



# Moxons Down Under

A Newsletter for Moxons living in Australia & New Zealand

October 2017

## Editorial

Hi Folks.

Nearly Summer and in many parts of Oz it seems like summer already.

As usual, unfortunately, no one has contributed any stories for this issue (apart from Margaret, of course), so again, it will be mostly comprised of Margaret's and my exploits as related to Moxons.

But fortunately, again, we have a few "exploits" and a story or two to share with you.

Because I'm an untreatable optimist, I'll include another copy of the questions you could answer and send to me for sharing as a story with your fellow members. I'm happy to write it from your information.

Regards for now.

John Bruce Moxon (MX27)  
[johnmoxon1@gmail.com](mailto:johnmoxon1@gmail.com)  
0412 539 110

## New Members

A big welcome to the following new member:

Frances Elizabeth Gnodtke (MX37) of Adelaide

## A Road Trip

### First stop - Orange

The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies had its annual conference in Orange, NSW this

year and we packed up and stayed in Orange for six nights – a day or two prior to and a day or two following the official sessions.

The conference itself was well worth attending, but we also took the opportunity to catch up with John and Heather Moxon (MX27) and one of their daughters, Rachel, and her daughter, Serena. John Moxon of Orange is your editor's second cousin.

You may recall the bizarre story of John of Orange's grandfather, Alfred John Moxon, being "kidnapped" by the nanny, Clara Ann Riddle, in 1883 (when he was three years old and living in Bankstown) and reportedly taken to New Zealand.

Clara became Clara Wilson and apparently moved back to Australia and settled in Wellington, NSW, where Alfred "Wilson" grew up.

Somehow, your editor's grandfather, Henry (Harry) Moxon recognised Alfred (where, how or exactly when are all unknown) and his identity and details were amended on his marriage certificate.

But now we can say for certain that Alfred was indeed a Moxon. Your editor's Ancestry DNA results show a match

## Contents

Editorial	1
New Members	1
A Road Trip	1
Another Moxon in the News	2
A Correction	3
A Cautionary Tale	3
Membership Renewal	4
Access to Trees	4
Where and When	4
About this Newsletter	4

with two descendants of Alfred. One woman is not a member of the Moxon Society and I have no permission to reveal her name – so I won't.

The lineage goes like this:

- Alfred John Moxon (1880-1966)
- Daughter Edith Louise Moxon (1920-1977) - married Norman M. Robinson
- Granddaughter Joan M Robinson (1938-2012) married Morris Klajman
- At least two great grandchildren are still living, one of whom has DNA matching your editor's.
- In addition, Dee Watts, a member, is also a DNA match with your editor. Dee is the daughter of Leslie Robinson (1945-2003), brother of the above Joan M Robinson.

But the search continues to substantiate the story of a New Zealand connection – so far no record can be found of Clara and Alfred going to or from NZ.

Maybe, as John of Orange suggests, they were in Wellington, NSW all along.

## Second stop - Cobar

Cobar is a copper mining town in western NSW.

It is very close to where your editor's father and all his sisters were born – the town of Wrightville (7 kms away and at one time a bustling town of 3000 people and three copper mines), sadly the town is gone.

Harry Moxon (Henry Percy Moxon), was mayor of Wrightville for a number of years.

For reasons never satisfactorily explained, the editor's father, Herbert (Bert) John Moxon, was taken to Sydney when he was about three by his mother and was left there in the care of his grandmother, and later, an aunt and uncle.

He returned to Wrightville in about 1919, aged 17 years.

While working in a bakery, he got himself into an altercation with the son of the bakery owner and they ended up in court with Bert winning his case as the other chap was convicted of assault.

Your editor was curious as to the location of the bakery – he had always thought, based on another anecdote of his dad's, that it was in Wrightville, but the newspaper item reporting the assault indicated it was in Cobar.

A visit to the Cobar library produced a serendipitous result – the curator of the Historical Museum just happened to be there and was very helpful.

We told her the story and explained that it was the location of the bakery that we wanted to find, with a view to taking a photo of the location.

“What name are we talking about?”, she asked.

When told it was Bert Moxon, son of Harry Moxon, she exclaimed “Oh! Alderman Moxon! We know all about **him!**”

And then we found that an incident involving Harry during WW1 was included in her book *“From the Far West to the Western Front – Cobar and the Great War”*.

The curator's and author's name is Kay Stingemore.

The item about Harry concerns his verbal altercation (there's something about we Moxons and altercations) with the Wrightville Knitting Group who were knitting socks, jumpers, scarfs, etc. to send to the troops.

Harry upset them by expressing the view that the war was a “capitalist war with working men doing the fighting and when it was all over Kitchener and the Kaiser would shake hands”.

Harry was eventually forced to apologise and claim his remarks “had been misconstrued”

He also said he “had undoubtedly been foolish to get into an argument with women”.

The book also mentions that Harry had a picture show in Wrightville, which was news.

When he moved to Lake Cargelligo he established the first picture show there in about 1921 or so. And, possibly influenced by Harry, his brother, Alfred had a licence to run a picture show in Stuart Town.

Kay promised to investigate the location of the bakery, and she has since emailed to say she thinks she knows where it was – in Cobar. Now to get a picture!

## The rest of our Trip.

The rest of our 24 day trip covering 4,000 kms and nine different motels had nothing to do with Moxon history, except that in Melbourne we met a good friend of John Moxon of Southampton, Dave Ball, who has recently migrated with his Aussie wife to Australia. Your editor and Dave share friendship with John of Southampton, a love of VWs, and wheelchair use. How could we not be friends?

## Another Moxon in the News

Tony Moxon of Bathurst was recently featured in the Western Advocate (a Bathurst Newspaper).

Tony has just notched up 30 years of working for Bathurst Motors as a salesman. Before

that he worked for 15 years in the motorcycle industry.

What got your editor's attention was Tony's keen interest in motor sport and his claim that he has not missed a Bathurst "Great Race" since he was very young.

If Tony's Bathurst races interest had commenced by 1970, he may even have seen your editor out on the track in his Formula Vee.

We don't know how Tony fits into the Moxon clan, but a fair guess is that he is a "Bathurst Moxon" and part of MX01.

## A Correction

Last issue we brought you the story of one Hugh Moxon Bathurst and his son, Thomas Bathurst who is Chief Justice of NSW and our Lieutenant Governor.

Unfortunately, we misreported some of the lineage.

The correct information is:

Hugh Moxon Bathurst was the son of Mary Rankin(e) Cook and Frederick Henry Bathurst who married in 1892.

Mary Rankin Cook was the daughter of Janet Whitehead McNee (1836-1915) and William Cook (1814-1897).

William Moxon Cook (1857-1917) was the brother of Mary Rankin Cook, and son of William Cook.

Thanks to Chris Moxon for spotting our errors.

## A Cautionary Tale

Joshua Middleton Moxon (1840 – 1894) MX27, had a brother, John (yes, another one!!).

John was a journeyman joiner and was born in Barnsley (Yorkshire) in 1843. He died in 1913.

His wife, Eliza (Brown) was born "about" 1841 in Whitgift (Yorkshire). In the 1871 census, Eliza is shown as living in as a Servant in Dodworth Road, Barnsley.

John and Eliza apparently married in 1875 (no record found yet).

The 1881 census has them living at 3 Brick Yard and Eliza is shown as a Tailoress, while John is an unemployed joiner.

It would seem that the couple might have separated, as in 1891, the census shows Eliza "visiting" 5 Brick Yard, the house next door to John's (and her previous residence), of 3 Brick Yard, John is still at 3 Brick Yard.

By 1901 they appear to be back together, but both now in 5 Brick Yard.

Wouldn't it be good to understand what was happening in their relationship.

Eliza died in 1905 (death certificate on order)

And John died in 1913 in the workhouse.

We have found no record of children.

So, what is there to be "cautious" about?

John's death certificate gives as his cause of death "Rodent Ulcer of Face"

Google tells that Basal Cell Carcinomas (BCCs) were once called Rodent Ulcers, are the most common type of skin cancer and they do not of themselves cause death.

However, if left untreated, they can result in ulcers which may then become infected, perhaps causing septicaemia which can be fatal – almost certainly was in 1913.

This photo is not our John Moxon, but here is what an untreated BCC can develop into.



My skin specialist tells me they were called "Rodent Ulcers" because they resemble how a carcass looks after a rat has attacked it.

So, a cautionary tale.



## Membership Renewal

Unfortunately, a number of members have not renewed for 2017.

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](mailto:webmaster@moxonsociety.org) or to Chris Moxon in England at [membership@moxonsociety.org](mailto: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?

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.

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](mailto:johnmoxon1@gmail.com)  
0412 539 110

Our Co-ordinator is Margaret Tucker Moxon.  
[margaret.tucker2153@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.tucker2153@gmail.com)  
Phone: 02 9636 7752

Post to:  
21/6 Amicitia Cct  
Northmead NSW 2152

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?

Maybe even your own story.

John has included with this edition a guide which you may find helpful when writing your story.

John is also very happy to “write” your story if you complete the form and send it to him.