



Established in 1988 by James 'Jimmy' Moxon, Founding Editor and First President of The Moxon Society

The Moxon Magazine

When shall we meet again...?



At present it is not possible, of course, for definite plans to be laid for this year's annual Gathering and we are not looking for any commitment from members at this stage.

But IF we are able to go ahead we plan the same programme and destination that we had originally organised for 2020. Those arrangements, none of which can currently be confirmed for this year due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, would be as follows:-

The date for the Moxon Gathering would be September 3rd-5th, 2021, and the location would be MediaCityUK in Salford, home to the BBC, ITV, and "Coronation Street" studios, on the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal. The hotel venue would be the Holiday Inn Media City, next door to the BBC.

If the BBC are running public tours again by September, on Saturday morning we would aim to step into the exciting world of BBC broadcasting on a 1½ hour guided tour. MediaCityUK is home to many of your favourite BBC television programmes including Match of the Day, Blue Peter and BBC Breakfast.

It's also home to Radio 5 live, CBBC, BBC Sport and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra - ***"Join us on a BBC Tour and we'll take you behind the scenes and show you how these and many other programmes are produced. You can also make your own news and weather bulletin in our interactive studio"***.

Continued...

When shall we meet again...?

The area around the hotel is pleasant with waterside bars and restaurants. The stunning Lowry arts centre which includes two theatres and an Art Gallery; the Imperial War Museum North and the Lowry outlet mall ("an ideal place to get quality brands for less") are a few minutes' walk away. Die-hard "Coronation Street" fans may be able to explore the sensational outdoor sets at the live working production lot where the show is filmed, but must make their own booking in advance on ITV's "Coronation Street – The Tour" (www.itv.com/coronationstreettour). For those who have time en-route, the new RHS Garden Bridgewater (www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater) is due to open in May 2021 and is a 25-minute drive away. All of course subject to any Covid-19 restrictions still in place at the time.

As an option, to tempt you away from the local attractions, on Saturday afternoon some of us will be available in the Hotel meeting room for a workshop session to discuss and assist with any of the Moxon Trees or discuss family history research generally. Tea and Coffee will be provided. This will be followed by a discussion about the Moxon Society Archives website and its uses (including a demonstration on how to access it) and the Society's AGM at 6pm.

On both evenings Dinner will be provided in the hotel by the Marco Pierre White restaurant.

Getting there:

If you travel to Manchester by train - trams run from Manchester Piccadilly or Manchester Victoria railway stations and arrive at the Media City stop, just a three-minute walk from the door of your hotel. The journey takes approx. 25 minutes and tickets cost £2.80.

For those travelling by car, on-site parking is available in the multi-storey next to the hotel; the cost in 2020 was £11.00 per 24 hours when you get your ticket validated at the hotel reception.

To check out more about the hotel and its facilities online, google: Holiday Inn mediacityuk .

To find out more about the BBC tour, google: BBC Media City tour.

Costs

The costs, if we had gone ahead in 2020, would have been **£325** for **two** people sharing a double or twin room; and **£245** for a **single** person. Both prices covered accommodation, breakfasts, evening meals, and BBC Tour. A day ticket can be arranged for those who do not need overnight accommodation



Continued...

When shall we meet again...? *Continued....*

Proposed 2021 Annual Gathering Draft Programme

dependent on Covid-19 restrictions in force at the time:

Check-in at Holiday Inn MediaCityUK is from 2pm.
Breakfast is available from 6:30am to 10am.

Friday 3rd September 2021

5.30pm	Welcome drinks
6.30pm	Evening meal (private room)

Saturday 4th September 2021

10.15am	Group Photo
10.45am – 12.15pm	BBC Tour
1.30pm – 2.30pm	Committee Meeting
2.30pm – 4.30pm	Family History workshop / drop-in
4.30pm – 5.30pm	Moxon Society archives website discussion
6pm	Annual General Meeting
7pm	Evening meal (private room)

Sunday 5th September 2021

Depart after breakfast (check-out time is 11am)

Declaration of Interest

At this stage we are not asking for bookings. Instead we are asking for all members who might be interested in attending to send a **Declaration of Interest** (*without obligation*) to moxonchris@aol.com or write to

Chris Moxon, 3 Kingsway, THORNTON-CLEVELEYS, FY5 1DL
or phone on 01253 868712.

All those who give a Declaration of Interest will be sent details by the end of May but will need to confirm or decline their attendance within two weeks of receiving those details.

Getting to know my place...!

A WHILE BACK Carol Burton sent me this email:

Hello, I am unsure whether to join your society or not, you see my Mother was adopted sometime between her birth in 1917 and the age ten in 1927 by my Grandfather Alfred George Tracey, to date I have been unable to find her birth certificate. Two years ago I did a DNA test and through research and building trees I have come to the conclusion that her Parents must have been one of the children of George Moxom and Emily Riley and William Savage or one of his children.

But without her birth certificate I have been unable to prove this, but the people most likely to be in the frame are Eleanor Florence Moxom and William Savage going by my DNA matches

Can I join without this proof? I am clutching at straws hoping someone might have [know of a] child who vanished around 1917.

**All the best
Carol**

Subsequently, in email conversations with Philip Lord, Carol has found that she and her brother belong to Tree MX01, specifically the Stewkley Branch, having DNA links to most of John and Rebecca Moxon's children to varying degrees. But naturally, Carol would like to have more information, and hopes that one of our readers might be able to help. Carol would happy to receive any information via her email address Carol Burton <carolsdna038@gmail.com>, and I hope we might be able to report on her progress in our next issue of The



Carol kindly supplied two photos of her mother, Vera: on the left just after she was demobbed from the Women's Land Army in 1951, aged 34; and, on the right, on the occasion of her wedding in 1954.



A Furious Tale

By Dr Kenneth E Moxham

I was told that my great grandfather, William James Moxham (1832-1904) had run a very successful business in Sydney, that he frequently travelled to America, that he was a member of the Philadelphia Chamber of Manufacturers and that he had been the Captain of the Warship HMS Furious during the Crimean War. I was also told that he had emigrated from England and that was how the Moxhams came to Australia. This narrative was punctuated with stories of other ancestors most of whom had also been successful, I was told. The overwhelming impression my family wanted to convey to me, was that I came from a line of successful people and so too I should aim high. I had no reason to doubt any of this but because these stories were lacking in detail, I was curious to find out more. I was living in Adelaide, Australia, and in 1966 was successful in gaining a scholarship to Cambridge University and so, because of the good libraries in Cambridge, it was easy to look up the names of the Officers of HMS Furious during the Crimean War and much to my surprise there was no Moxham. The family narrative described how, when William James Moxham had died, that his widow had received a letter of condolence from a William Loring who, it said, had been the Admiral of the Royal Navy during the time when William James had been the Captain of HMS Furious. The letter of condolence was mentioned in his obituaries in Sydney and Melbourne newspapers. The Royal Naval records showed that the Captain of HMS Furious at that time was William Loring. For someone who is curious by nature that started a process of investigation which has taken me to many places and has introduced me to many new and wonderful friends.

William James Moxham was born in Bristol and was the eldest son of James Moxham (1807-1845), also from Bristol who had died in London aged 38. James Moxham's Death Certificate records the cause of his death as a fever. It is hard to know exactly what that means in modern medical terms. There are no records of any cholera outbreaks in the year 1845 and so it is difficult to elaborate further as to why a relatively young man should die. There are no records to suggest that James Moxham had moved to London to live. In 1831 and 1841 the Bristol Census records that he was a builder and a carpenter.

For James' widow (*née* Maria Weeks) and her six children aged from 2 to 13 his death was a disaster. In 1851 the Bristol Census records Mrs Moxham living in the Poor House.

On 20th July 1853 her son, William James, enlisted in the Royal Navy, except he records his name as simply James Moxham. This was just before the outbreak of the Crimean War (5th

October 1853 – 30th March 1856).

The first muster of HMS Furious, dated 27th December 1853, records the Captain as being William Loring and James Moxham, aged 20, as a member of the Carpenters' Crew. So while he was not the Captain, he was certainly on the strength of *HMS Furious*.

This *Furious* was the third incarnation of five ships with this name in the Royal Navy, the fifth and last being famous for being the world's first aircraft carrier.

This *HMS Furious* is described officially as a Steam Frigate. This rather grand title gives the impression of a fine craft but *HMS Furious* was a hybrid craft; a sailing ship and a steam powered paddle steamer. *HMS Furious* is recorded as having some trouble getting to Odessa and having to obtain extra supplies of coal en-route from a French ship. *HMS Furious* was in fact totally unsuited to the naval warfare of the time.

Continued...

A Furious Tale continued

On 6th April 1854, *HMS Furious* sailed to Odessa and sent a boat into the port under a Flag of Truce (a white flag indicating the peaceful intent of its bearer or an invitation to an enemy to negotiate) to collect the British Consul there. When leaving the port the boat was fired upon by the Russians. The British naval commander, Vice-Admiral James Dundas, demanded an explanation from Lieutenant-General Dmitri Osten Sacken, the military governor of Odessa, for this breach of the Laws of War. His reply was considered unacceptable, so a squadron was quickly selected to mount a punitive expedition. Some historians take this to be the start of the Crimean War.

An article by Karl Marx, printed in the New York Daily Tribune of 16th May 1854, reported that the Russians had claimed that *HMS Furious* was actually carrying out a covert reconnaissance of the port.

William James Moxham was Paid Off on the 26th August 1856. His character is recorded as "Good" and he was paid £20 on that day. It is noted in the naval records that he was paid £4 on the 10th April 1854 and £5 on 16th August 1856. The last two are in a column headed Foreign Remittances. The sum of £29 in 1856 is equivalent to £3143 in 2020. While William James Moxham entered the navy as a member of the Carpenters' Crew, as described in the first muster in ADM 38/8165, he is described as a Carpenter on discharge. Four rows above his entry someone is described as a Carpenter's Mate in the same column where he is described as a Carpenter.

Roger Nixon, a professional Royal Navy private historian who searched the records and advised the author, suggests that since he is not listed in the records of service (ADM 139 1853-1872) it is most likely that he had not switched to the Continuous Service Agreement of 1853 and that he may therefore have been a Civilian in Naval Pay during the Crimean War.

These naval records of *HMS Furious* are over a very clear and large signature of William Loring, Captain HMS Furious.

On 29th September 1856 at St Mary's Redcliff Bristol, William James Moxham married Elizabeth Bellamy who had previously been married to the late William Lewton Naish. On the marriage certificate he described himself as a Carpenter and his father's profession as a Carpenter. Elizabeth described herself as a Dress Maker and gave her father's profession as a Mariner. Interestingly they both give the same address as their place of residence.

The Public Records Office of Victoria records in March 1857 the arrival of the *James Fernie* of 1037 tons, constructed in St Johns, New Brunswick, with William James Moxham and family, which included his widowed mother, However, the ship's manifest contains multiple entries of the same person and may not be accurate.

From the UK BMDs and the Australian BMDs, William James Moxham brought with him his wife Elizabeth, (1833-1864); his siblings Charles Moxham (1834-1909); Maria (1838-1923), Henrietta (1841-1897); and James William (1843-1938); and his widowed mother Mrs Maria Moxham (1807-1870). The ship's manifest describes an infant aged one being with Mrs Elizabeth Moxham but Charles Moxham (1857-1910) is recorded in the Victorian State Records as born in Victoria in 1857.

William James Moxham and his wife Elizabeth had three boys and one girl before Elizabeth's death in Melbourne, Victoria on 5th July 1864, six months after the birth of her last child. Elizabeth Bellamy described her father as a Mariner. Bellamy is of course an infamous mariner name, but with no connection, as yet, to Elizabeth's family.

Continued...

A Furious Tale continued

William James Moxham married his second wife Fanny Ward (1843-1930), in Melbourne in 1866. She bore him eight more children who lived beyond infancy, including the author's grandfather Herbert Ewing Moxham (1871-1959).

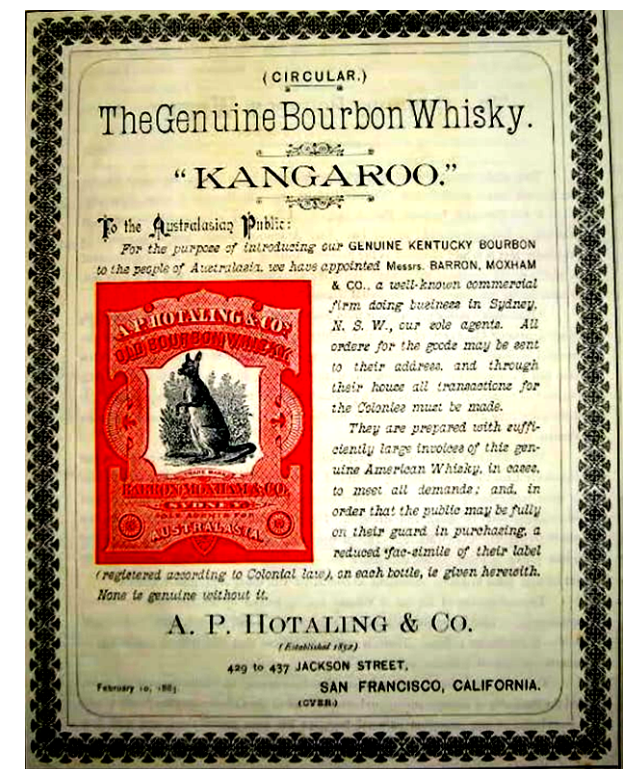
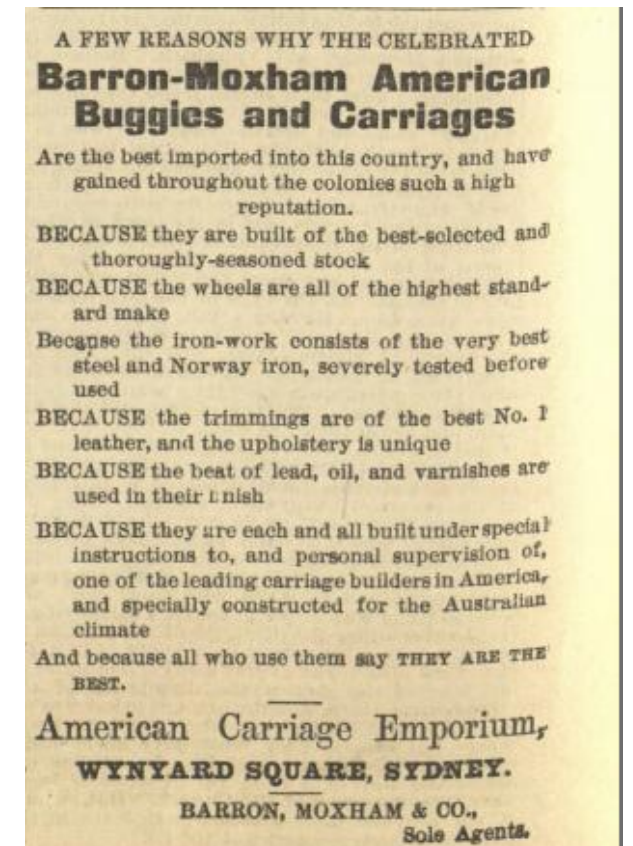
William James Moxham's mother, Maria Moxham (1807-1870) is interred in Melbourne with the same tombstone as his late wife Elizabeth (*née* Bellamy) (1833-1864).

William James Moxham moved to Sydney and joined Captain Joseph Gerrish Barron (1832-1911) to form Barron Moxham Co. The company was very successful, judged by the frequent large advertisements in the Sydney newspapers promoting their wares. They sold a wide range of products from hand tools made in Philadelphia, some of which the author still has, to horse-drawn coaches and general ship's chandlers' items.

Captain Barron was born in Topsham, Maine, USA. His obituary suggests that he gained command at the age of 21 and that during his sea career he transported British troops for the New Zealand Wars.

William Moxham travelled a number of times to Philadelphia, across the Pacific and then by transcontinental train across the United States. It is curious to note that the business sourced the majority of its wares from the United States rather than Britain: presumably the American focus related to Captain Barron's influence. The business imported Barron/Moxham-branded Bourbon Whisky. One consignment failed to arrive and was presumed lost at sea. Recently bottles have floated to the surface with Barron Moxham embossed on the glass bottle and offered for sale on eBay. The author's family narrative suggested that Captain Barron was not active in the business.

But returning to the supposed letter from Admiral Loring to William's widow it is important to establish a number of important dates. Mrs Fanny Moxham's (*née* Ward) obituary records him moving to New South Wales in 1870. William James Moxham's obituary records him



Continued...

A Furious Tale continued

moving to New South Wales in the early 1860s. The dates on the joint tombstone over his first wife's and his mother's grave suggests it was sometime after 1870. William married his second wife in Melbourne in 1866. Captain Barron's obituary writes that he entered commercial life in 1866. His first commercial venture was Barron Austin and subsequently Barron Moxham.

It is likely, therefore, that William Moxham moved from Melbourne to Sydney sometime around 1870.

William Loring, (1811-1895), the son of Admiral Sir John Wentworth Loring, joined the Royal Navy in July 1826, was promoted to Captain in 1848 and took command of HMS Furious in 1852. He was later appointed the first Commander-in-Chief of the Australia Station for 12 months from 1859 until 1860. In 1877, he was promoted to Admiral, the same rank - only out ranked by Admiral of the Fleet - as his father.

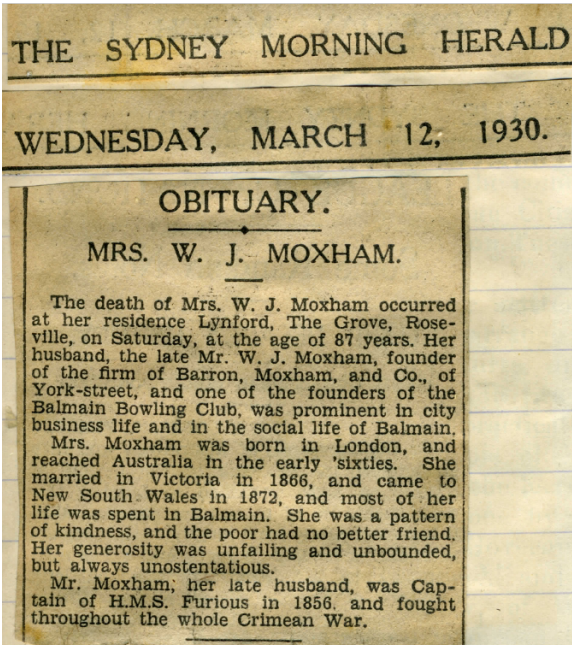
William Loring was in Sydney no later than 1860, ten years too early to have any connection with William Moxham, so a friendship between Loring and Moxham forged during the time when Loring was in Sydney and Moxham was running his business seems unlikely.

Was William James Moxham the author of an inaccurate narrative which he had deliberately promulgated during his life and which said he was the captain of HMS Furious and that his best friend was Admiral Loring? Or did this story originate at the time of William Moxham's obituary? Was such a letter of condolence ever received?

It is possible that Roger Nixon's advice to the author that there would never have been a friendship between a ship's captain and a carpenter was simply wrong. Perhaps under the heat of anxiety at sea during the Crimean War

something did happen that created this unlikely friendship, so it is possible that a friendship between Moxham and Loring did exist. But Moxham was never the captain of HMS Furious nor any other ship. The author has never been able to establish if Moxham promulgated the inaccurate claim of being a ship's captain or if the myth commenced at the time of the obituary. The author has spent a sizeable fraction of his life pondering these questions and while the matter of the captaincy has been settled, the rest of the story has never been resolved.

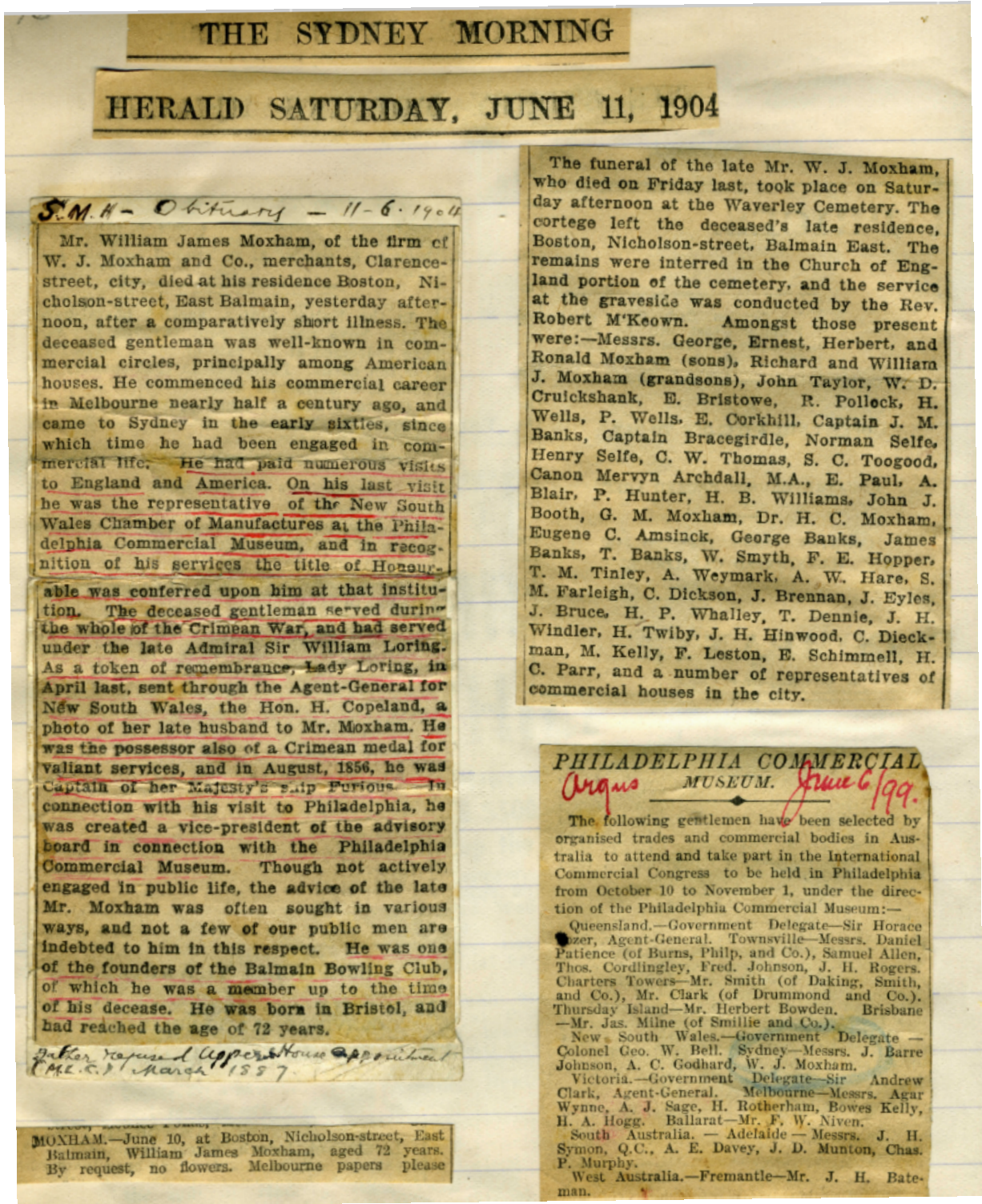
Ken Moxham PhD
Founding Member of MX71



Newspaper report of the death of Fanny Moxham, nee Ward, recording her late husband's captaincy of HMS Furious

Continued...

A Furious Tale continued



Newspaper cuttings regarding WJ Moxham, kindly supplied by Ken Moxham

American Moxom Reunions

We rarely hear of Moxon Society happenings in North America, so we were delighted to receive this photo and note from Kim Wizer about an American reunion in 2019 in Branson, Missouri. Kim also sent us photos (opposite) from the American Reunion in August of 2019 in San Diego, California.



The Branson, Missouri reunion consisted of the great great grandchildren of Joel Moxon, aka Joseph V. Moxom, b. 1830 in Donhead, Shaftesbury, Wiltshire, England.* John Wesley Moxom and Mary Emmeline Moxom are two of his children who settled in Missouri. Joel Moxom emigrated to Canada in 1857, and then to Missouri sometime between 1860 and 1870. Where Joel was between 1860 and 1870 is still unknown, but family stories indicate that he did work for the government as a “freighter” during the Civil War, 1860-1865.

Left to right: David Wizer, grandson of Dorothy Lea Moxom, Kelly Lea Wizer, granddaughter of Dorothy Lea Moxom, myself, Kimberly Seifts Wizer, daughter of Dorothy Lea Moxom Seifts, Marjory Stafford Norris, granddaughter of Mary Emmeline Moxom, Terry Norris, Anthony Pfitzer, grandson of Lester Dale Moxom, and James Douglas Moxom, son of James Everitt Moxom. This photo was taken at Lambert’s, the home of the *throwed rolls* in Ozarks, Missouri: yes, they actually throw their wonderful rolls to you from across the room!! We enjoyed meeting each other, learning local history, listening to country western music and lots of shopping.

Kim Wizer

* In the 1841 census he is living in Donhead St Mary. My gazetteer records “...the village and civil parish of Donhead St Mary, in southwest Wiltshire, England, on the county border with Dorset. The village lies about 2 1/2 miles (4.0 km) east of the Dorset town of Shaftesbury and stands on high ground above the River Nadder, which rises in the parish.” [Editor]

Continued...

American Moxom Reunions Continued...

San Diego 2019

From left to right:

Kia Captanivich, Brad Finley, Shelly Captanivich, Mary Moxom Wilson’s granddaughter, Kim Wizer, Theo Roosevelt Moxom’s granddaughter, Joanne Wilson, Mary Moxom Wilson’s daughter in law, Kim Captanivich, Shelly’s husband, Scott Wilson, Mary Moxom’s grandson, James Moxom, Jr., Theodore Roosevelt Moxom’s grandson, Kelly Wizer, Kim Wizer’s daughter, Kate and Chad Wilson, Bill, Steve Wilson, Mary Moxom Wilson’s grandson, Jennifer Geller, Theodore Roosevelt Moxom’s granddaughter, Neil Geller, Jennifer’s husband, and George Wizer, Kim Wizer’s husband



... and they had cake!

Chaos in Cawthorne revisited ...

The brawl which took place in Cawthorne Church (then a subsidiary Chapel of the neighbouring Silkstone parish) was first described in the Moxon Magazine in 2004. But this incident is worth a second look for the information that it provides of life in this small village four hundred years ago and to clarify the identity of the three Moxon witnesses who appeared before the Church court.

The background

Cawthorne had first enjoyed a school from an endowment in 1454 by Isabel Bosvile. Her endowment was connected with the chantry of the Blessed Virgin. When this and other chantries were dissolved in 1548, this school was re-established as an Edward VI Grammar School. But the schoolroom fell into disrepair and by the end of the sixteenth century the pupils, probably all boys, were moved into the Chapel and this served as their schoolroom until 1639.

A tradition had grown up throughout Yorkshire of hindering a married couple from leaving the Church unless a payment was made to the spectators. This continued in various forms until the end of the nineteenth century. As late as 1901 a labourer in Bingley was fined for obstructing a wedding party's vehicle by fixing a rope across the street and demanding a toll.

The incident

On the 24th of November 1617 William Tinker of Barnsley and Margaret Firth of Cawthorne were duly married in the Cawthorne chapel by the 67 year old curate, George Whittakers. After the ceremony, which seems to have been attended by most of the village, the bridegroom and part of the wedding party stepped outside, but a number of schoolboys demanded that the bride

gave them a shilling before she left their school room i.e. the chapel. When she refused, pleading poverty, they locked the main door and physically barred the exit from the bell-house. This group of boys seems to have been led by sixteen-year old Thomas Barnby, junior, the grandson of Thomas Barnby, senior.

In Cawthorne the Barnby family, living at Barnby Hall, were involved in the manufacture of iron and were leading members of the community. They were also known for their Catholic leanings and the female members of the family were confirmed recusants, that is, they refused to follow the rules of the Church of England.

At length, after the bride had offered fourpence as being all the money that she had, James Bothomley, who employed Margaret Firth as a servant, manhandled the boys and forced the door to be opened.

Thomas Barnby senior, acting as his grandson's guardian, duly complained to the Consistory Court at York of James Bothomley's behaviour and demanded that he should be excommunicated for fighting in the Chapel, and for damages insofar as Bothomley "*layde violent hands upon [his grandson], tooke him by the shoulders...and hurled him against the walls and after that caste him downe upon the grownde...that his health thereby was much impaired and diverse parts of his bodye sore bruised*".

Continued...

Chaos in Cawthorne revisited ...

The legal proceedings

Court documents exist from April 17th 1618 and the case continued until at least 1619, although the final decision was not recorded. Possibly there was an agreed compromise as the case had continued and the costs duly escalated.

The hearing was not confined to the events of November 17th. The curate, George Whittakers, was accused of having altered the birth register to make a certain William Bramhall a year older than he was, to enable him to sell land before he was of lawful age. He is also accused of

having presided over "divers" marriages without banns or lawful licences. Bothomley's supporters are accused of being "Puritans" (then still a term of abuse).

But the particular Moxon interest lies in three of the witnesses – the brothers John, William and George Mokeson. All three were listed as beneficiaries of the 1592 will of their father Charles Mokeson and so the fact that they were brothers could have been assumed, but is here confirmed. Their depositions also list that they were 44, 40 and 35 years old respectively. This should, for the first time, indicate their

Continued...



All Saints Church, Cawthorne

Chaos in Cawthorne revisited ...

birth dates although we cannot be precise as it is not clear whether their age was listed at the time of the incident or when they gave their statements to the court a year or so later.

But it is also interesting that they appeared on opposite sides of the argument. The oldest, John, stating that he witnessed the “*abuse or violence*” from a distance of nine or ten yards although he did not hear what was said.

His brothers, who did not state that they were witnesses to the brawl, affirmed that John had originally declared that Bothomley did not offer violence to the boys. But that, before John made his deposition to the court, “*he was indicted att the Sessions at Pontefract and by the Jury fownd guiltie and so was and is affrayd to displease the sayd Mr Barneby*”. This indictment was for stealing iron from Mr Barnby and, his brothers alleged, John Mokeson was now afraid of offending Mr Barnby and therefore decided to appear on his behalf in this trial.

It was confirmed at the Court that Thomas Barnby senior was paying all the costs of the witnesses who appeared against Bothomley.

In his cross-examination John stated that his net worth was forty shillings “or thereabouts” which is a figure widely used in the Ecclesiastical Courts as the upper limit to define pauperism. Both George and William were accused by Barnby’s spokesman as being “*paupers and not worth even ten shillings*”. We can therefore be reasonably certain that all three brothers were poor at this time.

Given William Mokeson’s support for Bothomley, it is not surprising that, almost twenty years later, his eldest son, also called William, should marry one of the Bothomley family. William may have been poor, but he seems to have prospered as, twenty years after the brawl at Cawthorne, he was able to send his third son, Nathaniel, to become a scholar at Oxford University (and subsequently Cambridge).

Chris Moxon
February 2021



NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome six new members who have joined since the last issue of The Magazine

Kathy Marshall	UK	MX01
Ruth Moxon	UK	MX06
Ron Moxom	USA	MX37
Jim Webster	UK	MX04
Adam Toulson	UK	MX17
Rachel Moxon	UK	MX17

The Will of John Moxon of Hanover Terrace

Moxon Society member Bob Moxon Browne relates how a copy of John Moxon’s last will and testament surfaced in the East End of London – and now awaits full transcription!

A visit to Brick Lane

The story of the recent discovery of a magnificent parchment copy of the last will and testament of John Moxon of Hanover Terrace, an eminent Victorian banker and railways investor, starts with a visit to Brick Lane market made some years ago by Ms Fleur Oakes.

Fleur Oakes is one of the country’s leading needlewomen, acknowledged internationally as a textile artist, embroiderer and lace maker. Amongst other distinctions she enjoys the title of lace-maker-in-residence at St Mary’s Hospital’s vascular surgery unit – a job which involves imparting craft skills and dexterity to aspiring students of surgery, as well as the creation of three-dimensional textile models of vascular anatomy. On an afternoon off from this unusual occupation, Fleur had found herself browsing in the *bric-a-brac* stalls in East London’s Brick Lane. Her eye was caught by a bundle of old parchment documents, to Fleur’s eyes, both beautiful and mysterious. She bought them on a whim, and examined them at home. One of them, a hefty document consisting of four closely written pages, each two feet square and sewn together, turned out to be a Grant of Probate attached to an abstracted copy of the last will and testament of John Moxon of Hanover Terrace.

Although originally attracted by the document’s purely decorative potential (Fleur told me that her first idea was that the parchment sheets could be turned into wallpaper for her bathroom!) Fleur luckily, and very generously, contacted the Moxon Society, and, through me, made a present of the document to the Moxon clan, asking no more in exchange than some information about John Moxon, and what the detailed terms of his will might say about his family.



John Moxon 1788-1866

So who was John Moxon?

John Moxon (1788-1866) was the second son of Thomas Moxon of Twickenham (1762-1854) and like his father, a successful financier and businessman. He was instrumental in the foundation of the London and Westminster Bank (now the NatWest) and a successful investor, particularly in railways, both in the United Kingdom and abroad. He became very wealthy, and lived in a splendid house in London’s elegant Hanover Terrace, overlooking Regent’s Park, as well as having a large country house, Brickhill, in Bedfordshire.

Continued...

The Will of John Moxon continued

John married Sarah Drake, a member of the famous Devonshire family, in 1838. They had four children: Ann Penrose, John, Eliza Georgina, and James Henry. Of these, only Ann and James had children, all of whom died without issue, so that by the 1960s, this branch of the Moxon family came to an end.

The Will

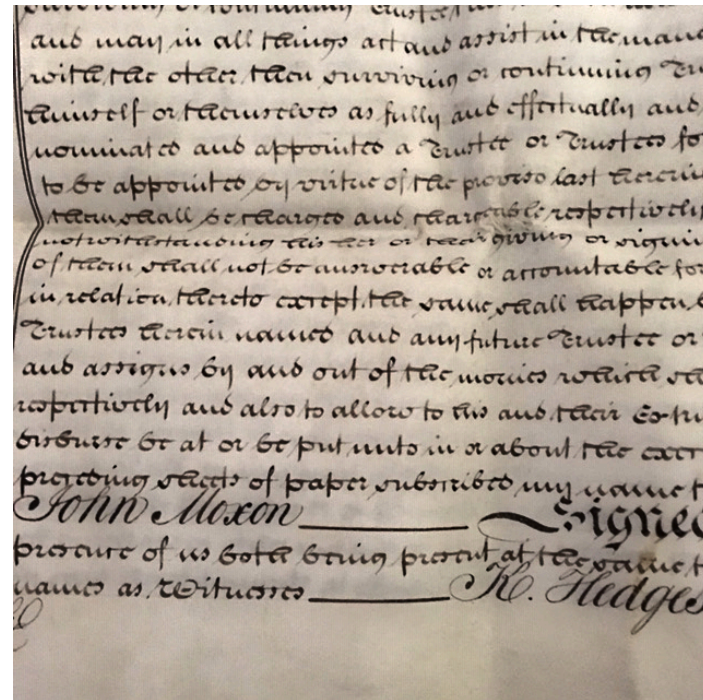
The will is lengthy, and written in an archaic uncial script, quite unlike the flowing copperplate hand found in most Victorian legal documents. It is quite difficult to read because of the peculiar formation of some of the letters used in the script (for example the letter "c" is written like an "r", which I have never previously encountered), to say nothing of the almost complete lack of punctuation.

The will is dated 20th June 1862, *i.e.* four years before John Moxon died. This abstracted copy shows that the original was signed by John, and witnessed by his solicitor, Mr K. Hedges, and by Mr Hedges' clerk, Mr Thomas R. Dory.

The executors of the will were John's wife Sarah, and his nephews Charles St Denys Moxon and James Edward Moxon. The two nephews were each left £150 (or nearly £15,000 in today's money) *"for the trouble they will have in the execution of the trusts of this my will"*.

John left his wife an annuity of £600 p.a. (about £60,000 p.a. today) together with *"all my furniture, plate and plated articles, coins, linen, china, paintings, engravings, pictures, drawings, books, wines, liquors, carriages, horses and all other of my effects of every description which shall be in upon or about my dwelling houses in London and elsewhere at the time of my decease."*

These were what lawyers call "chattels" or "effects". The bulk of the estate, including John's properties in London and Brickhill near Woburn in Bedfordshire, was left in trust for his widow and children.



This close-up view of part of John Moxon's Will shows the uncial letterforms which can be difficult to interpret.

The copy of John Moxon's will is annexed to a grant of probate, which includes a statement to the Inland Revenue that John Moxon's personal estate and effects (*i.e.* excluding his houses and lands) did not exceed £35,000, or over £3 million in modern money. This reflects the fact that in the mid-nineteenth century, so-called "probate tax" was focussed on "legacies" of personal property, rather than "devises" of land. It was not until 1894 that taxes on the whole of the deceased's estate, including land, akin to today's estate duties, began to be levied.

On the cover page of the will are notes of the some of the securities forming part of John Moxon's personal estate, including references to *The Imperial Mexican Railway Co Ltd* and *The Centre Argentinian Railway Co Ltd*, as well as other similar enterprises based closer to home. It is likely that these notes were made by or on behalf of the executors of the estate as they went through the process of computing the extent of John Moxon's various assets.

Continued...

The Will of John Moxon continued

Keeping it in the family

This was a conventional Victorian will by a very wealthy man who wanted to ensure that his widow (who had already received the benefit of a financial settlement on her marriage to John) was able to live comfortably, surrounded by all the personal property she had shared while her husband was alive. But at the same time John wanted to ensure that his real property (*i.e.* his London and country houses) would stay in the family, the subject of trusts for the eventual benefit of his children.

The trust provisions of the will are complicated, and well-larded with the kind of legal jargon which would have been very familiar to the Chancery lawyers lampooned in Dickens' fictional probate case, *Jarndyce v. Jarndyce*. Transcribing this part of the will, and analysing the precise legal effect of all the trust provisions, awaits further attention: not a job for the faint-hearted!

Today, a will of this kind which would be likely to contain tax-effective trust provisions, might be of similar length, and similarly (and perhaps deliberately) opaque in its precise effects. While digital reproduction of recondite legal phrases now replaces the painstaking calligraphy of Victorian scribes, the rewards to the lawyers involved remain high.



Sarah Anne Drake

Bob Moxon Browne

It's remarkable what fascinating snippets our Members find during their researches! Here's an example found and submitted by Philip Lord...

The marriage of Thomas Lister and Ann Moxon (of MX53) in All Saints Church, High Hoyland, on the 10 March 1805, was reported in the Lancaster Gazette, Saturday 30 March 1805 as follows:

Lately, at a country church, near Barnsley, Mr. Thomas Lister, to Ann Moxon. – The ceremony took place during divine service, in consequence of a gentleman beckoning to the clergyman with his finger, which was returned by the same motion; he then left the pulpit, and his sermon unfinished, to the great surprise of the congregation. – The clergyman was informed, a low tone, that there was a couple wanted to be married; who replied it could not be done that day, they must come tomorrow. "Then, Sir," said the gentleman, "they shall go to Bradford;" at length, however, the parties were married, and the clergyman returned to conclude his sermon, and made a long apology to his hearers for detaining them so long.

One Email Later . . . a New Second Cousin!

By Mary Ann Cloud Moxon, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA

Some genealogy research is quite easy — if you are also lucky. Thank you, Philip Lord, for your first email last November that got the proverbial “genealogy ball” rolling, validated family lore and connected second cousins.

“Burnham” is a popular middle name for quite a few Moxons — including our son, David Burnham Moxon, and Eleanor Burnham Rigby (1859-1946). This non-Beatles Eleanor Rigby, born in Darcy Lever, Lancashire, and later of St. Helen’s was my husband’s great-grandmother. The youngest of her five sons, Leslie Burnham Moxon (yes, that middle name again) left England for the greener pastures of Canada in 1914 at age 18. His mother had suggested he take a trip to Lachine, Canada, to visit older brother George Burnham Moxon (1889-1998) (also carrying that middle name) after failing to pass the entrance exam to study medicine at Liverpool University.

Youngest sister Emily Burnham Moxon (1900-1996) — another with that infamous middle name — remained in England. We visited her on our first visit to England in 1982 where I questioned her on the origin of her middle name. She related the same family lore story that my husband’s grandfather, Leslie Burnham Moxon, had put to pen and paper in 1991 in his “Report on the St. Helen’s Branch of the Moxon Family.”



top row: Fred, Herbert Ernest, Leslie Burnham, Nathaniel (Niel); bottom row: George Burnham, father Herbert Moxon

He wrote, “I do not know the origin of our middle name of Burnham, but I assume it came from my mother’s side, as there were no Burnhams on my father’s side. As far as I know all the children were born in our home, Burnham Lodge, West Park Road, St. Helen’s, Lancashire.”

He described Burnham Lodge thus: “The house on West Park Road in which we were born and lived warrants a description. It was a large semi-detached house surrounded by brick walls and since it was built long before automobiles were used, it had a carriage house and two-storied brick stable for the horses which at that time were the only means of transportation. The house had no electricity and was lit with gas which was produced in St. Helens. The house had no telephone and I believe the sewage disposal was by means of a large underground sewage tank.

The house had downstairs what we called the big kitchen where the cooking was done on an open fire, using soft coal for fuel, a little kitchen where the dishes were washed, etc., a pantry where all the dishes and utensils were kept. The rest of the downstairs, which was separated from the kitchen by a door, contained a breakfast room, living room, and dining room all heated by open fires as there was no central heating. The second floor consisted of bathroom, toilet, five bedrooms and a dressing room. On the way to the attic, there was another bedroom, and above was a large empty attic. All the above was the situation at the time I left home to go to Canada in March 1913.” . . . “Incidentally, our home on West Park Road was located on a short road heading from the main highway between St. Helen’s and Liverpool, which is about 12 miles away, and about a mile from the center of St. Helen’s, which at that time was a nondescript industrial town of about 100,000 population.”

Continued...

One Email Later . . . continued

He also wrote of his older brother Frederick Stanley Moxon (1893-1974), “as young boys we were very close and spent a great deal of time together. He was 2 ½ years older than I was.”

THEN. . . While Chris Moxon and Philip were putting the finishing touches to the new *Charles Mokeson of Cawthorne and His Dynasty* book, Diana Clare Moxon, grand-daughter of said Frederick Stanley Moxon contacted them about including grandfather Fred’s lineage in the book. She asked if she could get in touch with my husband, Peter Wischan [not Burnham] Moxon, her second cousin, since she has been living in the U.S. in Missouri since 2005 and wanted to connect with more American second cousins and “swap family stories.”

A few emails later, we enjoyed a lively hour+ Facetime conversation with Diana who had never met Pete’s grandfather, her great uncle, but had “always adored Aunt Emily.” Pete remembered meeting her grandfather Fred in Portsmouth, Virginia in the 1960s as a child. During our chat there was a lot of “Do you remember?” and “I know that name.”

But the most amazing comment just before we disconnected was Diana’s “I think I have a photo of Burnham Lodge somewhere. I’ll look for it.” An hour later, an email with this photo arrived. Mystery solved. Burnham Lodge, labeled as “Burnham Lodge, the Rigby Home in Darcy Lever, Bolton, about 1900.” As they say, not too shabby!

Thank you, Diana. And thank you, Philip. **Definitely “TO BE CONTINUED.”**



Burnham Lodge, the Rigby Home in Darcy Lever, Bolton, about 1900.
As they say, not too shabby!



Diana Moxon

Finding Caves

by Mike Moxon

Although I did a bit of caving / climbing / kayaking with Scouts it wasn't until I went to Lancaster University that I had access to them regularly, and even then I chose the latter two for my main pastimes (despite Lancaster being the best positioned of any of the unis for some of Britain's finest caves - in the Yorkshire Dales). White water kayaking took me all over the UK, then the Alps, before trips to the Zambezi and White Nile in Africa, New Zealand, Central / South America and Nepal during the late 1990s / 2000s. I also came across Rick Moxon from Liverpool, although I don't know where he fits in to the family trees. In more recent years I've also managed sea kayaking trips to Shetland, East Greenland, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula (the latter two on a cruise ship, who supplied drysuits and kayaks).

The caving came after uni, when I got a job instructing outdoor activities in the North Pennines, which included exploring old lead mines in Weardale and Nenthead (these are considerably safer than coal mines, as the limestone is more structurally sound, and they don't give off dangerous gases). This was followed in mid 1990s by a move to a centre in Somerset, near the Mendip Hills (where I have been based ever since). Initially I just explored the main caves locally with friends and occasional trips to South Wales (bigger, mostly horizontal) and Yorkshire (more vertical). Generally overseas visits would be kayaking, but I did do a caving club trip to Southern Spain, with some very impressive places visited, along with random, more touristic, caves in Nepal, Patagonia and Easter Island.

Mid 2000s I realised that to see the caves I hadn't managed to visit so far I'd have to join a club and as it happened they were exploring one known as Upper Flood Swallet that had opened up during the 1968 Cheddar Flood, but only made it to 500m long over 38 years, but shortly after my first visit it was extended to almost 3km (over 2 years) with quite impressive formations discovered. Although I wasn't involved in the breakthrough, I did get to go on some of the early trips to the new end of the cave – 5 hours involving crawling through streams and over broken rock, before the bigger walking passages towards the bottom.

From there I got interested in exploring for new passage and dug at various sites, most of which dead-ended or looped back on themselves into places we'd already been. In 2012 I helped out in



Me in BMFR from near end

Photo by Dan Thorne

Continued...

Finding Caves . . continued

Reservoir Hole, at the top of Cheddar Gorge, and again missed out on the breakthrough trip, but was the 13th person to see the huge chamber, called the Frozen Deep, that was discovered there – about the size of a football pitch, having the biggest underground floor area in the UK – even making the national news.

2014 and some of my work friends decided to try and reopen an old lead mine called Pearl Mine (due to the size of the cave pearls – calcium carbonate formations – originally found there). After we got 3 metres down and proved it was the right place, due to rope grooves in the rock left by miners hauling buckets up the 25m shaft, the others lost interest. Meanwhile the caving club had been exploring the levvy (horizontal mine passage) below. This was blasted in the early 1800s to try to find the lead at lower levels than T'owd Man had been, but the passage intercepted their more vertical shafts and had to be abandoned when they realised there were no riches to be found. However, by following the passages upwards (we could tell they had been mined from above due to the hand drill holes all pointing downwards) and clearing the “deads” (rocks from elsewhere in the mine that were dumped in the abandoned passages) we did find a shaft heading towards the surface and a signature on the wall – A.Hancock 1753. The 25m shaft was too dangerous to clear from below, but the end of the passage was close to the supposed end of Pearl Mine.

The club now decided the safer option was to open the connection from above, so many weekends were spent clearing the next 10m of shaft in Pearl Mine to the first crossroads (there was a short side passage above this, but it didn't lead anywhere). This involved much donkey work, especially by one member who gained the sobriquet of Eeyore, and a lot of sausages barbecued on an open fire (amongst other treats). At one end of the crossroads was a narrow slot looking down onto open passage below and what was the other side wasn't shown on the original plan from before it was filled in by the quarry company in 1970, so we blasted our way through. This led to another 250m of unrecorded mine passage (plus another 4 blocked entrances, any of which would have been a lot quicker to

open than the way we came in!) It also connected, by a backfilled sloping passage, with the bottom of the shaft, so we were able to see what remained of the pearls (the best examples appear to have been removed by persons unknown, when they knew that the quarry company was going to seal the entrance).

Short extensions were added in all directions, but the main one was a reasonable sized chamber that we found on the evening that one of our members passed away from cancer – it was named Biff Frith's Big Rift in his honour. Meanwhile the entrance had started to slump, so we cleared it all out and fitted a lid, then the plug in the lower passage collapsed, blocking off one side, so we returned to hauling mud out of the bottom of the shaft until it was possible to get back in (although somewhat muckier than before). More recently we have returned, and bolt climbed up the wall of the Big Rift to find another chamber above, with another blocked entrance shaft (we could see that the miners had wedged a block into the passage above, so they had something to stand on whilst presumably hauling material up from the main chamber). Other evidence of the miners included sharpening stones made of sandstone, with grooves from their tools, wooden stemples (used to hold rocks in place, although fortunately not so much in here, where boulders were able to wedge across the narrow rifts and for miners to climb on) that had mostly rotted away and finger marks in the mud, where no cavers had been before.

More recently we have been digging in Stock Hill Mine Cave, a short test shaft that didn't appear to have produced much in the way of minerals, but did connect into natural, although narrow, cave passage. This has been extended in numerous directions, with at least 2 streamways and the survey looks a bit like one of those archaeopteryx fossils with wing bones and legs going off all over the place. It now has about 1km of passage, with the only decent sized section being a steeply sloping central passage that makes “the body of the fossil”. A high level, partially blocked,

Continued...

Finding Caves ... continued



crawl in the roof of this surprised us by connecting to a 30m almost vertical climb down into what is now almost half the cave, the ends coming very close to the surface (and a dig that another club abandoned in the 1950s – it would have been a much easier way in than how we got there, if they'd only continued.

Another place is Wookey Hole, where divers had originally extended the known cave in the 1930s & 40s by bottom walking to Chamber 9 (the first dives being covered by the BBC on radio), a tunnel was blasted through to there in 1974/75, and onwards to emerge from the opposite cliff face to the entrance, shortly after Madame Tussaud's bought the site. Divers had got as far as the impressive and mostly dry Chamber 20 in 1970, but diving from 9 allowed them longer in the ongoing passages and the large stream passage of 24 was reached in 1976. After that the flooded passages just went deeper and technical diving on mixed bottles was required with long decompression stops (Rob Parker reaching -67m in 1985, shown in "Nosey Parker" film by Leo Dickinson & Rick Stanton (see footnote) -76m in 2004, then -90m in 2005, see "Wookey Exposed" film by Gavin Newman*).

Gerry Cottle (of the circus) bought Wookey Hole in 2003 and a tunnel was blasted through from Chamber 9 to 20 in 2014/15 to make a new attraction (videoed by Gavin Newman as "The Tunnel"). However, this also gave us the opportunity of digging where only divers had been able to go before and one trip a week over 3 years saw us making a huge sandcastle from the silt in a blocked loop of passage and a big hole that occasionally flooded. Directly ahead was solid rock and down in the floor large boulders, so we ended up going off sideways and in January last year broke up into a decent sized chamber (15m long by 5m wide and 7m high) above the silt. This meant we didn't have to cart material so far to dump it and we started digging in the floor at the end again. However, this bottomed out in the summer (after inevitable delays due to lockdown, we had started going twice a week) and we checked all the small arches leading off in other directions, one right next to our pit had a slight draught (that and scalloping of the rock, which shows where water used to flow, are the main leads for cavers). Not long afterwards one

Continued...

Finding Caves ... continued

member managed to squeeze through a narrow slot to find 300m of impressively large passage (up to 30m high) that became known as Land of Hope & Glory (found same week as Battle of Britain Day).

Another dig in 20 that had been started by divers was heading towards Chamber 24 (the passages run parallel to each other), so some of my friends had extended that to a small sump that didn't lead anywhere, but more recently some divers exploring from 24 had opened a narrow passage that ran back very close to it. With the divers going to one side and the diggers the other they were able to hear each other from above the sump and this provided the impetus to blast through there and return the following week to clear the debris. I was lucky enough to be on this trip, where we were the first non-divers to see the impressive river passage of 24, with its diver's camp in the high-level dry oxbow above. This wasn't long before lockdown 2, so we only managed two visits into this section and still haven't seen it all – but it's a bit far for digging on evening trips! So that brings us pretty much up to date...

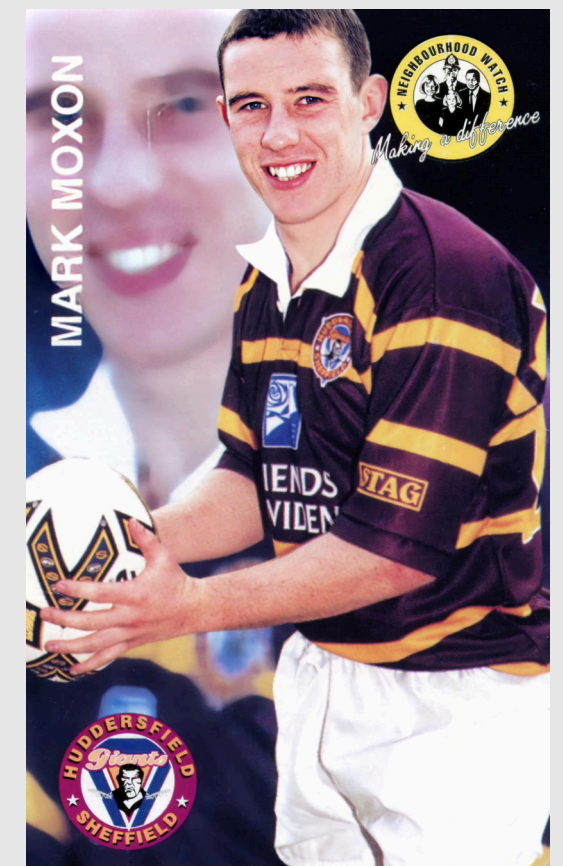
Mike Moxon

**Footnote: Rick was one of the lead divers for the Thailand rescue; and Gavin regularly films for David Attenborough and other wildlife documentaries.*

From the archive

Sifting through the archives, Chris Moxon found this photograph, and asks if any reader recognises Mark Moxon and can tell us anything about him, for example, which Moxon Family Tree he belongs to.

**If you can help,
please email Chris on
moxonchris@aol.com**



John “Jack” Swanston Moxom

Architect, Painter, Sculptor, Lithographer

By Dona Moxon

Jack probably knew he was a gifted artist long before others. He created notable drawings of family, catching the attention of younger brother, Marshall, who posed family models in his photography work. In school, Jack entered art competitions, earning honours that were reported regularly in local newspapers. A high school scholarship to the California School of Fine Arts to came about in 1931, another in 1932. In 1934, Jack was awarded a 3rd scholarship through an International Exhibition held at the Oakland Art Gallery. His career path looked bright.

It's now 1935. US President Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Under the WPA, a Federal Arts Project was created, employing 5,000 artists by 1936. Artists selected for WPA projects included creatives such as photographer Dorothea Lange, artist Jackson Pollock, photographer Walker Evans, and our “cousin”, architect, painter, sculptor, and lithographer Jack Moxom. Jack's WPA work can be seen in a sculpture at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and a fresco at Burke Hall, San Francisco State College. The frescoes were hidden for a time and are now in progress of being restored. Jack's work is at the Oakland Museum and the San Francisco Museum of Art. He is listed in Who Was Who In American Art and in the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.

An excerpt from his Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco bio notes “...Throughout the 1930s, he exhibited regularly with the SF Art Association and, after serving in WWII, studied privately in Rome with Giorgio di Chirico (1949-1950). From Italy he returned to Oakland, then took up residence in nearby Benicia in 1978. Moxom stopped exhibiting in the 1930s and painted until 1982. *Hughes "Artists in California, 1786-1940"*. Jack died in Benicia, CA, August 22, 2004 at the age of 91. His wife of 65 years, Virginia (nee Deeny), followed him in 2010.



*Sculpture “Young Girl” by Jack Moxom
in Golden Gate Park,
San Francisco*



DONA MOXON kindly submitted an article to our October 2020 issue, and ironically, given that it was an article about a photographer (*The Search for a Photographer: Moxon Magazine issue MM66, October 2020, pages 18-19*) I didn't get a photograph of the author in time to include it! So here it is, with my apologies to Dona!

Editor

Notes:

*Lineage can be found in MX01, the first son of Walter Lumley Holding Moxom and Maggie Swanston Moxom.

*MM #66, pages 18-19, “The Search for a Photographer” contains information about Jack's brother, Marshall Moxon, photographer.

*An Oct 2020, 38-second time-lapse video of restoration work on the frescoes at the San Francisco State College can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6nrx-ruZ_w&feature=youtu.be and project information here: <https://evergreene.com/projects/55-laguna-street/>

*The 34-page text of an oral interview with muralist Hebe Daum Stackpole and Jack Moxom regarding their WPA work can be found at the Smithsonian. At the website, click on the transcript page. <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-hebe-daum-stackpole-and-jack-moxom-12293#overview>

Call for Articles!

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL to all our Contributors, and always look forward to receiving articles or ideas for articles for future issues.

And I have just enough space here to let you all know that the Deadline for the October 2021 issue of The Moxon Magazine, number MM68, will be **WEDNESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021**

My contact details are printed on the back page of this issue.

*Trevor Jordan
Editor*

The Short, Eventful Life of John Henry Moxon

While checking some details for the revised edition of *Charles Mokeson of Cawthorne and his Dynasty*, we came across this article in the April 2015 edition of the *Moxons Downunder* newsletter about one of the sons of Dr William Moxon of Matlock who has featured previously in *the Moxon Magazine*. Unfortunately, it was too late to incorporate this tale into the revised book, but the article is reprinted here to bring it to the wider Moxon readership – with apologies to our Australian readers, some of whom may have already read this!

John Henry Moxon, the son of William Moxon and Julia Tuckwell was born in Matlock, Derbyshire in 1895. His father was a physician and surgeon, and a descendant of the Moxons of Cawthorne (MX01).

In the 1901 census, John Henry, aged 6, was living with his family in Matlock, but no trace of the family, including their married daughter, can be found in the 1911 census. His father, William, died that same year with an estate of £11,250 - a considerable sum in those days.

In 1913, at the age of 18, whilst living in Matlock, John Henry met an Australian actor, Sigma Annesley Williams, who was managing a Pierrot concert party. She had been married in Sydney in 1904 to a Charles Casper Middleton and had a son, Valentine Middleton, born about 1906.

Sigma and Casper were recorded travelling from London to Sydney in 1910 with their son Valentine Middleton aged 3. In 1911 Sigma was acting in a play in Sydney, but she must have returned to England in 1912 or 1913.

John may not have known that she was 12 years older than he was, but they became secretly engaged after she told him she was divorced. She arranged a mock wedding in nearby Buxton where she was living.

Despite the romance, that same year, 1913, John Henry headed off to Australia without her, to Dingee in Northern Victoria where he planned to become a farmer. It may well have been his mother and brothers who encouraged or pressured him to do so. They may have been horrified about the match with a woman who was so much older than he was, an actor, an Australian, and the manager of a Pierrot concert party! Surely his family would not have approved of the liaison.

But John Henry must have missed her, because by August 1914 he had returned to England, and at her suggestion, they were married at St Leonards, Hastings, Sussex in September.

Before the end of the year, they had returned to Melbourne on the SS Borda (P & O) with Sigma's son from her first marriage.

The Great War had already intervened, and John Henry Moxon enlisted in Melbourne in July 1915 and by February 1916 he was a corporal in France with the 60th Battalion. Sigma followed. However, he became dangerously ill by July that year with pneumonia, pleurisy and with diphtheria, and spent the next 18 months recovering both in the field and back in England.

Meanwhile, Sigma had found another man, also a soldier, in London, and John Henry had instigated divorce proceedings against her. His petition was not defended, but the story of a naive young man and his mock wedding was highlighted in the English and Australian press, no doubt causing his family a great deal of anguish.

By February 1918 John was deemed medically fit to return to France, but sadly was killed in action six months later, and he is buried at the British cemetery at Vignacourt, France.

His brother Archibald James Moxon was the executor of his estate, worth £1102, and the probate notice included no mention of Matlock.

Sigma married the man cited in her divorce proceedings, was widowed by 1921, and she returned to Australia, dying as an old woman of 88 in 1971 in Bundaberg, Queensland. Strangely, Casper Middleton also died in Bundaberg.

John Bruce Moxon

Joseph Moxon's not so secret vice

A SEARCH ON GOOGLE for "Joseph Moxon's vice" produces over 226,000 results!

But perhaps not what you might at first think from that headline! Moxon's vice, or vise in the American spelling, was a double-screw woodworking device, and is still in use, particularly for working the ends of boards as in dovetailing, and is described in a contemporary catalogue as having a "smooth, effortless action."



Joseph Moxon was born on 8th August 1627, and followed his father James into the printing trade. He specialised in the publication of Puritan texts, of maps and charts, and in the production of globes, and mathematical instruments made of paper.

In 1662, despite his Puritan beliefs, he was appointed Hydrographer to King Charles II.

He also compiled the first English language dictionary devoted to mathematics, and the first detailed instructional manual for printers. In November 1678, he became the first tradesman to be elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

But his vice? That appeared in his two-volume work *Mechanick Exercises*: The doctrine of handy-works : Applied to the Arts of Smithing, Joinery, Carpentry, Turning, Bricklayery : to which is added Mechanick Dyalling: shewing how to draw a true Sun-Dial on any given plane, however Scituated ; only with the help of a straight Ruler and a pair of Compasses, and without any Arithmetical Calculation.

Joseph designed this interesting world map for publication in bibles. It illustrates how the world was divided up among the sons of Noah after the Flood. Vignettes surround the map illustrating the Creation and the Garden of Eden, with scenes from the Fall of Man to the Crucifixion of Christ at bottom. Two cartouches further decorate the sheet, including a dedication to Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury.



The Archives of The Royal Society state that Joseph Moxon FRS died on 28 February 1691; the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography states that he was buried on 15 February 1691.

Editor

A beautiful Moxon

By May Fowler

MY FATHER EDGAR HERBERT MOXON 1915 – 1950. Edgar is a 4th great grandson of Joshua Moakson 1751 and Mary Hattersley 1750-1800 of Silkstone York Shire England. He was born 29th April 1915 in San Souci, NSW Australia to Herbert Percy Moxon and Mary Grace Williams. He was the eldest of 5 siblings. When Edgar completed primary school he was awarded a bursary to attend Fort St Boy's High school in Sydney – a prestigious school for academically gifted students. Alas his father Herbert had the belief that a man wasn't worth anything unless he worked with his hands and got them dirty. Consequently Edgar was sent out West to work on farming properties. Eventually he returned to the city and worked for Clyde Engineering as a wagon builder for NSW trains. It was there that he learned to love everything about trains. Edgar fell in love at this time with my mother May Mildred Frost and married in 1938, had my brother Edward in 1939 and me in 1942. I only knew my father for seven years but memories of him are never far away even after seventy plus years. These memories still fill me with pride that I had a father who loved me. He was always happy, laughing and joking. He played the harmonica and guitar and got me to sing silly songs with him. He was kind and always ready to help anyone. I remember him running into a park to save an old woman in a severe hailstorm. He found a severely beaten dog on the railway line and brought it home. It became our dog Bluey. On one holiday we were lined up to get on a bus with a group of aboriginal people. My father was disgusted when the bus driver alighted from the bus and told the aboriginal people to wait their turn and to take their place at the back of the bus. I then remember walking along a long road lined with Jacaranda trees holding his hand and feeling so proud of him. My parents' friends Len and Lil accompanied us on some of the holidays. My Dad and Len were very fun-loving and mischievous. They loved to get us in the middle of a lake in a rowing boat and start rocking it



EDGAR HERBERT MOXON 1915 – 1950

until our mothers screamed and we all laughed. My parents loved to dance and I loved watching. My father would embarrass her by letting go and jitterbugging. During the last year of my father's life he became very ill and I remember many visits to the hospital. He was always happy to see us and called me his own 'Shirley Temple' and Teddy 'Bullswool.' He died of Nephritis on 15th May 1950. The last time I saw my father I crawled up on the high bed and kissed a very wet cheek. My father's motto in life was.....

'DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU'

May Fowler
February 2021

Charles Mokeson of Cawthorne and his Dynasty

REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION NOW AVAILABLE

The revised and expanded version of Joan Rendall and John Moxon Hill's booklet "Charles Mokeson of Cawthorne and his Dynasty", which uncovers the history of the "MX01" Moxons of Cawthorne Tree and gives a brief overview of the descendants in each of the major branches, is now available. This new book has 212 pages; 4 maps; 17 family tree diagrams; more than 120 illustrations and an index covering the 1,300 individuals referred to in the book.

This book is available from the "Bookstore" at www.lulu.com for £12.73 (or equivalent in other currencies) plus post and packing.

From the introductory pages to the new edition:

John and Joan would have been the first to say that history never stands still and new research always uncovers new truths and sheds new light on how our ancestors lived.

When the Moxon Society decided to re-publish this booklet, the primary reason was that the initial print run had run out several years ago, and it was felt that this deserved to be republished for new generations.

The first six chapters of this book are a reasonably accurate reproduction of what John and Joan wrote almost twenty years ago. However, in the last twenty years, new documents have come to light which occasionally refute their conclusions or, more often, reinforce them. Such additional information has been included in this edition and their original text adapted and revised as necessary.

At some points John and Joan wrote that "further research" on particular issues was needed. Where this has subsequently been undertaken, the new information has been included.

A further seven new chapters have been added to include brief outlines of other large branches of the family that were not covered in the earlier edition; some of these as a result of DNA research

undertaken since 2002.

This DNA testing has also indicated several other Trees that are strongly related to the Charles Mokeson dynasty of Cawthorne. But we have not yet found in what way and how these Trees are connected. Such Trees have therefore not been included in this edition. Hopefully these connections may become apparent in time for future editions.

We thank all those who have contributed to this new edition and especially to Graham Jagger for his help and advice during its preparation.

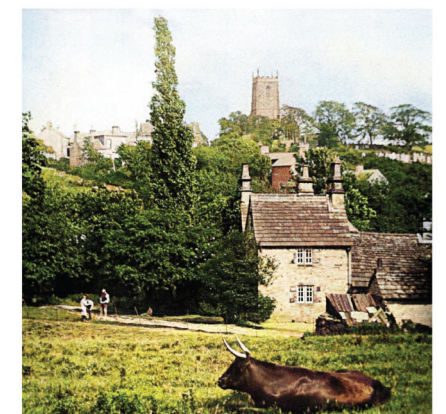
If you notice any errors, please let us know.

But essentially this book is what it always was – an inspiring account of how two individuals were able to piece together their family's history – and it is hoped that this new edition will inspire future family historians to continue their story.

Chris Moxon and Philip Lord

**Charles Mokeson of
Cawthorne and his
Dynasty**

Alice Joan Rendall and John Moxon Hill



In its first thirty years the Moxon Family Research Trust published a number of books and booklets. Following their usual procedures, the Trust generally printed a limited number of copies to provide a stock for sale to members and their friends.

Most of these early books are now out of print although it is always possible that members might pick up a second-hand copy on E-bay or Amazon. Two of these early books are still available - but we have a strictly limited number so contact Chris Moxon if you are interested:-

- **THE MOXONS OF YORKSHIRE** (1987) compiled & edited by James Moxon. 118pages We have to warn people nowadays that some of the research in this book has proved incorrect and other elements cannot be verified, but it is a clear account of the state of Moxon Family History prior to the Society being set up. **Price: £6 inc. UK p&p.**
- **A TRULY HONEST MAN** (1998) the Diary of Joseph Moxon of Market Bosworth 1798-1799. 164 pages with a helpful introduction about the history of Market Bosworth by two local historians. Fascinating glimpses of daily life in a small market town at the end of the eighteenth century. Joseph Moxon (1757-1816) is part of MX01 Tree. **Price: £4.50 inc. UK p&p.**

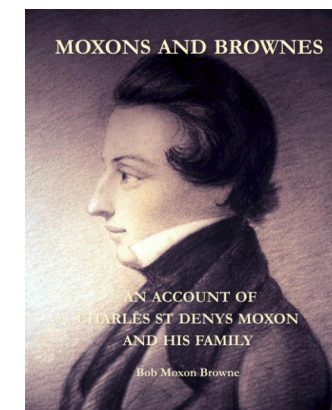
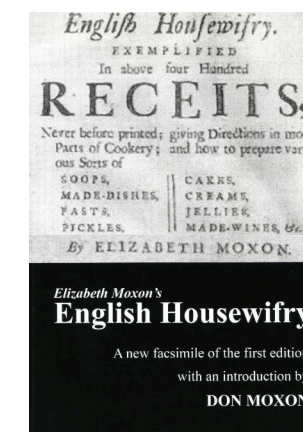
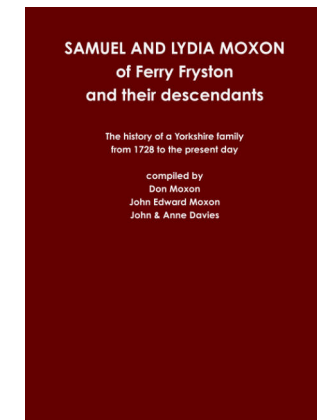
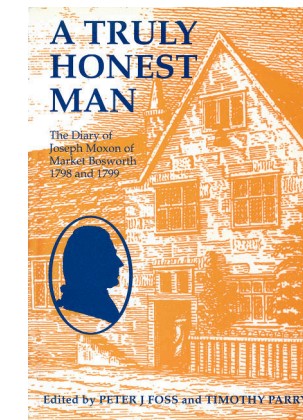
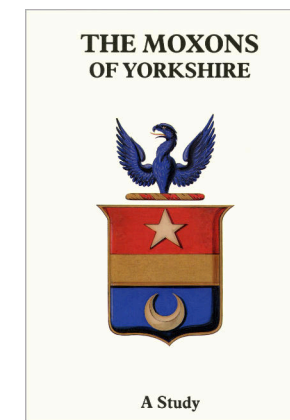
Books available through Lulu.com

The Trust, and now the Society, has, more recently, used a print-to-order company called Lulu.com. This means that the Trust/Society does not have to lay out substantial sums on creating a stock of books in anticipation of demand. Copies are printed as and when they are ordered and are usually sent out by Lulu within a fortnight of being ordered. All of the following are available from Lulu and many are also available on Amazon (but the Society receives a substantially larger royalty from sale through Lulu if you can cope with their website's Bookstore section!)

- **SAMUEL & LYDIA MOXON OF FERRY FRYSTON & THEIR DESCENDANTS** by Don Moxon, John Edward Moxon and John and Anne Davies. (2003) B&W illus., 80pp (A4 size). Although this was first published in 2003 it was the first Society publication that was published through Lulu. It provides a useful history of the Moxons of the MX06 Tree from 1728 to 2003. We have still to find out how this Tree links into the Cawthorne Tree. **Price: £5.99 + p&p.**

- **THE MOXON MAGAZINE INDEX TO ISSUES 1-50** compiled by Chris Moxon and Trevor Jordan (2013) 248 pages. Obviously this is out of date and all current members can access an Index of all names and places mentioned in the Moxon Magazine for every issue. This book might be useful for those who find the Research website too slow to download the full Index if a quick reference is all that is needed. But note that the printed Index separates "Contemporary" from "Historical" names. **Price: £9.99 + p&p**
- **ELIZABETH MOXON'S ENGLISH HOUSEWIFRY** (2013) A facsimile of the First Edition of this cookery book with an introduction from Don Moxon. 276 pp (A5) This book contains a fascinating insight into eighteenth century menus and household management. Don Moxon argues that Elizabeth Moxon was born Elizabeth Shaw (1695-1761) and was therefore a member of Tree MX12. **Price: £9.99 + p&p**
- **MOXONS AND BROWNES – AN ACCOUNT OF CHARLES ST DENYS MOXON & HIS FAMILY** by Bob Moxon Browne (2019) 76pp, Full Colour illus. (US Letter size – similar to A4). Charles St Denys Moxon (1820-1881) was the son of Thomas Moxon of Leyton, one of the most successful of the Moxons of MX05. This account of Charles St Denys Moxon's ancestors and family incorporates many of the coloured illustrations first used in "The Moxons of Great Yarmouth". **Price £19.50 + p&p**
- **CHARLES MOKESON OF CAWTHORNE AND HIS DYNASTY** by John Moxon Hill and Joan Rendall, expanded and revised by Chris Moxon and Philip Lord (2020), B&W illus., 212 pp (size approx. 6" x9"). Originally written in 2002, this edition reprints, with revisions, the inspiring account of how the authors were able to piece together their family's history, tracing their two lines of descent from Charles Mokeson, but expands it to more than twice its length by including extra chapters giving a brief outline of other branches of MX01 not included in the original, such as the Moxons of Stewkley, the Moxons of St Helens, the Moxons of Felkirk etc. **Price £12.73 + p&p**

Moxon Books



Other booklets are out of print and, unless there is strong demand, are unlikely to be reprinted:

- A West African (Ghanaian) World War II Sea Rescue by Jimmy Moxon – written c1982, published 2007.
- The Moxons of St Helens by Ron Moxon (2001). A chapter covering this branch is included in the 2020 edition of "Charles Mokeson of Cawthorne & his Dynasty" (see page 29)
- The Moxons of Great Yarmouth & their Descendants (2001) – was simply a picture book of various portraits (poor quality reproductions), now largely incorporated in "Moxons and Brownes" by Bob Moxon Browne (see opposite page)
- Rev. George Moxon 1602-1687 by Jane Micklethwaite (2001). American historians have done further research into George Moxon's work in America.
- Charles Moxon – a facsimile of the memoir written by his son in 1897 with an introduction from Graham Jagger (2009). 38pp (A4 size) Charles Moxon (1808-1891), who is sometimes known as the Royal Decorator, belonged to MX16

“Poor Edith”

Edith Moxon, 1883-1948

The pattern was always the same. I came to realise, as a child, that on those admittedly rare occasions that my great-aunt Edith's name cropped up in conversation an awkward, almost embarrassed, silence would follow. This would invariably be broken by one of the assembled adults saying, “Poor Edith”, at which point attention could safely, and happily, be focused elsewhere.

Edith's story is a tragic one, but it deserves to be told. The basic facts are easy to establish. Edith Moxon was the youngest of the eleven children of Robert Moxon and Emily Sherbourne (MX10). Born in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, on 23rd September 1883, she was admitted to the West Riding Asylum (later known as Wadsley Mental Hospital) on 14th October 1911. With the exception of a five-year period from March 1915 to December 1920 (when the asylum was used as a military hospital and she and some of the other residents were temporarily moved to Wakefield Asylum), Edith was to remain in this institution until her death, on 21st February 1948.

The bare facts, then, are stark and clear. What is impossible to discern, however, especially from a century's distance, is what lay behind “Poor Edith!” - this bleak synopsis of a life. We can fill in a few more gaps, though, from public records. In 1891 Robert and Emily, with their five youngest children, were still living in Worksop where Robert was working as a mail contractor. At some point after the census of that year he moved to Church Street in Ardsley, near Barnsley, where the death of his own father had given him use of the properties then known as Moxon's Square.⁽¹⁾



It is impossible to date the move exactly, but he was clearly a resident by October 1896 when he was fined 40 shillings for moving a pig from and to his premises in contravention of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Order: there was swine fever in the locality. His defence, that he did not know there were any restrictions on moving breeding sows, was undermined both by a witness who testified that he had told him of the new order; and the fact that there was a bill posted to this effect within 20 yards of his premises.⁽²⁾ He appears on the West Yorkshire Electoral Register, living in Church Street, from 1896 onwards.

Continued...

“Poor Edith” continued

By 1901 the only siblings living with their parents in Ardsley were seventeen-year-old Edith; Harry (my grandfather); and Ernest. The eldest brother, William Henry, now lived in London, whilst another, Fred, had remained in Worksop. All the other sisters were married and had moved away from the family home. Elizabeth Ann Bradwell, the oldest, was actually visiting another sister, Maria Blackburn, at the time of the census, but her home was in Bingham, Nottinghamshire. Maria was living in Thorpe, just north of Wakefield, next door but one to another sister, Annie Brandreth. Both of their husbands were railway workers, as were all the other men living on the street. Louisa Shore and her family had moved into one of the dwellings in Moxon's Square whilst Emily Griffiths was living a couple of miles away at Darfield.

In March 1905 Emily Moxon, the mother, died from a stroke; later that year, in August, Harry married and moved to Barnsley. When Ernest subsequently left in May 1910 to be married, Edith became the last of the siblings to remain in the family home. There are two other snippets of information. The 1911 census shows that Edith was staying in Bingham, visiting her sister Elizabeth Ann; the length of her stay is obviously impossible to determine. The other intriguing fact is that the death notice issued by the hospital records Edith's address before admission as 6 Moxon's Square, Ardsley, one of the properties controlled by her father. At the time of the census, in April 1911, this dwelling had been occupied by another family but living close by at number 5 was Edith's widowed aunt, Maria Blackburn. Since the Electoral register of 1912 also records Robert as living at 5, Moxon's Square it seems quite possible that entering Edith as living at number 6 was a recording error.

Records can only take us so far, however, and if we are to put any flesh on the bone we must enter the realm of speculation, to stories passed down through the generations. According to my mother, (who was told by her mother...) Robert was rather an unpleasant character; and his sons

Harry and Ernest on at least one occasion had threatened to administer a beating if he continued to abuse their mother. My grandfather was also, by all accounts, very protective of his younger sister and indeed, in 1912, named his first-born daughter after her. (Sadly, baby Edith died within a couple of months). It would perhaps be reasonable to assume, therefore, that Harry's departure from the family home, coming so soon after the death of her mother, would have been quite upsetting for Edith. Five years later, after her brother Ernest's departure, Edith was alone with her father.

There are at least three versions of ‘what happened to Edith’, each coming from a different branch of the family. From Harry's descendants the story, via my grandmother and mother, is that one of Edith's brothers in law “took advantage of her”, that this traumatised her and she never recovered. Another version, which comes through a daughter and grandson of Edith's oldest brother, William Henry Moxon, was that Edith had been jilted as a young woman and, in consequence, had been so distressed she had tried to harm herself by jumping from a window.

A third, and totally different, story is told by the descendants of Louisa Shore, one of Edith's older sisters who, in 1901, was living in Moxon's Square with her family. Louisa had a young son; one of her granddaughters was later told that Edith had given her young nephew a pear drop, on which he had choked and died. As a result, Edith “went funny”.

The tragic circumstances of the death can certainly be verified though not, of course, the possible role played by Edith. Charles Henry Shore, of Square Fold, Ardsley, son of Henry Shore, a coal miner, died on 10th February 1904; an inquest was held the following day. The boy's death certificate records that he “accidentally suffocated through a sweet becoming lodged in his wind pipe”. He was 19 months old. By 1911 the Shores had moved to Balby with Hexthorpe, near Doncaster.

Continued...

“Poor Edith” continued

If we accept that there is at least a grain of truth in one or more of these stories then it does not take much empathy to see that Edith’s life, even by the harsh standards of the time, was far from happy. The hospital records show that Edith was received at the asylum on 13th October 1911 and was admitted the following day; it was noted that she was single, aged 28 and was a housekeeper. Her “form of mental disorder” was “delusional”; she had had a “previous attack” two years before. She had hereditary valvular heart disease and her general health was poor.⁽³⁾

The case files for patients are, unfortunately, only available from 1915 onwards, so I have no information about Edith’s condition in the early years. The notes from 1915 onwards, however, make grim reading.⁽⁴⁾ Two days after her transfer to Wakefield in 1915 it was observed that “[the] patient is suffering from chronic mania. She is hostile and threatening in manner & when spoken to became impulsive and violent.” A few months later, on October 14th, the fourth anniversary of her admission to the asylum, her record reads, “Continuation Order. She is suffering from Melancholia. She is dull, listless and depressed and she never speaks in reply to questions.”

There were times when Edith would speak. My grandparents used to visit Edith in hospital and once, so the story goes, my grandmother took some little cakes she had made. Edith took a bite from each one, before putting them down. My grandmother, ever mindful of manners, said “don’t do that Edith, eat them nicely, one at a time.” To which Edith replied, “if I don’t do that they’ll have ‘em off me”.

It is clear though that Edith increasingly withdrew from the world. The entry for May 1919 reads, “dull, depressed and stupid, she will not reply to questions”. On March 1920: “dull & stuporous, like a log in bed, seemingly unconscious of her surroundings”. The same

comments appear repeatedly over the next decade. In August 1924, “vacant fixed stare, will not speak, like a log”; October 1927, “dull, apathetic, lies like a log in bed, will not speak”. During a physical examination in 1932 it was noted that she had spoken and that she “said she did not know how long she had been here”. The entry for September 1933 reads: “Recertified Secondary Dementia. She is childish, refusing to speak, dull and requires everything to be done for her”. March 1937, “rarely speaks except for an occasional swear word”. September 1943, “Special Report. She is a case of schizophrenia and in a state of advanced dementia. She is extremely dull and withdrawn, does not talk without being questioned and gives quite senseless and irrelevant answers”. March 1946, “advancedly (sic) demented, mutters to herself, thinks she is 16 years old”.

Throughout this period Edith’s physical health deteriorated steadily. By February 1943 she weighed a mere 5st 5lb [34kg] and five years later, when she died aged 64, this was down to a mere 4st 8lb [29kg]. The immediate cause of death was given as bronchopneumonia, with chronic myocarditis and chronic schizophrenia listed as morbid conditions.

As my elderly relatives used to say: “poor Edith”.

Beth Wilkinson

Notes

⁽¹⁾ There is a brief article about Moxon’s Square in the Moxon Magazine of October, 2018 (MM 62)

⁽²⁾ Sheffield Evening Telegraph, 28th October 1896

⁽³⁾ NHS 3/5/9/1

⁽⁴⁾ NHS 3/5/17/536

'Private Secretary (Female)/Gold Coast'

From the memoir by Erica Powell

Published in 1984. Pages 152 – 154

Dr Nkrumah’s visit to India started in December 1958.

Submitted by Tim Walker

We left India the following night after a visit to the National Defence Academy in Poona, and took off from Bombay airport just before midnight. The Prime Minister wanted to spend a few days in Cairo on the way back.

Because of the recent Suez crisis and the fact that Egypt and Britain had broken off diplomatic relations, Dr Nkrumah had sent a cable to President Nasser from Bombay explaining that two members of his staff, the Public Relations Officer James Moxon and myself, were British, and asking whether we could accompany him.

For my part, I was more than anxious to get back to Ghana as early as possible. State visits are extremely exhausting; apart from the work, there is so much travelling to do, and one is constantly setting up one’s office and dismantling it again in all sorts of rooms, most of which are intended as bedrooms and where the facilities are inadequate and the lighting subdued and poor.

Anyhow, President Nasser replied that it would be no trouble at all to accommodate us, so we all landed in Cairo early the following morning. From the moment of landing, however, it was made abundantly clear that special treatment had been reserved for the two of us. It was as if we had contracted leprosy on the way and were being kept in strict quarantine. Even the Egyptian Ambassador to Ghana, whom we both knew well and liked, was anxious to avoid us at the Airport. A chauffeur grabbed

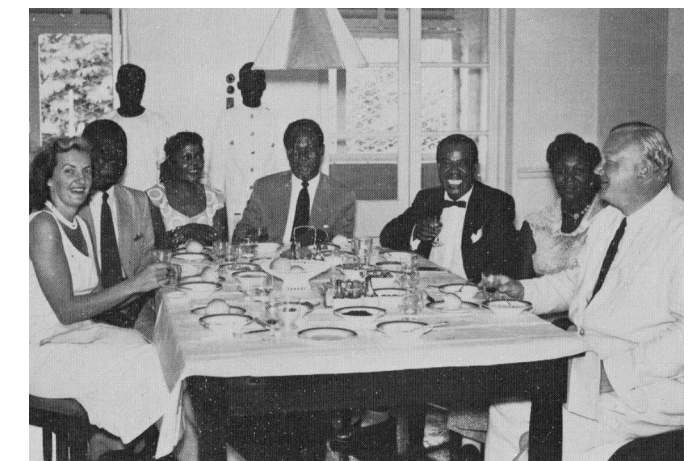
hold of us and walked us urgently to his waiting car.

We stayed at Shepherds Hotel except for Dr Nkrumah who was tucked away in some palace miles away from us. I had no idea why we were in Cairo, or how long we were going to stay. Later that day we received a message that we were to go to the residence where the Prime Minister was staying, to be received by President Nasser. We queried this with the rest of the Ghana party; the invitation could not possibly include us under the circumstances, we said.

'Oh yes', they insisted. 'The Prime Minister specifically mentioned the two of you. You have to come.'

It was interesting to note that the Ghanaians were far more embarrassed and upset about us being virtually *persona non grata* than we were. At the palace we lined

Continued...



Group on the occasion of Louis Armstrong's visit to Ghana in 1956. From left: Erica Powell, Daniel Chapman (Secretary to the Cabinet), Mrs Lucille Armstrong, Dr Nkrumah, Louis Armstrong, Mrs Chapman, James Moxon (Public Relations Officer.)

[Editor’s note: not the easiest photo to reproduce with any quality, but it was too interesting to omit!]

From the memoir by Erica Powell continued

up and the Prime Minister introduced each one of us to President Nasser. I am quite convinced that President Nasser knew nothing about our special treatment. From my own experience I have found that so very many things are done in the name of a head of state that that head of state knows nothing about. If President Nasser had felt that way about us, why should he have agreed to let us visit Cairo in the first place, or to receive us in person, shaking hands and showing not the least sign that our presence was distasteful to him?

As James and I had not been invited to the official dinner which followed, we were at a loose end and decided to go to the cinema. The driver, our shadow, came too, James having to give him the price of a seat. The next morning we decided to go round the bazaars. We bought several things, none of which seemed particularly cheap. I wondered why our driver kept coming up to me and asking how much I had given for certain articles. I thought he was keeping an eye open to make sure I was not being overcharged. Then I saw something that I really wanted, a silver and black wall plaque depicting the head of Nefertiti. I haggled with the little shopkeeper, but he would not take less than £5, which I really did not think it was worth, much as I wanted it, so I left

empty-handed.

As the driver dropped us at the hotel before lunch he asked James if it would be all right if he took time off that afternoon as his wife was expecting a baby at 5 o'clock. 'At 5 o'clock?' James asked in amused amazement. 'Do you mean that in Egypt you can tell the exact time a baby will arrive?' The driver went into a long explanation, mostly in Arabic, because he was too confused to remember any English. Neither of us wanted the car in any case, so James told him he could go. After lunch James decided that he'd go back to the bazaar alone. As he wandered about there he suddenly caught sight of our driver diving out of one shop and into another, zig-zagging down the street, in a tremendous hurry. Just as he was about to investigate, the little man who had tried to sell me the plaque hissed and beckoned to him.

'Tell your friend,' he whispered, 'that she can have that plaque for £3, but only if she comes alone. I can't afford to let her have it at that price and pay commission to your driver as well.'

So that was his racket!

Erica Powell

Who was Willie Moxon?

By Graham Jagger

Philip Lord recently emailed me to say that Christopher Albert Moxon, an avid eBay watcher, had been in touch to say that he had noticed that a set of three World War I medals, awarded to one Willie Moxon, were for sale. Knowing from my talk at the 2019 Shugborough gathering that I was interested in medals, Philip passed to me details of Christopher's discovery and, after a bit of haggling with the vendor, I managed to acquire these medals for a not too exorbitant price. So now the hunt was on! Who was Willie Moxon?

Let's start with the medals themselves. These are shown in Fig. 1. The left-most is the *British War Medal*, 1914-20, in silver which was approved in 1919 and was effectively the 'war medal' of the 1914-18 war. It was conferred on all those men and women who served in any unit of British or imperial forces, including the Mercantile Marine and some civilian categories. Its issue was extended to cover operations into 1919 in the Russian Civil War and for post-war mine-clearance at sea. In the centre is the *Victory Medal*, 1914-19, authorised in 1919, which was awarded to those who had served in a 'theatre of war' and had received other general medals for war service. It could not be awarded by itself, so is always seen as part of a group or simply paired with the *British War Medal*. The right-most medal is the *Meritorious Service Medal*. This was introduced in 1845 to reward especially long and/or meritorious service by NCOs. It was briefly granted as an 'immediate' award for especially meritorious war service between 1916 and 1928. This is a relatively rare decoration and is much sort after by medal collectors.

The recipient of WW I medals is denoted by his regimental number, rank, name and regiment stamped on the rim of the medal. The first two medals are inscribed 2595 SGT. W. MOXON. W. YORK. R. [West Yorkshire Regiment] and the



Fig.1 Willie Moxon's medals

third is inscribed 305650 SGT. A.C. Q.M. SGT. W. MOXON. W YORK. R. Moxon's regimental number was changed when he was promoted from Sergeant to Acting Quartermaster Sergeant. We now must establish that these three medals belong to the same individual and that his first name was Willie. A copy of the relevant Medal Index Card obtained from The National Archives website is shown in Fig. 2 [overleaf]. This confirms that the three medals belong to the same soldier and that this soldier is Willie Moxon. The index card for Willie's *Meritorious Service Medal* is shown in Fig. 3 [overleaf].

So where did Willie Moxon come from? His award of the *Meritorious Service Medal* was noted in the London Gazette on 22 February 1919 and his hometown was given as Wakefield. The proceedings of a meeting of the Wakefield City Council held on Tuesday 1 April 1919 were reported in the *Wakefield Advertiser & Gazette* of Tuesday 8 April 1919. This report noted that A resolution recording the gratification of the Council and instructing congratulations to be forwarded to the undermentioned soldiers was ... moved by his worship the Mayor and carried

Continued...

Who was Willie Moxon? Continued

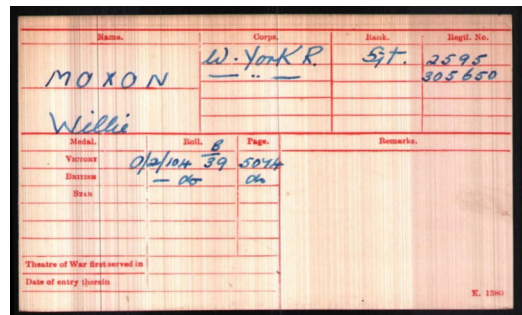


Fig.2 Willie Moxon's medal index card

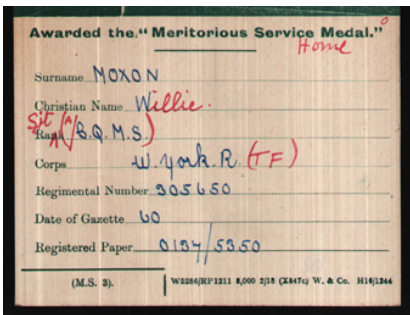


Fig.3 "For Meritorious Service"

unanimously ... Ex-Compy. Q M.S. Willie Moxon, awarded Meritorious Service Medal ...

A search for a Willie Moxon of about the right age in the 1911 census for Wakefield yielded only one possible candidate – Willie Moxon, aged 15, born in Wakefield in about 1896, the son of Willie [Father Moxon] and Elizabeth Moxon, a clerk with the West Riding County Council. An examination of the 1939 Register for 17 St John's Grove, Wakefield, yields Willie Moxon, now a Senior Account Assistant in the Treasurer's Department of the West Riding County Council, born 12 August 1895, living with his wife Eleanor Doris, born 1 July 1893, and his daughter Jean Moxon, born 26 January 1929. There is little doubt that the Willie Moxon of the 1911 census and the Willie Moxon of the 1939 Register are one and the same person.

Willie and his wife Eleanor Doris Hinchcliffe were married in Wakefield in the second quarter of 1922. They had one child, a daughter Jean, who was born on 29 January 1929. Willie's father, also Willie – born in about 1864 in Wakefield – married his mother, Elizabeth Cockell, at the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Grove Road, Wakefield, on 19 May 1888. Willie's occupation is given as wool sorter.

Their marriage certificate gives the father of Willie (the Elder) as William Moxon, then an engine tenter (see footnote) living in Sandal Magna. The 1881 census for Sandal Magna shows Willie, at this time William, a wool sorter,

living with his parents William, a corn porter, and Mary. The 1871 census for Wakefield gives the details of just William, the corn porter, and Mary his wife, living in Kings Head Yard, Kirkgate, Wakefield. The 1861 census gives similar information. The censuses indicate that this William Moxon was born in about 1826 and the certificate of his marriage to Mary Box dated 30 December 1860 gives his father's name as George Moxon. The 1841 census for Wakefield gives William, aged 15, living with his parents George Moxon, born in about 1801, and Mary his mother, born on about 1806.

The search for the origins of this George has so far been unsuccessful, but the quest continues. A printout from Family Tree Maker of George and his descendants is shown in Fig. 4 [opposite]. This is Moxon tree MX101.

The tracking down of ancestors of WWI medal recipients is a fascinating and often rewarding activity and I am particularly grateful to Christopher Albert Moxon for starting me off on the search for Willie Moxon.

Graham Jagger

Footnote: This term appears mainly in the north of England or in Scotland. In this context a Tenter is someone who is in charge of machinery, usually in a factory. The word is closely related to the word "tend" so he is someone who "tends, or looks after" the engine. [Editor]

Continued...

Who was Willie Moxon? Continued

Descendants of George MOXON

Generation 1

- 1. GEORGE¹ MOXON was born about 1801 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He married MARY. She was born about 1806.
George MOXON and Mary had the following children:
 - 2. i. WILLIAM² MOXON was born about 1826 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He died on Q4 1902 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He married (1) EMMA GOODER on Q1 1852 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He married (2) MARY HEALD, daughter of Abraham HEALD, on 30 Dec 1860 in Holy Trinity, Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. She was born about 1826 in Carnforth, Lancashire, England.
 - ii. ELIZABETH MOXON was born about 1827 in Yorkshire, England.

Generation 2

- 2. WILLIAM² MOXON (George¹) was born about 1826 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He died on Q4 1902 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He married (1) EMMA GOODER on Q1 1852 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He married (2) MARY HEALD, daughter of Abraham HEALD, on 30 Dec 1860 in Holy Trinity, Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. She was born about 1826 in Carnforth, Lancashire, England.
William MOXON and Mary HEALD had the following child:
 - 3. i. WILLIE³ MOXON was born about 1864 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He died on Q1 1920 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He married Elizabeth COCKELL on 19 May 1888 in Grove Road Chapel, Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. She was born about 1861 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. She died in Apr 1932 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England.

Generation 3

- 3. WILLIE³ MOXON (William², George¹) was born about 1864 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He died on Q1 1920 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He married Elizabeth COCKELL on 19 May 1888 in Grove Road Chapel, Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. She was born about 1861 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. She died in Apr 1932 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England.
Willie MOXON and Elizabeth COCKELL had the following children:
 - i. EDITH⁴ MOXON was born in Apr 1889 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England.
 - 4. ii. WILLIE MOXON was born on 12 Aug 1895 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He died on 17 Nov 1962 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He married Eleanor Doris HINCHCLIFFE, daughter of John HINCHCLIFFE and Elizabeth Ann ASHTON, on 27 Dec 1922 in Wesleyan Chapel, Normanton, Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. She was born on 01 Jul 1893 in Normanton, Yorkshire, England. She died on 02 Aug 1987 in Bramhope, Leeds, Yorkshire, England.
 - iii. DOROTHY MOXON was born on 25 Aug 1898 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England.

Generation 4

- 4. WILLIE⁴ MOXON (Willie³, William², George¹) was born on 12 Aug 1895 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He died on 17 Nov 1962 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He married Eleanor Doris HINCHCLIFFE, daughter of John HINCHCLIFFE and Elizabeth Ann ASHTON, on 27 Dec 1922 in Wesleyan Chapel, Normanton, Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. She was born on 01 Jul 1893 in Normanton, Yorkshire, England. She died on 02 Aug 1987 in Bramhope, Leeds, Yorkshire, England.
Willie MOXON and Eleanor Doris HINCHCLIFFE had the following child:
 - i. JEAN⁵ MOXON was born on 26 Jan 1929 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. She married Harry RAISTRICK, son of Herbert RAISTRICK and Clara BENNETT, on Q3 1953 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. He was born on 17 Mar 1922.

Fig.4 George Moxon & his descendants MX101

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WEBSITES

The Moxon Society maintains an open website at <https://www.moxonsociety.org>. It is an introduction to the Society and allows visitors to join the Society or to renew their membership. No password is required.

The Moxon Society also maintains a members-only website: <https://moxonresearch.org> which is home to details of the family Trees, past issues of the Magazine (indexed by name, place and topic) an index of over 400 wills and testaments; guides to parish records, and marriage records, the Society's DNA testing programme and more. Access requires a password which is notified in the October issue of this Magazine, or on request from the webmaster webmaster@moxonresearch.org

THE MOXON MAGAZINE

The Magazine is supplied free of charge to Members. Copies, and back copies, are also available in PDF on the Society's Research website.

THE MOXON MAGAZINE welcomes articles and submissions on any subject related to the wider Moxon family, past or present. It is published twice a year, in April and October; and the deadlines for submissions are therefore 1st March and 1st September in each year. If space permits, articles will be published in the next issue after receipt but may be held over for a future issue at the Editor's discretion. The Editor may also, at his discretion, shorten articles when necessary though he will normally try to print them in full. Submissions may be sent by post or by email (postal and email addresses appear on the left of this page). Photographs are particularly welcome as illustrations and in the case of prints will be returned as soon as the issue in which they appear is published. Submission of articles or other material will be taken to indicate permission to publish the article or material on one or more occasions in the Moxon Magazine and on the Society's websites. Copyright will remain with the original contributor.

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