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THE MOXON FAMILY RESEARCH TRUST

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THE TRUST is funded by donations from individuals and The Moxon Society. Its aims are to fund specific items of Moxon research of interest to Moxons world-wide; and to aid the publication of books and research reports concerning the Moxon Family

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THE MOXON MAGAZINE

The Magazine is supplied free of charge to Members. Copies, and back copies, may be purchased from the Magazine Distributor, and are also available in PDF on the Society's website.

THE MOXON MAGAZINE welcomes articles and submissions on any subject related to the wider Moxon family, past or present. It is published twice a year, April and October; and the deadlines for submissions are therefore mid-March and mid-September. If space permits articles will be published in the next issue after receipt but may be held over for a future issue at the Editor's discretion. The Editor may also, at his discretion, shorten articles when necessary though he will normally try to print submissions in full. Submissions may be sent by post or by email (postal and email addresses appear on the left of this page). Photographs are particularly welcome additions to articles and will be returned as soon as the issue in which they appear is published. Submission of articles or other material will be taken to indicate permission to publish the article or material on one or more occasions in the Moxon Magazine. Copyright will remain with the original contributor.

Editor

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The Society is most grateful for the continued support of its patrons:

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*Anyone interested in becoming a Patron please contact
Chris Moxon*

New Members:

Since the last issue of the Magazine three new members have joined the Society:

We welcome:

IAN CONRADI
Herefordshire, UK MX01

LISA ADEN
Western Australia MX01

MARY MORRISSEY
Queensland, Australia MX37

JOHN FREDERIC MOXON
Florida, USA MX79

RONALD (MIKE) MARSHALL
North Yorkshire, UK MX76

An Editor's postscript!

**"It behoves an author
to examine his copy
very well e're he
deliver it to the printer,
and to point it, and
mark it so as the
compositor may well
know what words to
set in italics, English,
Capitals et cetera."**

Joseph Moxon
The Art of Printing, 1683



Established in 1988 by James Moxon, Founding Editor and First President of the Moxon Society

The Moxon Magazine

Welcome to this new issue of The Moxon Magazine! I hope you find in it something of interest. I certainly did as I was putting it together.

As ever, I am very grateful to those members who take the time, the effort, and the trouble to submit the usual wide range of articles for our interest. But – I suspect you know where I am going with this! – I can always use more material and invite you to submit either full articles or even just ideas for us to consider.

I'm happy to receive your contributions at any time, always bearing in mind that realistically it takes some six weeks for me to gather it altogether, sometimes to do necessary research, lay it out and get it to the printer. So for the next issue, number 60, which will be published in October 2017, it would be good to have your stories and ideas by mid-August.

Meanwhile, please enjoy issue number 59!



The milkmaid and her dun cow, from a relief on the south face of Durham Cathedral. Some of you might like to know there's a local pub called... The Dun Cow!

The Annual Gathering 2017

As agreed at last year's Annual Gathering, for 2017 we return to Durham City, county town of County Durham reputedly founded in AD 995 as a result of divine intervention. The story involves St Cuthbert's body and an immovable bier; a chance meeting with a milkmaid who had lost her dun cow; and a high rock in the bend of the River Wear, now the site of Durham Cathedral which dates from AD 998.

The Gathering will include, as always:

- The Moxon Society Annual General Meeting
- An Executive Committee Meeting for those serving on the Committee
- A guided tour of Durham Cathedral;
- A speaker on one of the evenings; and
- The traditional "Group Photograph"!

A letter from the Organiser, Val McCourt, accompanies this issue of the Magazine together with a booking form. If you will be attending this year please complete the form and return it to Val **not later than 21st May**.

*All Full Members will receive a copy of the AGM papers in advance – **but only as long as we have a note of your email address**. If you are a Full member and have not received any emails from us, please contact Chris Moxon before the middle of July (address at the bottom of the back page).*

MX10: an old photograph

Sylvia Merrett of Aylesbury has submitted the attached photograph. She is confident that it shows her great grandparents **Charles Moxon** (c1817-1877) and his wife **Phoebe**. The young lady at the front, with her arm affectionately over the man's knee, is probably their eldest daughter, **Emily** (1846-1899).

This would date the photograph to about 1864 – in astonishingly good condition for its age – when Charles Moxon was 47, his wife 41 and Emily eighteen. At that time the Moxon family lived in the Gardener's Cottage at Tapton Hall, Sheffield, which suggests that it may well have been taken, possibly by a professional photographer, in the grounds of Tapton Hall.

Tapton Hall survives today as a Grade II listed building, and is popular as a wedding venue. It was built in 1855 by the Sheffield Steel Magnate, Edward Vickers, so it is possible that Charles Moxon may have been the first head gardener there. Prior to this appointment Charles was Gardener at Wadworth Hall, a Grade I listed Manor House near Doncaster.

But if anyone else from MX10 or from Sheffield can shed any more light on this photograph or on the history of Tapton Hall gardens, please contact the Tree Guardian for MX10, Val McCourt, or Sylvia herself.

Chris Moxon



This photograph depicting Charles Moxon and two ladies is thought to have been taken around 1864.

There were already various photographic processes available at that time and stereo photographs and panoramic cameras were already in use. But photography was still a very complex and time consuming process, involving the coating of glass plates with light-sensitive chemicals, and exposure times of possibly several minutes. Dry collodion plates allowing 'snapshots' were not described until 1864. So the question is: does this photo really date from 1864? **See pages 16-17 for a brief article by Chris Moxon on dating photographs...**

Simon Moxham and the demon drink A cautionary tale in two parts...

PRESTON HERALD, Wed 23 Feb 1887

A DEFAULTING PUBLICAN. — Thomas Martindale, landlord of the Princess Royal Inn, Bolton-road, Chorley, was charged with allowing men on his premises after hours, and Oliver Wall and Simon Moxham were charged with being on the licensed premises and drinking. — P.S. Carter stated that at 11.50 on the date named he went to the house, and, hearing voices, proceeded to the back yard and listened. He heard the landlord asking someone to drink up and be going, and, peeping through the keyhole, he saw glasses on the table containing beer. Soon after the men crept down the passage to go out, and as they opened the door he spoke, and told them to go back. He went in with them, and saw glasses part full of freshly-drawn beer, and challenged them with drinking it, but they denied it. There was a knocking at the door, and he said they had better open it, when the wife of Moxham was there, and declared that if the landlord did not turn out her husband she would fetch a policeman. — It was contended for the defence that the customers were turned out at 11 o'clock, but Hall and Moxham returned to borrow a spade. He lent them the spade, and they talked for a time with the landlord, while he and his wife were having their suppers. At length he got tired and asked them to go, but they refused, and persisted in vexing him. When they were leaving the sergeant came in, and looked at the glasses used by himself and wife. Mary Elizabeth Martindale, and the defendants, Oliver Hall and Simon Moxham, gave evidence for the defence, but the magistrates convicted and fined Martindale 40s and costs, and the other two defendants 10s each.

PRESTON HERALD, Wed 7 Aug 1889

A CHORLEY MAN FOUND DROWNED. — On Monday Dr. Gilbertson, coroner, held an inquest at the Royal Oak Inn, Hoghton, on the body of Simon Moxham, who had been found drowned in a pit at Hoghton. — Hannah Moxham, widow of the deceased, said she and her husband, who was 41 years of age, had lived at 107, Bolton-road, Chorley. He had left home on the 17th July, saying he was going to Adlington. He had been drinking heavily ever since Good Friday, and had taken little food although he had done nothing to lead her to suppose he would take his life. — Richard Wallbank, a farm servant at Riley Green, Hoghton, deposed to finding the body of deceased floating on the top of a pit in Pit Field, Hoghton, on Saturday morning last. The body was much decomposed, but Wallbank, with assistance, took it to the Royal Oak Inn. There was no footpath through the field. — A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

Contributed by Philip Lord

Correcting the dates

Graham Jagger writes:

It was interesting to read about *Joseph Moxon: alumnus of QEGS* on page 26 of issue 58 of The Moxon Magazine. Professor Long and I collaborated closely in the writing of this book. My involvement is acknowledged as is the munificence of "the Moxon Society for making a grant towards the cost of obtaining copies and reproduction rights for some of the figures".

A very minor niggle - Joseph Moxon was buried on 15 February 1690/1 so he would have died in 1691 new style and not 1690. Bryden, the author of the ODNB article on Joseph Moxon, has followed my lead (reported in *The Notes and Records of the Royal Society of London*, Vol. 49, No. 2, July 1995, p. 203), in placing Moxon's death in 1691 and not in 1700 as previously and erroneously believed.

Graham Jagger

Editor's note on date changes

In the year 45 BC, Julius Caesar replaced the Roman calendar, a very complicated calendar based on the phases of the moon, with a new one he named after himself. And was much simpler. But the Julian calendar provided for a leap year every four years and that was too many. So in 1582 Pope Gregory III introduced a new calendar, obviously calling it after himself, West used a more accurate formula for calculating the years. It was not universally adopted: the United Kingdom and most of the United States and Canada didn't use it until 1752, and the change was not globally complete until 1926/1927 when Turkey took it on. The change from Julian to Gregorian calendars involved the loss of 10 days initially, 11 days by the time we began to use it, and Russia, Greece and Bulgaria lost 13 days because of the delay!

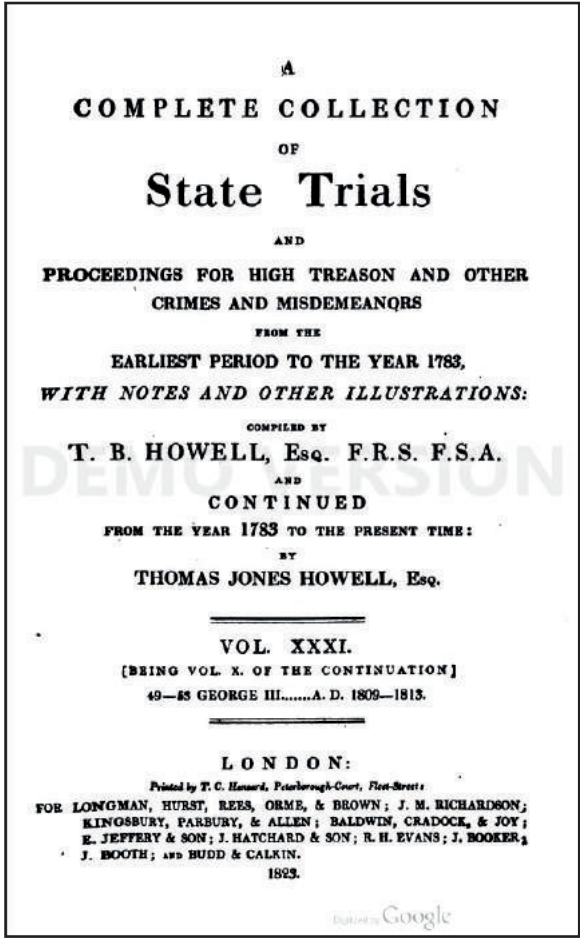
The Editor’s gallimaufry

Being an arbitrary selection of random thoughts on sundry matters

PHILIP LORD kindly sends me, from time to time, suggestions for articles for your Magazine. Recently he wondered if the trial in the High Court of his Majesty the King versus John Swallow, John Bentley, Joseph Fisher, and John Lumb had ever appeared in the Magazine before. These poor men, all with good traditional Yorkshire names and all coalminers, were charged with "burglariously entering" the house of Samuel Moxon of Upper Whitley, near Huddersfield. The court heard that although the offence was a burglary, it was evident from the number of persons concerned and from the open violence with which it was effected that it arose out of, and was connected with, "that system of outrage and deprivation which had unfortunately so prevailed in the West Riding." That system was the Luddite rebellion between 1811 and 1816. Moxon ran the family business of carpenters and wheelwrights, and it is unclear today exactly how the attack on William's house was in any way "Luddite" but that was the view of the court, and the four men were sentenced to death by hanging.

Now, in answer to Philip's question, this sad tale had indeed been printed previously in the Magazine, specifically on pages 4 to 5 of issue number 17 published in April 1996. And I can answer the question very quickly and easily because there is now an electronic copy of Chris Moxon's Index to the first 50 issues of the Moxon Magazine, a copy which of course can easily be searched. I confess that to my great loss I rarely use the printed copy of the index (which is of course still available from Lulu.com). At the moment this electronic Index is not readily available to Members, having been placed for the moment on the Tree Guardians' website which is under construction and has to be restricted because of certain copyright issues. But if there is enough interest in this most useful searchable Index I will find a way to make it public. Meanwhile, I do commend to you reading the full tragic story of Messrs Swallow, Batley, Fisher and Lumb in issue 17 which can of course be downloaded from the Moxon Society website, MoxonSociety.org/wp.

WHILE CHECKING the trial mentioned opposite, I found a copy of the frontispiece from which the story had been taken.



We seem to have an endless fascination with the workings of the courts. The search for the phrase "complete collection of state trials" in Google produces about 32,500 results among which are references to Howell & Howell. I marvel to wonder what we did before the days of the Internet! It makes expert researchers of us all!

An unintended corollary of the search was looking up different phrases in Google concerning Moxons and crime, with the following results:

- Moxon fraud 41,900
- Moxon bankruptcy 57,700
- Moxon theft 105,000
- Moxon murder 227,000
- Moxon trial 531,000

Of course, that isn't to suggest that a Moxon was necessarily the culprit in these crimes: for example, one of the results referred to a Lew Moxon, a fictitious criminal in the original Batman stories – he got 10 years for armed robbery!

FELONY AT FIRSBY & THE FOOLISH PEOPLE OF LINCOLN

On Friday 11th March 1864, Frances Moxon, a domestic servant (the 20-year old daughter of John Audas Moxon), was charged before the Lindsey (Lincolnshire) magistrates with having stolen two sovereigns, the property of William Lanes, labourer, while lodging at his house at Stow Park. Although she was acquitted of the offence at the assizes the following Monday she was immediately re-apprehended and charged with stealing, on the 26th February a half-sovereign, a crown, and two shillings, besides several articles of clothing, the property of Mr. Charles Grant, her master, at East Firsby. The Lincolnshire Chronicle ran the story under the Headline: "A Gainsborough Girl Charged With Felony at Firsby". This time she was found guilty and sentenced to four months' hard labour.

On Saturday 6th August she was released from the Kirton House of Correction and immediately, the same day, went to Mr. Whitmore the Draper's shop in Lincoln High Street. She knew from her previous employment with the Grants in East Firsby that Mrs. Grant was a customer of Mr. Whitmore and that she often bought clothing on credit for her servants. She said that she was living with Mr. Wakefield, of Ingham Cliff, and asked Mrs. Whitmore if she would let her have some goods on credit on his behalf. Mrs. Whitmore agreed and gave her a cloth jacket, eight

yards of cotton print, three yards of flannel, two yards of calico, a set of cuffs and collars and six yards of steel, with a total value of £1-0s-4d. Unfortunately for her, that afternoon Mrs. Grant called in at the shop. On being told of the girl's visit she enlightened Mrs. Whitmore as to what sort of a character she was, and added that she could not be in Mrs. Wakefield's service, as she only left prison that morning. The police were informed and Frances was apprehended the following Wednesday night on the charge of obtaining the goods by false pretences, although she claimed that she intended paying for them. She was committed for trial at the October Quarter Sessions.

At the Quarter Sessions Frances pleaded guilty to obtaining goods by false pretences. Sgt. Wright, of Gainsborough, said that he was present when the prisoner was committed to prison for four months, at the April Sessions at Kirton, for felony. The term of imprisonment expired on the 6th of August, the day on which the offence for which she was now charged was committed. In passing sentence, the Recorder said the offence was very common in Lincoln, where the trades-people seemed to be very easily imposed upon. It was not the less a crime, however, because people were foolish in Lincoln! The prisoner was then sentenced to a further four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Philip Lord

HEALTH & SAFETY

In stark contrast to the present day, an inquest into the death of Ralph Railton Moxham (tree MX76) in the Nova Scotia area of Blackburn, Lancashire, in March 1867, does not even suggest that the employer might be at fault for the lack of any protective guards around dangerous machinery!

THE SHOCKING MACHINERY ACCIDENT. — On Saturday forenoon, an inquest was held at the Crown Inn, Nova Scotia, before H. U. Hargreaves, Esq., Coroner, respecting the death of Ralph Railton Moxam, which occurred on Thursday. — Alfred Hindle, grinder, deposed: I work at the Bank Foundry, belonging to Messrs. Harrison and Sons. The deceased was an apprentice there, and had been for about three years. On Thursday morning last, I saw the deceased leave the grinding-room, and go down into the cellar, where the shafts are for driving the grinding stones and glazing

pulleys. I went after him to see what he was going for, and when I got to the door of the cellar steps the gas lights were out. I heard a noise, and went and got the engine stopped. Then I got a light, and went down with Thomas Robinson. We found the deceased fast round the shaft. There was a loose strap hanging from a hook in the ceiling at liberty round the shaft. The deceased was fast in the shaft. No one has any right to go into the cellar but the foreman, except ordered or allowed by him. The only motive for deceased going into the cellar that I can suggest was to "skulk" from work. I assisted to lay out the body. The right leg is torn off below the knee. There is a wound commencing at the left hip and extending up the left side, and across the breast to the left shoulder. The fore part of the skull is torn away, and the brains were on the floor of the cellar. — George Moxam deposed that the deceased was his son, and 17 years of age. — The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

Philip Lord

Hilda Clarke (8 Dec 1925 - 20 Dec 2016)

A tribute by Don Moxon

The news of the death of Hilda Clarke, just a few days after her 91st birthday, at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, will have been received by all those who remember her with the greatest sadness. Hilda was one of the founding members of the Moxon Society and was for many years one of its most enthusiastic, dedicated and meticulous researchers into our extended family history.

HILDA was born in Goldthorpe near Barnsley on 8th December 1925, the second daughter of Edwin Moxon and his wife Minnie (nee Murgatroyd); Edwin was one of the 11 children of Alfred Moxon - and his wife Jane (nee Ingham) of Pontefract and Knottingley.

Hilda was still a school-girl when her father and uncle decided that they should move down to London where they knew they would find plenty of work for their successful plastering business. Hilda went to Burlington High School in West London, but on the outbreak of war was evacuated to Oxford. When an incendiary bomb fell on the flat where Edwin and Minnie were living, they decided that they should all return to the comparative safety of Doncaster. There Hilda continued with her secondary education and gained very good School Certificate grades before moving on to night school to study book-keeping and become a very competent shorthand typist. At the age of 18, she began work as secretary to the proprietor of a wood-yard, where she had the moral courage to refuse a very devious foreman's request to give two wage slips to one of his workmen. She moved on from there to work for contractors building a new power station where she stayed until - following her marriage in 1948 to her first husband, Joseph Connor - their daughter Melanie was born. Joseph died in 1965, but two years later Hilda married again, to Ray Clarke, a widower. Their happy marriage ended very sadly when Ray too died in 1978, just as he and Hilda were so much looking forward to his retirement. Battling with her grief, Hilda decided that she would take up a new hobby - delving into her family history.

Although Hilda and I were second cousins, neither of us knew of the other's existence for the greater part of our lives. But all that dramatically changed when 30 years ago, Jimmy Moxon wrote to tell us that the family trees we had each sent to him in response to his announcement of his intention to publish "The Moxons of Yorkshire" revealed that we were closely related and both of us were keenly interested in our family's history. We immediately made contact with each other, compared what we each knew in a series of lengthy letters and phone calls, and a couple of



"Dancing feet"
Submitted by Hilda's daughter Melanie Dyer

months later in May 1987 met for the first time to spend a day together searching through registers and other records held in the Record Office at Wakefield. We got on very well with each other, and to our great delight managed on that first day together to push back our now combined tree by a further generation - to the 1728 marriage of Samuel Moxon and Lydia Walton at Ferry Fryston (MX06).

A year later, we met again, this time at the Borthwick Institute in York; again we had a very successful day. Whilst I trawled through some other archives, Hilda pored over a micro-fiche of wills, and there came across the vital evidence we had been hoping to find in order to solve a major problem we had encountered in our ancestral quest

Dating old photographs

probably be 1875 if the lady on the left was Martha on her wedding day - but the figures do not appear to be dressed for a wedding and there is no sign of the bridegroom. The ages of the people in the photograph would seem more likely to fit with the earlier date.

But there is another problem in that the pose is strikingly informal and the clothes that they are wearing seem of a much later date. But perhaps this Moxon family was not so much in tune with the fashion of the day?

In contrast, the photographs of my great grandparents (see opposite) which are known to have been taken in the 1860s, show them adopting much more formal poses and they had clearly put on their "Sunday best" for their trip to the photographer's studio. Note also the style of dress (i.e. a crinoline for my great-grandmother) and hairstyle.

Which leads me to reflect on how much easier life would be if our forebears had given us captions for their photos - or if we had asked them for such captions while they were alive!

Good detective work can still produce results. One of the photos in my albums that I could not identify was of a cricket match. Philip Lord managed to find that the match took place in Leamington (through comparing images of cricket pavilions on the internet!) and the official historian of that cricket club managed to identify the actual match which the photograph commemorated. But, alas, none of my relatives were playing and so none appear in the photograph. I suppose that, as it was an important match - Leamington entertaining the MCC in 1902 - every Committee member of the club at that time may have been given a photograph which has been duly handed down through our family.

But we still have not been able to identify the football team, seen opposite, posing in front of an impressive building in, we think, the 1880s.

Moral: please caption your photos while there is anybody around who can identify the names, place and date the photo was taken!

Chris Moxon

The Moxon Magazine: a correction

As a Magazine of record, the Moxon Magazine always tries to correct any errors that it inadvertently publishes. But some errors take longer to uncover than others.

In October 2003 the Magazine listed the results of the latest DNA tests including the test undertaken by John Lister Moxon of Kirkheaton, Yorkshire. These lists were referred to in various subsequent articles with a full account of the ancestry of each of the participants.

In the autumn of 2016 Graham Jagger decided to bring together all of the DNA results into a single document, and Chris Moxon added a note on the appropriate Moxon Tree to each of the people who had been tested.

This gave rise to a problem. John Lister Moxon of Kirkheaton died in 1995 - a good seven years before the DNA test took place - and his obituary was duly published in the Magazine in April 1996. So who had been tested as part of the Society's DNA programme?

Fortunately John Moxon Hill had also published in the April 2003 Magazine a list of those members who had volunteered to be tested in the next round of testing. This included John Moxon of Yorkshire "MX20/43". By looking at John's contemporary Family Tree charts it became apparent that this was not John Lister Moxon, but was John Moxon of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, born 1926.

John Moxon (1926-) and John Lister Moxon (1906-1995) shared the same great great grandfather William Moxon (1781-1860) and were therefore third cousins.

Since they are/were both from MX20 this change does not affect the overall Tree comparisons.

John Moxon of Huddersfield is no longer a member but if anyone is still in touch with him or his family, please do send him our belated apologies.

I am indebted to Christopher Moxon for sorting this out, as I am for his other 'correction' concerning MX20 qv

Editor



John Payne Moxon (1827-1891)



Mary Ann Moxon nee Gimson (1825-1898)

Dating old photographs



The photograph on page 2 of Charles Moxon is astonishingly clear with excellent tonal range. But was it really taken in 1864?

Charles Moxon died in 1877 at the age of 60 and his wife Phoebe three years later. So if the man is correctly identified as Charles, the photograph must have been taken before 1877. Charles had three daughters – Emily born in 1846, Anne in 1852 and Martha in 1856. Emily never married but Anne married in 1879 and Martha in 1875 so there wasn't an obvious period when there was only one daughter living with her parents at home. The latest date for this photograph would

Hilda Clarke 1925-2016

There on the screen she had turned up an administration of Samuel's estate following his death in 1763 which clearly stated that he and Lydia had two sons, John and William, so proving – what we had actually suspected for some time – that a 1732 entry in the Ferry Fryston register recording the baptism of a William (which was then followed by the baptism of another William in 1735) was an error when in fact that first baby's name was John. It was quite a triumph to be able to correct a parish register entry made over 250 years earlier, and understandably we felt very pleased with ourselves.

For well over the next ten years, the main focus of our work was to try to find where Samuel and Lydia had come from, their dates of birth and parentage. Hilda never learned to drive, so apart from the annual occasions when Wendy and I could come up from East Anglia to join her, and in the days when the internet was still in its infancy, Hilda did the great bulk of the spadework on her own, by journeying by bus or train to all the record offices and libraries across West Yorkshire which might provide the answer to our ancestral quest, and searching tirelessly through all the parish registers, Bishops' Transcripts etc in the neighbourhood of Ferry Fryston in the hope of finding vital clues and name links. She faithfully and meticulously typed out everything that she found that could possibly relate to our ancestry – the Moxon line and the maternal ones – and sent copies to me; all too frequently, she had sadly to report only "negative research" as one by one parishes were eliminated from the search area. My earliest files are crammed with her letters and copies of her findings.

In consequence of our assumption (later shown to be invalid) that our ancestral line might have derived from the 17th Century Moxons of Pontefract, Hilda soon took on the main responsibility for checking through or unearthing all the births, marriages and deaths which are now properly the first part of the MX21 tree, and also recording all the much later 19th Century entries which relate to our own forebears in MX06. One result of our findings was to underline the debunking of the old "Sir Samuel of Pontefract" myth for nowhere is the name Samuel to be found in the 17th Century Pontefract records. The already known connections of the Pontefract Moxons with Hull also led Hilda to revisit that link and debate in great detail with other members of the Society how the Hull Moxons fitted together. Such was the extent of the knowledge that she accumulated that she was often able to provide information or make suggestions to help others in their research – as happened when it came to her notice that Graham Jagger was unable to find the baptism of Emor Moakson one of his ancestors in Silkstone, and she rang to tell him that he had

been looking in the wrong place because Emor was in fact a Quaker. Recalling that incident, Graham commented: "Hilda was what I would call a 'common sense genealogist': if something didn't look right, it probably wasn't, and she would move heaven and earth to establish the real facts of the matter."

That was also evidenced when Hilda found a new focus for her personal research when in 1993 she received a copy of the 1830 will of Mary Moxon, the sister of our great, great, great grandfather. For here was a "single woman" who overcame her humble origins in Ledsham to become literate and do remarkably well for herself. From the details of the will Hilda built up a fascinating picture of Mary's life which she found very absorbing, and enjoyed talking about with others.

Hilda attended several of the early meetings of the Moxon Society and was present when it was founded. She enjoyed meeting Jimmy, Dick and other pioneers, but was not afraid to express a different viewpoint – particularly when she would have liked the annual gathering to be more specifically devoted to sharing the fruits of our research. Eventually when other distant relatives appeared on the scene and joined in our own quest, we arranged two very interesting group outings to places where our ancestors had lived and died: Ferry Fryston, Pontefract, Badsworth, etc.

Sadly our hope of finding Samuel's origins was never achieved, but the mass of Moxon references and related material which Hilda assembled – most of which found its way by various routes into the Society archives – remain as a remarkable legacy – testifying to her enthusiasm for "her favourite hobby," and to her immense patience and dedication in playing such a crucial role in the digging up of our ancestral story.

It was a terrible shock when as early as 1990 Hilda learned that an eyesight problem she had been experiencing was serious and was told that nothing could be done to rectify the problem. The macular degeneration gradually worsened and in 1997 she was registered blind. By 2000, she found it very difficult to read even very large printed matter, while devices meant to transfer documents in greatly enlarged form to the TV screen left her extremely frustrated, and I guess that our visits brought only transient comfort. Despite increasing age-related health problems, she lived independently until 2013. The last three years of her life were spent in a very loving residential care home in Armthorpe where she was lovingly supported by her daughter Melanie, her two grandsons, Adam and Luke, and

Continued >>>

Hilda Clarke 1925-2016

>>> Continued

their families. Just before last Christmas, and by now very frail, she was admitted to hospital with suspected DVT in her leg. By strange coincidence Melanie was already there recovering from an operation; the nursing staff put their two beds together, so that Melanie was able to hold her hand and provide her with all her love and reassurance as her life ebbed away.

In a very moving farewell tribute at the funeral, Melanie spoke of her mother as a very courageous lady and said that “as a dedicated mum, enthusiastic Grandma and great Grandma, she will be a very tough act to follow – for whatever she did she did to the best of her ability: a Gold Medal dancer, pianist, classical guitarist, family historian extraordinaire, and a very knowledgeable and green fingered gardener”.

All of us who knew her will remain ever thankful to God for Hilda's life among us and all she gave to us. She was a brave and talented lady, and we are very privileged to have known her. Over the horizon of our earthly sight, may she rest in peace.

Don Moxon April 2017

Close to home!

In Issue 56 we carried an article about one Sydney Moxon who died on 25th October 1916, on the Ypres Salient, in WW1 aged 38. He was a member of the London Symphony Orchestra who noted his bravery at their AGM in 1917 (1). In tha article we asked for any further information about him, and asked the specific question: **Are you related to Sydney, or know of any of his living relatives?**

The indefatigable Christopher Moxon while continuing his work of indexing the Magazine for us points out gently that Sydney’s parents were in Tree MX01, though he wasn’t, and that meant that John Moxon of Wells is a living relative... But that meant so was my wife, Jenny! Oops!

(1) The LSO’s tribute to Sydney Moxon can be found on their website at <https://is.gd/MPctUi>

In Memoriam

Jane Micklethwaite



Jane Parkin-Bell, the daughter of John F and Dorothy S (née Singer) Parkin-Bell, was born in Bristol on Tuesday 26 September 1939. She married Christopher Micklethwaite in Bristol on Saturday 16 May 1964.

Throughout her working life, Jane was concerned with the welfare of children, not only her own – she and Christopher had a son and daughter

together with several grandchildren – but also those in the community where the Micklethwaite household happened to be located. Jane’s was also dedicated to work in the church and served both as PCC secretary and subsequently churchwarden.

It was through Christopher, whose great grandmother was born Mary Jane Moxon, that Jane became involved in the Moxon Society of which they were early members. She and Christopher were joint secretaries of the Moxon Society and almost since its inception were frequent attendees at the annual Moxon Gathering. For the last fifteen years of her life Jane was the very able secretary to the trustees of the Moxon Family Research Trust.

Despite her busy life, Jane found time to compile a biography, which was published in 2001, of the Reverend George Moxon.

She told the story of this 17th century English divine who fled to New England to avoid the painful consequences of open dissent by a Church of England clergyman, his ministry in Springfield, Massachusetts, and finally his return to England to face more tribulation.

The value of Jane’s contribution to the work of the Moxon Society cannot be overestimated and its members will cherish her memory.

Jane died on Thursday 17 November 2016. Her funeral and interment, at which I was privileged to represent the Moxon Society, were held in the presence of a large congregation at the parish church of St Botolph, Quarrington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, on Thursday 1 December 2016. Donations in Jane’s memory were invited for Christian Aid specifically to benefit Syrian refugees.

Graham Jagger

Christian name(s) + title	Surname	Original Tree	Merged Tree	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Abode	Sample ID			Oxford Ancestors Testing Date	DNA Heritage/Family TreeDNA Testing Date	Notes
							Oxford Ancestors	DNA Heritage	Family Tree DNA			
Alvin	MOXON	MX05		25 Jul 1909	South Dakota, USA							
Arnold David	MOXON	MX22	MX01	1944		Godalming, SRY	Y6866	JZKRT6B	H2071	Oct 2002	Aug 2006	
Arthur Scott	MOXON	MX48	MX01	23 Apr 1943	California, USA			LB5H8KP	H2069		Aug 2006	
Christopher Alan	MOXON	MX12		1978					236204	Apr 2012		5
Christopher Albert	MOXON	MX02	MX01	9 Mar 1939		Witney, OXF	Y7058	JJXB32W				
Christopher John	MOXON	MX11	MX01	17 Feb 1946		Pukekohe, NZ	Y4796	JFYK25	H2068	Oct 2002	Aug 2006	
David John	MOXON	MX19	MX01	6 Jun 1944	Harrow	Victoria, Australia			411365	Oct 2002	Sep 2016	
Derrick John Edwin	MOXHAM	MX37		10 Jul 1934	Ilkley, WRY		Y10752					
Donald Rev	MOXON	MX06		15 Mar 1933	Salisbury, WIL	Becles, SFK	Y4735	JBE42GA	H2067	Oct 2005	Aug 2006	3, 7
Edmund Nicholas	MOXON	MX58		9 Dec 1962	Leeds, WRY	Salisbury, WIL	Y11146	YVD7748	H2061	Sep 2005	Aug 2006	
Edward Richard Prof	MOXON	MX12		16 Jul 1941		Oxford, OXF	Y4795			Oct 2002		
Eric Douglas Vladimir	MOXON	MX04		22 Apr 1927	Ealing, MDX	Becles, SFK			501211		May 2016	
Fred	MOXON	MX15	MX27	4 Feb 1927	Thorp Hesley, WRY	Barnburgh, WRY	Y5176	J8GNAD8		Oct 2002	Aug 2006	
George H	MOXON	MX17		1926	Sculcoates	Beverley, ERY	B6861	JSLTVFD	H2065	Oct 2002	Aug 2006	
John Bruce	MOXON	MX27		10 Oct 1938	New South Wales	Australia		JUQEHSS			Aug 2006	
John Cyril	MOXON	MX13		25 Jun 1927		ICW	Y10750			Sep 2005		
John Ernest Unsworth Dr	MOXON	MX14	MX01	1928	Huddersfield, WRY	Frome, SOM	Y4755	JZ3SLV7	H2066	Oct 2002	Aug 2006	
John	MOXON	MX20		1926		Kirkburton, WRY	Y6852			Oct 2002		1
John Waring	MOXON	MX13	MX27	30 Apr 1947	Staincliffe, WRY	Ossett, WRY	Y10755	JGNGKDB		Oct 2005	Aug 2006	
Kenneth	MOXON	MX27		1 Jan 1944	Chester, CHS				241156	Oct 2002	Jun 2012	
Leonard Reginal Ernest	MOXON	MX25		5 Oct 1937	West Ham	Halifax, Nova Scotia	Y6856	JMDYTBK	H2064	Oct 2002	Aug 2006	
Leslie	MOXON	MX56	MX54	1934	Leeds, WRY	Boston Spa, ERY	Y10751			Oct 2005		
Leslie John Kenneth	MOXSOM	MX43		21 May 1920		Barnet, HRT	Y6875			Oct 2002		
Neil Frederick	MOXON	MX01		1969	Amounderness	Preston, LAN	Y10753	J53K46R	H2070	Oct 2005	Aug 2006	
Owen Kenneth	MOXON	MX35	MX27	25 Aug 1930	Caernarfonshire, WLS	Conway, WLS	Y6822	J4T5UN6	H2062	Oct 2002	Aug 2006	
Paul Andrew	MOXON	MX01		20 Aug 1964	Belvedere, Dartford, KEN				261277	Oct 2002	Dec 2012	6
Paul David	MOXON	MX13		5 Jun 1955	Perivale, MDX	Herne Bay, KEN			368198		Oct 2014	
Philip Lloyd Moxham	MOXHAM	MX59				Sydney, Australia	Y11147			Sep 2005		
Robert Allan	MOXON	MX54			Canada	Janetville, Ontario	Y10754			Oct 2005		
Stewart John	MOXON	MX63	MX42	15 Jan 1957	Dewsbury, WRY				441928		Oct 2015	
Thomas Jules	MOXON	MX05		18 Apr 1931		Brisbane, Australia	Y4859			Oct 2002		
Timothy Napier	MOXON	MX16		2 Jun 1924	Kent	Jamaica	Y6986			Oct 2002		4

- Notes
- 1

John Waring Moxon's results did not survive the automatic transfer from DNA Heritage to Family Tree DNA. A hard copy of the DNA Heritage results is, however, available. These strongly suggest a Silkestone origin.
- 3

Where the results from a DNA Heritage sample have been transferred to the Family Tree DNA database the Sample ID has been changed to one which always begins with the letter 'H'. Under no other circumstances does a Family Tree DNA sample begin with 'H'.
- 4

Timothy Napier Moxon died before further tests could be carried out.
- 5

Numeric Sample IDs are only associated with samples analysed by Family Tree DNA
- 6

Judy Huggert's first cousin once removed.
- 7

Testing dates are not totally unambiguous. The dates given may refer to kit dispatched by tester, kit returned by testee, or results dispatched by tester.

DNA and Moxon Research

Graham Jagger January 2017

Moxon research as we know it today began with the publication in the summer of 1987 of *The Moxons of Yorkshire* which was in essence the work of three great Moxon historians, the Reverend Charles St Denys Moxon (1820-1881), Canon R S Moxon DD (1873-1950) and Prebendary T A Moxon MA (1877-1943), and which was edited by James (Jimmy) Moxon, the latter's son. It was the editor's intention to create a focal point of basic Moxon history around which current and future research can rally and develop.

The Moxon Family Research Trust (MFRT) was founded in 1987, the year which saw the first of the continuing series of annual Moxon Gatherings although in those days these events were known as Research Seminars. The MFRT became a registered charity in September 1989 and since its foundation it has continued to finance Moxon research projects.

Within a year or two it became apparent that there was a need for a social parallel to the more financial and technical organization, the MFRT, and after some discussion at the 1990 Research Seminar the Moxon Society was born. From then on, the MFRT faded into the background whilst maintaining its vital role as the funder of research projects.

The DNA project

At the beginning of the 21st century the unexpectedly strong link between surnames and Y-chromosomes was discovered and this has since become the mainstay of genetic genealogy. In 2001, the University of Oxford created, under the chairmanship of Dr Bryan Sykes, Oxford Ancestors Limited. By the beginning of 2002 many unconnected Moxon trees had been assembled largely by the good offices and, it must be said, great labours of John Moxon Hill. It was John's vision that considerable progress could be made in uniting these many trees by the application of modern science.

With the munificence of the MFRT 14 male members, each from a different tree, had their Y-DNA analysed by Oxford Ancestors in October 2002. This first batch of results was very illuminating. It turned out to be very difficult to say, for example, that Arnold David Moxon and Christopher Albert Moxon were brothers, fourth cousins, or fifth cousins twice removed, but it was possible to say, with a reasonable degree of certainty, that they were both scions of the Moxons of Cawthorne. Similarly, groupings of the Moxons of Silkstone became apparent.

By 2006 other providers of DNA analysis were advertising their services which were more advanced than those provided by Oxford Ancestors. Between 2006 and 2015 a further 20 analyses were performed by two other companies, DNA Heritage and Family Tree DNA. By this time considerable experience had been gained in the use of DNA results in the uniting of various branches of the Moxon tree; specifically, in the underpinning of DNA results with documentary evidence.

The participants in the DNA project to date are given in the figure opposite and their cooperation in the execution of the analyses is greatly appreciated.

It must be pointed out that all DNA analyses conducted so far have been of the Y-chromosome. The reason for this is largely historical in that it is the Y (i.e. male) chromosome which is associated with the propagation of surnames and thus with the easy tracing of families. There have, though, been considerable advances in DNA analysis in the last year or two and it is now possible to conduct a wide-ranging analysis which includes both Y-DNA (from males) and Mitochondrial DNA (from females). A pilot project involving Moxon females has just begun and it is hoped that the results from this will soon be available.

Freda Wilkinson (nee Moxon) 1920-2016

My mother, **Freda Wilkinson**, was born on the 13th April 1920 in Barnsley, Yorkshire, the 5th of the 8 children of Harry Moxon, a coach builder and his wife, Elizabeth Doughty. She was, in many ways, a groundbreaker. The first in the family to stay on at school beyond statutory leaving age; the first to have any sort of further education; and the first woman in the family to have avoided life "in service".

She was immensely proud of her family's history and resilience and would frequently recall the story of her maternal grandmother Charlotte, who had lost her own mother when only a few weeks old. Charlotte was brought up by her maternal grandparents, poverty-stricken agricultural labourers and, by the age of eight or nine, was going down to the local market with lead blackened hands, saying "look, see my hands. I can work hard. Pay me to clean your hearths."

However it was her own mother, Elizabeth, who was to exert the strongest influence on my mother. Elizabeth had been a promising student at school; her teachers had wanted her to stay to become a pupil teacher. Elizabeth was very keen to do so, but her father would not permit it; the family was very poor and his daughter, in his words, had "to get her feet under someone else's table". And so, aged 13, my grandmother had to leave her home to become a housemaid; her chance of using education to improve her position in life had been taken from her.

A generation later my mother passed the scholarship exam, which gave her the opportunity to go to Barnsley High School for Girls. My grandmother, having been thwarted herself and being ambitious for her family, ensured that all the necessary sacrifices were made. My mother stayed at school until she was eighteen, after which she went to a teacher training college; once qualified, she returned to Barnsley to work.

My mother met my father, Jack Wilkinson, when she travelled to London to see a friend; she moved to London on VE Day and they were married the following year, on her 26th birthday. In 1953 my father, who was a carpenter & joiner, suffered his first heart attack and was never able to work again. Much to his shame, my mother became the family's breadwinner; although she loved her job, the pressure on her must have been intense. My father died in 1958; my mother never remarried.

My mother was appointed the head of a local primary school in the early 1960s. She was, in her own way, every bit as ambitious as her mother before her and, with this promotion, she had achieved her dream. She stayed at the school until she retired, some twenty odd years later.



Freda on her 95th birthday!

At this point my mother turned her attention to family history, motivated by the desire to find out who had made the sampler that had been passed down to her. (There was a name, but we had no idea of the relationship.) Having solved this riddle, (it was her paternal grandmother) she joined the Moxon Society and enjoyed adding information to the family tree. (MX10) Especially in her later years, my mother loved to reminisce about her childhood. Her recollections of her father's workshop are interesting and are included in a separate piece in this issue.

Continued >>>

>>> *Continued***Freda Wilkinson 1920-2016**

My mother loved her garden and, in the summer months, would often be out tending it soon after dawn. She enjoyed spending time with her two grandchildren and spent many happy years as the Treasurer of a local W.I. market. It was important to her to keep her Links with Yorkshire alive; indeed it's true to say that she never considered herself a Londoner, despite having lived in the capital for over 70 years. Until she stopped driving, in her late 80s, she made regular trips to Barnsley to spend time with her two sisters; the speed with which she accomplished this 200 mile trip never cease to horrify me!

In her later years she was, sadly, tormented by an increasingly severe dementia from which she ultimately died on 26 November 2016.

*Beth Wilkinson***Moxon's Garage,
Barnsley**

In 1952, on waste land at the edge of Wakefield Road, Barnsley, work began on the construction of a new garage. In the accompanying photograph, a smartly dressed old man can be seen surveying the works, whilst clutching his pipe. This was my grandfather, Harry Moxon, born in Worksop on 23rd February 1873. The garage he was watching taking shape before him had evolved from his own long-established carriage-building business, reputedly the first in Barnsley.

Harry had started his working life as an apprentice printer/compositor, but had clearly decided to switch trades for by the early 1890s he was apprenticed to a London carriage-builder; in this he was following in the footsteps of his eldest brother, William Henry, who was also working for a London carriage builder at the time.

Continued >>>

Right: In 1952, on waste land at the edge of Wakefield Road Barnsley, work began on the construction of a new garage.



Left: the workshop, in Town End, Barnsley. Mr Wilson is on the extreme right, Harry is second from the right.

**Rare parliamentary honour for Auschwitz survivor**

A 90-year-old woman who survived the Auschwitz death camp and found a new home in Birmingham was applauded in the House of Commons during Prime Minister's Question Time last December..

MPs from all parties broke into spontaneous applause when they were told Kitty Hart-Moxon was celebrating her 90th birthday, and was watching their proceedings.

A number of MPs turned to the public gallery, a section of the Commons chamber in a balcony above the politicians, where Mrs Hart-Moxon was watching along with other members of the public.

She waved to them - and MPs waved back, before applauding. It's extremely rare for MPs to break into applause in the House of Commons.

Kitty was 12 years-old when her family fled their home in western Poland ahead of the German invasion.

Her brother Robert, 17, fled to Russia where he would eventually be shot by the Germans. Kitty and her parents found themselves in a ghetto in the Polish city of Lublin.

She last saw her father when he sent Kitty and mum Lola to Germany to pose as non-Jewish Poles. He believed that the family stood a better chance of survival if they were separated.

For months they survived, working in a factory under the noses of the Nazis, but they were eventually betrayed - along with 12 others - by suspicious co-workers who informed the Gestapo.

Kitty and her mother were sent to Auschwitz and for two years they faced starvation, disease and horrific conditions, surviving on snow and food scraped from the pockets of the dead until the Russian liberation in 1945. She came to live with relatives in Birmingham and trained as a nurse at Birmingham's Royal Orthopaedic Hospital.

As well as a career in nursing, she taught younger generations about the Holocaust. Mrs Hart-Moxon led school trips back to Auschwitz every year, passing on warnings about the dangers of prejudice and hatred. She awarded an OBE in 2003 for her work.

And Conservative MP Bob Blackman paid tribute to her in the House of Commons, saying: "She dedicated her life to making sure that the people of this country and beyond know the horrors of the Holocaust."



Speaking in 2013, she said: "I've been doing this since the day I came into Birmingham but it was hard going in those days.

"I realised from the day I was liberated that what I witnessed was the greatest crime in human history. I was working near the gas chambers for eight months.

"I had a duty and responsibility to speak out and make sure people learn from that."

Mrs Hart-Moxon, now a grandmother to eight, no longer lives in Birmingham, but still has links to the city and received an honorary doctorate from Birmingham University in 2013.

I am indebted to Mary Ann Moxon

who kindly sent me details of two reports about Kitty Hart-Moxon's rare honour of being applauded in the House of Commons. I have compiled this note with extracts from both reports.

Moxons Downunder

Fleeing to the Blue Mountains

How many of you knew that Sydney, Australia, was bombed during World War 2? I certainly don't remember learning this at school in the 1960s. However, my sister in law, Bette Mason (nee Moxon) certainly remembers it, because she was a teenager at the time.

I recently interviewed Bette, now aged 88 and living in a retirement village in Kincumber on the Central Coast of New South Wales about her life as a young girl and as a teenager. Having been born in December 1927, she has vivid memories of life during the war:

"We were living in Bronte and they started bombing off the coast. Mum didn't like that so we moved to Hazelbrook. I went to Katoomba High School. And when I finished there in Third Year, she wanted me to go back to Fort Street. So I went back to Fort Street, but they were so far ahead of me, so advanced. I didn't like it so I left and found a variety of jobs, including back door receptionist at the Minerva Theatre at Darlinghurst."

The bombardment of Sydney, particularly the eastern suburbs, occurred in June 1942 and quickly stopped but the residents of Bondi and Bronte were not to know that. Like many others, the Moxons sought safety in the Blue Mountains.

In 1936, for reasons unknown to Bette, her parents had taken her to London by ship, the steamer *Moreton Bay*. I asked her how she felt about this:

"I was only eight at the time. I didn't question their decision to go. We saw many countries, it was six weeks in those days. It was very enjoyable. I was always curious about new things.

"It was hard getting used to my school at Sydenham. I wasn't very popular because this foreigner topped the class at the end of the year. But also, they asked me to speak Australian, and I said I was. But they said I couldn't be Australian because my mother's not black. So that was their knowledge of Australia.

"We rented half a house in Sydenham. It was very old and had a ballroom upstairs. Mum and dad weren't married at the time, they got married when we returned to Australia in 1938, before John was born."

I showed Bette three photos, one of two adults and a little girl, one of the same adults with two children, and another of the same man.

"Oh, this one here is me with Mum and Dad. I was about seven or eight at the time, and yes, it was before we went to England. "And that one is Dad – Bert – he looks a bit younger there. I always called him Dad, even though he was my adopted father.

"My real father was Alf Prah, but I didn't see him from the time my mother left him until I was 45, when he contacted me. I invited him up to Narrabri for a holiday, but I just thought of him as Alf, never as dad. I felt embarrassed sometimes, when I unthinkingly talked about mum and dad this, mum and dad that. But I couldn't help it – I hadn't seen him for 40 years, never a birthday card or anything.

"I think it was Mum's doing really. She told him she never wanted to see him again, and didn't want any money from him.

"Bert was a real father to me, and later he formally adopted me."

The third photo showed Bette, aged about 12 with her parents and brother John, born in 1938.

"We were living at Lewisham when that was taken, because John was just a toddler then. I loved having a baby brother, I'd been an only child up till then."

Margaret Tucker Moxon

¹Bert Moxon 1902-1987

MARGARET TUCKER MOXON IS OUR Moxon Society website guru and she also edits the Australian Moxon Society newsletter *Moxons Downunder* from which I have copied this as a delightful example of family history coming alive through chatting to people who lived it.

Moxon's Garage, Barnsley

Unlike his brother, who settled in the capital, once Harry had mastered his trade he returned to the family home. Although Harry had been born in Worksop his family had lived in Yorkshire for generations and by the turn of the twentieth century, Harry's father, Robert, had returned to Ardsley, where his own father had been born. The census of 1901 thus listed Harry as living in his father's house in Church Street, Ardsley. It was recorded that Harry's occupation was a coach painter and that he was an employee. By the time of the next census, in 1911, Harry had married and moved to Barnsley; his occupation was still given as coach painter, but this time he was working on his own account.

Harry's first enterprise had been as half of a partnership. The second photograph shows the two men's workshop, in Town End, Barnsley. (Mr Wilson is on the extreme right, Harry is second from the right.) The partnership did not last long and Harry went on to establish his own business in the stable block of what had been a large private house in Harborough Hill. From these premises he quickly made a name for himself, making carriages both for the local dignitaries and for the local undertaker! The family used to credit him with being the man who introduced the hansom cab to Barnsley, though I have no idea if this really was the case.

My late mother, Freda Wilkinson, often spoke of her father's working life. Harry was, apparently, a perfectionist. He mixed his own paints to meet his customers' requirements and his carriages were painted with at least two undercoats and several top coats, before being finished with more layers of varnish. All of these he applied by hand in his paint room; this had been the carriage room of the old stables and so had wide

doors to allow vehicles to come and go. Whenever he was painting or varnishing he would seal the doors and lock himself in - to prevent any dust settling on his paintwork. He would never open the door until he was ready to do so, whatever the circumstances!

Another of the former stable buildings was converted into a blacksmith's workshop. My mother recalls that sometimes the younger children were allowed to work the bellows to keep the fire going whilst Harry's eldest son, Ernest, was doing some metal work - for example making the iron rims for local businessmen's carts. (A modern-day health and safety nightmare!)

Ernest had worked with his father since leaving school, aged 14, in 1920. As transport evolved and motor cars became more common it was Ernest who began to repair damaged body work and who introduced the use of cellulose spray paint. My mother remembers this as being a particularly traumatic time for the family, since Ernest had to do a great many experiments before he could perfect the process and his temper suffered accordingly!

The workshop was constantly evolving to adapt to the needs of the times - during the Second World War, for example, father and son were maintaining and repairing military vehicles in the very same premises in which Harry had first made hansom cabs. But in the end it made sense to move to new, custom-built, premises - and so, in 1952, the Wakefield Road garage was brought into being.

Harry retired, aged 75, in 1948. He died, aged 92, on 16th July 1965 and was cremated at Ardsley.

Beth Wilkinson



Moxon's Filling Station



Beth & her Granddad

MX20 – and a problem with the Moxons of Thornhill

Christine Senior of Meltham in West Yorkshire was inspired by the article in the last issue about the Moxons who died in World War I to send me some information about her great-uncle, David Moxon who was reported missing, presumed killed, in action at the battle of Bullecourt on May 3, 1917. She remembers her grandfather, Lawton Moxon, recalling that his brother David had never wanted to go to war but their father, also called David (1852 -1933), was a strict disciplinarian and insisted that his son enlisted in March 1916 – even though David had three older brothers who did not enlist.

Christine also sent a photograph of David in his uniform (*right*) and various other pieces of family information. Most of this had already at some point been entered into MX20 and the photograph has now been added. MX20, incidentally is one of our few Trees that has not yet been given a Tree Guardian.

But Christine's letter raised a problem. According to Tree MX20 David, who was born in 1895, had survived the War and married Mary E. Roebuck in December 1918.

The mystery was quickly resolved. The military records of David Moxon duly confirmed that he had been killed in action in May 1917 and was named on the War Memorial at Arras, France and on Rolls of Honour in Kirkheaton and Lepton, Yorkshire. Of course, it was his father, David, whose first wife, Ruth Bissett, had died in 1911, who decided to remarry at the age of 66. His second wife, Mary Ellen Roebuck, was only four years younger than David and survived him for barely a year, dying in 1934 at the age of 78.

So – many thanks to Christine whose letter enabled us to make a significant correction to one of our Trees.

Of course, it strikes me that the Society would be most grateful if EVERY member checked their particular Tree and made sure that it was accurate and up to date. It is very easy for a Tree to get out of date and unless a relative checks it out, it is very easy



David Moxon 1895 - 1917

for a researcher to jump to the wrong conclusions – as someone had done when they discovered that a David Moxon married Mary Roebuck in 1918.

If you want to have access to your Tree (you need a computer but you don't have to join a website, so it doesn't cost anything) just let me know. And if you can't remember who your Tree Guardian is, again just let me know and I will put you in touch with him/her/them.

Chris Moxon

The Moxons of Leeds

The article about Moxons in the First World War and the stories recorded on gravestones in the last issue of the Moxon magazine started member **BILL MOXON** of Wetherby near Leeds reminiscing about his family:

His grandfather James Alexander Moxon, born in Leeds in 1862, was described as a Loan Agent (Finance) Collector when he married Ada Heald in 1884. Their marriage was blessed with five children over the next twelve years – all of whom survived infancy and early childhood. James and Ada were sufficiently prosperous that they were able to send away at least two of their sons to boarding school in Cornwall.

But in 1899, at the age of 12, their eldest son James Alexander - named after his father - died. Eight years later James's twin brother William also died. Both their deaths were the result of infectious diseases.

Their third son Tom Cyril Moxon joined the army shortly after war broke out in 1914. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in June 1915 and ended the war as a Full Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery. But sadly, after dodging bullets, bombs and gas for four years, Tom contracted "Spanish Flu" and died just seven days after the Kaiser surrendered.

James and Ada's only daughter, Olive, died barely four months later. Only Clarence, Bill's father, survived from the five siblings and he only missed fighting in World War I because he failed his medical tests.

By the time Ada died in 1928 the family grave - see *photo right* - was full, so she had to be buried in a separate grave a few yards away.



Tom Cyril Moxon 1890 - 1918

