



MOXONS DOWN UNDER

A Newsletter for Moxons living in Australia & New Zealand

November 2016

Editorial

One of the great joys of being a member of a family history group is that of meeting and getting to know cousins you didn't even know existed.

It's also exciting to meet others with the same surname who are not related by blood, but who share your love of family history and a pride in our shared name.

But this joy is often tempered, even shattered, when a relative or friend dies. No longer will that connection be able to be renewed and strengthened.

And so it is with a very heavy heart that I must inform you that one of the original members of the Moxon Society and a founder of Moxons Down Under, Simon Moxon late of Brisbane, has died and left us considerably the poorer.

His wife, Margaret, was for many years, the editor of this journal, and so this loss is especially poignant to me.

Simon's full eulogy is within the covers of the Moxon Magazine, but I would like to record my sincere respect for Simon, his life and his achievements – but above all, his integrity.

Vale Simon – you are sorely missed.

Regards for now.

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New Members

A big welcome to the following new members:

Mary Morrissey (nee Moxham), Hervey Bay QLD MX72,

Debra Moxon (tree unknown) Point Clare, NSW

Melissa Schwalger, MX27

Kerrie Melville, MX27

Happier Times

Your editor and "his" Margaret Moxon first met Simon and "his" Margaret Moxon at the editor's son's home in Mt Crosby in January 2009.

Simon and Margaret were then the main force behind Moxons Down Under as they had been for some years, and it was a delight to meet them.

Our two families are not related but, of course, the sharing of our name has one thing that a closer bond than "just friends" is there.

Simon brought along his Moxon Family banner, bearing one of the variants of the Moxon shield, and we posed behind it.

A few years later, Simon and Margaret decided that it was time to hand over the reins to other Moxons to maintain

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and foster Moxons Down Under and your editor, John, and Margaret Tucker Moxon offered to step in.



They were big shoes to fill, but we try our hardest to facilitate communication between Moxons in Australia and New Zealand and also endeavour to share interesting stories about Moxons who live or lived down under.

The photo below was taken in 2012 on the day the two Margarets swapped roles.



Solving a "John Moxon" problem

Ever since I've been searching Australian newspapers for Moxon records – thanks TROVE – I've wondered which family John Moxon, shell collector at Maitland in 1855 belonged to.

Was he the colonial born son John (1804) of convict Thomas Moxon who arrived on the Third Fleet, member of the MX27 tree (Moxons of Silkstone)? Was he related to the Bathurst Moxons, who traced their ancestry back to Stewkley, Cambridgeshire and prior to that to the Moxons of Cawthorne, Yorkshire?

Here is the newspaper article – one of a few – which piqued my interest.

General Advertiser (NSW : 1843 - 1893) / Sat 30 Dec 1854 /

VIOLENT ASSAULT.—John Moxon, shell boatman, was yesterday charged before Major Crummer and Mr. Lang with having on Saturday, 23rd December, violently assaulted at the Falls, West Maitland, **John Austin**, shell boatman, by striking him with a boat paddle, and breaking his arm. Attorney for the complainant, Mr. Mullen; for the defendant, Mr. Briggs. **John Austin** was up at the Falls on Saturday, and had got his boat aground after having been unloaded, and was waiting for the tide to come down the river, when defendant's boat came up, just before complainant's boat was afloat, and a dingy which was fastened to the boat of defendant swung across the channel; complainant asked him three times to shift the dingy to allow him to pass before he would do so; defendant said he had no business that way at all, and when passing defendant took up the dingy's paddle, and with both hands made a blow at complainant's head, which he warded off by his right arm, which was broken by the blow. Dr. Scott set it on Sunday morning, and re-set it on Monday, and complainant was told it would require to remain in splints till the 15th of next month. Cross-examined: There were three

persons present when the quarrel took place, **Moxon's** mate, the man drawing the shells, and the boy belonging to complainant's boat. William Wallace, the boy, and **John Brisbane**, the man drawing the shells, both confirmed the evidence of complainant; the boy adding that Austin before being struck, when they had words, said "if you repeat these words again I will slap you on the side of the head;" and Brisbane added that the pole was sufficient to kill a horse, and that after the blow had been struck Austin said, "You have broken my arm, don't strike with a stick, but come ashore and I'll fight you with one hand." Two witnesses were called for the defence, namely James Cooper and Nicholas Here, whose evidence went to prove that it was Austin who fouled **Moxon's** boat, and that he used most insulting language, threatening to throw him over the boat, and had one foot on the gunwale to effect his purpose when struck by defendant, and that he then went to his own boat, lifted a pole with both hands, and attempted to job defendant. The case was remanded till to-day, for the evidence of Dr. Scott.

Following Dr Scott's evidence, the bench committed John Moxon for trial at the Quarter Sessions for the assault on John Austin. Subsequently, the jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to twelve

months gaol with hard labour at Parramatta gaol.

The gaol record was the key to solving the problem.

This John was not a Moxon at all! He was a Moxham. He was not a convict or even an emancipist, rather he was a free settler, having arrived from Dorset in 1849, with his wife Marina.

And an ancestor of one of our newest members, Mary Morrissey (nee Moxham) from Hervey Bay Qld.

The gaol record is quite detailed, giving his arrival date and ship – the Emigrant – and a detailed physical description. He had a sallow complexion, light hair and blue eyes.

He also had two tattoos, a woman on his right forearm

and a flag on his right hand. He was nearly 5'7" in height, above average for this period. He was a labourer, from the village of Sixpenny Handley, near the Wiltshire border.

He'd married Marina immediately prior to their emigration, and by the time he was convicted, he had three children. The next child in his large family was born in 1857 so he quickly rejoined the family after his incarceration. All but two of his 12 children survived infancy. Thus he established a new Moxham dynasty in Australia. All were born in the Hunter region, but some moved further afield, mainly to Sydney.

Sadly, in 1875, John Moxham attempted to commit suicide – a crime at that time. Was he depressed? Or was he suffering a painful illness or accident? At any event, he survived till the good age of 80, dying at Parramatta in 1897.

Because he and some of his family moved to Parramatta and Granville in the latter part of the century, they could easily be mistaken for belonging to the MX59 Moxhams from Ireland, who also settled around the Parramatta area.

There is every indication (but yet to be confirmed) that this John Moxham's family, which is MX72 Moxhams of Dorset and Hunter region, is connected to the larger Moxham family MX37 of Chippenham and Ebbesbourne Wake, Wiltshire.

Margaret Tucker Moxon

Yet another John Moxon, Larkins, 1817

John Moxon of Ferrybridge in Yorkshire, born about 1795, was convicted of highway robbery at the York Assizes on 8th March 1817, aged 22.

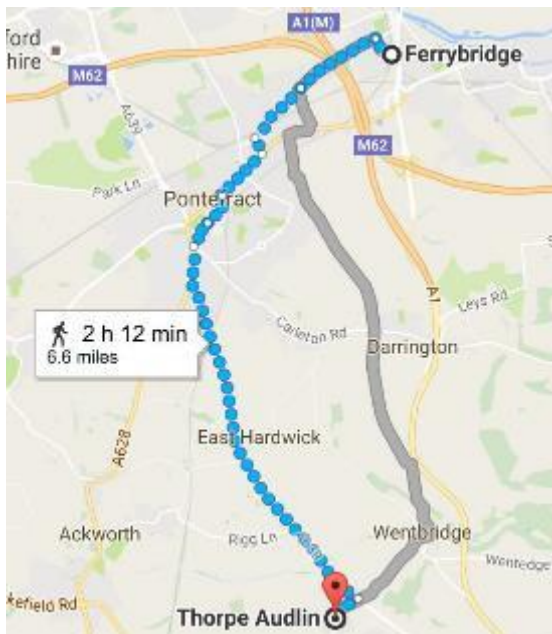
He was sentenced to death, but like many others at the time, this sentence was commuted to transportation for life.

He was one of 250 convicts who arrived on the Larkins in November 1817. The average sentence amongst these convicts was 10 years, but John Moxon was one of 101 lifers on board.

The voyage took 125 days and there were three deaths on board, not a bad record. The surgeon superintendent

was William McDonald. This was his second convict voyage. There is a surgeon's diary available.

There is confusion about John Moxon's place of origin. Some records state Ferrybridge, others state Thorpe. There are many places which were identified as Thorpe. My best guess is that the Thorpe referred to was Thorpe Audlin which is within walking distance of Ferrybridge - 6.6 miles, and both are close to Pontefract. Maybe he could have been a member of MX06.



In November 1818 he was on the list of prisoners sent to Newcastle per "Lady Nelson". In the 1820 muster he was listed as in government employment. This could have been in the Newcastle mines or he could have been in a chain gang building roads or public buildings.

Early records have him working for the well-known Throsby family at Liverpool. He was given a ticket

of leave in 1838, meaning he could work for himself under strict conditions.

In 1842 he was sent to firstly Berrima Gaol and finally Darlinghurst gaol, so it seemed he could not keep out of trouble.



In fact, his gaol record describes his conduct as "very bad". In September 1842 he was listed at Parramatta Gaol where he was assigned to the treadmill. He must have been on remand at this stage.

In October he was transferred to Goulburn to be "dealt with" and was convicted of forgery. His punishment was two years in leg irons. He was a ticket of leave man at this stage, so he

forfeited his chance of freedom for the foreseeable future.

He was described as 6 feet tall (far taller than average), sallow complexion, hazel eyes, and a farm labourer. In Berrima gaol he was listed as a Protestant, but at Parramatta and Darlinghurst as a Catholic. Clerical error or deliberately misleading?

He was given a conditional pardon in March 1850, many years after other lifers, probably because of his behaviour. (NSW State Records New South Wales, Australia, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons 1791-1867). A conditional pardon meant that he could not return to any part of the United Kingdom or Ireland.

Ferrybridge is just north of Pontefract and the intersection of the M1 and M62 motorways. No doubt it is much changed since his birth in about 1795. I wonder if one of our Moxon families has claimed him?

More research needs to be undertaken for this convict. It is fortunate that convicts were usually described by the ship on which they arrived in the colony, since it is otherwise difficult sorting out all the John Moxons! - a popular name even in the early nineteenth century.

Margaret Tucker Moxon

Stuart Town, NSW

Regular readers will recall that the descendants and others related to Alfred Moxon have gathered a couple of times in Moxon Park in Stuart Town to celebrate Alfred's history.

It is pleasing to note that the Stuart Town Advancement Association's (STAA) application for the council's Stronger Community Fund

has been approved and it will allow a permanent sheltered stage (with electricity) to be built in Moxon Park. This would be used not just for the Back to Ironbarks festival, but for any public event.



Stuart Town has a website: www.stuarttown.com.au/ and a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StuartTownNSW/ You can, of course, just search for Stuart Town in either a search engine, like Google, or within Facebook to find these pages.

Both the website and the FB page have links to a video report on the 2016 Back to Ironbark Festival which features that year's Moxon reunion.



Alf Moxon's cottages on the right and his garage to their left. That area is now the site of Moxon Park

Membership Renewal

Yes, it's that time of year again and we ask that you all renew your membership for 2017.

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.

Family History Diploma

Margaret is now 60% through the Diploma of Australian Family History, being taught online through the University of Tasmania. She is loving almost every moment, and treasures the support the teaching staff and students offer through the unit discussion groups and various Facebook groups.

Have you thought of doing it? Many of the units are cost free.

Please email Margaret (see below) with attachments. Thank you.

Where and When?

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

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 so that other members can learn more about your family?



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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Season's Greetings

Well!!!

How time flies, the cricket's on, it's warming up, and Christmas will be on us on no time at all.

Margaret and I wish you all the very best for the festive season and hope that you and yours have a wonderful break, maybe catch up with family not seen so often, and generally have a bonza time.

When you've recovered, you might like to think about whether a Moxon Muster for all Moxon families would appeal, and if so, where it should be held and when.

Please let us know.

Reserved for your story!

