



# Moxons Down Under

A Newsletter for Moxons living in Australia & New Zealand

April 2015

## Editorial

Greetings from Sydney.

### A Chance to Vote

Not everyone is sufficiently interested in the workings of the Moxon Society to want to vote at the AGMs.

If you are interested, however, and you are a full member, this year you will be able to vote by proxy for the first time.

You will need to request advanced copies of the AGM papers prior to 15 August 2015.

See page 2 of the Moxon Magazine for details.

And while we are on the subject of membership, how about encouraging a family member to join us?

### Yet another request for articles.

Margaret and I really do enjoy putting this little newsletter together, but we'd enjoy it even more if each and every one of you would send us stories of your ancestors – or even of your own exploits.

As I've mentioned previously, there is no need for the story to be complete, in "perfect" English, or even in electronic format. We are more than happy to "tidy up" whatever is sent.

Photos, too, would be good.

Regards for now.

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## New Members

We welcome the following Down Under people as members:

- Karen Newton - Chuwar, Queensland - MX27
- Ross Moxon - Wagga Wagga, NSW - MX17
- Annette Booth - Kiama Downs, NSW - MX01
- David Moxon - North Hampton, VIC - MX19
- Wayne & Helen Moxon - Auckland, NZ - MX60.

## “New” Moxon family

When Ross Moxon from Wagga Wagga rang us to enquire about the Moxon Society last year, and said his ancestors settled in Sofala, a goldmining area near Bathurst, NSW, Margaret immediately assumed that he was related to a large Moxon family descended from early settlers Robert and Sarah Moxon from Stewkley, Cambridgeshire. That couple settled in Bathurst in 1849, and members Jenny Ford, Matt McGrath and David Michael are just three of their descendants.

That tree used to be called MX11, but it has now been incorporated into MX01.

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But quickly, Margaret discovered that Ross's tree bore no links to our "Bathurst" Moxons.

Our new member's grandparents were Henry James Moxon (1867-1939) and Emily Burton (1872-1931). Henry was born in Sofala, the third of nine children born in New South Wales to James Moxon (1829-1903) and Sophia J. Stafford (?-1902). They had married in Sofala in 1861.

Ross's grandfather moved to Tamworth after the gold rushes and became a butcher, whilst other members of the family moved to Crookwell where Sophia Stafford had lived.

James was known to his descendants as "Yorkie Jim", another reason to doubt the link to the Stewkley Moxons. It seems that this was a contemporary nickname, since there are newspaper articles mentioning this.

James Moxon was baptised in 1829 in Hatfield, Yorkshire, the son of James Moxon and Elizabeth Lockwood. He was a member of a family of keelmen who spent generations on the Yorkshire rivers and canals between Sheffield, Stainforth, Thorne and Hull. Many later settled in Hull or Sculcoates.

The following is paraphrased from this website:

[http://www.stainforthonline.co.uk/2001/keels\\_on\\_the\\_canal.htm](http://www.stainforthonline.co.uk/2001/keels_on_the_canal.htm)

*The keels carried coal and grain to the ports but many keelmen also dredged for river sand for the building trades.*

*A keel was a flat bottomed boat between 54-61 feet, with a single mast and sail. The keelman's dream was to own his own keel, but most started off as hired hands or working for their family. It was common for wives to be first mates, and children often helped as well.*

*Boats had been the only form of transport for centu-*



*ries, and it was only when the railways were developed that keelmen looked elsewhere, often becoming mariners or moving to the major towns and cities for work.*

The following website gives some information about the Moxon keelmen or lightermen.

[http://www.stainforthonline.co.uk/2001/canal\\_keel\\_families.htm#Moxon](http://www.stainforthonline.co.uk/2001/canal_keel_families.htm#Moxon)

Here is an extract from that site:

### ***Families associated with the Stainforth Waterside 1800 - 1930***

*It seems many visitors to this site are interested in their family origins, especially those whose ancestors were keel folk and canal folk.*

*This is a list of names and details I have come across while searching for information about the canal and the people who lived there at the turn of the 19th century. This list has come from various sources, including Fred Schofield's book, "Humber Keels and Keelmen".*

### ***Moxon***

*I don't have much information about the Moxon family, other than they lived and worked on Stainforth's waterside.*

***Christine Hemsworth:***  
*The Moxon's are associated with Stainforth from way back and are mariners, Some lived in Thorne but there are plenty of them on*

*the census returns right back to 1851 and probably before, there are some in the cemetery there. They, along with the other oldies, the Hinchcliffe and the Shirtliffes, were sail makers and all intermarried at some point. You find children such as Alsop Moxon and Hasting Hinchliffe keeping the two names together. In Thorne cemetery you can walk around the graves and you can pick out the ones with anchors on them.*

And, interestingly, Ross Moxon's family can be linked to the family of a John Moxon whose sons moved from Thorne to Hull by the 1860s and established a Humber Keel business.

The common ancestor of Ross Moxon in Wagga Wagga and the George Moxon in Hull are:

John Moxon -about 1772 - 1853 married to Mary Shillito 1776-1850 from Thorne in Yorkshire.

John Moxon is described as a waterman in the 1841 census. In 1851 he was described as a retired mariner, living with his son Matthew, also a waterman.

There is an item in MM Issue 13, April 1994, page 3 which explores more recent history of this family.

As an aside, there appears to be no link between this family and the Moxons of Hull from whom Septimus Moxon was descendent (see Oct 2014 issue of this newsletter).

# Moxon Diggers of WW1

A search of the Australian and New Zealand records reveals the following Moxons or Moxoms as having served as ANZACs in World War One.

The Australian search was conducted through the National Archives of Australia.

See: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/NameSearchForm.aspx>

Many of the serving personnel had full digital records freely available.

A search of the New Zealand records on Ancestry's site showed six serving Moxhams but no Moxons or Moxoms. Four Moxons and many more Moxhams were shown on a list of reservists.

See Ancestry.com

***New Zealand Army WWI Nominal Rolls, 1914-1918 and***

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*Ancestry.com New Zealand Army WWI Reserve Rolls, 1916-1917* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

We would be most grateful if you can provide us with additional information about any of these men.

## Moxons who fought in World War 1 in the Australian Army

Name	Tree	Comments	War Record
<b>Albert John Moxon</b> Warrnambool, Vic 1892-1961	MX02	Father George Clifton Moxon, Clyde PO, South Gippsland, Vic, mother Annie Shanley; later address Chelsea, Vic. Married an Agnes Cecilia	Reg No 3342 Enlisted 1915, 29 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, transferred to 7 <sup>th</sup> Bat, served in France, discharged injured Dec 17. Extensive file available
<b>George William Moxon,</b> born Warnambool Vic 1894-1956	MX02	Brother of above. Farmer.  (transcribed by NAA as Moxom)	Reg No 2726 Enlisted Sept 1916, served in France 59 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Demobbed 1919
<b>Alfred Ernest Moxon</b> Bathurst, NSW 1883-1951	MX01	Father Thomas Moxon of Bathurst, Farmer Descendant of Robert & Sarah Moxon, early settlers in Bathurst	Reg No N23230 Enlisted 1916 in Cootamundra, lived at Young. Service in France 17-18, 55 <sup>th</sup> Bat; gunshot wound thigh, gassed. Extensive file available

<b>Arthur William Moxon</b> Born Sheerness, Kent, UK, Died Australia 1887-	MX09	Lived Union Street, Balmain NSW Wife Gertrude Bessie Daer Engineer; later lived at Gladesville, NSW	Reg 2100 Enlisted 1916 Served in France File available NAA
<b>Frederick Cyril Moxon</b> 1889-1918 Born Rookwood, NSW. died	MX21	Son of Frederick Henry Moxon and Ada Kent Pool (father born Hull, Yks) Born Rookwood, NSW; lived in Albany, WA, farmer; brother Geoffrey	Reg No 6214 28 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Killed in action 10 June 1918. Buried Beacon brit cemetery. File available NAA
<b>Herbert Victor Moxon</b> Born Tamworth NSW 1896-1918	MX17	Son of Henry James Moxon; uncle of member Ross Moxon of Wagga Wagga; Farmer	Reg No 3685 54 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, enlisted 1917 - Served in France Died of wounds received in action on 20 Apr 1918 Buried Longpre Les Corps, nr Abbeville, France. File available NAA
<b>Horace Moxon</b> 1896-1962 Wattle Flat, near Bath- urst	MX01	Son of Thomas Henry Moxon and Elizabeth Godfrey; descendant of pioneers Robert & Sa- rah Moxon Economics student	Reg No 25594 Enlisted 1916 Gunner, then sergeant 1918 Served in France Demobbed 1919
<b>John Henry Moxon</b> <b>1895-1918</b> Born in Matlock, Derby- shire, UK	MX01	Son of William Moxon & Julia Tuckwell Farmer, migrated to Vic (St Kilda) in 1914 with young wife.	Reg No 3662 60 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Served in France 1918 Died in July 1918 of wounds received in action. Buried at Vignacourt, France
<b>Philip Handiside Moxon</b> 1897-1969 Born WA; died Qld	MX05	Son of William Ernest Moxon Bank clerk Father of Simon Moxon, member	Reg No 360 Enlisted Brisbane, 41 <sup>st</sup> Battalion 1915 Served in France Demobbed 1919
<b>Robert Wilfred Gifford Moxon</b> Born Grafton, NSW 1891-1950	MX05	Son of Archdeacon Robert Julius Moxon & Hilda Moran Engineer, Adelaide Steamship Co at Balmain, NSW	Reg No 3038 Private, later Lieutenant Enlisted Sydney 1916 57 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> Battalions Served in France Discharged 1919
<b>Rupert Middleton Mox- on</b> 1895-1966 Born Waverley NSW	MX27	Son of George Joshua & Ellen Jack Moxon Tailor's presser	Reg No 3390 Enlisted Sydney 1915 Served in France x 3 53 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion; 14 <sup>th</sup> Field Co, Aust Engineers. Wounded in action Discharged 1919

<b>Thomas Douglas Bell Moxon</b> 1892-1940 Born Tenterfield, NSW	MX05	Son of Archdeacon Robert Julius Moxon & Hilda Moran Brother of Robert Wilfred (above) Overseer	Re No 7876 Gunner, promoted through ranks, officer school, Lieutenant Served in Alexandria Mentioned for gallant conduct Served in France Discharged 1919
<b>Walter Moxon</b> Born Yorkshire, UK 1889-1968	Un-known	Wife Jennie Lee; son Alfred Labourer; left London for Sydney on 12 March 1912; married in Sydney Later a farmer in West Wyalong	Reg No 1252 Enlisted Cootamundra, NSW Served in France Demobbed 1919
<b>William Leslie Moxon</b> Born Bairnsdale about 1896-1929	Un-known	Son of William John Moxon of Bairnsdale and St Yarra (Melbourne) and Sarah Peterson. (transcribed as Moxom)	Reg No 80459 Enlisted in Bairnsdale No service recorded. Re-enlisted 1918 Broadmeadows, Vic Served 89 days.
<b>William Vincent Moxon 1898-</b>	MX17	Father Richard Moxon of Crookwell	Reg No 93725 Enlisted 1918 Lithgow NSW - Did not see action.

### Moxoms who fought in World War 1 in the Australian Army

Name	Tree	Comment	War Record
Albert Moxom 1890-1949 Born Kamarooka, Vic Farmer/Blacksmith	MX01	Descendant of William Moxon/Moxham, convict in Hobart Town; son Henry Moxom & Mary Jane Gane	3341 Enlisted at Bendigo 1917 Service in France 1918 gassed, wounded, hospitalised in Exeter
Norman Leslie Moxom 1898-1951 Vic.	MX01	Brother of above	Open access/ files not requested so not online
George Henry Moxom 1886-1960	MX01	Brother of above	Open access/ files not requested so not online
George William Moxom 1881-1925	MX01	Double cousin of above	Open access/ files not requested so not online

There are also 37 records for Moxham men serving in World War 1 in the Australian army and, as indicated above, six Moxhams serving in the NZ army.

# The Short, Eventful Life of John Henry Moxon

John Henry Moxon, the son of William Moxon and Julia Tuckwell was born in Matlock, Derbyshire in 1895. His father was a physician and surgeon, and a descendant of the Moxons of Cawthorne (MX01).

In the 1901 census, John Henry was living with his family in Matlock, but no trace of the family, including their married daughter can be found in the 1911 census. The father, William died that same year with an estate of £11,250 - a considerable sum in those days.

At the age of 18 (1913), whilst living in Matlock, John Henry met an Australian actor, Sigma Annesley Williams who was managing a Pierrot concert party. She had been married in Sydney in 1904 to a Charles Casper Middleton and had a son, Valentine Middleton, born about 1906.

Sigma and Casper were recorded travelling from London to Sydney in 1910, with their son Valentine Middleton aged 3.

In 1911 Sigma was acting in a play in Sydney, so she must have returned to England in 1912 or 13.

Possibly unbeknown to John, she was 12 years old-

## Pierrot Concert Party

Up until the mid to late 1800s, entertainment in seaside resorts in England was mostly by minstrel groups (this genre imported from the USA) with their blackened faces, singing spiritual songs.

From about 1860 new groups began to appear following the French Pierrot tradition.

Pierrot was traditionally a loser – a tragic, yet funny figure who bumbled and failed.

Pierrot groups typically dressed in loose pantaloons, a loose white top with a ruffle collar, and a conical hat. Faces were usually painted white with flour.

These groups would usually perform on temporary stages on beaches or on piers.

Unlike vaudeville, Pierrot groups put on family entertainment, usually suitable for young children.

During the first and second world wars, Pierrot-type concerts were a popular form of entertainment for the troops.



er than he was, but they became secretly engaged after she told him she was divorced. She arranged a mock wedding in nearby Buxton where she was living.

Despite the romance, that same year, 1913, John Henry headed off, without her, to

Dingee in northern Victoria where he planned to become a farmer. It may well have been his mother and brothers who encouraged or pressured him to do so - they would have been horrified about the match with a woman who was so much older than he was, an actor, an Australian, and the man-

ager of a Peirrot concert party. Surely his family would not have approved of the liaison.

But John Henry must have missed her, because by August 1914 he had returned to England, and at her suggestion, they were married at St Leonards, Hastings, Sussex in September.

Before the end of the year, they had returned to Melbourne on the SS Borda (P & O) with Sigma's son from her first marriage.

The Great War had already intervened, and John Henry Moxon enlisted in Melbourne in July 1915 and by February 1916 he was a corporal in France with the 60th Battalion. Sigma followed. However, he became dangerously ill by July that year with pneumonia, pleurisy and with diphtheria, and spent the next 18 months recovering both in the field and back in England.

Meanwhile, Sigma had found another man, also a soldier, in London, and John Henry had instigated divorce proceedings against her. His petition was not defended, but the story of a naive young man and his mock wedding was highlighted in the English and Australian press, no doubt causing his family a great deal of anguish.

By February 1918 he was deemed medically fit to return to France, but sadly was killed in action in Ju-

ly.1918, and he is buried at the British cemetery at Vignacourt, France.

His brother Archibald James Moxon was the executor of his estate, worth £1102, and the probate notice included no mention of Matlock.

Sigma married the man cited in her divorce proceedings, was widowed by 1921, and she returned to Australia, dying as an old woman of 88 in 1971 in Bundaberg, Qld.

Strangely, Casper Middleton also died in Bundaberg.

## Who were the Moxons of Warrnambool?

In the list of World War 1 servicemen (page 3), two brothers are listed as being born in Warrnambool, Vic in 1892 and 1894. They were Albert John and George William Moxon, the sons of George Clifton Moxon and Honora (Annie) Shanley.

George Clifton Moxon must have lived at Killarney (near Warrnambool) – probably farming – until early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century because five boys and three younger girls were born to them in Killarney between 1888 and 1906.

However, from 1903, George and Annie are listed as living in Melbourne's east.

The eldest was Walter Thomas Moxon who married

Alice O'Neill, had a large family, including sons to carry on the name, and also lived in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

George William was listed as a farmer in 1916 when he enlisted for World War 1 in Warrnambool, but after the war, he moved to Melbourne, as did his older brother in arms Albert John Moxon.

It seems that the farming life did not suit this family.

George Clifton Moxon was born in Cawthorne, Yorkshire in 1859, the son of Walter Moxon and Elizabeth Ann Crowther. He was listed in the 1881 census as a 21 year old butcher – a trade followed by many Cawthorne Moxons. He obviously came to Australia prior to 1887 since he married Annie Shanley that year in Victoria. However, to date, a shipping record has not been found.

It is probable that this Moxon family now extends into 5 or 6 generations in Melbourne since Walter Thomas Moxon (1888–1962) had three sons, all of whom married. Wouldn't it be nice to find them and invite them to join the Moxon Society.

This family is another branch of The Moxon Society's MX02 – Moxons of Cawthorne.

## The Moxons of Gladesville

Arthur William Moxon was born in Kent in 1887, a descendant of Henry Walworth Moxon (MX09). He was listed in Kent in the 1901 census, but migrated to Australia sometime after that and married Gertrude Bessie Daer, also from Sheerness in Kent in Canterbury, Sydney in 1911.

That same year a daughter Marian was born, followed by two sons, Stanley A Moxon and Harry Daer Moxon. The family lived at 22 Cambridge Street, Gladesville, NSW. Harry had two sons, so it is probable that there are more Moxon descendants in Sydney.

Whilst living at Balmain in 1916, Arthur William Moxon enlisted and served in France. He died in May 1961.

## Access to The Moxon Society's Ancestry trees

If any member Down Under would like to view their tree on Ancestry (private tree) please email Margaret at [webmaster@moxonsociety.org](mailto:webmaster@moxonsociety.org) and she will arrange viewing rights.



Sunday Times (Sydney, NSW),  
Sunday 1 February 1920

### MR. AND MRS. RUPERT MIDDLETON MOXON.

They were married at St. Jude's, Randwick, by the Rev. W. Cakebread. The bride was Miss Victoria (Queenie) Heslehurst, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Heslehurst, of Denville, Kensington. The bridegroom is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Moxon, of Waverley. The bridal gown was of ivory crepe-de-chine veiled in georgette and draped with Brus. The wreath and veil were lent by her aunt, Mrs. F. Dowsett, and train by Mrs. Martin, of Five Dock. The bride was attended by her sisters, Misses May and Eileen Heslehurst, and her cousin, Miss Hazel Dowsett.

### CORPORAL R. M. MOXON.

Corporal R. M. Moxon, of Waverley, who has been wounded in the right arm, was formerly employed by Mr. Frank Fanning, and was an active member of the Clovelly Life-saving Club.

SMH 14 Aug 1916

Moxons Down Under Newsletter is produced for the benefit of the members of the Moxon Society who live in Australia and New Zealand. Contributions are very welcome.

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