



Moxons Down Under

A Newsletter for Moxons living in Australia & New Zealand

April 2018

Editorial

Hi Folks.

Greeting from Margaret and me.

Autumn seems reluctant to arrive, so enjoy the sunshine while it lasts.

This is a rather short newsletter as I've been unwell – two trips to the infirmary since January but things are looking up.

In addition, as usual no one has contributed a story so you will have to be content with a couple of stories written by me.

And both of them relate to MX27 – sorry for those not on that tree. I hope you will find them interesting, nonetheless.

Regards for now.

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New Cousins!!

In 1988, Tracy Moxon graduated from Eastern New Mexico University with the top honour of “summa cum laude” – usually only bestowed on the top 1% or so of a graduating year.

Very interesting, I hear you ask – but what relevance does that have for Moxons Down Under?

Quite a lot, as it happens. Stay with me and find out about some American cousins with Aussie links.

Before I say more, a big thank you must be given to Philip Lord who found on-line the documents that provide the backbone of this story, and for passing them onto me.

Tracy is the youngest of three children born to Al (Alfred) William Moxon Jnr and (Barbara) Joan Moxon (nee Guess) who lived for many years in Windsor, Colorado where all three children were born. Tracy's siblings are (William) Bill and Julie.

The Moxon family was very active in the Windsor community with each of the parents being members of voluntary groups such as Scouts and were actively involved in their church.

Al Jnr worked for the Kodak company as some type of engineer, but also served on the local school board and as an alderman on the local council.

Joan, his wife, wrote a weekly cooking column for the local paper for many years and was a long serving volunteer for a cancer support organisation.

Newspaper clippings indicate that Tracy and Bill excelled academically at school

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and at university. Maybe Julie did as well, but we have no records to show that.

Al Jnr is the son of Alfred William Moxon who was born in Sydney, Australia in 1902 and who migrated to the USA in 1923 giving his “final destination” as Schenectady, NY.

His father was William Thorpe Moxon (1876-1952) who was born and who died in Sydney.

William Thorpe Moxon's other son, Henry Arthur Moxon (1903-1976), appears to have never married and he lived and died in Sydney.

Alfred Snr eventually settled in Rochester, NY, where he presumably met and married Esther Norton Greene, (as that was where she was born in 1904) or perhaps in the Panama Canal Zone where she lived with her parents. Her father, Jay Levings Greene (1877-1955) was working for the US Government as an instrument maker.

Esther Greene was an elite athlete who was one of 12 women to represent the USA at the Paris International Women's games in 1922. In 1929, Esther was made "Miss Canal Zone". Esther studied "administration" in Rochester.

Keen readers of this august journal will recall that William Thorpe Moxon was the six years old child of Joshua Middleton Moxon (1840-1894) who was beaten so severely by his father that his father was sent to prison for three months in 1883. And further, that the children's mother, Louisa Mary (Wilkinson) Moxon (1844-1923), left the home and, as a result, three of the children (Herbert Middleton Moxon (1872-1934) William, and Arthur Frederick (1878-1959) were placed in care in the Randwick Home for Destitute Children for several years, while Henry Percy Moxon (1869-1950), aged 14 years, ran away. This is also the year that Alfred John Moxon (1880-1966), aged three, was taken by the nanny and raised as a Wilson and was not "rediscovered" by his brother, Henry Percy Moxon, until after 1909. Perhaps William Thorpe Moxon named his sons after his brothers, Alfred and Henry.

Alfred Snr worked as a mechanical engineer for Eastman Kodak at Kodak Park in Rochester.

I suspect that we oldies all had a Kodak camera at some time in our lives. Almost certainly it would have been manufactured at Kodak Park in Rochester. Kodak Park, at its peak, was huge – 1300 acres with some 154 separate buildings (including its own power station) and employing 15,000 people.

Tragically, Alfred Snr took his own life on 27 July 1946, aged just 44 years.

Alfred Jnr would have been just 13 years old – his birthday just a month away on 31 August. One can only imagine the devastating impact on his wife, Esther, and his children, Alfred Jnr and Nancy, aged about 15 years.

At some stage, Esther was employed as a civilian by the military and was posted to the Panama Canal Zone where she lived, worked and eventually died in 1996. As far as we know, Esther did not remarry.

Nancy Moxon married three times and died in 2009 but we know little of her life.

Details of living members of this family have not been given to protect their privacy.

We plan to contact some of them to maybe exchange family stories.

So, all you members of MX27, we have newly "discovered" cousins in the USA.

John Moxon
(with lots of assistance from

Philip Lord and Margaret Moxon).

Places named after Moxons

To the best of our knowledge, and very happy to be corrected, there are three places (other than businesses) which bear the name Moxon.

Moxon Park in Stuart Town is named after Alfred John Moxon (the one who was "kidnapped") and where we have held a couple of family reunions.

A second is Moxon Street in Oran Park Town which appears to be named after your editor who had the accident which resulted in his quadriplegia whilst practicing there in his Formula Vee racing car, in 1970. (All the streets in Oran Park Town are named after motor racing drivers or identities, built as it is on the site of the old racing circuit near Camden.

A third is Moxon Road in Punchbowl.

For many years we thought it was named after Joshua Middleton Moxon who had a 117 acres farm nearby in Bankstown (Hailey Farm).

Actually, it was named after Thomas Moxon, an ex-convict who arrived on the third fleet in 1791 and who had a 50 acres grant on Salt Pan Creek.

Strangely, Thomas was Joshua's great uncle. They

never met as Thomas had died before Joshua was born.

And now we have Canterbury Bankstown Rugby League's new club, "Moxon Sports Club", which has just opened after a five month \$3 million renovation."

There is also Moxon Café on the same site – which, of course, is on Moxon Road, Punchbowl.

And, of course there in Moxham Road and Moxham Park both in Northmead – very close to where your editor and Margaret live, as well as a Moxham Street in North Parramatta.

The Moxham family has a proud history in the Parramatta and Northmead area which has been reported on previously.

But Google maps tells us there is a Moxham Street in Cranebrook, NSW and a Moxham Drive in Clyde North Vic.

So, who volunteers to re-search the origins of those two?

And, are there more?

New Members

Unfortunately, we have no new members to welcome.

Come on – invite your family to join.

Membership Renewal

Unfortunately, a number of members have not renewed for 2018.

We understand how busy many of you are, and hope that renewal has just slipped your mind.

So, we have sent this issue out to all, in the hope that it might encourage everyone to renew.

We are not a big organisation – some 40 members in Australia and three in New Zealand, so every dollar helps us to continue to produce this newsletter and distribute it.

When you are renewing please note that you can pay by cheque or by direct bank deposit (eft).

If you choose to use eft, please remember to put your name as the "reference", so Margaret knows just who has paid.

And, while you're at it, why not encourage another family member to join as well?

Access to The Moxon Society's Ancestry trees

Have you asked for access to the Moxon Society tree to which your family belongs - for example MX27 Moxons of Silkstone, or MX01 Moxons of Cawthorne? You do not have to be a member of Ancestry to look at a tree. All members of our Society can ask for Read only access to their tree. Just send an email to Margaret at webmaster@moxonsociety.org or to Chris Moxon in England at membership@moxonsociety.org

You'd be surprised at what you might find. Additionally, you may know of gaps in the tree, particularly in relation to deceased uncles, aunts, grandparents etc. on your Moxon side. Please let one of us know if you find errors or incomplete data.

Where and When?

Where did your Moxon ancestors live when they first came to Australia or New Zealand?

It would be useful to know this information so we can fill in some gaps.

It would be particularly useful as well if you have any old photos of your ancestors at work or play in those places.

In addition, it might be fun to search Trove, the National Library's newspaper, magazine and book site where you can search for your ancestor and see if she or he made the news.

If you do find information, please pass it on to Margaret, preferably by email so she gets the link and can follow it up if needs be.

And while we are in the begging mode, can we ask yet again for stories that we can publish. With this edition is a guide which you may find helpful when writing your story.

You could just fill in details and John would be happy to write the story for you.



Margaret

John

Just to show you that we don't just do family history, here we are (bottom right) celebrating a win over politicians at NSW Parliament House – two more years of funding for disability advocacy – but also protesting that it's not on-going funding. (10 April 2018)



Esther Greene (circled) with her 11 team mates on her way to Paris for the International games 1922.

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. Your editor is very happy to assist with the writing of items.

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