



MOXONS DOWN UNDER

A Newsletter for Moxons living in Australia & New Zealand

November 2018

Editorial

Hi Folks.

Greeting from Margaret and me.

Apologies for the lateness of this Newsletter – things have been a bit hectic since our return to Sydney from our world cruise.

Thank you to Mary Moxham Morrissey for her story about her ancestor, John Moxham.

In our last issue I included a story of Alfred William Moxon who migrated to the USA, settled and started a family there.

I have now made contact with his grandson, Bill Moxon, and have sent him access to the story of the Joshua Middleton Moxon branch of MX27.

Regards for now.

John Bruce Moxon (MX27)
johnmoxon1@gmail.com
0412 539 110

Wendy-Louise Walker – MX27 (1935-2018)

We all shuffle off this mortal coil, to use the words of the The Bard, at some time. Some leave a greater mark than others.

Wendy-Louise, the editor's 1st cousin (his father and Wendy's mother were siblings) was one of those who has left a significant mark, indeed.

Of relevance to the Moxon Society, and in particular to Moxons Down Under, Wendy was the first of our line (MX27) to seriously re-search our family history.

Wendy commenced this task in the early 1980s, well before records were digitised and available on-line.

Initially, Wendy was misled by incorrect details on our great-grandfather's (Joshua Middleton Moxon) death certificate which had information provided by his housekeeper and which was wrong – wrong wife, wrong father, wrong place of birth, no children listed. Wendy searched and documented the wrong family until she realised that the death certificate was incorrect.

Wendy also researched her father's (Roach) ancestors and relatives and found that she was a cousin of Cardinal Edward Bede Clancy, who was the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sydney from 1983 to 2001. (As a side note, the Cardinal's father, John Bede Clancy, was your editor's teacher in 6th class at Kurmond Public School in 1950.)

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The Roach family were dairy farmers in the mountainous area inland of Port Macquarie (Pappinbarra). They met due to Alma Ellen (known as Nel or Pat) being a school teacher in the area, and they apparently met at a local dance.

In fact, two Roach brothers – Dennis and Francis (Frank) – married two Moxon sisters – Alma Ellen Mary and Johanna – Johanna meeting Frank when visiting her sister.

Wendy was bright and attended Sydney Girls High School before studying at Sydney University and gaining her BA (Hons) in psychology (1959), and then a PhD in 1970.

Shortly after gaining her doctorate, Wendy established the School of Behavioural Sciences in Medicine and was made an Associate Professor.



In 1956 Wendy married Geoffrey Walker who became a cardiac specialist, and they had four children: Stephen (1957), Catherine (1959), Geoffrey Dennis (known as Dennis) (1961), and Elizabeth (1963).



How Wendy managed to raise four children while studying and working is anyone's guess.

Wendy had nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Her husband, Geoff, passed away in 2011, and Wendy died while living with her daughter, Cath, in Oberon on 30 August 2018.

The world is a much lessor place without Wendy-Louise Walker.

Thanks to Cath Walker, her daughter, for much of this information and for the photographs.

John Moxon (MX27)
Nov 2018

World War 1 and 2

The following stories recount the services and sacrifices of a few of the many Australian Moxon and Moxham citizens who served in WWs 1 & 2.

R.J. Moxon (MX05)- Archdeacon of Grafton - arrived in Australia in 1883

Robert Julius Moxon (1861-1910) was the first of three brothers from Kent and India to migrate to Australia. He was born in Bangalore, India, the son of a British Army Officer. He was educated in England, as were his brothers and migrated to Australia aboard the SS John Duthie in 1883. He was ordained an Anglican deacon in 1886, priest in 1889 and was married to Hilda Brunskill Moran in 1888.

They had seven children - Hilda D (1889), Robert W.G (1891), Thomas D.B. (1893), Marjorie May (1897), Clifford J.M. (1900), Violet F.E. (1903) and Patricia E. (1908).

He worked in the Parishes of the Lower Clarence, Tenterfield and Inverell (all in NSW) before being created an

Archdeacon in Grafton. He died at the age of 48 in 1910.

Archibald Tindal

Sadly, Robert's daughter Hilda's husband Archibald Tindal was killed at the Battle of the Somme in World War 1, and their son, also Archibald (Archie) was also a war hero, killed in Darwin in 1942,



Wing Commander Archie Tindal

In 1946, the Tindal Air Base at Katherine, NT, was re-named in honour of [Wing Commander Archibald \(Archie\) Tindal](#), the first RAAF member killed in action on the Australian mainland during World War II; he died while manning a machine gun against Japanese raiders [bombing Darwin](#) on 19 February 1942, and was buried at the [Adelaide River](#) war cemetery.



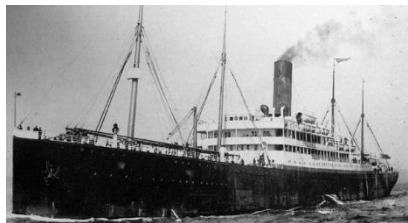
**Thomas Douglas Bell
Moxon (son of R.J.Moxon)**



Gunner Doug Moxon

T.D.B. Moxon joined the Army as a private in Armidale on 3rd August 1915, and his name is on the war memorial there. About half of his army pay was allotted to his mother throughout the war. He and his fellow recruits were entrained to Sydney, National Park and thence to Warwick Farm Racecourse where he was mustered into the 5th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB). He was promoted to acting sergeant in training camp but reverted to gunner on posting. The Brigade received an emotional sendoff from Sydney, sailing for Egypt on HMAT "Persic" and landing on 21/12/15 at Suez, where Gunner Moxon was transferred into the newly-formed 22nd Field Artillery Brigade. War records seem to refer to the 5th and 22nd FAB interchangeably, indeed they had the same colour patch. It seems likely that they were initially destined for Gallipoli, but the Dardanelles campaign had ended in evacuation by then and the Brigade was sent for a period of training to Moascar, an isolated desert camp near Ismalia. They boarded the T.S. "Minnewaska" and sailed

through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean and thence, after stopping for a short period of shore leave in Alexandria, to Marseilles. Shortly after Doug left her, this ship was severely damaged by a mine, was beached and became a total loss. Other ships were torpedoed by u-boat on that route at about the same time.



TS Minneswaska

Fresh from the searing heat of Egypt's deserts, in the early spring of 1916 Gunner Moxon and his youthful fellows filed down the gangplank. Welcomed to Europe by the chilly blast of the mistral, they formed up on the Quay in bustling Marseilles Harbour on 25th March. The 22nd FAB rattled northward by train in goods wagons and exposed cattle trucks through worsening April weather to Le Havre and from there proceeded by road, accompanied by horses, 18-pounder field guns and baggage train to the northern battlefields before going into action.

The Battle of Pozières

Doug took part in the campaign to take the village of Pozières, which cost the allies over 23 thousand casualties in six weeks. In July 1916, the British and Australians took the village, but the

German counter bombardment of Pozières was far heavier than any shelling previously experienced by the Australians. Survivors were relieved on 27th July, when one observer said: "They looked like men who had been in Hell ... drawn and haggard and so dazed that they appeared to be walking in a dream and their eyes looked glassy and starey." Doug was recommended for (but not awarded) the DCM for gallant conduct under fire. He was promoted to Bombardier on 29th July and Mentioned in Dispatches by 2nd Division Routine Order of 26th August: "for good and gallant conduct in connection with the recent hard fighting around Pozières".

The life of an artillery man was harsh then and, as the year ground on, the weather became bitter. At all hours of the day or night, recalcitrant terrified horses and uncooperative stubborn guns and ammunition limbers had to be pushed, levered, unbogged, manhandled and sometimes hand-dragged over rutted slimy roads in the rain, through the ever-present glutinous mud, and then dug into position - sometimes under sniper and shellfire. And there was always ammunition to be carried somewhere, added to the difficult business of sheltering from the weather, eating, sleeping and staying alive.

The Army (as armies always do) had a need for steadfast people with clarity of thought

in a crisis, to provide leadership. Doug was promoted Corporal 20/11/16 and seconded to headquarters of the 5th FAB. Due to the high casualty rate among officers, the need had become desperate enough to overlook the rigid class system that had existed for hundreds of years in the British Army. In February 1917 he was posted to RFA Officer Cadet School in England for training, thus escaping the last of the horrendous winter of 1916-1917 in the bottomless mud of the trenches.

Travails, adventures and promotion

2nd Lieutenant Moxon crossed the channel to Le Havre once more in July 1917. As a new subaltern, he served a short time in 2nd Div headquarters staff before transferring to the 4th FAB. On 28th September 1917 he was again Mentioned in Despatches. Para 404 of Routine Orders issued by General Birdwood reads: "The Army Commander wishes to congratulate this officer for valuable services rendered during the recent operations. He established and maintained communication under heavy shell fire and supplied most valuable information throughout the operations." He was consequently promoted Lieutenant and posted as orderly officer to the 4th FAB some 3 months later. And news went back to Australia: The Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW of 26 November 1917 reported a lone bright spot amongst the dire columns of war wounded and deaths: "Lieut. Douglas

Moxon, of Armidale, has again been mentioned in despatches for excellent services in the field".

Although he could not, at that time, have known his future, Doug's war in France had ended earlier than most and he was a survivor. In the summer of 1918, he was detached to the Army Signal School, Houghton Regis, in Bedfordshire. Unlike so many of his comrades, he had endured more than three years of misery, fear and hell-fire of war with hardly an outward scratch.

Both **Doug and his brother, Lieutenant Robert W.G. Moxon M.M. (who had also joined as a gunner), returned home together on H.M.T. "Ulysses"**. They passed two slow months trailing greasy funnel smoke at 13 knots from England, and landed in Sydney where their service terminated on 7th September 1919 at the Anzac Buffet in the Domain.

Doug would have been 27 years old on discharge, but photographs from the later part of the war make him look about 40. The words of Pete Seeger's ballad, "Where have all the flowers gone", seem to suggest themselves when one forms a mental picture of this war.

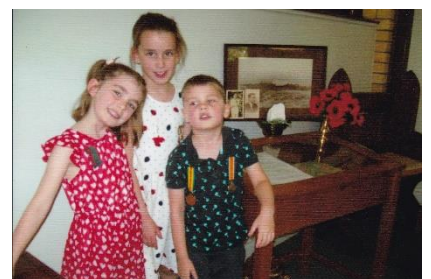
Thanks to Geoff Moxon (MX05) (grandson of T D (Doug) Moxon for this story.



Philip Handyside Moxon & his brother, Thomas Cowley Moxon (MX05)

My grandchildren, Abby, Olivia & Tom were proud to wear Simon's father's First World War 1 medals to the special 100 year Anniversary Remembrance Day Service held at St Marks, War Memorial Church, Clayfield last Sunday.

We remembered Simon with paper planes made by the children to place at the church's Memorial Rose Garden. We then remembered Philip Handyside Moxon & his brother, Thomas Cowley Moxon who served in the First World War - Phil in the Australian Army in France, Tom with the Royal Navy whose ship was torpedoed in Scapa Flow, Orkney. He survived & both men eventually returned to Brisbane at war's end. The men's photos can be seen in the background-photo of the Royal Navy ship 'Shannon'.

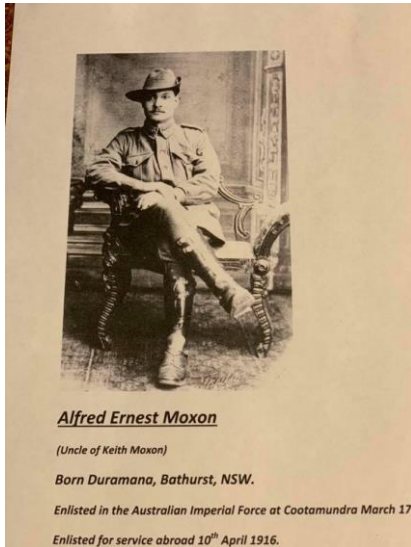


2018 has been a year of delightful memories for this line of The Moxon family. Every good wish, Margaret Moxon (MX05)



Alfred Ernest Moxon MX01

So proud of our great Uncle Alf Moxon today & always, They went through a living hell in order for us to live in freedom.



He came home to resume his life as a farmer around Duramana, NSW. Never married, he was gassed twice whilst away fighting in the battle of the Somme.

A humble man & his mates deserve to be remembered today & always.

Thanks to Matty McGrath – MX01 for this tribute.

John Moxham 1795-1870

**Description: Brown hair,
grey eyes, 5 feet 6¼ inches**



Pencil sketch by a cousin.

Convict, Entrepreneur, Survivor

John Moxham was born in Ebbesbourne-Wake, Wiltshire, England; the youngest of six children. Ebbesbourne-Wake was an agricultural village under the patronage of Lord Pembroke. His father and uncles worked as agricultural labourers. They had access to the commons for picking fruits, nuts, collecting "...bracken, furze and sticks..." and grazing their animals. There was no school and housing was constructed from local materials such as stones and mud.

This was a world of turmoil following the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars yet life in the hamlet seems to have continued virtually oblivious. "The Inclosure Act of 1785" began having some impact from around 1815 as those with means benefitted from the addition of "common land" to their estates. The Moxham family, as labourers, felt the impact on their ability to provide extra food and basic household needs. The Inclosure Act was the precursor to more efficient farming practice, but its immediate effect was dire for those without land.

John married in 1817. In 1819, he was arraigned for Larceny, whipped and spent six months in prison. Work and food appear to have been scarce on his release, so the courts of Warminster enacted a "Removal Order" returning him to Ebbesbourne-Wake.

John's next interaction with the courts occurs in September 1829 with charges of "...destroying deer, being the property of Lord Rivers..." an absentee landlord and John served four months. The question is whether John thought this was his right as a victim of the Enclosure Laws, or an act of desperation trying to find food for his family, which now included 5 children in combination with a dread of the 'Poor House'. A reasonable surmise and the truth may be a measure of each.

Not two months after his release, he was caught stealing sheep and arraigned before the Assizes in New Sarum on 6 March 1830, found guilty and his sentence commuted to seven years transportation. John was imprisoned on a Hulk until transportation. John's conduct record provides limited insights, although the top right-hand section is mostly illegible, obviously written in red pen and damaged by light or water. His gaol record describes his conduct as "very bad", but his Hulk report as "Good". What motivated this change of behaviour? Acceptance of the inevitable? Hope for something better?

John and 214 other convicts set sail in the "Royal George" on 25 June 1830, arriving in Hobart on 6 October 1830 where he was assigned to a Mr. A. Downie. In the 1832 Convict Muster he was assigned to Adam Amos*, Pound-keeper and Chief District Constable, to work on his

wheat farms and mill at Cranbrook. 'Glen Gala' remains, now a winery.

In 1834, his Ticket of Leave was granted and recorded in the newspaper. John Moxham's only colonial offence on record occurs on 23 June 1835:

"... T L/ @ Misconduct in employing himself in Killing Pigs on Sunday. Herewith [] tickets suspended during that period./T [] Mason/...."

an offence, which led to the temporary revocation of his ticket of leave.

John was licensed to work as a carrier in Hamilton. Margaret Stevens now becomes part of John's life as evidenced by the birth of their daughter Elizabeth in 1838. A feisty lady, prone to absconding and drunkenness. Her conduct record fills an entire page with regular returns to the wash house and wearing of an iron collar. Margaret continued reoffending till 1841.

Life developed a comfortable routine; work, children attending school. John signed his marriage certificate indicating some development of his literacy. His identity in the community is reflected in an incident of 1847 when he appears as the complainant in an allegation of stealing half crowns, which the magistrate dismissed as "...both were worse for liquor..." The possession of half-crowns in itself a sign of sufficient income.

A closer look at the report of the Affiliation Case; Moxham v Roberts (1866) provides some insight into John's sense of himself, of his confidence in his place in society, indeed his developing pride and self-satisfaction. It is the first time his voice has been heard in the public arena. This time his encounter with the legal system has him being listened to!

John was called to explain why he could not provide for his daughter, Sarah, and told the magistrate he was 73 years old and unable to labour to support her. John described his visit to Roberts after the birth of his grandchild and Roberts' indication he could not even support himself. There is a sense of irony here and evidence of a confident, knowledgeable man.

The announcement of his daughter Jane's marriage in both Melbourne and Hobart newspapers suggests a distinct sense of pride in this union to a relatively prosperous Melbourne family. It signifies his standing and accomplishment in this new life.

ENDNOTE

John Moxham obtained his Certificate of Freedom both as a written document and in the manner of life he lived in Van Diemen's Land. Shortly after John's death, Margaret again began her regular appearances before the magistrate, moving between prison and the poor house until her death in 1888.

Thanks to Mary Morrissey (nee Moxham MX37).

Please note that this is an edited version of Mary's efforts – the full version with footnotes and all references is available at Mary's discretion – contact your editor if you wish to contact Mary.

MX05 Aussies at the Moxon Gathering 2018

This year's annual Moxon Gathering in the UK was held at Twickenham in South-west London.

Margaret Moxon, former editor of this newsletter and widow of Simon, travelled to the Gathering accompanied by her daughter, Gretel Spizick, and Geoff Moxon, also descendant from Thomas Moxon.

Thomas Moxon's life has been recorded in the Moxon Maazine including in the April 2018 edition.

It was heartening to hear that Margaret, Gretel and Geoff were able to visit the church where their ancestor has a commemorative plaque and that they could locate his grave.

Unfortunately, another headstone has fallen onto Thomas' grave and partly obscured the words engraved on his memorial stone.

The following photos show our intrepid trio inside Holy Trinity Church, Twickenham,

and alongside Thomas' grave in Oak Lane Cemetery.



A big thanks to Margaret Moxon (Brisbane) for sharing these photos.

New Members

Please welcome Anne Allen (nee Moxon), a member of MX05.

Come on – invite your family to join. Please!

Membership Renewal

Included with this newsletter is a membership renewal form.

When you are renewing please note that you can pay by cheque or by direct bank deposit (eft). We prefer the latter as it is less work for Margaret.

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?

We are always happy to email you a membership form.

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 most recent 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, 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.

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.

Merry Christmas to all.



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.

The Editor is John Bruce Moxon (MX27)
johnmoxon1@gmail.com
0412 539 110

Our Co-ordinator is Margaret Tucker Moxon DipFamHist (UTas)
marga-ret.tucker2153@gmail.com
Phone: 02 9636 7752

Post to:
21/6 Amicitia Cct
Northmead NSW 2152

