

# Issue No. 40

## October 2007

www.moxonsociety.org or www.moxon.org.uk



# THE MOXON MAGAZINE

No. 1. April 1988. A family forum for the Moxons and their friends.  
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### EDITORIAL

In so many ways 1987 was a remarkable year for the Moxon family. First of all it was the 350th anniversary of the Revd. George Moxon's participation in the founding of that great New England city of Springfield, Massachusetts when he took up his post in 1637 as the brand-new settlement's first pastor and schoolmaster as well as being a foundation magistrate, administrator and ambassador with the neighbouring Indian communities. I had the honour to represent the Moxon family at the celebrations and to help to unveil the portrait in oils of George Moxon that had been faithfully copied from the original still in possession of his descendants in England (vide pp 108/109 of *The Moxons of Yorkshire*). A few months later George Moxon was the central figure in a second celebration - the 300th anniversary of his foundation of the First Congregational Meeting House in Congleton, Cheshire in the month and year of his death, September 1687. There is a picture and article on page 1 of this

## THE EARLY YEARS

**ABOVE and LEFT: Part of the front page of the first Moxon Magazine.**

IT IS ALMOST twenty years since our late President and Principal Founding Member of The Moxon Society, Roland James (Jimmy) Moxon, published the first *Moxon Magazine*.

The previous year he had published *The Moxons of Yorkshire*. It was the enthusiastic reception he received from the book's readers that decided him to commence publishing *The Moxon Magazine* every six months - 'A Family Forum for the Moxons and their friends.' These early magazines were sold on a subscription basis.

A little time earlier, I had been in contact with Chris Moxon, my second cousin, concerning our immediate Moxon Family. He had received details of the Magazine from his aunt, Eileen Price, née Moxon, who had been in contact with Jimmy many years previously.

Chris sent me a copy of the first issue - I signed up for future issues immediately!

In the second issue, October 1988, Jimmy suggested that there should be a 'Research Seminar' held in 1989. This was organised by the late Dick Moxon of Southampton, and held in late July in Leeds. All attendees considered it a great success, and a second 'Gathering' was proposed for 1990. The suggestion that a Society should be formed was enthusiastically supported. This was finalised at the 1990 Gathering, and The Moxon Society was born on 1st January 1991. The Moxon Magazine became the formal organ of the Society.

It has been published every April and October ever since.

Since we had two Gatherings before the Society was formed, the Gathering just held was the nineteenth, but the AGM was the seventeenth.

JMH

### Editorial:

YOU LUCKY PEOPLE! Two 'Editorials' in a single magazine - albeit almost 20 years apart!

We are celebrating the fortieth issue of this magazine, and hope you enjoy it.

It is not surprising that Jimmy's first editorial should start by recounting a little about his ancestor's brother, Rev. George Moxon.

In 2001 the Moxon Family Research Trust published, *The Biography of Rev. George*

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following New Members:  
Eric & Benedicata Moxon of Beccles, Suffolk.

Judy Hirst of Cambridge.

Melanie Torley of Barnsley, Yorks.

Carol Wells of Shaw, Lancs.

John Moxon of Winston Hills, NSW, Australia.

John Cole of Como, NSW, Australia

*Moxon*, largely researched by Jimmy's father and uncle, written and compiled by Jane Micklethwaite and published in 2001. Jimmy had been keen to set this piece of his family history in print. Unfortunately he died in 1999 - before the book was finished.

**19th - 21st September 2008**, are the dates for the Gathering in Wells, which will be the twentieth. **We should make it a first class Birthday!** Any suggestions to make this a most memorable occasion will be very welcome. Please start thinking - it is only eleven months away!

It is often said that truth is stranger than fiction. This applies to the book. "*Phiz*" by Valerie Browne Lester, reviewed by Member, Bob Moxon Browne on page 3. It reveals, for the first time, *Phiz*' real parentage - read the article!

Enclosed with this Magazine (Members only) is a book, written by Jimmy Moxon, and published posthumously by The Moxon Family Research Trust, as a tribute to our Founding President. *See page 2 for further details.*

Many thanks to our contributors to this

magazine. We need more for next April's magazine!

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# THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## October 2007

ONCE AGAIN, thanks to the inimitable organisational skills of Diana Trotter, the annual Moxon Gathering, this year in Scarborough, was a great success. We missed a number of our old friends but were delighted to welcome many new ones. Some of our number spent the Saturday exploring Whitby and were particularly struck by the interesting interior of the parish church (of *Dracula* fame). Another party travelled to Beningbrough Hall near York in pursuit of some Moxon memorabilia which it allegedly contained. The search turned out to be fruitless, but the Hall is a beautiful place and the visit, in ideal weather, was particularly enjoyable.

In place of the usual guest speaker, I was prevailed upon to fill this slot. It seemed appropriate to concentrate this time on some aspects of Moxon history.

One of the topics I mentioned was seventeenth century gunnery. It might not be clear to you what this has to do with Moxon, but bear with me. In the Civil War of the 1640s cannon were widely used to bombard the opponents' castles. Aiming the artillery was literally a hit and miss affair; the mathematics of projectile flight were not then well understood and many books were written during the period containing all manner of methods for ensuring accurate aiming. By the 1670s the mathematics had become much clearer but the equations were difficult to solve. And this is where Joseph Moxon (1627-1691), Fellow of the Royal Society and Hydrographer to Charles II, comes into the story.

It is known that in about 1670 Moxon printed *Two Tables of Ranges* by Henry Bond, a noted mathematician of the time. No copy of these tables was known to exist, and an exhaustive search in the British Library failed to find any trace of them. Acting on a hunch it occurred to me that if a copy of these tables did exist then they would be bound with a book, or books, on gunnery: back to the British Library! In only the second book examined, *The Compleat Gunner*, published anonymously in 1672, I found the tables. It turned out that these tables were in fact solutions to the projectile equations I mentioned above. The third book I looked at contained not Moxon's printing of the tables, but a transcription of them. It seems that the Moxon family was quite active in publishing books on warfare; *An Epitome of the Whole Art of War*, written by Joseph Moxon, was published posthumously by James Moxon, his son, in 1692.

I am currently researching the question of just how Henry Bond calculated his tables and how Joseph Moxon came to be involved in their printing. Perhaps, with the Editor's permission, the results of these endeavours will appear in a future edition of *The Moxon Magazine*.

At the Gathering I was delighted to display a beautifully painted and blazoned Moxon Coat of Arms. Some time ago John Moxon (the Isle of Wight one!) found this among Jimmy's effects. With the consent of Margaret Eastwood, Jimmy's sister and one of his executors, John had this work of art framed and

he sent it to me with the express wish that this be passed from President to President as a sort of badge of office. Those of you who came to Scarborough would have been interested to see this and it seems entirely appropriate that it should be on display at future Gatherings. Thank you, John, for this wonderful symbol of our Moxon history.

Next year's Gathering is to be held at Wells, Somerset, on 19-21 Sep 2008 (note the slightly later date than usual) and I look forward with keen anticipation to meeting you all again there. Put this in your diary *now!* No excuses, not even attendance at a wedding in Spain, will be accepted!

Graham Jagger  
President



Scarborough Harbour  
Photograph by Barbara O'Neill

# THE MOXON WEB SITES

NEW MEMBERS may well wonder why the Society has two web sites. It's a long story - with a moral!

The late Harry Moxon set up the original web site [www.moxon.org.uk](http://www.moxon.org.uk) in the late 1990's, and kept it updated until his death in April 2002.

John S Earnshaw, Treasurer, offered to become Web Master, and take over Harry's web site. That was where problems arose. The web site was in Harry's own name, and despite sending them a copy of the death certificate, they refused to transfer the web site to the Moxon Society. Even after his widow, Gwynneth, had written to them to explain why she wanted the control moving from Harry's computer (which she was now using) to John's computer, they still resisted. During this period the web site was becoming out of date. *It would have been easier to obtain probate on a multi-million pound will, than it was to get control of [moxon.org.uk](http://moxon.org.uk) transferred!*

So, in the meantime, John set up another web site, [www.moxonsociety.org](http://www.moxonsociety.org) as the only way of having up to date information available to members and the outside world.

When eventually he did get control of [moxon.org.uk](http://moxon.org.uk), we decided to keep it going, not only because it had become well known, but in memory of Harry.

Hence two sites. Whichever of the two sites anyone selects, the end result is the same.

The moral is that if anyone sets up a site in their own name (as opposed to the name of an organisation) they should ensure that what happens in the event of their death has been fully defined in advance!

# A WEST AFRICAN (GHANAIAAN) WORLD WAR II SEA RESCUE

by James (Jimmy) Moxon.

INCLUDED WITH your copy of this Magazine is a copy of the above book. The Moxon Family Research Trust decided that, as tribute to our late Founding President, all **members** should receive a complimentary copy. Note that those members who attended the Gathering, received their copies in Scarborough, so no copy is enclosed with their magazine!

The *Foreword* and *Preface* explain how the book came to be written by Jimmy around 1982, but the manuscript was only discovered after his death.

We hope you enjoy a good read.

Members may purchase additional copies at the discounted price of £1-50 (Sterling) each, plus post and packing. Enquiries to The Secretary (*see back page for address*).

# THE SILVER HIP FLASK

See colour photographs on page 12

JOHN EARNSHAW recently received an e-mail from the USA.

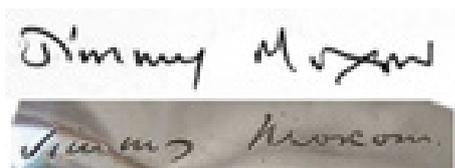
"We are currently selling on e-bay a sterling silver flask that has the engraved signature of Jimmy Moxon and the date 1944. We assume that this is your famous ancestor. Oddly enough, we purchased it in New York state and knew nothing about Jimmy Moxon at the time. We thought someone in the family might be interested in it: Elegant Sterling Silver Pocket Flask, Asprey & Co., 1944"

John looked at the advert on E-Bay, and circulated the photographs to some of the committee. (*The photographs are reproduced on page 12*)

It seems most improbable that Jimmy would have sold the flask, so our first conclusion was that he had either lost it, or it had been stolen.

I spoke to Margaret Eastwood, Jimmy's sister. She had no recollection of Jimmy having the flask, and commented that in 1944, Jimmy was in Ghana.

A closer scrutiny of the signature on the flask, shows it is different to Jimmy's signature, (shown in the upper photograph).



We conclude that it is unlikely that the flask belonged to Jimmy.

John Earnshaw has e-mailed the seller, who has said he would now withdraw the advert.

*Does any member know of a "Jimmy Moxon" who has lost a flask?*

# PHIZ: THE MAN WHO DREW DICKENS

by Valerie Browne Lester.

Published by Chatto & Windus in hardback (2004) and paperback (2006)

A review by the author's fifth (?) cousin, Moxon Society Member

Bob Moxon Browne



FIRST, LET ME DECLARE an interest: Hablot Knight Browne better known as Dickens' illustrator Phiz, the subject of this lively and affectionate biography by Valerie Browne Lester, was my great-great grand uncle; and Valerie, a fifth-generation descendant of Phiz in the male line, is therefore my fifth (?) cousin.

But family loyalties apart, this is a fascinating book, to be recommended to anyone interested in Victorian history, in Dickens, in book illustration, or indeed, in the Moxon family; for as we shall see, Phiz' family and fortunes were closely entwined with those of the Moxons of Twickenham, forebears of many members of the Moxon Society, including the descendants of Frank Moxon who are now settled in Australia.

Phiz is of course chiefly famous today as the foremost illustrator of Dickens, and the creator of the images of Pickwick, Sam Weller, Mr Squeers, Little Nell, Mrs Gamp and so many others who are part of a shared collective perception of what life in Victorian England was like. Valerie deals in scholarly detail with the relationship between Phiz and Dickens, and particularly with how the illustrations expand on the written words in a way which is both loyal to the text while adding layers of subtle commentary to the story.

But Valerie has uncovered much more than the details of a famous literary and artistic collaboration. Using much unpublished private archive material, now in the hands of various members of the Moxon and Browne family, Valerie reveals a romantic story to rival – indeed uncannily echoing – John Fowles famous novel "The French Lieutenant's Woman".

At the heart of the matter is the question of paternity. Phiz's reputed father was William Browne, the brother of Anne Browne, who married Thomas Moxon of Twickenham. William Browne was something of a black sheep in this otherwise very respectable family – an unsuccessful businessman who abandoned a large family and fled with embezzled trust funds to Philadelphia, where he set up as a painter, and is today recognised as an important artistic chronicler of early buildings in that city.

But as Valerie's book reveals for the first time, William was not Phiz's true father, nor was William's wife his mother. Phiz's natural mother was William's daughter Kate, who became pregnant at the age of 21 by a French cavalry officer, Nicolas Hablot, who when he met Kate was a paroled prisoner of war in England. As was not uncommon in those days, the illegitimate baby was passed off as his grandmother's child, to avoid scandal.

Nicolas Hablot, Phiz's true father, was no ordinary soldier. As Valerie's research reveals, he was a captain in Napoleon's cavalry, a grenadier à cheval, and member of the famous "Vielle Garde". Young Hablot was conceived in 1814, and was born in July 1815 just one month after the battle of Waterloo. Valerie adds the finishing touch to this most romantic account of Phiz's parentage with the

extraordinary revelation that Captain Hablot was able to return to the service of his Emperor in time for the great battle, where he was severely wounded and – so far as the Browne family in England were concerned – reported dead. Not so in fact. Everything to do with Napoleon is of course of huge interest to French scholars, and military records, made available to Valerie, are very complete. They reveal that Captain Hablot was invalided out of the army after the battle, married a French girl and lived quietly – and with no further communication with those in England whose lives he had so profoundly affected – until his death in 1837. Valerie was able to pay her respects at the grave of her recently identified great great great grandfather.

The young Kate never married. She wore a ring engraved "je t'aime" until her death. Kate is buried in a Moxon family plot at Norwood cemetery.

Valerie owns a first edition of Pickwick Papers inscribed "To Kate with Hablot's love". There is no certain evidence that Phiz knew that the proud recipient was in fact his mother,



"The Internal Economy of Dotheboys Hall", Nicholas Nickleby, 1838

This drawing by Phiz is copied from Valerie Lester's book, with her kind permission.

rather than his sister.

When the young Hablot was only 8, his "father" William vanished to America, leaving his wife and thirteen children, including Hablot, Kate and my own great-great grandfather Octavius, without any financial support – a potentially terrible fate in the days before any form of welfare support from the State. That the family survived was undoubtedly due to the kindness and generosity of William Browne's sister Anne Moxon, and her husband Thomas, who provided money, hospitality at The Lodge Twickenham where the Brownes were frequent

visitors, and – in due course – help in finding jobs. My own forebear, Octavius, was helped in this way, going on to become a successful businessman in his own right. As a public mark of gratitude to the Moxons for what they did, my branch of the family proudly took the name Moxon, and have ever since called themselves "Moxon Browne".

Phiz of course did not go into business. He had huge artistic talent, inherited from Kate's grandfather, Simon Browne, who passed the gene onto the Moxon family via Anne Browne, and her niece Elizabeth Browne, who married Thomas Moxon of Twickenham's son, Thomas Moxon of Leyton. The gene flourished. Many of the Victorian Moxons were talented artists, including of course Elizabeth Browne's granddaughter Margaret ("Rita"), who left her botanical paintings (and a lot of money) to Kew Gardens. See MM No. 28 "Fun at Kew", and MM No. 16, 4-6.

This artistic talent enabled the young Hablot to stand on his own feet from a very early age. After a short and not very successful apprenticeship to an engraver, Hablot went solo, and by his twenties was established not least as the collaborator with Dickens in the highly successful part work, Pickwick Papers. Phiz was never good at handling money, but by hard work and with some family support he got by, happily married, the father of numerous children and with a great zest for life. Valerie Browne Lester captures all of this in an extraordinary biography successfully combining true scholarship with undisguised affection for her hero.

Bob Moxon Browne

We have a copy of the book, "Presented to the Moxon Society by Valerie Browne Lester and Bob Moxon Browne June 2007."

Thank you both very much.

The book has been passed on to Society Secretary Sue Earnshaw for the Moxon Library, from where it can be borrowed by members for the cost of postage.

# BRACING SCARBOROUGH! GATHERING 2007

THE WEATHER was kind to us - warm, with sunny periods, short sleeves only required, and one member in shorts during the day!

At the end of the AGM, Diana Trotter retired from the Committee, after having organised many successful and enjoyable Gatherings. She was publicly thanked and given a "thank you" card, signed by those present. A bouquet of flowers was arranged to be sent to her home.

Jim Moxon presented a cheque for £1000 to the Moxon Family Research Trust in memory of his father, Alvin Lloyd Moxon - *see obituary on page 6 and article on page 9*

The minutes of the AGM are supplied to members separately.

A tasteful dinner followed.

The next morning we assembled on the steps of the hotel for the group photographs (*See colour page 5*)

Then groups went their separate ways.

One car load went to *The Eden Camp*, near Old Malton, formerly an Italian prisoner of war camp, it is now a most interesting museum of W.W. II artefacts, documents and pictures, contained in over 24 huts, including one decked out as a Music Hall playing "old favourites". The group spent well over three hours looking around, but did not have time to see all the huts.

At one area is "*The Prisoners' Exercise Yard*": this is a children's Play Fort with swings, ramparts and climbing frames. Just outside is an old sentry box, complete with helmet and "rifle". Your editor, an ex army National Serviceman, could not resist the temptation to "go on sentry duty" - just long enough for Barbara O'Neill to take a photograph (*see page 12*)

On the way to York, Dr. John and Ann visited the Eden Camp. *We don't seem to have heard of it South of The Wash! My first impressions were a psychological return to*

*RAF Padgate and RAF Yatesbury, where everything indoors took place in those shaped huts! It took us three hours to explore it and we were very impressed.*

Another group went to Benningbrough Hall, just a few miles north of York, and another group to Whitby.

The remainder explored Scarborough, including Don and Wendy Moxon. Don writes:

*For a fair number of us, Scarborough was a frequent venue for beach holidays in our childhood days; in our more mature years, it still holds its special attractions. So on the one full day of our stay, whilst some of our number ventured further afield, most of us stayed in Scarborough to enjoy walks through the cliff gardens, or visit a nearby art gallery, or more energetically scale the heights of the massive headland where the remains of the ancient castle overlook the town, the harbour and both North and South Bays.*



*The Town and Harbour from the castle  
Photo by Don Moxon*

Before dinner, Graham Jagger presented a digitally projected slide show giving details of famous Moxons, starting with the only known Moxon family in Scarborough, where the son, William Milson Moxon, rose to a high position in the Customs and Revenue. Followed by

Joseph Moxon, printer and cartographer to King Charles II. Graham showed a copy of the very first printed tables showing the range/elevation of cannon balls. (Hopefully an article about this subject will appear in a future magazine).

Graham also covered Edward Moxon - *The Publisher* and Charles Moxon - *The Royal Decorator*.

Graham's talk was very well received.

Member Len Moxon and his wife, Penny, who live in Halifax, Nova Scotia could not attend the Gathering due to a family wedding in Reading on the Saturday. Having friends in Scarborough, they had arranged to stay at the Crescent Hotel on the Sunday night - after we had left for home. "So near to meeting them - but so far!". Dr. John and Ann Moxon stayed on in Scarborough, so did meet them.

*We met them over breakfast the next day. He emigrated in the early sixties under the £10 scheme, from East London and has clearly done very well for himself, travelling all over the world representing his company. His stepmother lived in Devon and he and Penny visited her every year for several weeks and she has only just died. He clearly hopes to continue visiting GB without this constraint.*



*Ready for work on Scarborough Beach  
Photo by Barbara O'Neill*

## MOXONS BEACH CLUB A Little Bit Of History

*Judith Zakka, member of Miami, and daughter of the late Timothy Moxon of Jamaica (see obituary in last April's Magazine) recently visited Jamaica, and alerted us to the website*

*www.moxonsbeachclub.com*

*The following is taken mainly from that website. Many thanks, Judith.*

*See photographs on page 4*

MOXON'S RESTAURANT was originally built by Timothy Moxon, including his house next door. Timothy and his elder brother, Oliver, later added a few rooms to the restaurant and to the house to accommodate their guests.

It is now owned by Johanne MacDonald, who has extensively extended and refurbished the property which now has 24 bedrooms, a restaurant and a new name, *Moxons Beach Club*.

Timothy was friends with the likes of Noel Coward as well as author Ian Fleming, the creator of the master spy, James Bond.

Most of the movies were written and filmed here. Timothy was a fighter pilot in the war and

did crop dusting here in Jamaica; he played some small parts in the James Bond movies with his small plane until he managed to crash it at the nearby Boscobel air strip.

A couple of the propeller blades of that incident are still part of the existing gate to our parking area as well as Timothy's many colourful stories of those wonderful days gone by...

Timothy then turned the place over to his brother Oliver who was married to the lovely and talented chef Baroness Bonita, together they made it a gourmet Mecca in the 70s 80s and early 90s that lured VIP visitors from near and far. Notably, Dean Martin, Elizabeth Taylor, Henry Kissinger, Mick Jagger, Keith

Richards, Bob Marley, Peter Tosh and Boy George... to mention just a few.

When they passed on, it was sold to Italians who maintained it mostly for family and corporate meetings. In the later years it became run down and left to the staff to eek out a meagre living by renting rooms to the highway men.

Johanne MacDonald, a Canadian woman, born in Montreal is the new proprietor, she is a self-made single mother who has dabbled in many careers, her diverse talents ranging from modelling, acting, film and television production, stock broker, realtor, a world wide traveller who has been living in Miami Beach for the past 18 years restoring Art Deco properties.

As the beach got crowded she opted out for greener pastures and found this dilapidated treasure in 2004, bought it post hurricane Ivan in 2005 and has been rebuilding the property to its present charm and beauty.

*We thank Johanne MacDonald for giving permission to reproduce material from her website.*

## SCARBOROUGH GATHERING

*See article on page 4*



*MEMBERS ON THE STEPS OF THE CRESCENT HOTEL, SCARBOROUGH.*

*LEFT TO RIGHT: Front row: Graham Jagger, Don Moxon, Victoria Moxon Holt, Doris Moxon, Diana Trotter, John Moxon Hill*

*MIDDLE ROW: Judy Zakka, Dymps Moxon Hill, Gillie McKeown, Jacqueline Griffin, Birgit Moxon, Judy Huggett, Gwyneth Moxon, Wendy Moxon and Ann Moxon*

*BACK ROW: John Moxon, John McKeown, Rosie Turner, Jim Moxon, Sue Earnshaw, John Earnshaw.*

## MOXONS BEACH CLUB

*See article on page 4*



*The Beach Club from the sea.*



*The sea from the Beach Club.*

# OBITUARIES

## Dr. ALVIN LLOYD MOXON of Wooster, Ohio, USA



25 June 1909 - 21 May 2007

ALVIN MOXON held the record for overseas members attending the Gatherings in the U.K. In recognition, at the Shrewsbury Gathering in 2003, the AGM unanimously agreed he should be appointed Honorary Vice President of the Society. He continued to attend in 2004 and 2005. Ill health prevented him attending last year. Nine times Alvin crossed "The Pond" to join the Gatherings from 1997 to 2005.

In July 2000 The Ohio State University hosted "The Alvin Lloyd Moxon Honorary Lectures on Selenium and Vitamin E". The Preface to the Proceedings read "In honor of Alvin Moxon's ninetieth year of life and his outstanding career, the Department of Animal Sciences and the Department of Preventative Medicine present a national symposium in appreciation of his research. While Al's career included many endeavors, the distinguished work on selenium was his first love. Consequently, many of us were nudged into selenium research by this eminent agricultural chemist. The symposium provides reports of twelve presenters from the national arena. .... When the symposium is completed, we will have moved in time from the chemistry of "alkali disease" to the modern molecular biology of selenium and vitamin E".

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

He had received many awards for his work in the field of agricultural biochemistry as a pioneer in research of the trace element selenium.

Alvin died on Monday 21 May in West View Manor Nursing Home, following a brief illness. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday 2 June at St. James Episcopal Church in Wooster, followed by interment in the Wooster Cemetery.

His wife, Nanette nee Harker predeceased him. Their son, James, and his wife, Birgit, have for many years accompanied Alvin to the Moxon Gatherings.

Also see "A VERY GENEROUS DONATION" on page 9

## THOMAS JOULES MOXON of Brisbane, Australia



18 April 1931 - 9 June 2007

TOM MOXON and his wife, Jenny, joined the Society just after its inception, and also joined his company, *Moxon Timbers*, as our one-and-only Corporate Member.

In early 2003 Tom, together with his cousin, Simon Moxon, and Simon's wife, Margaret, formed the "Downunder" Branch of the Society, which is flourishing.

Tom's Memorial Service was held on 13th June and was well attended by many family friends and business associates. Jenny had arranged afternoon tea afterwards at the St Lucia Golf Club, Indooroopilly. The course of this club was constructed with the help of Jules & Phil Moxon, fathers of Tom, Beth and Simon, and known as the Indooroopilly Golf Club - the name change is fairly recent. Jules and Phil also donated a perpetual trophy, *The Moxon Cup*, which has since been won by Tom's son, Anthony and played for annually.

Tom and Jenny became engaged in mid 1953, married in January 1954 and very much enjoyed the Cairns lifestyle, raising their young family of Anthony, Leith and Anne in the house they built adjacent to the Edgecliffe cane fields.

In December 1963 Tom and his family moved back to Brisbane, and took over the management of *Moxon Timbers* from his father in 1964.

A few years later, his sister Beth, confronted Tom with the challenge of *Moxon Timbers* diversifying by owning and running a restaurant. To everyone's surprise, Tom agreed to take on the challenge. The restaurant, which featured roasted meats presented by serving wenches from Henry Fielding's story of the 18th century rakish founding. This of course led to the restaurant being called "Tom Jones Tavern". Brisbane had never seen anything like it before!

Tom's enthusiasm for this entirely different endeavour flourished further when *Moxon Timbers* joined forces with Frank Baden Powell to establish a bawdy theatre-restaurant called "Dirty Dicks" just across the road.

However, Moxons didn't stay in the restaurant-entertainment industry and in due course they sold this part of their business to concentrate on the ever widening business of buying and selling timber throughout the world.

*Extracts from Blair Wilson's eulogy.*

## GEORGE HENRY MOXON of Beverley, Yorkshire



1925 - 24 May 2007

George Henry Moxon was born in the Stonefery area of Hull in 1926, and on leaving school during the War, served an engineering apprenticeship and as a wartime messenger boy.

As his apprenticeship ended, he faced conscription into the armed forces, but instead volunteered as an engineer for the Merchant Navy, sailing on some of the Liberty Ships to both North and South America and the Middle East. This relatively short episode in his life had a profound effect on him, nurturing a love of the sea and of travel, both of which he thoroughly indulged during his retirement.

His career then took him into engineering and ultimately, as Works Engineer, to Reckitt & Colman at Morley Street in Hull. This was the site where "Reckitts Blue" was manufactured. Used by housewives all over the world in 'Dolly Bags' to give the washing a blue-white glow, the 'Blue' also gave our driveway at home a distinctive appearance and Dad had been retired a full six months before it finally washed away in the rain. Reckitt & Colman sold the site a few years ago, but no visitor to Hull can miss the 141m (450ft) chimney built in Morley Street. Dad commissioned the project, supervised its building and climbed the chimney twice a year to check the condition of the top. The current owners of the site have (as I write) ceased production and the future use of the factory is uncertain.

George and Rita were happily married for over fifty years, and once retired, set about travelling the world. As children Ian and I became used to losing Dad at least once during family holidays, when his enthusiasm and curiosity would lead him (at great speed) up hills or down side streets, regardless of whether the family could keep up. When Mum and Dad travelled the world our parting comment was always "don't leave Mum behind".

In the last few years George became an enthusiastic and much adored grandfather to James, Alys and Martin, always ready to lead them into mischief. Despite Dad being very ill, we had one final 'grand day out' to the National Railway Museum in York in early May. George and Rita took James and Alys up on the York Eye (a smaller version of the London Eye) and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

George died peacefully in his sleep in hospital on 24th May 2007.

Judith Ayre

On behalf of all our members, we offer the bereaved families of Alvin, Tom, George and Gwen our sincere condolences.

## GWEN SAUVAGE of Bosrobert, France



Died July 2007

GWEN SAUVAGE died in late July suffering from CJD.

She had been ill for quite some time and the last two months of her life were particularly grim for herself and of course for husband Cecil and their family. Cecil and Gwen joined the Society many years ago, and later their daughters, Margaret Sauvage-Lefebvre, and Toni Ann Causier joined.

Cecil and Gwen attended a number of the Gatherings, and Gwen wrote an article for the Magazine, *A Mother's Trials and Tribulations*, recounting Cecil's mother's traumatic life. (MM 37, April 2006).

We hope to include a full obituary in next April's magazine.

## LOOKING FOR WILLIAM MOXON

We have been attempting to direct our research at those Moxon Family Trees which, according to the DNA tests, are related. It surprised me how many of our family trees are headed by a 'William Moxon'!

So I quickly went through the list all 59 MX trees, and found that eight were headed by a 'William Moxon'. (14%)

MX12B & 12C William Moxon of Beeston Will proved 7 July 1541.

MX21 William Moxon of Pontefract born c1649, Builder and Master Mason.

MX24 William Moxon of Fishlake cum Sykehouse. Will proved 11 July 1719 \*\*

MX24 William Moxon married Widow Mary Page in Downham on 15 January 1638 \*\*

MX 34 William Moxon b c 1870

MX47 William Moxon married Mary Ann Hudson 6 Aug 1839 Aston Juxta Birmingham *continued from previous column.*

MM54 William Evers Moxon married Esther Crompton 23 Oct 1775 at St. Peters, Leeds \*\*

MM56 William Moxon born c1855, married Mary Ann Johnson 1880 in Headingly.

\*\* In particular we are looking for the origins of these three 'William Moxons'. Any help would be appreciated!

JMH

# THE MYSTERY OF MISSING PHOEBE MOXON

Jane Honey, member of Chinor, Oxfordshire,  
recounts her problem.



A FEW YEARS ago I started researching my family tree. My mom was a Moxon and had known her grandparents so that gave me a head start. When it became possible to access the various censuses I spent many a happy hour filling in details and adding names.

My great, great grandfather Richard Moxon born 1849 married Phoebe Holland in 1870. I duly filled in the details for 1871 & 1881. By now they had 4 children, Lottie and three boys, Henry born Birmingham 1879, William born Aston 1874 and Richard born Birmingham 1876. I looked on the 1891 census and found Richard senior, married but living with his aunt Eliza Winkles. No sign of Phoebe. I traced daughter Lottie who had married but the three sons were missing. I assumed they were somewhere with their mother.

From time to time over the next three years I searched for Phoebe and her sons with no luck. I tried all sorts of variations of 'Moxon' as well as spelling it with an 'N', a 'W' and anything else I could think of. Some of 'my' Moxons were hidden in 1901 by being transcribed as 'Mason' but no such luck with Phoebe.

It became a joke and if ever I or a friend failed to find someone where or when we thought they should be we'd say 'she must be out with Phoebe'.

More recently I thought I'd give it another

go. I searched every Phoebe born around 1851 in Warwickshire and started with those listed as 'head'. Feeling as though I was wasting my time I clicked on Phoebe Hobbleday. She had three sons, Henry & Richard born Birmingham & William born Aston. She said she was married but also the head of the household. I reasoned that if there was a Mr Hobbleday he'd have been 'head' even in his absence and that he'd be lodging or visiting elsewhere.

The only other Hobbleday I could find in all of England was an old lady in Bethnal Green.

I assume Richard & Phoebe had separated and she no longer wanted to be called Moxon. They probably did not get back together. Richard died in January 1900 and in September Phoebe married John Brain.

It was so satisfying to have solved the mystery, so now I never give up. I keep going back to a problem just in case I've missed something. My experiences have proved very useful when researching family trees for others. I have learned to think 'laterally' and to be patient but persistent. It often pays off!

**Jane Honey**

*Many thanks Jane. Have other members had difficulties in finding lost ancestors? Tell us your story!*

## MOXON FAMILY HISTORY

WHILST the Society does not have facilities to undertake extensive research on behalf of members, we do try to help. We now have an extensive range of Moxon Family Trees, and can then help members to link up their own Moxon tree with those on our data base.

There are around a dozen members who have not sent us any details of their Moxon ancestry, so we cannot connect them up to any other members.

In order to "get connected", we need these members to send in details of their Moxon ancestry going back to the mid-1850's if possible.

Our success in connecting members to each other is shown below:

31 are related to each other (Trees MX01, MX14, MX22 and MX31) with another 5 probably related (we are working on it - trees MX02 and MX19)

16 others are related to each other. (MX05)

12 further are each related to each other (trees MX15, MX26 and MX27)

52 other members are related to between 2 and 8 other members.

There are 8 members who so far are not known to be related to any other members.

So, for those members who have not yet sent in their details, there is a good chance that we may find some long lost relatives!

Please send details to the Chairman.

For those of you with internet access, you can download any of our Moxon Trees from the *members only section* at:

[www.moxonsociety.org](http://www.moxonsociety.org)

The trees are mostly in PDF format (Acrobat Reader program required) or in GEDCOM format which is readable by most of the available modern family tree programs.

In order to access the members only area, members need to obtain a *username* and *password* from the Society's Webmaster.

*See back page for Chairman and Webmaster contact details.*

JMH

## LOST ANCESTORS

SHARON LOWRY, member of Adelaide, Australia, writes:

Can You Help?

I am looking for the parents in Ireland for:

1. Jane Moxham, who married a James Butler of Kildordan. Jane received the deeds to part of Rathsallagh, Co. Longford 1793-08-31.
2. Elinor Moxham, married Richard Butler of Ratharney. Elinor received the deeds of part of Rathsallagh, Co. Longford 1793-08-31 (the same date as Jane).

The source being "King-Harman (Newcastle)"

Does anyone have these two ladies hanging around on one of their twigs? Any help would be much appreciated.

**Sharon Lowry**

email: [sharlow@adam.com.au](mailto:sharlow@adam.com.au)

# Roots 1 Update. THE MOXONS OF CAWTHORNE AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

*As approximately 25% of the Society's members can trace their Moxon origins back to Cawthorne, it seemed a good idea to update the original article published in MM18 (October 1996) in this, our 40<sup>th</sup> issue. How this ancestor of so many members was "found" is a fairly long story!*

FOR ME, it began on a dark, wet November evening in 1981, when Dymps and I took my mother over to see her sister, Kathleen (always known as "Pip") at Lichfield. Also there, were Pip's daughter Joan Robinson (Member) and her husband, Cedric. After dinner, Auntie Pip announced that when her mother had died, being the eldest surviving daughter, she had inherited the "Moxon Family Papers", and an old family Bible. As neither Joan nor I, had shown any interest in our family history, she was proposing to give all these papers to Joanna Bird, daughter of her youngest sister, Norah. Joanna is an archaeologist, and is now one of the Country's leading specialists on Anglo-Roman pottery. "Would we like to see the papers, before she sent them to Joanna?"

Out came "Pandora's Box"! There were letters my Grandfather, John Gimson Moxon, had written home when he worked for the Midland Railway Company in the 1870's (see MM10), and from Texas in 1879 (see MM7 and MM15). Letters my Great-grandfather, John Payne Moxon, had written to his father from boarding school in the 1840's, tantalisingly just addressed to "Mr. Moxon of Kirkby Lodge" - what was his father's name? (see article in MM9 - April 1992). How did Nathaniel Moxon, Innkeeper of Market Bosworth, whose will (dated Dec. 15th. 1806) was at the bottom of the box, fit into the family? And who was Sarah Ann, whose mother gave her the Bible in 1843?

That evening I was hooked on to what has become a most absorbing hobby!

I borrowed all the material, and over the next week or so, photo-copied the lot, before returning the originals to Auntie Pip. Next, Dymps and I visited the Leicestershire County Record Office, and searched the Market Bosworth and Kirkby Mallory Parish Registers. Another day we visited Market Bosworth and Kirkby Mallory Churchyards. I was then able to construct my family tree back through Nathaniel Moxon, Innkeeper, to his father Thomas Moxon. Thomas appeared to have married twice. Thomas and Martha Moxon baptised Thomas in 1752. Thomas and Hannah Moxon baptised three sons, John in 1754 (buried 1756), Joseph in 1757 (Joseph "The Diarist" -see MM 7 and MM12) and Nathaniel, the Innkeeper, in 1759.

There were no earlier Moxon entries in the Market Bosworth Registers - so where did Thomas Moxon originate, and how did he come to live in Leicestershire?

In parallel with our researches at Leicester and Market Bosworth, I had written to my mother's cousin, Eric Moxon, son of Joseph Nathaniel Moxon, my grandfather's younger brother, for family information. He passed the letter on to his nephew, Chris Moxon (Member). Chris, being a "Moxon", had heard that Jimmy Moxon (our late President) had published "The Moxons of Yorkshire" and the first edition of "The Moxon Magazine" in April, 1988, and had lent copies of both to me.

In the book, on pages 84 to 86, I was delighted to read that Joan Rendall (Member) had also researched the Moxons of Market Bosworth, and had traced their origins to Derbyshire. A telephone call to the Tortoise Shell Press, gave me the late Dick Moxon's telephone number.

I had a fascinating discussion with Dick, learning about other branches of our Moxon family, ordered a copy of "The Moxons of Yorkshire", and was given Joan Rendall's telephone number - and that was another fascinating call! The result, an invitation for Dymps and I to visit Joan and Robert, who at that time were living in Rearsby, the next Saturday. By this time, Joan's research had resulted in tracing the Derbyshire Moxons back to Charles Mokeson of Cawthorne, who made his will, and died, in 1592. (late in the reign of Elizabeth I) From this will, it would appear that Charles was ill at the time of writing, and had died quite young, since all his six children were in their nonage ie. under legal age.

In 1989, at the first Moxon Gathering, centred in Leeds, the Saturday tour included Cawthorne and surrounding area - see MM4 (October 1989).

It is unfortunate that the Cawthorne Parish Registers, prior to 1653, have been lost. For the period 1600 to 1652 only 29 odd years of Bishop's Transcripts have survived - but fortunately these had enabled Joan to construct the tree with accuracy. Further research has revealed that two other Moxons in Cawthorne died in 1592. Francis Moxon made his will on 13th. October, 1592, proved 21st. December. He too appears to have died young, since both his two children were in their "nonage". Administration for Laurence Mokeson was granted to Robert Clough also on 21st. December, 1592 - no wife or children mentioned. Thus we have three relatively young men (possibly brothers?) dying within a couple of months of each other, of what cause? The Black Death? Although the most savage effects of the Black Death were in the 1350 - 1370 period, local outbreaks still occurred for many, many years afterwards.

The earliest Moxon recorded in Cawthorne, was Robertus Mokeson, who with his wife Margareta, paid their Poll tax of one shilling in 1379 (see Moxons of Yorkshire page 12). This was in the early days of the reign of Richard II, and it was this tax which precipitated the "Peasants' Revolt" of 1381. One hundred and seventy years later there is the record of John Mokeson of Cawthorne paying his rates of 2d. in April, 1550. In 1583 a John Moxon of Cawthorne was listed in the Hoylandswaine "Musters" - a sort of "Homeguard", which may have been occasioned by the impending war with Spain, which started in 1585. Hoylandswaine is a hamlet in the neighbouring Parish of Silkstone. The full details of this Moxon Tree are given in Moxon Tree MX01.

The third child of Charles and his wife, Anne, was George Mokeson, who grew up at

the time Shakespeare was writing his plays. George married Mary Hess in Silkstone in 1605. According to the (fragmented) Bishop's Transcripts, they had at least seven children in Cawthorne. Their fourth child was Samuel, who was baptised in Cawthorne in 1614. It is believed that Samuel was the father of three children, two brothers, John and Richard and their sister, who are identified by John's will dated 1666, proved 1669 (Moxon Tree MX02)

Richard fathered a line of Moxons extending to this day, including four Society Members. This research was conducted by the late John S.W.Moxon (Member) of Bitteswell in Leicestershire. It is also very likely that Jacob Moxon, baptised 18 April 1681 in Cawthorne (no father's name given) is the Jacob who "appeared" in Felkirk as Parish Clerk. A transcript of the Felkirk Parish Registers records when Jacob became Parish Clerk and that was born in 1681. Jacob's tree is MX19.

George's youngest son, Nathaniel, was baptised 7th. May 1618. It has always been assumed that Nathaniel married Jeanette Mathewman on 1 November, 1649 at Emley, the year that Charles I was executed. According to the Cawthorne Parish Registers, Nathaniel was buried at Cawthorne 5th. June, 1667. There is a tombstone in Cawthorne Churchyard:

**Here Lyeth the  
body of Nathaniel  
the sonn of Nathaniel  
Moxson of Denby in  
the County of Darby  
Gent. who was buried  
the 5th. September  
1672  
Aged 20 years**

This is the clue which connects the Derbyshire Moxons to Cawthorne, for in the Bishop's Transcripts for Denby we find that Nathaniel Moxon had John baptised in 1650, Nathaniel in 1652 (the one whose monumental inscription is given above), Sarah in 1655, Caleb in 1656 and William in 1660. There is one more entry in the Denby Bishop's Transcripts for "Moxon". Under burials in 1667 is shown "Katherina Moakeson Widow". The actual day and month is missing in the record, but would appear to be about November or December, based on the record's position on the page. There are no other records of Moxons found in Denby. Did Nathaniel marry Jeanette Mathewman, or did he marry Katherina - we shall probably never know! A search of Denby Churchyard revealed no Moxon graves.

We know nothing more of Sarah, Caleb or William. John, however, moved a few miles south to Morley, having married Mary Birkenshaw in 1680 in Silkstone. They had five children at Morley (no Moxon graves found at

Morley) before again moving south to Littleover, where shortly before his death he was a Churchwarden. In his will, dated 1726, he described himself as a Yeoman. Mary predeceased him, being buried in Littleover on 14th. March 1723. John presumably died in the middle of 1727, as his will was proved in the September of that year. The Littleover Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts are in a real mess, with pages torn, unreadable and some missing. In Victorian times the Littleover "Chapel" was enlarged considerably, and it appears that many of the old tombstones were removed, and the extension built over the graves! We have not found any record of the tombstones which were removed - they just seem to have disappeared. John's daughter, Joyce, in her will, dated 1776 requests "--- to be interred in a handsome (handsome ?) private Manner in Littleover Chappel, as near my late dear Father as the Grave Stone will admit and to be carried there on a hearse".

John's youngest son, Nathaniel was baptised in 1687 at Morley. He married a "Sarah", and they had five children - John baptised 1710, Thomas baptised 1711, Martha (ref: father's will), Mary baptised 1714 and Nathaniel (ref: father's will). Nathaniel's wife Sarah presumably died prior to 1718, when Nathaniel married Mary Dudley on 29th. May, 1718 at Ticknall. Nathaniel and Mary had two children, Timothy and Sarah.

In his will, dated 1762, proved 1766, Nathaniel described himself as a Yeoman, and living in Hartshorne. A search of Hartshorne Churchyard did not reveal his grave.

Nathaniel's son, John, baptised 1710 married an "Ann" and moved to Mavesyn Ridware in Staffordshire, and founded the "Staffordshire Moxons", which are shown on Moxon Tree MX14. Most of the research on the Staffordshire Moxons was carried out by the late John Francis Moxon of Horton Hall, near Leek, who presented all his work, including extensive biographical details, to The Moxon

Family Research Trust only days before his death.

Eight Members are descended from John Moxon (Tree MX14). See also MM8 (October 1991) for a short article on the "South Staffordshire Moxons", by our former Chairman, Dr. John Moxon of Frome. The 1993 Moxon Gathering tour also included Rugeley and the "Ridwares" - see MM12 (October 1993)

There was one mystery! Dr. William Moxon of Matlock died in 1911, aged 56. His obituary states that he was born in Rugeley (and was therefore presumably a "Staffordshire Moxon"). Until recently we had not been able to establish his parentage. Following the DNA testing, we established that David Moxon (member), an ancestor of Dr. William Moxon, had the same DNA as Dr. John Moxon (member of Frome). This spurred Graham Jagger to further research, and the finding of Dr. William's connection to the Staffordshire Moxons. (MM 37 April 2006 and MX22)

Nathaniel's son Thomas (baptised 1711) moved to Market Bosworth, and founded the "Leicestershire Moxons".

Thomas's eldest son, Thomas, baptised in 1752 at Market Bosworth, married Mary Lowe in Littleover in 1772, and then lived at Mancetter, near Atherstone. Their eldest son, Richard baptised 1773 married Ann Udall in Derby in 1800 and they had nine children in Littleover, before moving to St. Martin's Parish in Birmingham, where their last child, Thomas was baptised in 1815. Richard is the founder of the Birmingham Moxons, and their details are given on Tree MX31. This tree was researched by the late John Moxon of Sutton Coldfield, whose widow, Lily, is a Society Member.

The second son of the Thomas (father of the Leicestershire Moxons) was John who died aged two years. His third son, Joseph (previously referred to as "The Diarist") married Ann Drakely, the daughter of the valet to Squire Willoughby Dixie whose family "owned" Market Bosworth. It would appear that

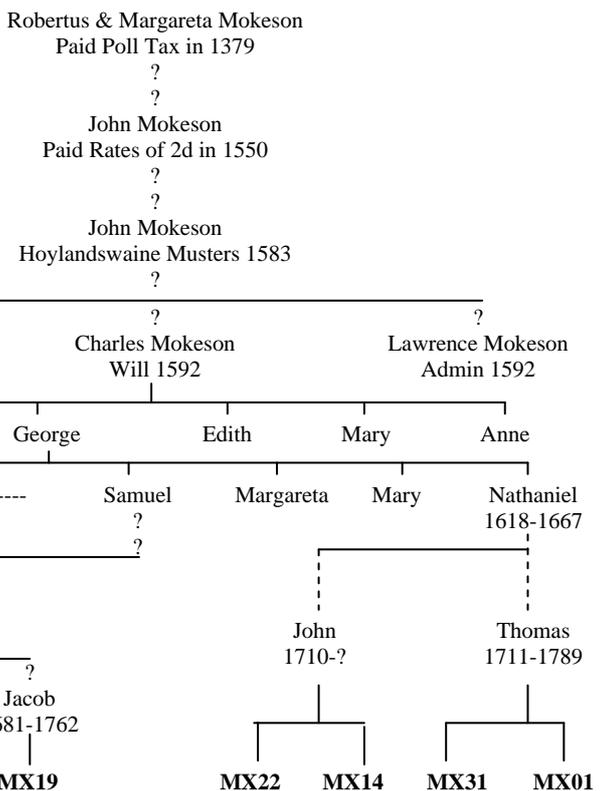
their's was a "Society Wedding", since it took place in London in 1787 at Bishopsgate. None of their five sons married. Their fourth child, John, lived at Moxon's Farm near Hinckley - see MM 14 (October 1994).

Thomas's fourth son was Nathaniel born 1759, who married Ann Oldacre at Coleorton, near Market Bosworth, in 1784. After Thomas's death in 1785, Nathaniel took over the running of the "Bull's Head" in Market Bosworth. During the tour around Leicestershire during the 1993 Moxon Gathering we visited this Public House, although its name has now been changed to "The Dixie Arms" - see MM 12 (October 1993). Nathaniel died on New Years Eve in 1806. No less than 13 Members are descended from Nathaniel. Nathaniel's grandson, Nathaniel, born 1815, founded the Lancashire Moxon branch. Nathaniel's son William, born 1794, lived in Monks Kirby in Warwickshire. A Grandson of William, Thomas, moved to Bourne in Lincolnshire, and Nathaniel's youngest son, James born 1803, lived in Kirkby Mallory, and his son, John Payne Moxon lived in Lullington in Staffordshire. Photographs of the portraits of John Payne Moxon and his wife Mary Ann née Gimson were published in MM 7 (April 1991).

John Payne was obviously a close friend of Nathaniel and Ann. He witnessed Nathaniel's will, and later married Nathaniel's widow, Ann. Nathaniel's youngest son James was only three when his father died, and it seems that John Payne became a "father figure" for young James. Not only did James name his first son John Payne Moxon, but he inherited a two handled silver cup, hall marked 1803, inscribed "J P", and a cut glass goblet inscribed "JP 1795". Our family also has a portrait of John Payne, but unfortunately painted in such dark colours that photography is virtually impossible ! It was James' wife, Sarah, who gave their daughter, Sarah Ann, the "Family Bible" in 1843.

Nathaniel is buried in St. Peter's Churchyard at Market Bosworth. John Payne died in 1821, and is buried next to Nathaniel. When Ann died in 1825, the family had a problem of where to bury Ann. They chose to bury her with Nathaniel.

**TREE NOTES:**  
 ----- Indicates direct ancestor, but with intermediaries omitted due space limitations.  
 ? Indicates likely, but unproven, descent.



**SACRED**  
**To the Memory of**  
**NATHANIEL MOXON**  
**Who departed this life**  
**Dec. 31st.**  
**1806**  
**aged 47 Years**  
**Also Ann Payne wife of**  
**Nathaniel Moxon who died**  
**June 22nd. 1825 aged 62**  
**Years**  
**Farewell dear wife and**  
**children be content**  
**For unto you I was but lent**  
**Look unto God, patient**  
**remain**  
**And we shall shortly meet**  
**again**

# THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MOXON SOCIETY

*John Moxon, member of Southampton brings us up to date.  
See colour photographs on page 12*



SO JUST HOW did the Society come about? It's a bit of a convoluted story that starts out in the mists of the early twentieth century.

Two branches of Moxon's bumped into each other in 1921...perhaps not bumped but as most of us know, brothers, the Reverends R.S. and T.A. Moxon were avid genealogists and their researches were to bring them into contact with my grandfather Augustus Isola Moxon's family who lived in Brighton, West Sussex.

The reason for this meeting I suppose was to prove a link between the two branches of the

family. My, and of course my grandfather's direct lineage, includes the Victorian publisher Edward Moxon. Despite an exchange of letters and family information between the two factions, no link could be reliably proven.

After an exchange of photographs of portraits from each side, my grandfather hanging a picture of Rev. George Moxon (Puritan Devine) on his wall and the Rev. R.S. Moxon hanging a picture of Edward Moxon on his wall, the two families drifted apart to live out their separate lives unconnected.

and had spent a lot of his spare time involved in local history. He was a founding member of the Southampton Tourist Guides Association and held the office of Vice President. His love of history, local and otherwise meant he was well known to the staff at Reference Library and City Archives in the centre of Southampton. Just the man I thought to do a little digging.

Having a notable forebear has been a real blessing...Edward Moxon's life as a Victorian publisher of note is well documented. After my grandparents died I was brought up in a house containing inherited family portraits, books and documents relating to our formerly wealthy family.

Amongst the books was the biography of my great, great grandfather; "Edward Moxon - Publisher of Poets" by H.G. Merriam. The book had been researched in the early 1930s and published in 1939 by the Columbia University Press, New York.

In the footnotes of virtually the first page was referenced information of an unpublished history of the Moxon family, in possession of the Reverend R.S. Moxon of Lincoln School. This tantalising snippet of information had always intrigued Dad and I...if only we could find the Rev. R.S. and have a good read of the history.

By now quite a few of you will have guessed that this, "unpublished history" was later to form the basis of *The Moxons of Yorkshire* and the main reason the 900 Moxons in the UK telephone directories received a leaflet asking them to support the publication.

Having primed Dad with the possible link with Joseph Moxon and the entreaty "Isn't it about time we, (meaning Dad) tried to trace the Rev. RS and his unpublished history. Thankfully Dad was always an enthusiastic detective and the next day set about tracing the elusive Moxon line.

Within an hour of searching the resources of Southampton Reference Library the next day, Dad had his "hot link." The Rev. RS having been the headmaster of Lincoln public school, Dad surmised would possibly have an entry in "Who's Who." Spot on! Amongst the entry for the Rev. was the information that he now lived in Virginia Water, Surrey and a quick viewing of the appropriate Telephone Directory gave a complete address and telephone number. Armed with this information Dad phoned me at work to give me the good news.

Although armed with a contact telephone number Dad thought it would be better to lay out our position in a letter so one was sent the next day. Dad quickly received a reply, with good and bad news.

Sadly the Rev. RS had died three years before but his widow had passed the letter on to her son Professor Richard Moxon in Oxford and he had alerted his cousin Jimmy. With telephone numbers included. Dad was immediately on the phone to Jimmy and they spent an hour plotting how the world would materially change now that they were both on the case. If you knew both of them you'll



Edward Moxon - The Publisher



Rev. George Moxon

Photographs of the two pictures "hanging on the walls".

We now "fast forward" 65 years to August 1986 and a scene at the Ordnance Survey offices in Southampton.

My wife Jacqui and I had worked at "The Survey" for most of our working lives and as well as making a living from drawing maps there is also an interest in historical mapping.

One morning Jacqui sat during a tea break reading the magazine *Map Collector*. In an article on 17<sup>th</sup> Century Cartography were a few paragraphs about and a picture of Joseph Moxon (1627-1691). Jacqui showed the picture to a colleague and joked about how cartography had been in the family for centuries.

Jacqui's colleague took a look at the picture of Joseph and said, "There's a distinct family resemblance too; he looks like John". Jacqui took a look at the picture again and thought... maybe around the nose. Later in the day Jacqui brought the article to show me and we sat weighing up the evidence.

Joseph Moxon, born Wakefield, 1627...yes well, Edward Moxon was also a Wakefield boy. What about looks, he's certainly got the same nose as me..

Maybe I was genetically disposed to spend most of my working life in cartography...we both laughed but who knows for sure?

At this point I thought I'd get Dad



Joseph Moxon

involved. For those of you not familiar with the early days of *The Moxon Society*, "Dad" was Dick Moxon...to be precise Richard Edward Arthur Moxon (1916-1990).

Dad had been retired for 5 years at this time

realise this wasn't such an unrealistic statement.

Diaries were hastily consulted and a suitable date for a get together selected. The venue was to be Professor Richard's home in Oxford. Dad wanted Jacqui and I to come along so I did the driving, Mum said she'd sit this one out so three of us set out from Southampton.

Well whether unrealistic or not, I always view meeting other Moxon's as meeting cousins. True to that feeling our meeting in Oxford was like meeting old friends, renewing friendships with people we had never met.

The picture of my Great, great grandfather on the living-room wall and the realisation that a picture of Rev. George Moxon on the same wall; the original of the one in our possession, warmly underlined this feeling of kinship.

Jimmy of course was his usual, expansive self. For those who never met Jimmy I assure you it was very difficult not to be caught up with his energy and enthusiasm.

Dad and Jimmy had obviously been talking on the phone as the plans for getting the unpublished account of the Moxon family into print seemed to be born fully formed. It was quickly decided to canvass the support of Moxons nationwide through an advertising flyer.

The names of Moxons were to be extracted from the UK telephone directories and in the days before The Internet and the home computer it was going to be a lot of hard manual work. When you grow up wearing the unusual name of Moxon, (certainly in the South of England) it comes as something of a shock to learn there were over 900 Moxons listed in the UK directories.

It was now October 1986. Jimmy, Dad and my Mother, May, set about addressing 900 labels by hand, filling the envelopes with the hastily produced advertising flyer, appending a stamp and walking them to the local Post Office in batches of 250.

By this time both Dad and Jimmy were both possessed of the enthusiasm of born again religious zealots. Neither was satisfied with the 900 British Moxons so it was off to "Australia House" and "Canada House" in London to photocopy pages of "colonial" Moxons from their respective telephone directories.

So this is the stage where many of you come into the story...on the receiving end of an advertising "flyer" for the proposed book "*The Moxons of Yorkshire*." In "The Cynical Internet Age" we now inhabit I must say, looking back at that "*Moxon Flyer*" it took a great leap of faith amongst those who responded by sending their money in advance on the promise of a book not yet printed or even fully written. Would many respond today...I think not. The Internet has not only opened up "The Information Super-highway" but an age when such an open and innocent flyer would be sent straight to the rubbish bin as an obvious scam.

To all those who responded to that Moxon Flyer we all owe you a great debt of thanks... thanks for your optimism and for your trust. I know it gave Dick and Jimmy a great deal of pleasure when the postman arrived each morning with another link in bringing together branches of The Moxon Family.

And the rest, as they say is...Moxon Family History.

**John Moxon  
Southampton**

*This "mail shot" must go down in history as one of the most successful ever executed. Commercial mail shots are considered highly successful if they generate a 5% return. The Moxon mail shot generated well over 350 responses - about a 30% return! Not only did most order a copy of the book, but they also sent copies of their Moxon family trees, and many other fascinating details.*

**Compare all the Moxon Noses!**

**Ed.**

## A TRIBUTE TO DICK MOXON

*See colour photograph on page 12*

JOHN MOXON'S excellent article on "*The Beginnings of the Moxon Society*" gives only a glimpse of the enormous contribution, in effort and time, made by his father, Dick Moxon.

The "mail-shot" was only the start. Jimmy was away in Ghana for many months each year, so Dick handled practically all the responses. He was meticulous in his record keeping. Every new response was given a unique number, those from the UK were allocated MR (Moxon Response) numbers: those from overseas an OVS number. Responses were filed in number order in what eventually expanded to 3 "lever arch" files, with a numerical index in the front. He recorded if the respondent had ordered a copy of *The Moxons of Yorkshire*, how much they had paid, and the date of his confirmation letter back. Where a person had sent details of their Moxon family tree he noted brief details on a "front sheet" to their paperwork.

Jimmy, meantime was finishing off writing the book, and in a number of cases, was adding in information received - such as Joan Rendall's research on the origins of the Market Bosworth Moxons. This all took time, and after some months Dick started to receive letters along the lines:

*Dear Mr. Moxon,*

*I sent you the money for the Moxons of Yorkshire, and it has not yet arrived!*

Dick answered all such letters, trying to placate everyone.

This was, of course prior to the advent of e-mail, and at a time when very few had home computers, so it was all manual, with all communications by post.

Eventually, when the book was printed, it fell mostly to Dick to get them all despatched.

In parallel, Jimmy inaugurated *The Moxon Family Research Trust*: Dick was a Trustee and the Trust Treasurer - I suspect he did most of the work!

Some months later, in April 1988, Jimmy launched *The Moxon Magazine*, and it was Dick who managed all the subscriptions, and despatches of the magazines.

Then, when the first *Moxon Gathering* was fixed for the summer of 1989, it was Dick who made all the arrangements with *Devonshire Hall*, one of the halls of residence for Leeds University. This was a huge success, and it was agreed that a second gathering should be in early September 1990 at the same venue. Dick organised that one also.

At that second gathering, the meeting of 30

Moxons present on 8th September 1990 decided to form *The Moxon Society*, to come into being on 1st January 1991. An Executive Committee was elected, with Jimmy as President and Dick as Vice President (incorporating the duties of Treasurer and Gathering Organiser).

Sadly, just over two weeks after having organised another most enjoyable gathering, Dick died, on 24th September 1990.

The Moxon Society and the Membership, owe a great deal to Dick Moxon.

**JMH**

## EDITOR'S MUSINGS

A NEW SERIES of "*Who do you think you are*" has recently started on BBC1 TV. (For the benefit of overseas members, each week the family history of a celebrity is researched.)

John Hurt, actor and film star, was the subject this week. The family believed that his great grandmother was the illegitimate daughter of the Marquis of Sligo.

It is amazing how families often attempt to spice up their family history! In my own family, my great grandfather, Joseph Hill, lived for about 10 years in Barrow in Furness, and was said to have been the Chief Draughtsman in the shipyard. In MM12 (October 1993) Graham Jagger researched the truth about Sir Samuel Moxon.

The facts are: John Hurt's grandmother was not the daughter of the Marquis of Sligo: my Joseph Moxon was a roll turner in a steel works: and no Samuel Moxon was ever knighted!

I suppose that as we research our family history we all hope to find someone of importance, either famous or infamous! If non exist - then the temptation to invent someone is there - but should be resisted!

However, we can gain solace, since it has been asserted that most of us have a tiny bit of royalty in our blood. See Joan Rendall's article, "*Us Royal? You must be joking*". MM 23, April 1999.

There is now a plethora of web sites offering services to family historians, some are free, but the majority of the most useful ones are offered either on a *pay per view* basis, or on a *subscription* basis. I am bemused by the variety and confess that I have no idea which are the best or most economical. If any member does know their way around, then we would all like to know - any offers of a simple list please? Finally! A plea for articles for the magazine. As of today, the "cupboard" is completely bare, and the "barrel" bone dry!

The only item I can promise you for next April will be details of the Gathering in Wells - that is just one page - how do I fill the other eleven (or hopefully the other fifteen) pages?

We have over 140 members plus spouses. Surely there must be family stories, anecdotes, and history out there which would interest other members! Remember that photographs enhance an article.

**JMH**

**TREK TO PERU**  
*See article on page 13*



*Chris Moxon  
On top of the World*

**JIMMY'S FLASK?**  
*See article on page 2*



*Kids will Play!  
JMH on Sentry Duty*



*ABOVE: Scarborough Harbour  
LEFT: At Eden Camp*

*Both photos by Barbara O'Neill.*

**THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MOXON SOCIETY**  
*See articles on pages 10 and 11*



*Jimmy Moxon (left) and Dick Moxon*



*John and Jacqui Moxon*

# TREK TO PERU

*We reported, in the last Magazine, that Chris Moxon, member of Wood Green, London, was taking part in a sponsored trek through Peru from Cusco to Macchu Pichu. This is his report on the trek. He should be congratulated in raising just over £3,600 for his chosen charity - The Unicorn Theatre, Registered Charity No. 225751. Chris is The Executive Director of the Unicorn Theatre.*



## What possessed me?

Well, I've always adored history and the re-discovery by Hiram Bingham of Macchu Pichu in 1911 – after almost four hundred years of being “lost” - is a very romantic archaeological tale. So I had always wanted to go there.

Then last autumn our enterprising Development Team announced plans for a sponsored Trek there this Spring. Their last Trek to Nepal had not interested me, but this would end up exactly where I wanted to go. And the cause – raising money for the theatre for children for which I had worked for the last ten years – was also attractive!

I did think a little about the physical exercise of the walking – but I have always felt I was fairly fit – and I brushed aside the discomforts of camping in the outdoors in flimsy tents!

In the end fourteen trekkers were recruited, aged from mid twenties to 70 years. I knew three others reasonably well but no-one knew everyone and several people only knew one or two others in our group.

## Altitude sickness

We had been warned about altitude sickness but we were also told that nobody could tell who would be affected. And we also had thirty six hours in Cusco (3360m above sea level) to acclimatise ourselves. About a third of that time I spent in bed recovering from jet lag (the flight from Madrid to Lima alone was 11 hours and then there was all the hanging around different airports waiting for our flight connections); the heat (I burn very easily); and the altitude (I was copiously sick through the night).

At least I got my acclimatisation over early. Others had problems with the altitude as we walked. Eventually we climbed to 4650m and, while I was more or less unaffected by this, one of our climbers almost passed out.

## Camping

My biggest problem was the camping. We slept in two-person tents which were large enough for two mats to be laid down side by side and for our bags to be put beside them. But no bigger! Younger and more agile trekkers may have little problem in turning around in their half of the tent but I couldn't! And once I was zipped into my sleeping bag in my thermal underwear (night temperatures can be well below freezing) it would have woken half the camp for me to try and get out before dawn.

I should add that the instructions for what we needed to bring with us were exemplary. I would never have thought of wearing thermal underwear in my sleeping bag but – boy - it was necessary! Equally I would not have thought of hiring a head torch without prompting. But when you are camped in the middle of nowhere a torch is an essential means of getting around. Though in my ignorance I held my head and torch too high on my first night and didn't notice I was standing on the edge of a cow-pat as I took an emergency leak!

The other problem with our camping was hygiene. We were provided with a small bowl of tepid water twice a day for washing. As a result none of the men shaved for five days and everyone felt pretty dirty. This was a particular issue for me, since, on the first day, I managed to knock over the portable toilet perched above a hole in the ground in the toilet tent - while sitting on it!

## Medical matters

The lack of hygiene caused some problems. In my case it led to me getting a stomach bug on the final day of the trek leading to diarrhoea and – the final humiliation – copious vomiting at the railway station in front of a whole collection of people waiting for the train!

But the travel company provided a doctor to accompany the trek and she looked after all our ailments. Moreover she also looked after the people in the areas through which we travelled. I should explain that we did not take the traditional “Inca Trail” which many parties travel along every day. We travelled on another trail which is only used eight to ten times a year. As a result we travelled for four days without seeing any non-Peruvians and there weren't very many of them!

But it also meant that our arrival was welcomed by the people in the area and word was sent when anyone needed medical attention. Our doctor treated one woman with intestinal problems – but could only suggest she travelled (two days' horse ride) to the nearest medical centre. All our doctor could do was to give her something for her pain.

On another occasion our doctor provided an alfresco clinic for a number of children at a village school.

## The children

The children were one of the most heartening parts of our trip. Every few miles we would be met by a couple of children who would sit and watch us and shyly smile. At one camp site, where there was no more than one building in sight for miles around, we had attracted, by 7am, thirty-one children who stood patiently against a wall watching our breakfast and then gratefully accepted the pens, pencils, notepads and simple toys that we had brought with us.

At another camp site we visited a local school whose pupils (all 46 of them) trooped into the field beside the school and sang songs for us. I'm glad we managed to find a song we could all sing back in response!

## The terrain

From all of this it must be clear that we were trekking through mountain regions that were more or less isolated. For three days we never saw any wheeled vehicle (the Incas never invented the wheel!). There are no roads here and people walk or ride on a horse or donkey.

Most of the land has never been farmed but every so often there is a small mud-brick hut (I assumed the first one I saw was a shelter for

animals) in which a family lives and scrapes a living from keeping a few pigs and cows.

The views were, as you might expect, breathtaking – which gave us the excuse to stop to catch our breath quite frequently. But our guides were on hand to ensure we covered the significant distances before each lunch break at which our cooks had prepared a simple but very satisfying meal, and then to carry on walking in order to reach our camp site before it got dark.

Our slowest and most elderly trekkers were allowed to have a ride on one of the horses every so often or we would never have made it!

## The organisation

The organisation of the whole trek was impeccable. We had two guides – one at the front and one to help the stragglers at the back. The doctor walked with us. Our guides, who spoke excellent English, were able to point out flora and fauna as we walked and were able to communicate by radio to each other.

Porters loaded all our overnight baggage on our horses and passed us each day so that they could pitch the camp site for us before we arrived. And two cooks managed to supply us with three meals a day cooking on a portable two ring cooker – powered I was amused to see by “Llama-Gas”! They appeared to have no problem with the fact that two of us were vegetarians so were not able to eat the same as everyone else. And on one morning produced, without prompting, a birthday cake for a trekker who thought nobody knew!

Altogether there were eleven support staff (guides, doctor, porters and cooks) for just 14 of us.

## The destination

On the fifth day of our trekking we took a train to KM 104 where we joined the standard Inca Trail for the final day's hike to Machu Picchu. During this stretch we came across several other parties treading the same path – but, I think, nobody who had spent the previous four days doing the same thing.

On this final stretch we visited two other small Inca sites and climbed along the edge of the mountain side, though at a much lower altitude than on the first four days. Finally we came to the Sun Gate, a gap in the mountains, from which we could look down at the ruins of Machu Picchu. From there we followed the well worn path down into the ruins themselves.

By this stage it was mid afternoon so we carried on down into the town at the foot of this mountain. We had the luxury for this section of an electric bus which had been transported in sections by rail (there are no roads leading to this part of the mountains) and assembled at

*continued at foot of next page*

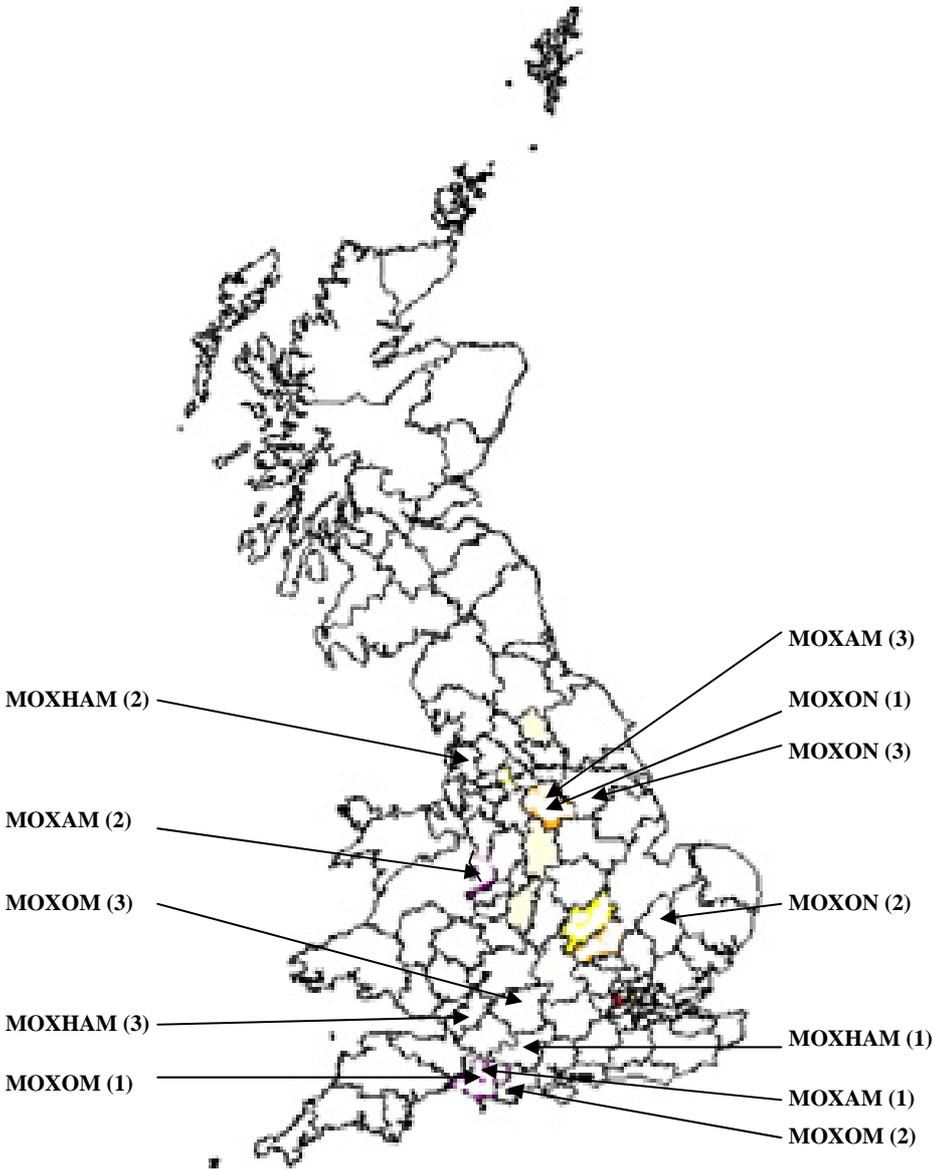
# DISTRIBUTION OF OUR SURNAMES

There is an interesting website [www.spatial-literacy.org](http://www.spatial-literacy.org), which shows the distribution of surnames throughout Britain, taking it's data from the 1881 Census and the 1998 Electoral Roll.

We show details for the variants listed below:

NAME	FREQUENCY		OCCURANCES/MILLION		MAP KEY
	1881	1998	1881	1998	
Moxon	1684	2118	62	67	NAME (1) Highest
Moxham	540	836	20	22	NAME (2) Next highest
Moxam	64	124	2	3	NAME (3) Below next highest
Moxan	*	*	*	*	
Moxom	35	232	35	232	
Mokeson	*	*	*	*	

\* Too small a number



*continued from previous page*

Machu Picchu. These buses are used solely to transport tourists from the town where there are hotels, shops and the railway station, up to Machu Picchu itself.

That night we all enjoyed hot showers and a bed before climbing back to Machu Picchu for a guided tour the following morning.

Then back to Cusco (by rail) and 27 hours travelling back to London.

So – was it worth it? Certainly – despite the illness and the camping the experience was extraordinary.

Would I do it again? Probably not - unless I had a tent to myself!

**Chris J Moxon**

*Thanks Chris.*

*Ed.*

# A VERY GENEROUS DONATION

JIM MOXON has donated £1000 to the Moxon Family Research Trust in memory of his father, Alvin Lloyd Moxon (*see obituary on page 6*)

Alvin, who lived in Wooster, Ohio, had been a very keen member of the Society, and had the distinction of not only being our most senior member, but also the member from overseas who had attended more Gatherings than any other non UK member.

At the Gathering in 2001 at Kew, Alvin was presented with a certificate:

*The Moxon Society*

*honours*

*Dr Alvin Moxon*

*For*

*his longstanding support of the Society and for the distinction of being the most senior member who has attended more*

*Moxon Gatherings*

*than any other overseas member.*

*In the years of*

*1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001*

At the Gathering at Shrewsbury in 2003, Alvin's continuing attendance at Gatherings was marked by appointing him Honorary Vice President of the Society.

The MFRT intends to use this donation for a specific purpose, rather than just add it to the general fund. Suggestions to the Trust Secretary will be welcomed. (*see back page for contact details*)

## PRAISE

John C Moxon, Honorary Vice President, has asked me to print the contents of an e-mail received from New Member, John Cole of Australia. John Moxon says, "If you feel embarrassed about this you can print it in with this recommendation from me. Your efforts deserve to be seen by the membership."

**JCM**

John Coles e-mail reads:

I have spent quite a bit of time over past days printing off further copies of the magazine from the internet (Moxon website) and I am very impressed by the quality of the presentation. Some folk must be investing a lot of their time, researching and producing these magazines. For anyone interested in genealogy it is a real bonus to find one is related to the Moxons and that so much information has already been unearthed. Simply from glancing through the material there seem so many colourful Moxon characters and I look forward to sitting down for a good read.

**John Cole.**

# THE CIRCUS FAMILY OF MOXONS

Judy Huggett née Moxon, member, was a performer in a circus family of Moxons. When Judy and Peter hosted the Society Committee Meeting, in May 2007, at their home in Kings Lynn, we spotted this collage, and promptly asked for a copy.

Edwin, Judy's grandfather, started the circus family, including many of his children and grandchildren. Gillian, Judy's sister died when only aged 7. Her grandmother, Madge, was Edwin's second wife.

Judy has featured in several previous issues of this magazine, "Knowing our Moxons" MM7 (April 1991), Roots 4 "The Moxons of Stewkley MM21 (April 1998) and MM38 (October 2006).

Judy age 9



Edwin

Edgar

Eileen

Theo

Eileen age 5

Judy

Eileen age 13

Madge & Ed

Gillian

Elizabeth

Eileen & Edgar

Edwin

THE GREAT MOXON

Jane

Edgar

Jane

Judy age 3

Ed

Judy

Eileen

Madge & Edgat

Harold

Gillian age 1

Harold & Edwin

Jane

Madge & Judy

Judy & mother, Eileen

## A SAD DEATH

*Zoe Chaddock, member of Lymm, Cheshire, sent this article concerning the death of her grandfather.*



WHEN RESEARCHING one's family history one should always be prepared for a few shocks.

My maternal grandfather, Arthur Steele Mitchell, died when Mabel, my mother, was eighteen and Clifford, her younger brother, only eleven. His wife was Amy, née Moxon.

When discussing his death my mother had always said that there was a question mark surrounding how he had drowned. On the morning of his death when he left the house he had called goodbye to her and when he received no answer had called again until my mother had answered him. At the time this seemed insignificant to her but in the light of his later actions it would appear that he was saying a final "goodbye".

My mother was employed as a shorthand typist and she told me that during that morning she had felt a sudden need to return home as she felt that something was "wrong". Something was indeed amiss as her father's body had been recovered from the bathing pool in Endcliffe Park, Sheffield.

In order to find details of his death I had first to find the date. This was achieved by visiting St Michael's Church record centre in Chester. Armed with the date of his death I e-mailed Sheffield Archives and asked them to search the Sheffield newspapers on and around the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1920.

The archives came up trumps and sent me three cuttings, two reports of his death and one of the inquest which had been on the following day.

The coroner, Mr J Kenyon Parker, returned a verdict of "suicide by drowning but with no evidence to show his state of mind". On the side of the pool there was a note addressed to "Dear Amy" and saying, "I am doing this to free you. Goodbye to Clifford and Mabel", his son and daughter.

I have tried to trace the coroner's records in case the note had been retained but was advised that records prior to 1925 had been destroyed.

When I first read the death certificate I was shocked, as I did not expect to see suicide as a



*Front row L - R Zoe's grandmother, her grandfather and their son, Clifford  
Second row, Zoe's mother, Mabel, standing behind and just to the right of grandfather.  
Zoe's Greatgrandfather, is stading behind Clifford.*

cause of death. When I read the newspaper cuttings I had a terrible feeling of sadness. He had apparently been ill with influenza two years before in 1918 and since then had been suffering from depression. The wording of the note he left suggests that he felt a burden to his wife and family, however his death did nothing

## THE 20th MOXON GATHERING

**WILL BE HELD IN THE  
CATHEDRAL CITY OF  
WELLS**

**on  
Friday 19th to Sunday 21st  
SEPTEMBER 2008**

**Make a note of the date NOW!**

**(Due to the accommodation  
situation, it is later in the  
month than usual)**

*Ed Moxon, assisted by John Eardley Moxon, are making the arrangements. We look forward to a most enjoyable and interesting weekend. Details and application form will be mailed with next April's magazine.*

but harm. My grandmother was forced to make ends meet by scrubbing floors and for several years my mother provided financial support for the family.

It is curious that even with this evidence my mother never openly admitted that her father had committed suicide. It obviously had a stigma attached to it.

I have yet to trace my grandfather's place of burial but understand he may have been lain to rest in Burngreave cemetery.

A postscript to this is that my daughter will shortly be moving to Endcliffe, to start her studies at Sheffield University. I wonder if she will meet any ghosts?

**Zoe Chaddock**

### THE MOXON SOCIETY

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Graham Jagger, 15, Heythrop Close, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4SL.  
Tel: 0116 271 9185

e-mail: graham@ankatang.demon.co.uk

**Membership Secretary:** Suzanne Moxon.  
1, Pinetree Close, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8DX. Tel: 01983 296921  
e-mail: john.moxon@onwight.net

**Chairman & Editor:** John Moxon Hill, 15, Belvedere Rd. Earlsdon, Coventry. CV5 6PF.  
Tel: 024 7667 2797

e-mail: john@moxonhill.plus.com

**Treasurer:** John S Earnshaw

**Web Master:** John S Earnshaw

**Secretary:** Sue Earnshaw

Both of: The Coach House, Bretton Park, Wakefield, WF4 4JX Tel: 01924 830357  
e-mail: john@westbretton.com

The Moxon Society Web Sites:

www.moxonsociety.org or www.moxon.org.uk

**Magazine & Moxon Books Distribution:** Pat Bascombe, 23, Peterscroft Ave., Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 2AB. Tel: 01733 490 670.

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

**Secretary to the Trustees:** Jane Micklethwaite, 59, Grantham Road, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 7NG.  
e-mail: cjmicklethwaite@hotmail.com