



MOXONS DOWN UNDER

A Newsletter for Moxons living in Australia & New Zealand

April 2019

Editorial

Hi Folks.

Greeting from Margaret and me.

Christmas is behind us (I had a new experience this Christmas – I spent it in hospital with an ulcer on my heel. Three ops and four weeks later, I was home. I can assure you that Christmas at home is better.)

And Easter has also just passed, so apologies for the tardiness of your editor.

Margaret and I have had two wonderful meetings with newly found relatives in just the past two weeks – details below, and we have solved a mystery – also revealed below.

Unfortunately, they are all to do with the one family line – MX27.

But I hope you will all find them of interest.

And please send in stories about your family so we can all enjoy them.

Regards for now.

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Isaac Moxon and Sarah Middleton (MX27) – Marriage.

For many years there has been debate around the marriage of Isaac and Sarah (parents of Joshua Middleton Moxon).

In previous editions of the history of Joshua and Louisa Moxon the author (your editor, as it happens) has noted that: *“other researchers have recorded a marriage between an Isaac Moxon and a Sarah Middleton in St John the Baptist*

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church at Kirkby Wharfe in 1836 as being the wedding of Joshua’s parents. However, it seems, but it is yet to be confirmed, that this may be a different couple – that Isaac being from Nottinghamshire and that Sarah Middleton being from Ulleskelf, near Kirkby Wharfe in East Yorkshire, many miles from Grenoside. “Our” Sarah Middleton gave her place of birth in the 1851 Census as Hunshelf, which is near Grenoside.”

However, DNA testing in 2018 reveals that the author, John Bruce Moxon, a 2x great-grandson of Isaac Moxon, shares DNA with descendants of both Isaac and with descendants of the mother of the Sarah Middleton, (Martha Abbey, 1764-1833), who married an Isaac Moxon in Kirkby Wharfe, and also with the descendants of Sarah’s sister, Isabella Middleton.

This seems to confirm that the marriage in Kirkby Wharfe is the correct one, after all.

However, it stills seems useful to lay out both the information we have in support of this marriage being between ‘our’ Sarah and Isaac, and the somewhat confusing additional information that led us all on wild “goose chases” in search of the “truth”.

On the 1836 marriage record in Kirkby Wharfe, Isaac is recorded as being from Misson in Nottinghamshire. Isaac’s brother, Joshua, lived in Misson in Lincolnshire, where Joshua was a teacher. These two Missons are actually the

same place. Mission is on the border of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire and parts of Misson are in one county and parts are in the other.

So, Isaac was probably living with or near his brother or visiting the area and met Sarah.

On the other hand, we still had other difficulties to overcome. Isaac's age on the marriage record is given as 31, but in 1836 our Isaac was actually 46. This is quite a difference and is difficult to explain.

Sarah's age of 21 on the marriage record gives a birth year of 1815 but this may simply be a statement that she had reached the age of 21 years – generally a requirement unless parents' approval is granted for the marriage.

The following is conjecture, but it's probable that both Sarah and Isaac were illiterate when married and so could not check that what the Minister wrote was correct. The Minister conducting the marriage may have asked Sarah how old she was and Isaac may have responded "31" on her behalf. The Minister may have then entered Isaac's age as 31, assuming that Isaac was answering for himself, and then confirmed that Sarah was "over 21 years" and entered her age as "21" in the records.

In the 1841 census, Sarah's age is given as 35, making her birth year about 1806; in the 1851 census her age is given as 45, again giving a birth year of about 1806; and in the 1861 census her age is given as 56 giving a birth year of 1805.

If Sarah was 56 in 1861, she clearly was not 56 when she died in 1867 as stated on her Death Certificate. It seems to me that the census records are consistent and so probably correct, her age at death is her son John's information and could well be wrong, and she was likely to be 31 when she married, not 21.

In addition, Sarah is recorded on the marriage record as being from Ulleskelf, which is near Kirkby Wharfe, whereas on the census of 1851 she says she's from Hunshef, which is near Grenoside. This could, of course, be a mis-recording of her origin by the census taker as the two names might sound similar.

To further complicate matters, we found a baptism record (in the Archives section of Barnsley Library) (FLH 919371) which lists a Sarah being baptised on 20 October 1805, daughter of William Middleton of Wortley via Penistone, York(shire). Wortley is quite close to Hunshef. All of which seemed to suggest that this was her and confirming the ages and place of birth given for Sarah in the census records.

But, there have, to date, been no DNA matches with the author and the Wortley Middletons.

So, all-in-all, we consider that the Kirkby Wharfe marriage is most probably the correct one.

This is the church in Kirkby Wharfe where Isaac Moxon and Sarah Middleton married in 1836.



St John the Baptist Church in Kirkby Wharfe (built in 1230) where Isaac Moxon married Sarah Middleton in 1836

In any case, Joshua was born in Grenoside, Yorkshire on 28th June 1840 and his parents were Isaac Moxon and Sarah Moxon, formerly Middleton.

Joshua was baptised in Ecclesfield, Yorkshire (near Grenoside).



A Cheffins Cousin (MX27)

As many of you would know, only a few of the people who match us on DNA respond when they are contacted.

So, it was a delight when I received a friendly response from one Cathy Wannamaker, who, according to Ancestry, shares with your editor 4x great grandparents – George Cheffins who married Martha Vere(s) in 1766 in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire.

Cathy said she was more than happy to share family history information.

I explained that we live in Sydney, Australia, and she explained that she lives in Yukon Territory, Canada.

But, she excitedly messaged, that in just two weeks she would be in Sydney on a vacation with her daughter, her son-in-law and her granddaughter.

So, we arranged to meet up and share dinner.

George and Martha Cheffins had 14 children and some of us in MX27 are descendant from a daughter, Martha Cheffins, while Cathy is descendant from a son, Richard Cheffins.

In fact, Cathy's grandmother was a Cheffins.

Cathy told us that one of her Cheffins ancestors was a well-known artist.

We are yet to identify that person, but we now know that a company that sells all manner of items (property, vintage machinery, houses, and fine art, among others categories) is named Cheffins and at one time was owned by Henry Joshua Cheffins (1846-1922) who bought another business and renamed it "Cheffins". See www.cheffins.co.uk for more information.

Henry Joshua Cheffins was a great grandson of George and Martha Cheffins and a grandson of Joshua Cheffins who was a sibling to Cathy Wannamaker's and all descendants of Louisa Mary Wilkinson who married Joshua Middleton Moxon (MX27).

In any case, we had a delightful meal in a restaurant overlooking Cockle Bay in Darling Harbour, and we have been invited to visit Cathy the next time we are in Yukon Territory, Canada.



John B Moxon (MX27), Cathy Wannamaker, and Margaret Tucker Moxon

Rupert Middleton Moxon (MX27)

We were contacted recently by Shirley Moxon Cilia as she had been contacted by people related by marriage to Rupert Middleton Moxon who were looking to find relatives of Rupert.

Margaret and I travelled to the NSW Central Coast to meet with Dianne and Ray Hancock to assist them and to discover more information about Rupert.

Below is what we knew prior to our meeting.

When Rupert Middleton Moxon was born on 20 April, 1895 in Waverley (an eastern suburb of Sydney), his father, George Joshua Moxon (oldest son of Joshua Middleton Moxon) was 29 and his mother, Ellen Matilda (nee Jack) was 34.

Rupert married Victoria (known as Queenie) Maud Heselhurst and they had a daughter (Virginia Rose, 1921- 2003) and two sons (Brian Jack, 1923-1998 and Laurence Rupert, 1927 -).

Queenie died in 1931 and Rupert married Dulcie Fay Lean (1917-1967) in 1942.

Rupert and Dulcie had one daughter, Leonie Marie (1944-).

Margaret and I had met Laurence and Elizabeth in North Vancouver in 2014 when we visited that beautiful city.



John B Moxon, with Elizabeth and Laurence Moxon. North Vancouver 2014

Laurence told us that he had left Australia “to see the world” but had run out of money in Vancouver, obtained a job, met and married Elizabeth, and stayed, never returning to Australia.

When we met with Dianne and Ray Hancock we discovered why they were so interested in Rupert.

Dianne and Ray had lived just a few houses away in Croydon Park and they visited Rupert (although he called himself Jack) very regularly.

Ray’s mother was a sister of Dulcie, and therefore Leonie’s first cousin.

The family has apparently lost touch with Leonie.

We also learnt that apparently Jack (Rupert) was somewhat estranged from his family and, in particular, missed Laurence very much.

Jack (Rupert) served in WW1 and had some souvenirs that he wished to give to Laurence, but was not ever able to do so.



Dianne and Ray described Jack as “a lovely old gentleman” and told us how they played cards with Jack and his wife (Dulcie) most nights .

Apparently, Jack did not get his driver’s licence until he was in his late 60s, when he bought a VW beetle.

Jack was a “great handyman”, who loved fishing, even making his own rods and sinkers, and he had a “great collection of both”.

When Ray and Leonie were young, the Hancock family were very close, sharing holidays



Jack with Leonie on the right. Ray Hancock in a hat, his mother, Doris Lean with a baby. Nielson Park, Vacluse 1957

at Woy Woy, and taking day trips to places like Killcare, Nielson Park, and Vacluse House.



Leonie and Trevor Wright on the left.
Ray Hancock holding Anthony Hancock,
Dulcie Moxon on the right.

Dianne and Ray told us that Jack did not talk about the Moxon family, and it was only after he died that they met his son, Brian and his daughter, Virginia.

Jack (Rupert Middleton Moxon died in 1966.

More information would be gratefully received.

Alcatraz and a Moxon

A recent Facebook discussion with our MX27 cousin and member Pamela Vernon about her intention to visit Alcatraz Prison in San Francisco on her current trip to the USA reminded us that our namesake Robert Bradford Moxon was the first civil prisoner to be incarcerated there in 1934. He spent three years there during a five-year sentence for forgery.

Wondering where he fitted into the Moxons, Margaret checked his ancestors and found that his great grandfather John Moxon had migrated from Ebbesbourne Wake in Wiltshire to Nova Scotia in the early 1800s.

He was quickly identified as a Moxham descendant - a member of the Moxon Society tree *MX37: Moxhams of Ebbesbourne Wake*.

On the North American continent the surname varied from Moxham to more commonly Moxon.

And (gasp), this convicted forger is therefore distantly related to member and Facebook friend Dona Moxon of California and even more distantly to Mary Moxham of Hervey Bay, Queensland, also a member.

The first prisoners were, of course, the 32 bedraggled men the Army had left behind.

Warden Johnston officially took charge of them on July 1, 1934, although he was already looking after them since the Army left on June 19. Just where the first true federal prisoner came from has yet to be determined.

But on August 3rd the San Francisco Chronicle headlined: "Prisoner Number #1 Draws Cell on Alcatraz Island, **Check Writer, Former Army Guard, First Devil Isle Felon.**" The article said that **Robert Bradford Moxon** had been installed the day before as prisoner number one (he was not; prisoner number one was a leftover Army man), and that **he would find Alcatraz to be just like home since he had been stationed there as a guard during military prison days. Indeed, the first prisoner on the list after the Army holdovers was Moxon, five years for violation of postal laws.**

<https://www.alcatrazhistory.com/rock/rock-029.htm>

New Members

Please welcome to Moxons Down Under:

Helen Gibbons (nee Moxon) - Goonellabah 2480 (MX21)

Pat Scanlin - Nth Richmond - 2754 (MX17)

Gretel Spizik (nee Moxon) - Graceville East 4015 (MX05)

Cath Walker (daughter of the late member Wendy Walker) - Oberon 2627 (MX27)

Come on – invite your family to join. Please!

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 Trevor at webmaster@moxonsociety.org.

You were sent a new password (which is changed annually) in the November 2018 edition of the Moxon Magazine, that will give you access to MoxonResources section of the Society's website.

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, Australia's National Library's newspaper, magazine and book site where you can search for your ancestor and see if she or he made the news. But, please pass on that information to us so we can share it (even if it is a bit of a shock!!).

Please pass it on to Margaret, preferably by email so she gets the link and can follow it up if needs be.

This edition shows how varied our histories are and how much more interesting the newsletter is, if members contribute stories – please do so.

You could just send us what you remember of your own life, your parents' lives or your grandparents' lives and John would be happy to write the story for you.

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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