



# Moxons Down Under

A Newsletter for Moxons living in Australia & New Zealand

October, 2020

## Editorial

Hi Folks.

Greeting from Margaret and me.

Sorry about no newsletter in April – as my mother would have said “Covid has us all in a blue funk”.

Life is certainly different this year.

We are very disappointed and saddened by the need to cancel our planned trip to Berlin, Paris, London and other places in UK including the Moxon Gathering.

It's particularly, sad that we will now never have the chance to meet Ken Moxon, the Moxon Society Chairman, as he was my 5<sup>th</sup> cousin and meeting him was to be a highlight of our trip.

As you will read in the Moxon Magazine, Ken succumbed to Covid and will be sorely missed.

On a lighter note, as I read the Moxon Magazine, I noted that, on Page 9, there is a tree of MX01 and that one John Mokeson of Cawthorne in 1550 paid rates of 2½ d (or tuppence ha'penny, as we used to say or about 6 cents Au for you youngsters).

So, it looks like paying not much in taxes has a long history.

I know, I know, tuppence ha'penny was quite a lot in 1550, but I did smile.

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On the other hand, maybe it was fake news - who thought fake news would be a real thing?

Those of you not part of MX27 must be becoming tired of hearing our stories.

So, please give some thought to writing something of your or you parents' history so I have something to publish that is of interest to all Moxons Down Under members.

Stay well, stay safe.

Cheers

John Bruce Moxon MX27

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## Index to Newsletters

Margaret has developed an Index of all the Down Under Newsletters produced by us since 2013.

Margaret is due a huge “thank you” for undertaking this onerous task.

The Index is attached as a separate document, emailed with this Newsletter.

It will also be posted to the “members only” Moxon Society website – <https://moxonresearch.org>

## Fleeing to the Blue Mountains: Viv and H J (Bert) Moxon (MX27)



Bert, Viv & Bette 1935

How many of you knew that Sydney was shelled 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 interviewed Bette, then aged 88 (now 92) and living in a retirement village in Kincumber on the Central Coast of NSW 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.<sup>[1]</sup><sup>[2]</sup>

The bombardment of Sydney, particularly the eastern suburbs, occurred in June 1942<sup>[3]</sup> 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<sup>[4]</sup>. 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."<sup>[5]</sup>

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. (See above). 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.



Bert Moxon 1902-1987

“My real father was Alf Prahl, 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.”<sup>[6]</sup>

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.



Viv, Bert, John and Bette Moxon 1940

I used to pretend he was mine, pushing him everywhere in his stroller. That was before we moved to Bronte during the war.”<sup>[7]</sup>

*Margaret Moxon.*

## References

This was written by Margaret as part of her Oral History module in her Diploma from UTS. All references are available on request.

If the raid on Sydney is of interest either Google it or use this link to a Wikipedia article: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack\\_on\\_Sydney\\_Harbour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack_on_Sydney_Harbour)

## New Members

Please welcome to Moxons Down Under:

Susan Fuge NSW MX54

Warren Clarke WA (rejoined) MX05

Stephen Neil Moxon NSW MX01

Laraine Rissel QLD MX01

Susan Gribben VIC MX01

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](mailto:webmaster@moxonsociety.org).

You were sent a new password (which is changed annually) in the October 2020 edition of the Moxon Magazine, that will give you access to the "members only" site: <https://moxon-research.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, 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.

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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This does not apply to any Moxon researcher.



"I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN LOCATING WEALTHY RELATIVES."

Let's hope covid is gone soon.