,000. What would my Grandfather Moxon, who was born in this house, have thought, I wondered, for he had died in poverty. It is certain that he would have been staggered by the asking price, for in his day, this was no exclusive house for the wealthy elite but a hard-working, unpretentious Yeoman Farmer's abode where mud was trampled through the back scullery and where beer was brewed and butter was churned and the daily bread was popped into the brick oven and where cockerels crowed every morning to awaken the drowsy sleepers for another hard day's toil in the fields.

Palace Farm House lies in the village of Witham-on-the-Hill, near Bourne in South Lincolnshire. It was said that at one time the house was part of a much larger Elizabethan mansion and the aristocratic Duncombe family who owned the property until the year 1906, have an early water colour of the mansion which seems to substantiate this story.

Many years ago, it is claimed, the Bishop of Lincoln used the house as his Palace, whilst visiting the southern area of his See - hence the name, Palace Farm. It should be remembered that Lincolnshire is one of our larger counties and travel was slow when nothing could move faster than a horse, and so it may have been necessary for the Bishop and his entourage, to spend many weeks on end in this part of the county every year.

My Gt. Grandfather, Thomas Moxon married Louisa Ingle of Humby, South Lincolnshire about the year 1848 and almost



The original Palace Farm from a water colour painting owned by the Duncombe family. Subsequently half the house was demolished after a fire - compare with the colour photograph on page 7

immediately took her to live at Palace Farm. Here they produced a family of 15 children. The sexes of the off-spring fell into a curious pattern being 3 girls followed by a boy three times over to make 12 children. The 13th child a boy, who of course should have been a girl, broke the pattern, although he was followed by 2 more girls. My Grandfather was the fourth child but eldest boy.

My Mother, Alice May Nicholls, nee Moxon frequently said that the happiest times of her life were spent when she and her brother and sister spent their summer holidays at Palace Farm. Discipline was comparatively free and easy and the old farm buzzed with the activities of the large family, together with the maids and farm-hands employed there, for labour was cheap enough in those days. Every morning all would congregate in the Parlour for morning prayers to begin the day. Later on in the evening all the children whoever

happened to be staying there, would climb to the top floor with their lighted candles and sleep in a large room which was given over to them and where they could make as much noise as they liked, chattering away like magpies to their cousins and young aunts, until they fell happily to sleep

In later years, Palace Farm House was no longer a farm as the surrounding land was sold off. During the latter part of the twentieth century, it was thoroughly restored and tastefully modernised to become the very desirable residence that it is today.

A few years ago, Robert and I together with John and Dymps Hill visited Witham where we were invited to tea by the owner of the old farmstead. We were made

very welcome, and I think we were all intrigued to find a llama contentedly grazing in the paddock!! He was the children's pet, so we were told.

Later on, we visited the Witham Church close by the house and saw the stained glass window dedicated to the memory of Louisa and Thomas Moxon and installed by their numerous children and friends. It depicts the Angel Gabriel telling Mary that she is to have a divine son. This seemed an appropriate subject for Louisa who had given birth to 15 live children followed, so I am led to believe, by still-born twins.

Whoever buys the house now, I hope he, or she, will tend it not just with money alone but with sensitivity and loving care, for Palace Farm has a great history stretching right back to Tudor times - which leads me on to say, 'Oh, if only those walls could talk!'

JR

THWARTED!

I've been doing family history for nearly 30 years,
Diligently tracing my illustrious forebears,
From Pigeon Lake to Peterborough, Penrith to Penzance,
My merry band of ancestors has led me quite a dance.

There's cooks from Kent and guards from Gwent
and chimney sweeps from Chester.
There's even one daft fisherman lived all his life in Leicester,
There's no-one rich or famous, no not even well-to-do,
Though a second cousin twice removed once played in goal for Crewe.

I've haunted record offices from Gillingham to Jarrow,
The little grey cells of my mind would humble Hercule Poirot.
I've deciphered bad handwriting that would shame a three year old,
And brought the black sheep of the family back to the fold.

My bride of just three minutes, I left standing in the church,
As I nipped into the graveyard for a spot of quick research.
Eventually I found an uncle, sixty years deceased.
That was far more satisfying than a silly wedding feast,

After three weeks of wedded bliss, my wife became despondent.
She named the public records office as the co-respondent.
I didn't even notice when she packed her bags and went
I was looking for a great granddad's will who'd died in Stoke on Trent

But now my 30 year obsession's lying in the bin
Last Tuesday week, I heard some news that made me pack it in.
Twas then my darling mother, who is not long for this earth,
Casually informed me they'd adopted me at birth!

Anon (Internet)

Sent to me by a friend who knows of my interest in family history

JMH

continued from front page

From Godiva we went back towards the New Cathedral and to St. Mary's Guildhall; the foundation stone was laid in 1342. It was here that Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned, in a small room off the main hall, for several months in 1569-1570. The Great North Window by John Thornton, a Coventry Glazier (*see photo*) contains a king in each of the nine panels. Below the window is a tapestry thought to depict the meeting of Alexander the Great with King Darius III of Persia.

Off the main hall, are rooms for early council meetings, the City Treasury, The Prince's Room (which can be hired for small dinner parties) and the Armoury. At the back of the hall is a minstrel's gallery.

After saying farewell to Colin, our guide, we went our separate ways.

One group went to Mediaeval Spon Street (*see photos*) to The Old Windmill for a drink and lunch.

Spon street was not completely destroyed by the bombing, and after the war the Council started to dismantle old buildings in other parts



St. Mary's Guildhall

of the city, and reassemble them in Spon Street.

From St. Mary's Guildhall others members headed off to Warwick Castle - another fine mediaeval building, now owned by Madame Tausauds.

"Back at the Mill", we relaxed before dinner at 7-00 pm, before hearing our speaker, Roger Bailey, talking about Coventry's history.

We thank Diana for organising the event, which all agreed had been well worth attending.

The Minutes of the Annual General meeting are enclosed with this magazine.

Footnote:

For anyone visiting Coventry in the future, there is much more to see than was possible during a morning visit. Telephone the Tourist Information Office on (024) 7822 7264. Ask about The Canal Basin, College of Bablake and Bonds Hospital, The first Cathedral Visitor Centre, and lots more!

JMH



Mediaeval Spon Street.



Our Tour Guide, Colin, dressed as King Henry VII.

Photo by Don Moxon

Photo by John Earnshaw

JUDY HUGGETT and THE VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

JUDY HUGGETT, member of Ingoldishorpe, near Hunstanton was recently featured in the local 'Eastern Daily Press'.

Judy donated a beautifully preserved pair of turquoise silk acrobat trunks once belonging to her grandfather, Edwin Moxon, a 19th century circus performer.

The photo on the opposite page, shows Judy presenting the trunks to Cathy Haill, a curator of popular entertainment at the museum. Cathy said, "We are really pleased. This is such a rare item to receive, since most performer's clothing is never kept, and as you would expect, it normally gets worn out".

The trunks had been kept in storage along with other items belonging to her grandfather.

It was after chatting to a friend who had visited the museum, that Judy decided to dig them out and donate them, so that her grandfather's career would not be forgotten. She said, "I am thrilled to bits that they will be on show at the museum, My granddad was a great man, whom I adored."

Edwin Moxon was born in 1856. At the age of 17 he ran away to join the circus. He travelled all over the world, and in his younger years would perform in a number of acts including the flying trapeze, the high wire and knife throwing. Eventually he mastered the art of foot juggling.

It was a unique skill in which he trained Judy's mother, and eventually, Judy herself,

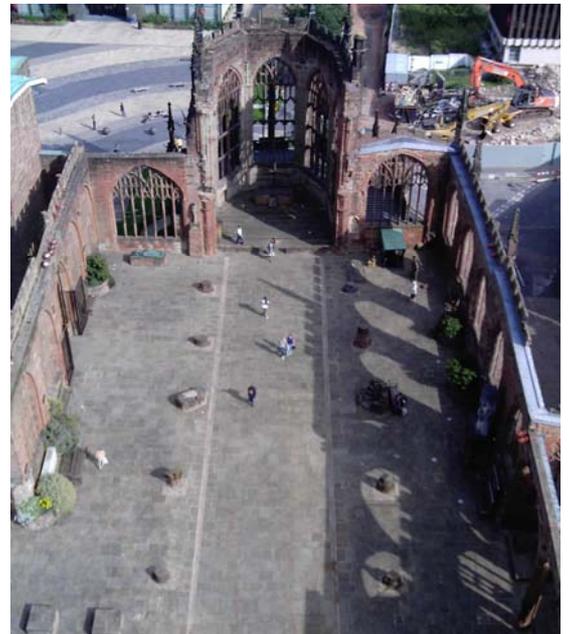
starting when she was just five years old and he was in his 80's.

He died in 1947.

We thank the Editor, Peter Franzen, of the Eastern Daily Press for giving us permission to use their material.

An article on Judy's career in the circus and on stage as an acrobat was featured in MM No. 7 (April 1991).

(Back numbers of Magazines can be purchased from the Magazine and book Distributor - see back page



ABOVE: *The Bombed Cathedral from the Tower*
Photo by John Earnshaw.

LEFT: *Members on the steps of St. Michael's Cathedral with St. Michael slaying the Devil.*

From left: Ed Moxon, Graham Jagger, John & Dymps Moxon Hill, John & Gillie McKeown, John & Sue Earnshaw, Judy Huggett, Ann Moxon, Sue Moxon, John E Moxon, Robert & Joan Rendall, Rosemary Mans, Wendy Moxon, Barbara O'Neill and John C Moxon.

Photo by Don Moxon



Palace Farm
Reproduced from King West sales brochure
See article on page 5



LEFT:

Judy Huggett, on the left, presenting her grandfather's acrobat trunks to Cathy Hail of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

See article on opposite page.



The Colours carried at the Battle of Ferozeshah in 1845
From Colonel Innes' book, (The History of the Bengal European Regiment and how it helped to win India").

See article on page 9

“A TALE OF TWO SWORDS”

Some footnotes by Bob Moxon Browne

I WAS PLEASED to see from the October 2005 edition of the Moxon Magazine that the standard carried by Philip Moxon at Ferozeshah was recently taken out for an airing. This has prompted me to revisit John McKeown's excellent article "A Tale of Two Swords" in the issue of the Magazine for April 2002, and to put together some notes on my own research into the life and death of the gallant ensign, said to have been one of Thomas Moxon of Leyton's favourite sons, and only nineteen when he was killed.

I have long suspected that given the bureaucratic nature of the East India Company, it was quite possible that records of the performance of cadets who passed through Addiscombe College would have survived. This turns out to be true: the relevant "East India Office Papers" are in the archive of the British Library, and the records of cadets are accessible on microfilm. Paul Davies formerly of the Moxon Bentham Trust has made notes of these, which he was kind enough to lend me. There are full records for the brothers Philip, Julius and Thomas Moxon. Members of the clan will not be surprised to learn that all three were exemplary scholars - no surprise either that of course one of the "two swords" was Addiscombe's good conduct prize awarded to Julius.

The Addiscombe records show that Philip's birth date was 18th January 1826, and that he was born in Dover (although his parents were then living at The Lodge in Twickenham). He was at school in Twickenham, and then went to Addiscombe, passing out in June 1843. This shows that John's surmise that Philip's sword was a passing out present is wrong; the date on the blade indicates that it was in fact a (nineteenth) birthday present. By the time Philip was given the sword he had already left for India, assigned to the Bengal Infantry. One of his fellow new recruits was one P.R. Innes, who was to fight alongside Philip at Ferozeshah, and who later as Colonel Innes became historian of the regiment. I have now managed to obtain a copy of his splendid book "The History of the Bengal European Regiment and how it helped to win India" (found via an internet book-search, at a shop in a small town on the west coast of America!).

Innes' book contains a colour plate of the two standards carried at Ferozeshah, and a detailed account of the battle. It shows that Philip's regiment was camped more than 200 miles from Ferozeshah, at a place called Subathoo, when news broke of the Sikh uprising: the regiment travelled the distance to the battleground in just 7 days, on foot, carrying full battle gear over tough and very hilly ground, sometimes covering up to 40 miles a day (and night). This was an impressive forced march, rivalling anything achieved by the modern army of 'yompers': The troops had just one day's rest before going into the battle in which Philip died,

Colonel Innes gives a detailed account of Philip's death. It was Innes himself, as a young ensign like Philip, who took the bloody standard from Philip's hands. This did not



Bob Moxon Browne

happen on the Sikh "ramparts" as Charles St D Moxon records, but actually in the Sikh village. Innes records that the British troops were being harassed by Sikh fire from behind a makeshift barricade of burning tents, while trying to get water for their parched throats from the village well. Philip died while charging this barricade, holding the regimental colours which the commanding officer had deliberately placed in the centre of the attack.

Innes continues, without any false modesty about his own role in the matter, "Without waiting for orders, Ensign P R Innes returned alone to the barricade, in front of which lay

Ensign Philip Moxon's body, quite dead; he having fallen upon the Colour, which was saturated with his blood".

Later he wrote: "Ensign Philip Moxon, whose death we have described, carrying the symbol of his Regiment's honour, which he so well sustained, leaving the Impress of his heart's blood on his trust as lasting testimony of his brave and dauntless spirit. He died the death which a soldier may justly prize. He deserves to have his deeds emblazoned in gold on the annals of his regiment, that his successors may honour and revere the name of Ensign Philip Moxon".

Unfortunately these fine words seem to have fallen on deaf ears amongst Philip Moxon's "successors" in the modern army. As John's article records, in 1861 Philip's former regiment became part of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, now itself disbanded. The legal inheritors of their regimental paraphernalia, including the standard carried by Philip, is the Army Museum, Winchester Cathedral, the current custodians of the standard, who can no longer display it, are keen to hand it to its rightful owners. However inexplicably, the Museum is dithering about acceptance, quoting "practical and financial issues associated with the long term preservation of colours". This seems a sad salute to the memory of Philip Moxon and others who gave their lives at Ferozeshah.

BMB

See colour photograph of the colours on page 7

CAN YOU HELP ZOE CHADDOCK?

Zoe, member of Chester, wrote about her Aunt Florence in last April's magazine. She has now found an old family photograph. Zoe can identify some of those on it, but suspects others to be close members of the family, and wonders if any society members could put names to faces. She thinks the picture dates from around 1919/early 1920, as her grandfather died in June 1920.



On the front row seated, left to right are my grandmother Amy Mitchell (nee Moxon), Arthur Steel Mitchell (my grandfather), Clifford Mitchell (my uncle). Other children may be Joan or Kathleen Moxon, Jessie Hill or Gordon Bruce, all nieces and nephews of Amy. My mother, Mabel Mitchell is on the 2nd row, centre in the white dress standing next to the gent with the tash who I think is James Moxon, my Gt grandfather. The lady on James' other side may be his second wife Maria. Others in the picture are probably Amy's sisters Gertrude and Beatrice, their husbands Fred Hill and Thos Bruce and her brother James Moxon jr and his wife Beatrice.

SOCIETY NEWS

WEBMASTER'S REPORT

THERE IS SOME new information on the site, namely a list of major articles from past Moxon Magazines, and an update to the Gatherings' page including the 2005 gathering and a map of previous gathering locations.

The major change this year has been the very recent provision of a secure area for members. The idea is that the Society's data can be placed there for all members to access. Currently it contains the GEDCOM* files (36 so far), the magazines from October 1999 to present (Issues 24 to 37), and transcripts of wills (71 so far).

* GEDCOM files are the means of transmitting family trees from one family tree program to another, even if the programs are different.

Copyright laws prohibit us from putting copied data on the site, but anything that the Society has produced itself, e.g. transcripts from source documents, booklets and Moxon Trees, can be included. If any member has anything of that kind that they are willing to share with the rest of the Society then please forward it to me for inclusion on the site.

If anyone has ideas about other things they'd like to see the site being used for then please let me know, and we can look at the feasibility of doing so.

To gain access to the secure area of the web site please email me and I will send you a username and password.

John Earnshaw
Webmaster

webmaster@moxonsociety.org

UPDATE ON DNA TESTS

AT THE LAST Committee Meeting, Ed Moxon was appointed Project Administrator to oversee the organisation of future DNA (Y-Chromosome) Testing.

The tests are funded by a grant from the Moxon Family Research Trust, £1000 agreed at the time of the 2005 Gathering. At the 2006 Gathering the Trust has agreed a further £1000 for follow-up tests, book publishing and some research costs.

Ed proposed a programme, which was agreed, to repeat tests on 10 donors, but this time, testing for 43 markers on the Y-chromosome through DNA Heritage (a USA company). The original tests were carried out by Oxford Ancestors in UK. They only tested 10 markers. Since that time, technical progress has shown that more markers can give far more useful results (and are cheaper than the OA tests on only 10 markers!)

JMH

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED TESTS

OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1. To determine the number of Common Paternal Ancestors (CPA) within the last 20 generations (based on matching haplotypes⁴) and to assess the probability of a single CPA further back in time in the event of multiple CPAs.

Objective 2. To unite family tree fragments where CPA can be shown using high resolution tests.

Objective 3. To confirm or otherwise the validity of the 10 marker tests.

RESEARCH GOALS:

At the start of the project (questions and goals will undoubtedly evolve as knowledge is gained), the questions to be answered by the goals are:

A Is there a CPA linking trees MX17 and MX25?

B Is there a single CPA linking the Silkstone and High Hoyland trees of MX13, MX15, MX26, MX27 and MX58?

C Is there a single CPA linking MX01, MX06, MX14, MX22 and MX31?

To test/prove the purchase processes with DNA Heritage, the project will start with Research Goal B as there are no overseas candidates in that plan.

Ed Moxon
DNA Project Administrator

Results for 7 out of the 10 have just become available, with the remainder expected within the next month.

It is too early to report details until the remaining results are to hand, and we have had chance carry out a full examination and discussion.

We expect to include a report in the April 2007 Moxon Magazine.

PLEASE NOTE:

The DNA Heritage system makes provision for anyone having DNA tests done to place their family trees on the DNA Heritage website. In most cases individuals pay for their own tests and can then contact others, having the same surname, and see their trees.

In our case, the Society (through the MFRT) is paying for member's tests. In order to encourage any non-member Moxon or Moxham who takes the test to join the Society, the Society does not intend to place our family trees on the DNA Heritage website. We also ask members not to place their Moxon (Moxham) trees on the DNA Heritage website.

If, via this website, anyone contacts Ed Moxon, then Ed will try to persuade them to join the Society, and then they will be able to share their research with ours.

MOXON SOCIETY BOOK SHOP

BUY NOW FOR CHRISTMAS!

THE SOCIETY can now offer excellent Christmas presents at greatly reduced prices.

	Price incl. post & packing.	
BOOK	U.K.	Airmail
The Moxons of St. Helens	£0-90	£2-10
Biography of Rev. George Moxon	£1-40	£2-50
Moxon of Gt. Yarmouth	£1-30	£2-50
Charles Mokeson of Cawthorne	£1-40	£2-50
A Truly Honest Man	£2-80	£6-50
The Moxons of Yorkshire	£2-60	£4-60
Back Issues of The Moxon Magazine	£0-95	£2-00

THE MOXONS OF ST. HELENS

Author: Ron Moxon, B/W 24 pages, 10 illustrations.

The history of Nathaniel Moxon and his wife Ann Pendlebury, and their descendants. Nathaniel was born 1815 in Market Bosworth, the grandson of Nathaniel Moxon "The Innkeeper".

BIOGRAPHY OF REV. GEORGE MOXON

Compiled and written by Jane Micklethwaite, B/W, 36 pages, 15 illustrations.

George Moxon (1602-1687) was a Puritan Priest who had to flee England for America, because of his beliefs. After Cromwell came to power he returned, only later to be ejected from his Parish.

THE MOXONS OF GREAT YARMOUTH

Author: John Moxon Hill, 12 pages, 31 illustrations - most in colour, giving brief details of the descendants of John Moxon of Yarmouth 1689-1736.

CHARLES MOKESON OF CAWTHORNE and his DYNASTY (?-1592)

Authors: Joan Rendall & John Moxon Hill, B/W, 56 pages, 14 illustrations plus 7 family trees.

Covers his dynasty down to many of the 29 Society Members who are his descendants.

THE MOXONS OF YORKSHIRE

Author: James (Jimmy) Moxon - late President and Founding Father of the Society. B/W, 117 pages, 9 illustrations, including family trees.

The book traces Jimmy's family history back into Yorkshire to the sixteenth century.

A TRULY HONEST MAN

Edited by Peter Foss & Timothy Parry, B/W, 164 pages, 25 illustrations.

Based on the diary of Joseph Moxon of Market Bosworth 1798-1799. The book expands the diary to include much of interest in and around Market Bosworth.

Books may be ordered from The Book and Magazine Distributor - see back page.



Robert Moxham and Sarah White Family

- Line 1 L-R - Mathew K, ???, Amy Munns, Hannah Munns,
Line 2 - L-R - Chris K, ?? K, Terry Seymour, Helen Seymore, Betty Woods, Katrina Munns, Kirsty Munns, Jayde Flannagan, Phippa Moxham, Robert Moxham, Anita Munns, Beryl Tant
Line 3 L-R - ?? K, Khia Freeburn, Barry Munns, Sean Munns, Ben Munns, Robert Munns, ???, ???? Elaine Stuart, Coleen Moxham
Line 4 L-R - Nicki Freeburn, Lynn Portelli, Peter Munns, Mavis Thomson, ? Moxham, ? Moxham,
Line 5 L-R - Alvin Clark, Wendy K., Jenny Clark, Stephen Moxham, Dennis Moxham, Emma Andrews, Alicia Andrews, Loreun Andrews, Jacklyn Moxham, Shirley Moxham, John Moxham, Luke Moxham, Norma Morris, ???, Adele Munns
Line 6 L-R - ? Moxham, Anne Moxham, ???, Dennis Moxham, Robert Moxham, Cheryl Moxham, John Andrews, Dan Johnston, Debbie Andrews, ???, Bruce Moxham, ???, ? Rossi, Glen Tant*



The Moxhams view their Family Tree (Wall papering?)



RIGHT:
Gretel and Adam cut their wedding cake with Ensign Philip Moxon's sword.

LEFT:
Close-up of the sword, carried by the gallant ensign, said to have been one of Thomas Moxon of Leyton's favourite sons, and only nineteen when he was killed at Ferozeshah in 1845.



MOXHAM FAMILY REUNION

Held in Parramatta, Sydney, Australia on 18th March 2006

Report by Sharon Lowry, member of Adelaide.

See opposite page for colour photographs

THE WEEK LEADING up to the Moxham Family Reunion on Saturday 18th March 2006 was a worrying time for interstate travellers as one of the main airlines were threatened with strikes, fortunately this never eventuated.

The weather Gods smiled on us and Sydney turned on a perfect day much to the delight of everyone as we all had our picnic lunches and a blanket for a well earned noon break.

The Northmead School, where the reunion was held was built on land previously owned by the Moxham family. It was reported that a Moxham child had attended the school every year since it was established. Recently a new path was laid in brick and former members of the school purchased a brick which had their names engraved on it. Enormous interest was shown by the reunion members who also attended the school in purchasing their brick pavers when a new path is being planned.

Around 130 people attended on the day and others sent their regrets due to illness.

It was really wonderful to finally meet clansmen face to face rather than via email or snail mail. It was interesting to find that one lady finally met up with a cousin she had not seen for around 50 years, and others who worked together not knowing they were related until they met at the reunion, and a regular customer to a coffee shop found he was related to the lady that served him.

The Irish Tree was so long it had to be broken up into sections and everyone gathered around pointing out where they fitted into the different sections talking about Aunt Mary or great grandfather Henry. The English Clan Tree was also on display in the hope that one of the family could shed some light on who left the West Country of England and when, but

this was not to be.

The day was well organized with tea and coffee on tap, certificates for the oldest and youngest clan members and games with prizes for the children. To ensure everyone met, a different word was given to 4 people and to find the 4 word sentence we all had to make ourselves known to individuals and ask if they had "the word" and by the end of the day everyone had made new friends and contacts. It really was a fabulous way to ensure none of us felt left out due to shyness.

A brief talk was given by Adele Munns, one of the organizers of the reunion, on the history of the Moxham families in the Parramatta area and a map was supplied showing where all the interesting homes and landmarks were so we could visit these areas at our leisure.

An interesting part of Parramatta was a stone quarry owned by the Moxhams. After it stopped production it was used as a dumping ground for just about everything including a body. The Council finally decided to clean it up and fill it in, probably for housing but during the cleanup a stone bridge built in 1860 was found together with some rare plants, so the site was turned into a nature walk park, however as the reserve is in its natural state it is not a walk I would attempt in summer as snakes in Australia are very unfriendly and very poisonous so that expedition for me will wait until winter.

One of the Moxham homes in the area has had a varied existence, firstly as a family home, then a pizza hut and now a restaurant. As it was closed at the time of our visit we could only look through the windows at the wonderful interior and the staircase leading to the second floor. The original stone steps from the road to the front door were still in perfect



Henry Moxham Family
(Not Norman!)

L-R – Row 1 – Trevor Moxham, Philip Moxham (Member), Laurie Mottram

L-R - Row 2 – Sandie Moxham, Sharon Lowry (Member), (Laurie's Wife).

condition, well why shouldn't they be as they came from the Moxham quarry. It was interesting to stand on the steps thinking about our ancestors who also stood and walked on these very steps.

continued on next page

GRETEL MOXON AND ADAM SPIZICK MARRIED

Margaret Moxon, mother of the Bride, has sent us this report. Simon and Margaret are the 'Stalwarts' of the Australian Branch of the Moxon Society, and live in Clayfield, Brisbane.

THE FIRST OF APRIL was a magical day greatly enjoyed by Gretel and Adam, their families and many friends who gathered to celebrate their wedding at 4pm in St Marks Church, Clayfield. After some refreshing rain showers on Friday, this was the perfect day - sunny with a beautiful breeze. The church was decorated with pew ribbons, massed greenery and fragrant white lilies, and looked it's splendid best in the afternoon light.

Gretel arrived at St Marks with her father having enjoyed a musical tour of Clayfield with her Godfather as chauffeur, Adam's niece and nephew, Bella & Josh, who were dressed so beautifully, ably assisted Gretel as she and Adam, whose friend Peter Bowman was best-man, smiled and enjoyed their marriage service taken by the Rev Philip Crook. Their special wedding rings were made by Gretel's

Godmother. Lucy and Angus were the constant background encouragement and support.

Photos were taken in the church garden after the wedding before Gretel & Adam were driven by her Godfather to the reception at The Pavilion, Allan Border Field, Breakfast Creek,

As so many guests had come from interstate and overseas, a friend of Angus drove most others in a hired mini bus to the reception where the party began at 6pm while family friends kindly looked after the young children for the evening. It was very special to have so many relatives and old family friends join us at the Church for the service and gather afterwards to share with Gretel and Adam, this, their day.

The reception venue was beautifully decorated with a 'cricket' theme, white with green chair

ribbons and the church flowers enhanced an already exceptional atmosphere.

Cricket is a great interest to both G & A, Adam's grandfather having played for Australia in Don Bradman's 'time'. Marvellous food, short and amusing speeches, good music and great dancing made for a magical evening that came to an end all too soon.

The Moxon and Spizick families enjoyed a very happy, relaxed and memorable day. Our grateful and heartfelt thanks to all who attended or were with us in spirit.

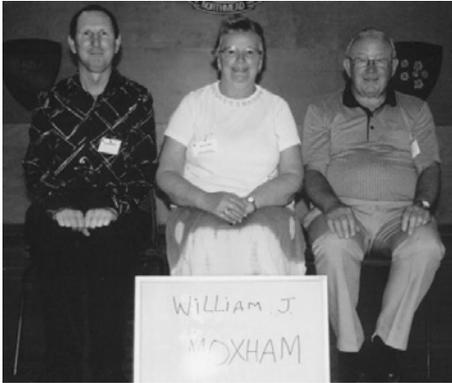
Your thoughts, good wishes and presence made this such a special time for all of us.

See article 'A Tale of Two Swords' on page 8 for further information about Ensign Philip Moxon and his sword.

Continued from previous page

Individual parties continued into the night and I suspect there might have been a few sore heads the following day.

From all indications it appears that a 2nd reunion could be held in 2008 giving us all two years to do more research and find our elusive ancestors as well as make contact with other Moxham families so they too might join in on the day and meet up with lost or new relatives.



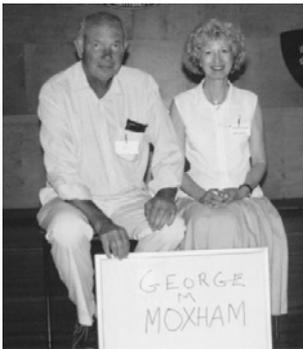
LEFT

*William J. Moxham Family
L-R - Philip Moxham, Jan Stubbs, Ken Stubbs*



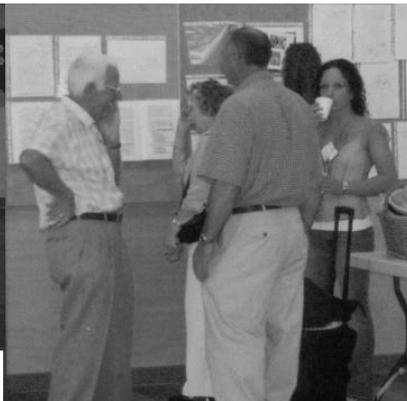
William Dick Moxham Family

*L-R - Row 1 Robert Moxham, Ian Moxham, Janet Moxham
L-R - Row 2 Ron Fenwick, Janet Fenwick, Susan Moxham, Jenny Clift, Jennifer Blackman*



George Moorecroft Moxham Family

L-R - Peter Moxham, Barbara Moxham



L-R Bruce Moxham, Shirley Moxham, Robert (Bob) Moxham,



L-R Chris Moxham, Trevor Moxham, Peter Moxham



SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING

THE COMMITTEE meets once a year usually in May, at the home of one of the committee members,

The photo below shows the members who attended the meeting last May in Coventry at the home of Dymps and John Moxon Hill.

THOSE PRESENT:

Left to Right:

*STANDING: John Earnshaw (Treasurer), Judy Huggett, John Moxon Hill (Chairman & Editor), Sue Earnshaw (Secretary), Ed Moxon
SITTING: Christopher Micklethwaite, Jane Micklethwaite, and Graham Jagger (President).*

MOXON CASUALTIES IN WW1

And Letters Home.

By David Moxon, Member of Godalming, Surrey.

David's article reminds us of the terrible losses in WW1, and of the awful conditions our troops suffered on the front.

THE MOXON MAGAZINE (April 2004) carried a list of Moxons who gave their lives in WW1, and at the time we wondered why Great Uncle Jack was not included. He was the son of Dr William Moxon of Matlock, Moxon family tree MX22. New research has now revealed the story of Jack Moxon.

Family papers included a copy of the front page of the Times of July 8 1918, with an entry under "Died of Wounds" that Corporal Jack Moxon, AIF, died in hospital abroad at the age of 22. He was the youngest son of Dr William Moxon of Matlock and Mrs Julia Moxon, by then living in Cheltenham. No trace was found of Jack in UK war records.

The initials AIF provided the necessary clue – he was in the Australian Imperial Force. Jack's father, Dr. William Moxon died in 1911 after which Jack was in the charge of his strong-minded mother. He would not conform to her puritanical rule. As soon as he could he broke away and went to Australia where he compounded his misdeeds by marrying a barmaid – to his mother's horror! Jack had joined up in Victoria and served in the 60th battalion Australian Infantry. He is buried in the cemetery at Vignacourt in North France – which was filled by Australian casualties from desperate fighting on the Amiens front.

Whatever his relationship with his mother, he remained close to the rest of his family and a poignant letter from the front still survives.

Letter from Corporal Jack Moxon to his brother Dr Herbert Moxon.

France, 22/2/1917

My dear Herbert,

Just a line again to let you know that I am still going strong. I have just returned from the trenches where we had a rather lively time. I had 2 narrow escapes, one from a high explosive shell, the other from a sniper's bullet. Somehow I do not think I am destined to die in this war.

I know that you will be glad to hear that I was singled out by my platoon commander and have received my 2 stripes back. You may remember that in Egypt I reverted to the ranks at my own request, owing to a little misunderstanding with my platoon officer.

The cold and mud here are, I think, worse than the fighting.

Signa (?) arrived in England at the beginning of January. Well, old man, I hope everything is going well with you, and Leslie and Kathleen, and that you are all keeping fit and well. My address is

No 3662
Corp J H Moxon
A Company, 60th Battalion,
15th Brigade AIF

and I hope I will soon hear from you.
Much love, your affectionate brother,

Jack

Notes:

Jack was only 21, and 15 years younger than Herbert, who was then practicing medicine in Australia. This letter would have taken some time to arrive, and a reply longer still. Jack had another 16 months in the trenches before being wounded near Amiens. Herbert's wife seemed to be known to him as Kathleen, her second name, and to her family as Dora, her first name.

We are also intrigued by the reference to "Signa", could she have been his wife (the disapproved of barmaid)?? The search continues.

Co-incidentally there is another letter from the front from Jack Moxon's brother in law, also called Jack, that was written at much the same time. (This Jack calls his sister Dora, her first name, but the Moxons called her Kathleen, her second name). It may be that the two men were actually close to each other in the front line - Jack Blockley talks about the Anzacs being "on their left at present". However there is no evidence that the brothers in law ever met, or indeed knew of each other's presence.

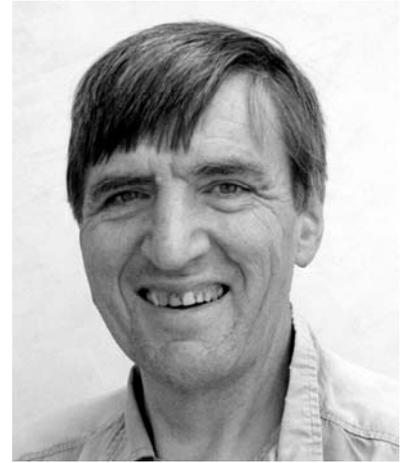
Letter from Jack Blockley to his sister Dora (Mrs Herbert Moxon) 6 January 1917

My Dear Dora

Thanks very much for your letter which arrived about Christmas time. I am sorry you have formed such a bad opinion of Australia and its populace. I have seen a good deal of the Anzacs out here and in fact they are on our left at present. When first they came out here they relieved us in a quiet part of the line, they came here with the idea that they were going to end the war but they soon found that the methods of the Hun were very different from those of the Turk and after a very short time they paid heavily for their lesson and took tips from those who knew. Now they are quite different and apart from their discipline which is absolutely nil they are jolly good. Since the beginning of the offensive they have done some awfully good work.

I quite forget when I last wrote to you so if I repeat myself please forgive. There is no news and I don't suppose the war has any very great interest except for those who are mixed up with it. Since the first of July when the attack started on the Somme we have been pretty well in the midst of it ever since apart from our period of rest, when we have had a good time because we have generally managed to be near a big town.

Of course things have quietened down for



the winter a good deal on the part of the Hun but our artillery keep at it incessantly. In August I was in a Base hospital for about three weeks with trench fever a most unpleasant complaint but finally managed to get back to my old unit. When one has been with a unit at the front for about nineteen months one does not like leaving it.

I was in hospital at Rouen, a topping place but I had little use for the people at Base hospital they seem to collect all the shirkers possible. Hardly any of them have been up to the front, and what is more have no desire to come. After all they would not be much use if they did come up.

I was home on leave last in June and am hoping to go again in about three weeks. England at the present time is an awfully one eyed place it was bad enough last time so I shudder to think what it will be like now, with food tickets and all the rest of it.

While we were resting a few weeks ago I was given three days leave to Paris, we were only two hours run from it. I had a splendid time, compared with London it is quite gay and well lit at night although it is only 50 miles from the line.

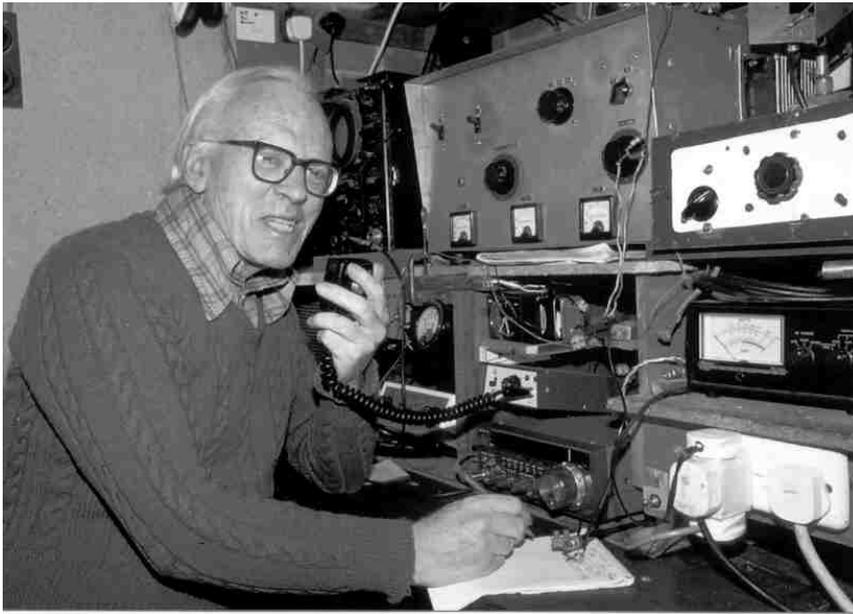
Last year at Christmas time we were in what was then the worst part of the line, in front of Ypres and this year we are in the worst part, and there seems very little prospect of getting out of it. The weather and mud are awful and all the ground has been fought over so much the ground is simply riddled with shell holes filled with liquid mud. It is quite a common thing for men and horses to fall in them and drown. One of my mules this morning very nearly drowned. We are all living in tents so you can imagine there were not many Christmas festivities and it is mighty cold. We have been very unlucky lately with our horses, one night I had two killed and eleven wounded, luckily not a man was touched but it was a rotten job in the dark and the mud.

Our ambulance has done very well in the way of medals, eight of the men have got military medals and two of the officers military crosses. Where we are everything is blown to atoms and there is not a wall standing for miles around. One could pass through what had once been a village and never realise a village had ever been there. The crows may be black in Australia; but there are blacker ones here.

continued at foot of column 1 on next page

LESLIE ARNOLD MOXON

David Moxon, member of Godalming, Surrey, has written this short biography of his father, who died in 2004.



Leslie Moxon (1909 - 2004)

Pictured in front of his beloved radio transmitter/receiver.

LES MOXON DIED in 2004 at the age of 94 after a long and productive life as a scientist. He was the son of a doctor, showing a scientific bent from an early age although he never described himself as a great scholar. He attended Clifton College and then the University of London where he took a degree in electrical engineering. He was by then already an enthusiastic radio amateur, getting his first licence in 1928. From then on G6XN was to make his mark on the airwaves.

Before the war he worked for Murphy Radio - but by 1941 was working for the Admiralty on highly secret and sensitive work to do with the development of radar. He spent the rest of his career working for the Government as a radio specialist. He retired in 1969, enabling him to have a long and happy retirement pursuing his passions for radio, antennae design, travel and exploration of wild places.

He had always been immensely creative

continued from previous page

There seems to be no sign of it ever ending and if I live to see the end of it I don't think Australia or anywhere else except England will see much of me. We have been under much worse conditions before and really we are not too badly off. The Hun does not worry us very much, but he has one gun which we call Persistent Percy which throws a good deal of metal about at times, too close to be pleasant. He throws it about very indiscriminately but thank goodness very few burst.

There is no more news.

With all Good Wishes for the New Year
Your loving brother

Jack

and inventive - his son remembers watching a puppet show being given by his mother, broadcast by the BBC and being shown on a TV made by his father. He always liked to live on the top of a hill - good for propagation of radio waves - and when moving to their final house in Hindhead, estate agents were bemused to be asked about the "long path to Australia". His gardens grew aeries the way other people grew trees and shrubs, and there was always a new design taking shape or being improved. In his 80s he mastered the skills of word processing to write the second edition of his classic book on "HF Antennae for all Locations" and he continued to publish articles and use his immense knowledge to help fellow amateurs with their aerial problems. In his last years though his main interest was in theology, and he still had articles published when in his 90s. Shortly after he died, the American amateur radio organisation the ARRL included Les in their Hall of Fame for his contribution to amateur radio. A Google search on "Moxon" will bring up over 18000 hits on the "Moxon antenna".

He had a long and happy marriage to Nancy, who ran a puppet theatre for many years, and they enjoyed exploring the world, especially the wilder mountainous areas. He would combine that with his passion for radio and carry portable equipment (home-made of course) up hills to best use the propagation characteristics of the land. Whatever it may say in the Guinness Book of Records, long ago Les was able to broadcast successfully to Australia using only half a watt of power. It was nice that in his travels he and Nancy were able to meet up with those people he had spoken to over the airwaves for many years.

He will be remembered for his originality of thought, his creative problem-solving, his honesty and his great kindness.

THE PICHI RICHI RAILWAY - AUSTRALIA

I AM SITTING in our daughter's apartment, which stands on high ground in Harbord, looking out over a large area of Sydney. A long hill some two or three miles away hides the city centre, but for the top of Sydney Tower. However, unusually for this time of year, the view today is almost entirely obscured by the rain that is sheeting down. So! Not a bad time to write an article!

Dymp and I arrived in Sydney on the Thursday before Easter to find Fiona had fixed a surprise Easter break for us. Saturday morning we flew to Adelaide, collected a hire car, and headed north up to Quorn, where we stayed the night in The Mill House Motel.

Next morning to Quorn railway station where, knowing my penchant for old steam railways, Fiona had fixed a steam engine journey for us. Unlike many such railways in Australia and New Zealand, operated entirely by volunteers, the train was actually drawn by an old steam engine. We usually find that in the event the train is pulled by a diesel engine, due to the risk of sparks from a steam engine starting a fire, after a long dry summer. The Pichi Richi Railway has solved this problem. A small utility engine hauling a large water tank, follows about two minutes behind the steam engine - ready to put out a fire if one has been started.

The engine was originally built in 1925, was abandoned when the line fell dormant, and was then lovingly restored by the enthusiasts, and recommissioned last year. It had a large "cow catcher" (or should I say "roo catcher") on the front. The carriages were the old "colonial" type having a small open viewing platform at each end. Unfortunately the "Health and Safety" authorities have decreed that passengers should not stand on these viewing platforms while the train is moving - defeats their "raison d'être"!

The line runs through typical outback country, the grass all sparse and brown after the summer heat and no rain. After passing a restaurant, where some evening trains stop for dinner, the restaurant's dog - a black Labrador - chased along the fields parallel to the track



Dymp and Fiona in the carriage, just in front of the viewing platform

for well over a mile keeping pace with the train! Apparently he does this with every train that passes! He's certainly fit!

Most of the time, the line is uphill with gradients of up to 1:60. There are many bridges over dried up streams and over a few roads. We passed over a few unmanned level crossings, without barriers, where the train slowed down to about 5 miles per hour, coupled with much whistle blowing. All the way the grass was sun burnt brown, and not a drop of water in sight.

We traveled about 20 kilometers as far as the now disused, but restored Wool Flats Sheep Station. Here the train stopped, and the buffet car attached to the train was opened up for tea, coffee, soft drinks and snacks. Meanwhile the engine was disconnected, and turned around and reconnected to the other end of the train ready for the return trip back to Quorn. We had the opportunity to look around the old sheep shearing sheds and see what life there a hundred years or so ago was like.

Then back to Quorn – a very enjoyable trip.

From Quorn we motored north, through the Clare Valley wine growing area, calling into a couple of vineyards for a little wine tasting, and then on to Wilpena in the Flinders Ranges.

All too soon we were motoring back to Adelaide to catch our flight to Sydney, and for Fiona - a return to work.

JMH



The fire risk solution - A Fire "Tender".
Follows the train by about 2 minutes.

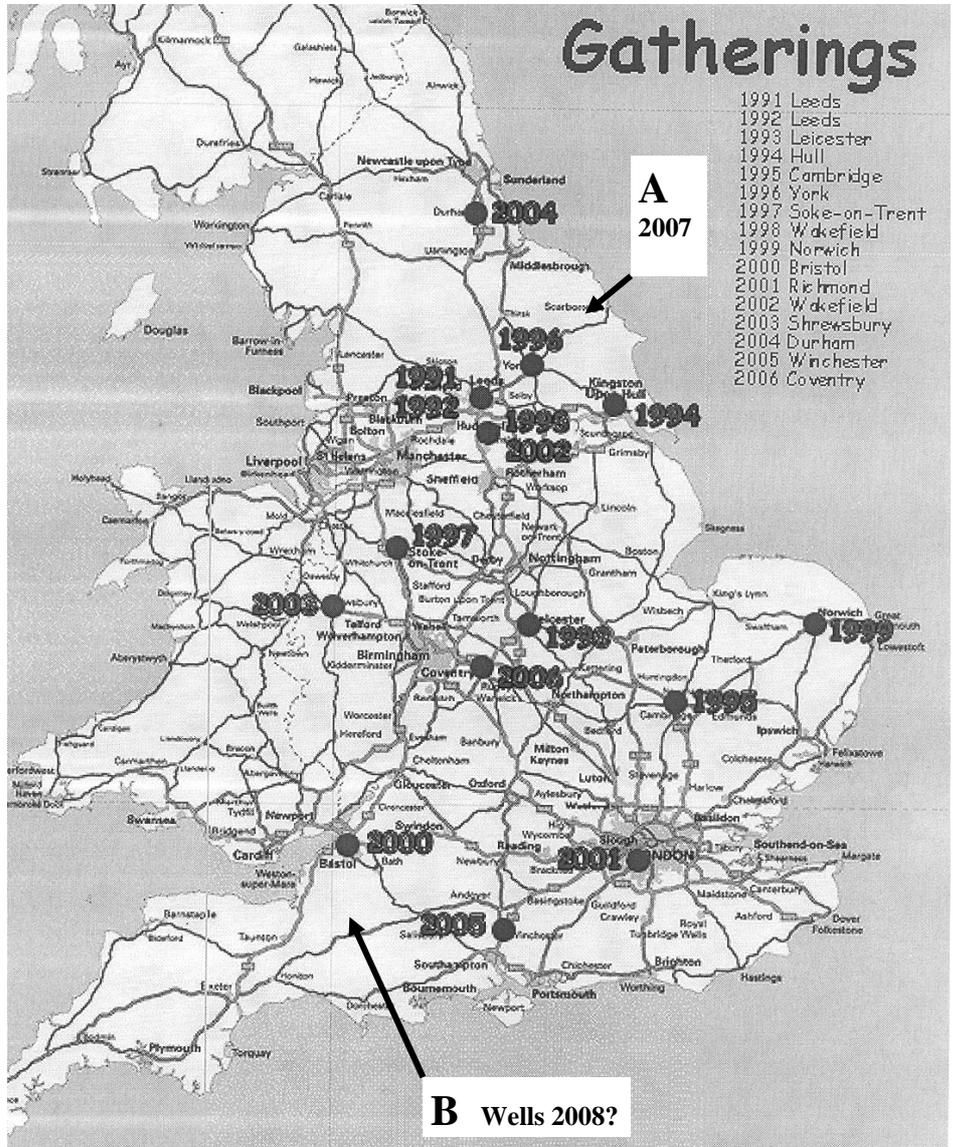
PREVIOUS GATHERING LOCATIONS

JOHN EARNSHAW, Treasurer, tabled the map shown below, to show where previous Society Gatherings had been held. In addition, there were two Gatherings held before the

Society was formed, in 1989 and 1990, both in Leeds.

"A" shows Scarborough, where the AGM decided we should hold the 2007 Gathering.

continued at bottom of page



The Pichy Richi Steam Engine (No. NM25)

"B" shows the suggestion of Wells for 2008 (see AGM Minutes). As Graham Jagger pointed out, Wells is an area of the country we have yet to visit, and has plenty of interest.

Would you like to go to Wells? Where else, perhaps in 2009 do you suggest? Why not write or e-mail the Editor with suggestions? (see back page for address)

Relatively, only a few members have attended Gatherings in the past. Perhaps you have not attended because you did not care for the locations chosen. Help us to help you by picking a location you would like to visit!

The Society exists for all its members, not just those who have attended past Gatherings.

JMH

MUSICAL MOXONS - A REPRISE

In a previous issue of the *Moxon Magazine* I wrote about two musical Moxons, Alice Moxon and Reginald Moxon Armitage, later to be known as Noel Gay. Further work has been done on the ancestry of these two luminaries and the results of this research are presented here.

Reginald Moxon Armitage

Reginald Moxon Armitage, the son of Harry Armitage and his wife Charlotte Elizabeth (née Moxon), was born in Wakefield on 15 July 1898. He became the honorary deputy organist at Wakefield Cathedral at the age of 12 and at the age of eighteen he became organist and director of music at St. Anne's, Soho, having already held the appointment of assistant organist at the Chapel Royal, St. James's.

After brief service in World War I he took his B.Mus. at Christ's College, Cambridge. Having adopted his now familiar pseudonym, Noel Gay became a leading writer of popular songs, perhaps the most famous of which is *The Lambeth Walk*, and he wrote the music for many successful comedies, musical plays and revues. He died in London on 4 March 1954.

Reginald's mother, Charlotte Elizabeth Moxon, the daughter of Henry Moxon and his wife Ann (née Hall), was born in 1871 at Tinsley, then a village, midway between Sheffield and Rotherham. She married Harry Armitage, a colliery workman, at Wakefield in 1896.

Henry Moxon, the son of John Moxon and his wife Elizabeth (née Bottomley), was born at Maltby, a village some 10km east of Rotherham, in 1843. Henry, a blacksmith and grocer, married Ann Hall, the daughter of George and Charlotte Hall of Bradfield, at Wortley in 1868.

John Moxon, the son of Thomas Moxon and his wife Elizabeth (née Watson), was born at Ardsley and baptised at Darfield on 16 July 1812. John, a farmer, married Elizabeth

Bottomley at Wakefield in 1842.

Thomas Moxon, later a substantial farmer of 97 acres at Stainton with Hellaby, near Maltby, was born at Ardsley in about 1784. He married Elizabeth Watson at St Peter's church, Sheffield, on 15 April 1811. The descent of Thomas has not yet been accurately determined.

Alice Moxon

Alice Moxon was a renowned soprano, particularly associated with the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, in the 1920s and 30s. She was born Alice S Moxon, the daughter of William Henry Moxon and his wife Alice (née Durrance), at Manningham, Bradford, in 1897. In 1927 she married [Herbert] Stuart Robertson, the brother of the actress Anna Neagle (the stage name of Florence Marjorie Robertson), who had co-starred with her in many musical productions, and by whom she had a son and a daughter. Robertson was educated at Chigwell School, Essex, and the Royal College of Music. He sang solo bass at St Paul's Cathedral at the age of 19 but resigned to accompany Dame Nellie Melba on her farewell tour of Australia. He died on 26 December 1958.

William Henry Moxon, the son of Thomas Deighton Moxon and his wife Sarah (née Ward) was born at Scarborough in 1866. William married Alice Durrance at Bradford in 1890 where he was a gold jeweller.

Thomas Deighton Moxon, the son of Joseph Moxon and his wife Mary, was born at York in 1828 and baptised at the church of St Crux, York, on 14 September of that year. Thomas, a travelling stationer, married Sarah Ward at Scarborough in 1855.

Further work is needed to trace Joseph and his wife Mary.

**Graham Jagger
20 September 2006**

Reginald Moxon Armitage Tree

	Thomas Moxon	
	c1784-?	
	Mar. Elizabeth Watson	
	John Moxon	
	1812-?	
	Mar. Eliz. Bottomley	
	Henry Moxon	
	1843-?	
	Mar. Ann Hall	
	Charlotte Eliz.	
	Moxon	
	1871-?	
	Mar. H.Armitage	
	Reginald Moxon	
	Armitage	
	1898-1854	

Alice Moxon Tree

	John Moxon	
	?-?	
	Mar. Mary	
	Thomas Deighton Moxon	
	1828-?	
	Mar. Sarah Ward	
	William Henry Moxon	
	1866-?	
	Mar. Alice Durrance	
	Alice Moxon	
	1897-	
	Mar. Herbert Stuart Robinson	

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