



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

The Moxon Magazine



The Annual Moxon Gathering, Manchester 2021

DELEGATES PRESENT:

Back, left to right: Trevor Jordan, Gill Jones, Pauline Sturrock, Philip Lord, David Hamilton, Chris Moxon, Val McCourt, John McCourt, Angela Jagger, Bruce Jones, Graham Jagger.

Front, left to right: Robert Snedden, Doris Moxon, Marlene Hamilton, Wendy Moxon, Ruth Moxon.

AFTER THE GAP DUE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC, we were once again able to hold an Annual Gathering, this time at MediaCityUK in Salford, near Manchester. The programme was necessarily curtailed by continuing Covid restrictions, but the accommodation was good, and there were enough facilities in nearby districts to keep us all happy around the Annual General Meeting on the Saturday evening, and that was followed by a most entertaining and instructive talk by our President, Graham Jagger on Moxon books in his collection.

As you can see from the group photograph above, it was a very happy occasion! We are grateful to all the staff for the excellent service, the excellent food, and what was an excellent weekend.

It was decided that next year's Annual Moxon Gathering would be held near Cawthorne and Silkstone, the cradle of our largest Moxon family trees: see inside for more details.

Welcome to New Members!

WE ARE DELIGHTED to welcome three New Members who have joined us since our last issue:

George Moran, UK : MX27

Anne Graham, Australia (Tree to be confirmed)

and Pauline Sturrock, UK : MX01

A menu fit for a Moxon Gathering!

Elizabeth Moxon's Stewed Spinach with Poached Eggs

Working people at the time would have been more physically active. This would mean their nutritional requirement was greater than that of today. A young active woman in the 18th century of normal weight would probably require two to three hundred calories a day more than her modern counterpart.

To stew spinach with poached eggs

Take two or three handfuls of young spinage, pick it from the stalks, wash and drain it very clean, put it into a pan with a lump of butter, and a little salt, keep stirring it all the time whilst it be enough, then take it out and squeeze out the water, chop it and stir in a little more butter, lie it in your dish in quarters, and betwixt every quarter a poached egg, and lie one in the middle; fry some sippets of white bread and prick them in your spinage, to serve them up. This is proper for a side-dish either for noon or night.



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AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED at the AGM when it was decided to hold next year's Annual Gathering in the Cawthorne/Silkstone area (*see opposite*) it was suggested that for the annual dinner we might like to sample some authentic Moxon recipes. So here's a couple to try at home. Please let us know if you have any other Moxon recipes you would like to see on the 2022 menu!

AND THEN THERE'S...

MEDICINE RENDERED PALATABLE!!

MOXON'S EFFERVESCENT MAGNESIAN APERIENT.—This agreeable and efficient Aperient is peculiarly adapted for the use of persons subject to habitual or casual Costiveness, Bilious Affections, Indigestion, Pains in the Head, Sick-Headache, Nausea, Irritation of the Stomach, Vomiting, and other derangements frequently attendant upon a studious and sedentary life. Its operation is unattended by pain; scarcely interferes with the ordinary occupations; does not induce any liability to take cold from exposure; and, unlike calomel, and those drastic Aperients taken under the form of Pills, does not establish a necessity for the constant use of purgative medicines. It is an excellent remedy for the disagreeable effects of excess, either in eating or drinking; it also instantly cures Heartburn, prevents and relieves Gout, Piles, and Fistula, and is the best Aperient saline draught in all Febrile affections. Prepared only by Benjamin Moxon & Sons, Chemists, Hull. Sold in bottles at 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. Observe the genuine medicine has "Moxon and Smith (*then co-partners*), Chemists, Hull," engraved on the government stamp. Wholesale Agents, Barclay & Sons, Suttons, Edwards, and all other Medicine Houses, London; J. & R. Raimes & Co., Edinburgh and Dublin; Butler, Dublin; Simpson, York, &c., &c.

The Scotsman, 19th July 1845

A must-have, apparently, for those of "a studious and sedentary life." I must get out more!

Editor

Elizabeth Moxon's Green Pea Soup

Eighteenth century food had healthy and unhealthy recipes just like today. Some of the food people ate would seem foreign to us, but often they're not that different to what we eat now. Pontefract author Elizabeth Moxon's book, *English Housewifery* was intended for people to cook at home (if you could read), so we have looked at a couple of the recipes from this book to see whether they are healthy choices.

To make pease soop

Take a neck of mutton, and a knuckle of veal, make of them a little good gravy; then take half a peck of the greenest young peas, boil and beat them to a pulp in a marble mortar; then put to them a little of the gravy; strain them through a hair sieve to take out all the pulp; put all together, with a little salt and whole pepper; then boil it a little, and if you think the soop not green enough, boil a handful of spinage very tender, rub it through a hair-sieve, and put into the soop with one spoonful of wheat-flour, to keep it from running: You must not let it boil after the spinage is put in, it will discolour it; then cut white bread in little diamonds, fry them in butter while crisp, and put it into a dish, with a few whole peas. Garnish your dish with creed rice, and red beet-root.



www.wakefield.gov.uk **wakefieldcouncil** working for you

Next Year – in South Yorkshire

At this year's AGM it was agreed that next year's Annual Gathering and Annual General Meeting would be held in the Silkstone/Cawthorne area, the cradle of our largest Moxon Family Trees, principally MX27 and MX01. The date is yet to be decided, but is likely to be a weekend early in September 2022. Full details will be in the April 2022 issue.

The event will be organised by John Earnshaw of MX27, who is keen to know what sort of sites or activities you might be interested in seeing. For example...

Churches with Moxon connections

i) **All Saints, Cawthorne** The current building was begun in the early 17th century but retains features from earlier buildings.

ii) **All Saints, Silkstone** "The Minster of the Moors", is a Grade 1 listed church and the current building is basically 14th century though altered and reshaped over time.

iii) **St Peter's, Felkirk** is unchanged in appearance since the 16th century. Moxons were Parish Clerks there for over 170 years.

Cawthorne Museum

This Museum was started in 1887 and officially opened in 1889. There are exhibits of domestic bygones, local history and local industry and a collection of unusual items including a two-headed lamb. Noel Moxon was Secretary of the Cawthorne Museum Society for forty years until his death in 1979.

National Coal Mining Museum

This museum is a unique place in which the whole history of coal mining is preserved both below ground and above ground.

Yorkshire Archives

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture.

Historic buildings nearby

i) **Cannon Hall** Museum, park and gardens dates mainly from the 18th century though there were halls on this site in much earlier times. It is now run by Barnsley Council with collections of drawings, paintings, glass and ceramics.

ii) **Pontefract Castle** (visited at the Gathering in 2011) was left in ruins after its siege by Oliver Cromwell. Pontefract castle is perhaps best known as the site of Richard II's incarceration and death.

iii) **Nostell Priory** is a Georgian National Trust property with Robert Adam decorative interiors and a world class collection of Chippendale furniture, set in 300 acres of parkland.

Clearly we could not visit more than a few of these on a single day, but which would interest YOU most?

Please let John (email: h15jse@gmail.com) know which of the above – or any other ideas you might have - would most interest you.

Who was H Moxon?

A few weeks ago, Trevor received via the Moxon Society's website an enquiry regarding the provenance of an antique mantel clock. The enquirer's father, now dead, bought this clock, which still works, many years ago from an antique shop in Swaffham, Norfolk. Of particular interest to the Moxon community is that immediately below the figure XII on the dial is a small plate, affixed with two rather clumsy screws, bearing the inscription *H MOXON Jeweller BRADFORD*.

As well as supplying some photographs of the clock Trevor's correspondent expressed the view that H Moxon might be connected to James and Joseph Moxon who were clock makers in Bradford in the 1790s. Unfortunately, this is not a good start for our quest into the identity of H Moxon because this Bradford is the one in the Cotswolds (Bradford on Avon) and not the one in Yorkshire.

Comparing the owner's photograph of the clock (*opposite*) with photographs of similar clocks found on the web indicates that it dates from about 1900 and may possibly be of German origin. A close-up photograph of the dial (*Figure 1*) is much more informative and shows Moxon's plate as described above. There can be little doubt that H Moxon bought in clocks, perhaps from abroad, and "badged" them prior to selling them from his shop in Bradford. This was a common practice at the beginning of the 20th century and indeed another example has already been reported in the pages of this journal (*Moxon Magazine*, Vol 42, April 2009, p. 7).



Figure 1

In the search for H Moxon, the following obituary in the *Yorkshire Observer* for Tuesday, 18 January 1938, came to light.

Death of Mr. W. H. Moxon. Bradford Jewel Expert. Famous Singer's Father.

The death occurred yesterday at 27, Athol Road, Heaton, Bradford, after a short illness of Mr. William Henry (Harry) Moxon, the former well-known Bradford jeweller and athlete and father of Miss Alice Moxon, the famous Yorkshire singer. Mr. Moxon was one of the greatest experts on jewels in the North. He was engaged for some years at Yewdall's in Albion Court, Bradford, and in 1890 started in business in Chapel Court, Kirkgate. Mr. Moxon stayed in the jewellery business until his shop had to be closed on account of alterations in Kirkgate about 15 years ago, when he retired. During his business career, Mr. Moxon dealt with some of the most valuable diamonds that ever came into Yorkshire, and he became known an acknowledged expert upon them among the county's jewellers. Only two weeks ago Mr. Moxon was shown a large precious stone and asked to estimate its weight. He glanced at it and gave a figure – and he was less than one fiftieth part of a carat wrong.

Earlier in life, Mr. Moxon had earned repute in another sphere. He was one of Bradford's finest amateur footballers and runners. He ran in important races, and

Who was H Moxon?

won prizes valued at hundreds of pounds from time to time. He always retained his amateur status. Mr. Moxon was connected also with the old Manningham Football Club in their Rugby days in Carlisle Road. He was a fine loose forward, with a burst of reserve speed that often disconcerted his opponents.

He was also a keen fisherman practically all his life and a good musician. Mr. Moxon, who was 72, had been married for 47 years. He leaves a widow and three daughters. Miss Alice Moxon married Stuart Robertson, another well-known artist, and is thus the sister-in-law of Anna Neagle.

It is clear that Mr. William Henry Moxon, jeweller of Bradford and the subject of this obituary, traded and was known as Harry, or H., Moxon, and that he sold the badged clock the photographs of which are attached to this article. Having identified H. Moxon it was easy to locate him as being born the son of Thomas Deighton Moxon and Sarah Moxon née Ward in 1865. His Moxon descent can be traced back to the Moxons of Selby in the 1650s on Moxon tree MX32.

This article would not be complete without further mention of Alice Moxon (1897-1984), Harry Moxon's youngest daughter. In the 1930s, 40s and 50s Alice was well known



as a soprano soloist on all the major concert platforms of the British Isles. She sang in the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan, oratorios such as *Messiah* and *Elijah*, and was an acknowledged interpreter of the soprano concert repertoire. In her solo roles she was often accompanied by masters of the pianoforte such as, for example, Gerald Moore. Recordings of her performances can still be obtained via the Internet.

Graham Jagger

Editor's note:

The current owner of this clock is offering it for sale. Please contact The Editor if you might be interested in buying it.

A bigamous marriage

Certificate  of Marriage.

Book, No. 1 Page 83

1880 Marriage solemnized at The Parish Church in the Parish of Eastwood in the County of Yorks.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
166	Sept 20 th 1880	Thomas Eli Jelfs	21	Bachelor	Stove Grate Fitter	Eastwood	James Jelfs	Rail Maker
	"	Ann Simpson	17	Spinster	"	Eastwood	William Simpson	Woolder.

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church or after Banns by me,

This Marriage was Solemnized between us. { Thomas Eli Jelfs } In the presence of us. { Joseph Flint + his wife } W. Pilkington
 { Ann Simpson } { Ann Cawood + her wife } Nicar

I Certify the above to be a correct Copy.  E. Deputy Superintendent Registrar.

Extracted this Thirteenth day of January 1890.

It should have been a very happy Christmas Day in 1889. Ernest Moxon (of Tree MX27), an engine tender¹, was married at Christ Church in the parish of Parkgate, Rotherham, to Annie Eliza Simpson, spinster. They were registered on the marriage certificate as living together in Lloyd Street, Parkgate – but, perhaps surprisingly, none of Ernest’s relatives seem to have attended the wedding. Annie was heavily pregnant, so that might explain the lack of relatives present.

Things went wrong almost immediately because this wedding was reported in the local paper. This announcement was read by a certain Thomas Eli Jelfs. Jelfs had married Annie nine years before (see certificate above) and they had never been divorced, although he later claimed that they had lived separate lives for the previous two years.

On Monday 6th January 1890 Annie was formally charged with bigamy and Ernest stated that he had

no idea that she was already married. Jelfs admitted that he had “no feeling in this matter beyond this, that this action would enable him to go to another court and obtain a divorce”. At this hearing, Annie, “who is near her confinement, was accommodated with a seat”.

Annie reserved her defence, and her case was sent to the next Assizes. Ernest was asked to provide bail for her but “peremptorily refused”.

Jelfs lost no time and applied for a divorce on 16th January, and this was duly granted in May 1890.

Annie gave birth a few weeks after she was charged, and the baby was registered as Nellie Jelfs. At the Assizes on March 17th, Annie was found guilty and sentenced to six months in prison, after which she moved back to her father’s house. Her baby was, by the time of the 1891 census, called Lily Jelfs, whilst Ann herself had resorted to her maiden name of Simpson.

By 1901 Annie was living as the wife of Thomas Benjamin Franks, a stove grate fitter, although no record of a marriage has been found. Indeed, Thomas Benjamin’s first wife Martha Franks was still alive and can be found in the census records as a housekeeper; she did not die until late 1911.

Annie bore Thomas Franks seven children although the first, named George, born in 1893, was registered as George Simpson. By 1901 both George and Lily were given the surname “Franks” in the census. It was by the name of Lilian Franks that she was duly married to John Willinton in 1908 at the age of 19.

What happened to Ernest Moxon? Well, he was legally married in March 1891 in the same church as his bigamous marriage, to Henrietta Thompson, who duly swore that she was indeed a spinster. Ernest and Henrietta had four children. He became

an Electrician and by 1911 was in charge of the Electrical Plant for an Iron Manufacturer.

But was Nellie/Lily/Lilian the child of Ernest? It seems probable that she was. Jelfs indicated that he believed Annie and Ernest were cohabiting in the period before their spurious marriage and it seems unlikely that Ernest would have married a heavily pregnant woman if he was not the child’s father. But we have no knowledge as to whether he had any contact with the child he fathered with Annie. It would be fascinating to discover if some Moxon genes still exist in the descendants of John and Lilian Willinton!

Chris Moxon

1. In this context a *Tender* 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.

A-Z Blog Challenge 2021

Like any writer, my enthusiasm for blogging waxes and wanes, depending on my mood, availability and my priorities. Recognising this, many of us - genealogists or not - rely on challenges to increase our motivation.

A few years ago, after becoming a joint co-ordinator, with my husband John Bruce Moxon, of [Moxons Down Under](#), I created a google blog which also served as an unofficial website about everything Moxon or Moxham in Australia or New Zealand. If the site is biased towards Australia, that is because we have far fewer Moxon families in New Zealand as well as far fewer members.

I created 11 posts in 2012 and only four between 2013 and 2016. It was about time I wrote some more, given our ongoing research and information from Society members.

The perfect opportunity came in March this year after I had come across the [A-Z Blogging Challenge](#). Each year during April, bloggers are encouraged to write a post each day with titles relating to the relevant letter of the alphabet. The topic can be anything at all.

Because there are 30 days in April but only 26 letters in the alphabet, we could take Sundays off. However, many of us used that day to play catch up. Each participant had to register with the coordinator of the challenge. Within a certain time-frame, we had to decide the category - Genealogy for me - and the theme: Moxons Down Under. It was mighty difficult finding a topic for X, but I managed with a bit of lateral thinking.

LINKS REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE:

- <http://www.moxonsociety.org>
- <http://www.moxonsdownunder.blogspot.com.au>
- <http://www.grevilleagenealogy.com.au>
- <https://grevilleagen.blogspot.com/>

I had joined the challenge in 2020, with the topic being my Tucker ancestors, but because I had not planned the topic for each letter ahead of time, I ran out of steam at H. Genie friends wrote that it was a good idea to plan ahead, and even schedule some written posts during periods when other priorities would have to make way for writing. So that's what I did this year, and managed to complete the challenge.

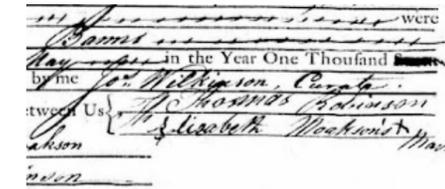
So in 2021, I have added 27 posts to the Moxons Down Under "website" which can be found at <http://www.moxonsdownunder.blogspot.com.au> or as a linked heading on the Society's main website at www.moxonsociety.org

If you are interested in seeing the posts I wrote last year about my Tucker family and travels to the south of England, they can be found on my personal website called [Grevillea Genealogy](#). I've simply attached them to My Blog at <https://grevilleagen.blogspot.com>. For the technically minded, my website is written on the WordPress platform which uses my own domain, but the blog is written on the Google platform.

Margaret Tucker Moxon

To illustrate Margaret's lateral thinking, opposite is a copy of her post for the letter X!

X is for an X-mark signature



Elizabeth Moakson's mark

This was more common amongst women than men in the 19th century.

We often come across marriage certificates in parish records in England and Australia where the wife's signature was an X, indicating that she could not write her name.

This event was probably the only time a woman had to sign, every other document being the responsibility of the husband. A will would have been the only other document I can think of, and many women without independent assets and/or education died intestate.

Sometimes the marriage certificate was filled out completely by the vicar or curate - this was the case for the 1836 marriage of Isaac Moxon and Sarah Middleton at St John's, Kirkby Wharfe in Yorkshire. In this case, the witness - a male signed with an X. Maybe Isaac and Sarah were too proud to write their own names or mark.

On the other hand, when Isaac's elder son Joshua Middleton Moxon married 30 years later, both he and Louisa Mary Wilkinson could sign their names. Schooling was more widespread for boys by the late 1840s, even amongst poor families. Joshua aged 10 and his brother John aged 7 were both shown as scholars in the 1851 census. Joshua probably needed schooling to avoid working in the mines and to become a stone carving apprentice.

Louisa was also shown as a scholar, living with her Thorpe aunts in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire.

The image above is a snip from Elizabeth Moakson's marriage record (1804) to Thomas Robinson in Yorkshire. It shows that whilst both fathers and the bridegroom could sign their names, Elizabeth (Isaac's sister) could not.

Using an X or another symbol as a substitute for a name is still legal in many jurisdictions today, including Australia.

Margaret Tucker Moxon

New website password

AFTER TAKING ADVICE at the Annual General Meeting it was agreed to continue to protect the Moxon Research website with a password to be changed every year, and to publish that annual password in the Magazine. The password for the year beginning 1 November 2021 is

umbrella/culture1987

For your interest, the password was created using a random word generator, then adding a symbol and numbers. According to a well-respected online security check it would take four centuries to crack this password by brute force.

Missing links

Missing links



Over the last thirty years or so, researchers have found many references to a Moxon (or variant) who could not easily be fitted into one of the Society's Trees.

Over the last six months I have been trawling through the Society's archives in order to discard what HAS been able to be fitted in. Now there is a mass of odd information which cannot.

All this information will, in the next few months, be incorporated into a new section on the Moxon Society Research website. But in the meantime – **can anyone help with the following?**

ML 1. John Moxon – Highwayman in York

In the Moxon Magazine for April 1999, Judith Ayre reported on John Moxon (born in the mid 1790's) who, with an accomplice Charles Robinson, turned to highway robbery to earn some money. Due to their amateurish methods, they were soon apprehended. Both were convicted and sentenced to death. But John escaped the gallows in favour of transportation for life, and by early May 1817 he was on his way to the prison Hulk 'Retribution' at Sheerness. At this point Judith's trail went cold.

It appears that John Moxon was one of 250 convicts transported on the *SS Larkins*, which sailed 24 July 1817, bound for New South Wales.

What happened to him once he landed? Can any of our overseas members help?

Also Judith was not able to determine John's origins: one source suggests he was a native of Thorpe – which tree does he belong to?

ML 3. John Moxham or Moxam born in Devon 1658

In the Moxon Magazine for April 2004 there was a double page article about the exploits of John Mox(h)am (his name was sometimes spelled with an 'h' and sometimes without).

Born in 1658 in Topsham in Devon, he married Mary Lyle in the same town in 1697. Their children included Robert (1702/3); Isaac (1705); Lyle (1706); and Nicholas (1710).

John Mox(h)am was a fishing captain and adventurer whose voyages from 1690 to 1707 are well documented. Later voyages in 1724 and 1733 are also known. His parents were John and Elizabeth.

But what Tree did John belong to? Was he descended from the Moxhams of Wiltshire or Ireland – or perhaps the maritime Moxons of Yorkshire and East Anglia? And has anyone come across other Moxon/Moxham families in Devon descended from one of John's children?

ML 4. George Moxon m Susannah Pickett in London 1827

MX83 is another very small Tree, and this is based in London. George Moxon, whose parents were William and Elizabeth, was born in Holborn, Middlesex, in August 1803.

On 11 February 1827 he married Susannah Pickett in St Pancras. Two of their children died as infants, but their third child, George, certainly lived until the age of 11 as he is recorded in the 1841 census. Their first child Emma was born in 1828 and had an illegitimate son, christened George Joseph, in 1850. George Joseph grew up to be a painter and decorator and married Sarah Williams in 1875.

The George Moxon who married Susannah Pickett was described in the 1841 census as a Bellhanger, and in 1851 as a Master Whitesmith.

But where did this family originate?

ML 2. John Moxon m. Phoebe Teel in Norfolk 1794

MX68 is our smallest Tree and is headed by another John Moxon who married Phoebe Teel in Kings Lynn, Norfolk on 19 March 1794.

They had two sons, John and Robert, both born in Nottingham in 1796 and 1803 respectively and who were both transported to Australia in 1818 and 1821 respectively.

But we do not know what Tree the father is descended from, and very little about the sons apart from the fact that John married Susannah Blue in Australia in 1827.

Can anyone provide a missing link for this story?

If you can help with helping to fill in a Missing Link, please contact me at

moxonchris@aol.com

It is helpful if you could quote the ML number

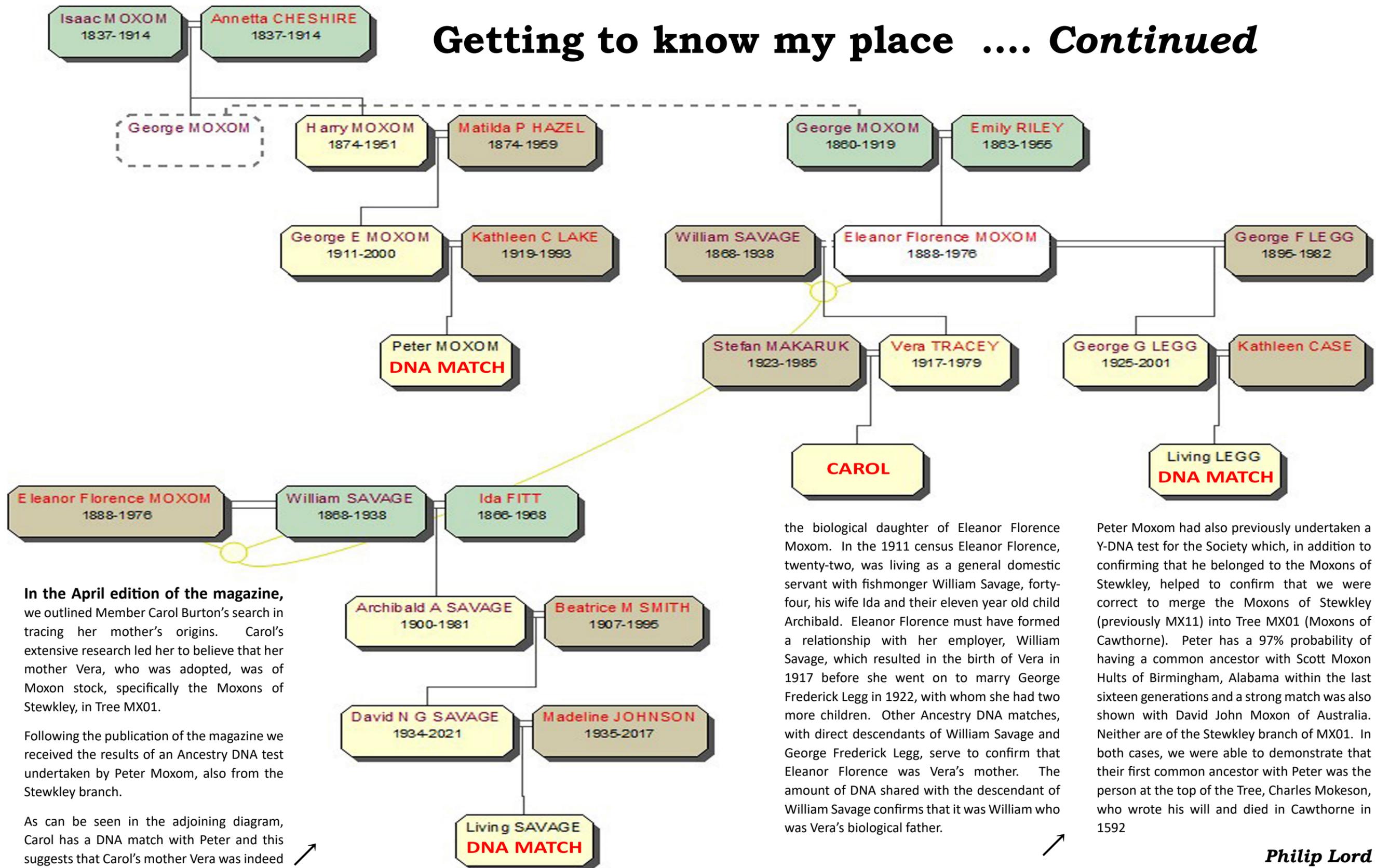
e.g.

ML 1. John Moxon – Highwayman in York

The Moxon Research website now includes a dedicated 'Missing Links' page where you will find more Moxons, Moxhams, Moxoms etc for whom we are seeking new information. At the time of writing there are just a few entries, but keep going back to the page to see more as they are added!



Getting to know my place ... Continued



In the April edition of the magazine, we outlined Member Carol Burton's search in tracing her mother's origins. Carol's extensive research led her to believe that her mother Vera, who was adopted, was of Moxon stock, specifically the Moxons of Stewkley, in Tree MX01.

Following the publication of the magazine we received the results of an Ancestry DNA test undertaken by Peter Moxom, also from the Stewkley branch.

As can be seen in the adjoining diagram, Carol has a DNA match with Peter and this suggests that Carol's mother Vera was indeed

the biological daughter of Eleanor Florence Moxom. In the 1911 census Eleanor Florence, twenty-two, was living as a general domestic servant with fishmonger William Savage, forty-four, his wife Ida and their eleven year old child Archibald. Eleanor Florence must have formed a relationship with her employer, William Savage, which resulted in the birth of Vera in 1917 before she went on to marry George Frederick Legg in 1922, with whom she had two more children. Other Ancestry DNA matches, with direct descendants of William Savage and George Frederick Legg, serve to confirm that Eleanor Florence was Vera's mother. The amount of DNA shared with the descendant of William Savage confirms that it was William who was Vera's biological father.

Peter Moxom had also previously undertaken a Y-DNA test for the Society which, in addition to confirming that he belonged to the Moxons of Stewkley, helped to confirm that we were correct to merge the Moxons of Stewkley (previously MX11) into Tree MX01 (Moxons of Cawthorne). Peter has a 97% probability of having a common ancestor with Scott Moxon Hults of Birmingham, Alabama within the last sixteen generations and a strong match was also shown with David John Moxon of Australia. Neither are of the Stewkley branch of MX01. In both cases, we were able to demonstrate that their first common ancestor with Peter was the person at the top of the Tree, Charles Mokeson, who wrote his will and died in Cawthorne in 1592

Philip Lord

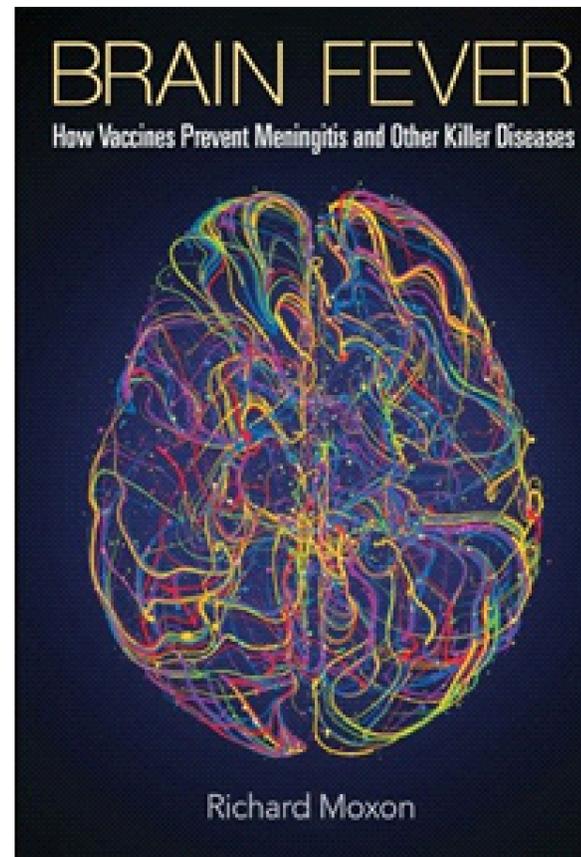
Brain Fever by Richard Moxon

A book review by Graham Jagger

For over two hundred years there have been Moxon medics ministering to the sick in the towns and villages of England. Few of these have achieved any great fame except perhaps in their own locality but one who has risen to international eminence is Richard Moxon, a first cousin once removed to Jimmy Moxon, the founder of the Moxon Society.

Richard is an Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics and a Professorial Fellow of Jesus College at the University of Oxford. His paediatric and research training were in the UK (1966-1969) and the USA (1970-1974). He was Assistant and then Associate Professor of Paediatrics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (1974-1984), becoming the Eudowood Director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases in 1981 before he was elected as Action Research Professor and Chairman of Paediatrics at Oxford University (1984-2008) and Head of the Molecular Infectious Diseases Group in the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (1988-2008). He is a Fellow of the UK Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2007. His major research interests have been on the biology and prevention of bacterial meningitis. Richard is the founder and first director of the Oxford Vaccine Group and the Director of the Centre for Clinical Vaccinology, named the Moxon Building in 2014. He has published five books and more than 400 peer-reviewed original scientific articles.

Brain Fever – an old term for the devastating illness, meningitis – is written for a wide audience. Potential readers should not be put



off by the thought that this is purely an academic book. It is also a beautifully written autobiography which will entrance the family historian as well as the medic.

In a clear non-technical style, Richard explains what meningitis is, the bacterial germs that cause it, who gets it and how research has developed vaccines to prevent this lethal infection.

Beginning with his boyhood dream to study medicine, Richard charts his adventurous experiences as a junior doctor in London, a ship's surgeon, a trainee in infectious diseases and Professorships at Johns Hopkins and Oxford University. How, by combining clinical practice with fundamental scientific research, he carried out decades of research on the bacterial

Brain Fever continued

germs that infect the brains of unsuspecting, previously healthy people, especially young children. An insider's account, he traces his personal involvement with an extraordinary and inspiring group of scientists.

In this must-read un-put-downable book, Brain Fever provides expert insight into what it takes to develop a vaccine: the complexity of science, universities, politics, commerce, research funding and, above all, the brilliant people who have transformed public health. As we are learning from the Covid-19 pandemic, it is vaccines that we rely on to fight and overcome the devastation caused by virulent germs. The message is clear and challenging: no intervention in the history of medicine confers a greater public health benefit than immunisation.

It is interesting to note that Richard was not the first Moxon medic to be interested in the workings of the brain. His distant cousin Dr Walter Moxon (1836-1886), who claimed descent from Edward Jenner (1749-1823) the pioneer of the concept of vaccines including creating the smallpox vaccine, was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1868, and in 1869 he became lecturer on pathology at Guy's Hospital. He was a prolific author of papers which were published in the medical journals of the time. Of particular relevance here is his series of Croonian Lectures published in 1881 on The Cerebro-Vascular System and the Syndrome of "Congestion of the Brain", which have been reprinted as recently as 2008.

The publishers of Brain Fever offer a 30% discount for Societies and so the soft cover version is priced at less than £15. To obtain this discount use the code BRAINFEVER30 on the website <https://www.worldscientific.com/>. All the royalties are going to the UK Meningitis Charities (Meningitis Research Foundation and Meningitis Now).

Graham Jagger

A newspaper clipping pertaining to the Moxons of St Helens, Lancashire

LIVERPOOL MERCURY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1803.

CHILD STEALING AT ST HELEN'S

At the St. Helen's police-court, yesterday, before Mr. W. Pilkington, Jun., a young woman named Ellen Clare, of Parr, was charged with having, on Saturday last, decoyed two little children of Nathaniel Moxon from their father's premises, together with a little boy of Mr. Wright, veterinary surgeon, each of them about four years of age. It appeared from the evidence that the prisoner enticed the children away by promising to get them some flowers. She took them over Cowley Hill to a field nearly a mile distant, and there stripped from them all their boots and a pinafore, and then left them. Fortunately, the apprentice of Mr. Wrigley, butcher, was taking meat in that direction, when he saw the poor little things in a dreadful state about the loss of their boots, and he took them home. The prisoner was further charged with decoying the child of Mr. John Belle, from Brook-street. This was a little girl not quite four years old, and the prisoner took her to Eccleston, and there took from her a jacket, and left her. All the articles were pawned by the prisoner at three different shops in the town. All the children, sharp, intelligent little things, were present during the inquiry, and seemed to recognise the prisoner; and Master Harold Wright, who was less frightened than the others, told the prisoner that she threatened to fetch the "black boggart" to him because he refused to give her his boots. The evidence being conclusive, the prisoner was committed to take her trial at Kirkdale.

Robert John Mills Rendall 1922 - 2021



Dear Trevor,
Please find attached pictures of anti-macassars for a chair and a sofa on which my wife has kindly attached the Moxon Society crest which she has crafted. Utterly trivial I know but I thought you might be interested.
Cheers,
Ken

Not trivial at all, Ken! Thank you for sharing this. It was a lovely idea, and well executed! And I would be interested to share in these pages any other Moxon-related craft which members might have.

Trevor Jordan (Editor)



It is with sorrow that we record the death on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at the Belvoir Vale Care Home, Nottingham, of Robert Rendall, for seventy-three and a half years the husband of Joan Rendall, *née* Nicholls, of Moxon stock.

Robert John Mills Rendall was born in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, on Monday 21 August 1922, the son of Robert Harry Motyer Rendall and his wife Mary Ellen Rendall, *née* Mills.

Robert was educated at his local boys' school and then went up to Goldsmiths College in London to read geography. When World War II started, the college was evacuated to Nottingham University which is where Robert met Joan.

After graduation Robert joined the Royal Navy and he and Joan spent many years in various postings round the world where Robert's expertise in radar was much in demand. At the age of 45 Robert retired from the Navy and joined the staff of what was then Leicester

Polytechnic where he became a lecturer and then senior lecturer.

Robert retired from teaching in 1982 and spent the next twenty-four years working in a voluntary capacity for Age Concern, Leicester; in his latter years as a trustee.

Robert and Joan went everywhere together and until recent years they were always present at the annual Moxon Gatherings. Old age began to take its toll and their last Gathering together was that in West Haddon in 2014. Robert and Joan moved into the Belvoir Vale Care Home in the middle of 2018 where they lived together until Joan's death in November 2018.

Robert is survived by his two children, Patrick and Rosalyn; and by grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Graham Jagger

Jenny Jordan 1938 - 2021



Jenny Jordan 1938 - 2021

Mark, Richard and Tim all had the appropriate swimming lessons. However, she told Mark in later years that, by the time she had his sister, Lara, she just dropped her in the pool and left her to swim.

After two unhappy marriages, Jenny met and, in 1978, married her soul-mate, Trevor. They moved back to Ashby and Trevor set up as a doctor in nearby Coalville. After the death of Jenny's father and her mother's decision to give up their floristry shop, Trevor and Jenny bought and converted this property into a comfortable family home. There they were able to nurse her mother through her final painful illness.

Their new home was a perfect stopping off point for all their children's friends coming out of school. Mark remembered that whenever he turned up with a crowd of sixth form friends his mother would always make them feel at home and would usually feed them, and there were many memorable parties held at that house.

Jenny and Trevor had an interest in amateur dramatics and together they formed and ran a Youth Theatre in Ashby for many years. Jenny also trained as a counsellor and always treated her patients with care, sensitivity and patience.

After Trevor retired from general practice, he was ordained as a vicar and Jenny was a model vicar's wife both in Scarborough and subsequently in Northamptonshire. She took a particular interest in the Mothers' Union where she became a local branch leader.

Although neither Jenny nor Trevor was actively involved in researching family history they started attending the Moxon Society Annual Gatherings in 2008. The following year Jenny was elected Secretary to the Society, a position she held for the next six years and continued thereafter as an active Committee member. In 2014 she and Trevor organised a very successful Annual Gathering in West Haddon, where



"... a mischievous child"

Jenny's husband, Trevor, her three siblings and her children were all shocked when Jenny collapsed and died in April of this year. Her funeral was attended only by her close family and Society President, Graham Jagger; but a group of her friends gathered in Ashby churchyard and the funeral service was live-streamed on Facebook for those who were unable to attend in person.

Jenny was born on 3rd September 1938 in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, the first child of nurseryman Harold Moxon and his wife Ann. As the first child, she was doted upon by her parents and grandparents and Jenny always referred to the fact that everything changed when her parents went on to produce Wendy, Gill and Chris to join "her" family in 1942, 1943 and 1946. Jenny was always the leader and her siblings looked to her to pave the way – to discover the boundaries and rules that only become apparent when broken!

Jenny was a mischievous child and Gill remembers that this was more apparent at school when she got there and became aware that her eldest sister had earned quite a reputation for being one of the "naughty crowd"!

Jenny herself told her grandchildren that she once raced up the bell tower of the Girls' School in Ashby to ring the bells as a fire alarm. When the whole school had assembled below she leaned out to cry – "April Fool!" – to which the Headmistress responded – "*Jennifer Moxon, meet me in my study.....*"

Fortunately Jenny was never in really serious trouble. After school she trained as a PE teacher and followed this profession until the first of her four children were born. Her eldest son, Mark, remembered that, as a qualified swimming coach, she made sure that her eldest children,

Trevor was the vicar. And Jenny always advised and encouraged Trevor in his work on the Moxon Magazine and the Society's websites

But Jenny's chief passion was for the family. She very much enjoyed bringing together all her children, grandchildren and her siblings with their offspring plus various cousins for a giant picnic in the grounds of Ashby Castle to celebrate her seventieth birthday. She followed that ten years later by bringing everyone together for a splendid party at an Alpaca farm – which was particularly popular with the smallest grand-children!.

She is greatly missed.

Chris Moxon

THE FAMILY OF MOXON

A proposal to gather in more family history in order to enlarge the existing archives with a view to publishing, so far as is possible, the complete history of the Moxons of Yorkshire and abroad.

THE FAMILY OF MOXON, though today spread around the world, all originate from Yorkshire, where above 500 are now listed in the telephone directory.

Before the name became standardised as Moxon in the 17th century it had taken many forms from Mokeson and Mogson to Megson and Maggeson. When local records were customarily kept in Latin it was often written Filius Meg (or variations) and one conjectural belief is that the name may originate from Son of Meg or Margaret, possibly a Norse or Viking distinguished personage. Mogg also means warrior.

The only major variation today in Yorkshire is Megson, of which there are many in Leeds, Wakefield and elsewhere who have retained the old spelling. There are some Megginsons in and around Hull. Elsewhere Moxham is not uncommon in Lancashire and the South of England, particularly in the West Country. Moxom, Moxam, Moxen and Moxan are also still used by a few families. Scotland has almost no Moxons but plenty of Moxeys and Moxleys.

The earliest written references to the name occur in the 13th century in the vicinity of Wakefield and in north-west Yorkshire. It recurs in the 14th and 15th centuries and by 1524 there are families of Moxon living both at Beeston and at Rothwell/Lofthouse. By the end of that century, by which time parish registers had become well established, a clear pattern of Moxons emerges in communities between Leeds and Wakefield – the Beeston family dividing into two distinct lines in Leeds, and the Wakefield families establishing themselves at Horbury and Stanley (Outwoodside). These Moxons appear to have been closely associated with the woollen trade and it was no doubt variations in this same occupation that by the 17th century had spread them to Pontefract and to Kingston-upon-Hull where some developed as shippers and as bankers.

Meanwhile the prosperity of wool had led early in the 17th century to higher education at Cambridge, and Moxons soon began to make their names as prominent puritan clergy, as printers, publishers, mathematicians and engravers. One, Sir Samuel Moxon Kt, had been knighted as Charles II's Surveyor-General, whilst his cousin Joseph became the same monarch's Hydrographer (purveyor of sea charts, maps and globes), and Fellow of the Royal Society with Wren and Pepys.

Moxons in banking, the law and in business now formed in the 18th century family centres away from Yorkshire, in London and its vicinity at Twickenham, Leyton and Chigwell. But it was in Leeds, Wakefield, Pontefract, Hull, Bradford, Barnsley and Doncaster that the Moxons really put down their roots, not now simply in the wool and cloth trade but steadily expanding into other fields – the law, medicine, timber and woodwork, bakery and agriculture.

The nineteenth century saw Moxons progress steadily in the army (particularly Indian army), in surgery and the Church. One of the Twickenham Moxons became Rector of Sandringham and a close friend of the Royal Family in Queen Victoria's day. Another, emigrating with his large family to Australia, became Archdeacon of Grafton in New South Wales, so that by the First World War there were no less than twenty-five Moxons in Australia and no doubt many more today. Indeed there are now Moxons in most countries of the world – Africa, Jamaica, USA, Europe and the Far East.

The purpose of this brief summary is to make brief direct contact with as wide a range of Moxons as possible, at home and abroad, with a view to drawing in more material to incorporate in as comprehensive a history of the Moxon family as possible.

I am arranging to print a 120-page booklet which traces the principal and known branches of the family from the 15th century Moxons of Leeds and Wakefield to this century. It was originally compiled by my uncle and father, R. S. and T. A. Moxon, sixty years ago after twenty years of research, with some later additions. It will also contain a bibliography of known printed books about such distinguished members of the family as Joseph Moxon FRS (1627-1691) and Edward Moxon (1801-1858) – both of Wakefield – the latter being publisher to Tennyson, Wordsworth, Browning, Disraeli, etc. And his barrister brother, William Moxon, and many others.

If you wish to receive a copy of this book and, hopefully, contribute more material to our archives, please send the sum of £10 and you will receive it as soon as it is ready. (Not later than April 1987.) It should then be possible to consider the preparation in due course of a full History of the Moxons indicating the main stream of family movement and settlement to the present day.

Crossed cheques (or PO's) made out to Moxon History (a/c 0081062 Lloyds Bank) should be sent to R. E. A. Moxon, 132 Howards Grove, Shirley, Southampton, SO1 5PT. A receipt will be sent. Mr Moxon is a great grandson of the publisher, Edward Moxon.

I myself will be away from England until March 1987 by which time the book should be ready, and will ensure immediate delivery. For your background information I am a historian, a writer and a publisher (see *Writers and Artists Yearbook 1986*, p.193) and have had a lifelong interest in the History of the Moxon Family.

James Moxon
Ashford Carbonel, Ludlow

October 1986



Rev. George Moxon, 1601-87
Co-founder Springfield, Mass.



Edward Moxon 1801-58
Poet and Publisher



Charles Moxon 1808-90
'Royal Decorator'



Richard Moxon 1822-1904
Mayor of Pontefract



Canon R. S. Moxon 1873-1950
Moxon Historian



Joseph Moxon FRS, 1627-91
Hydrographer to Charles II



John Moxon 1788-1866
Banker and Financier



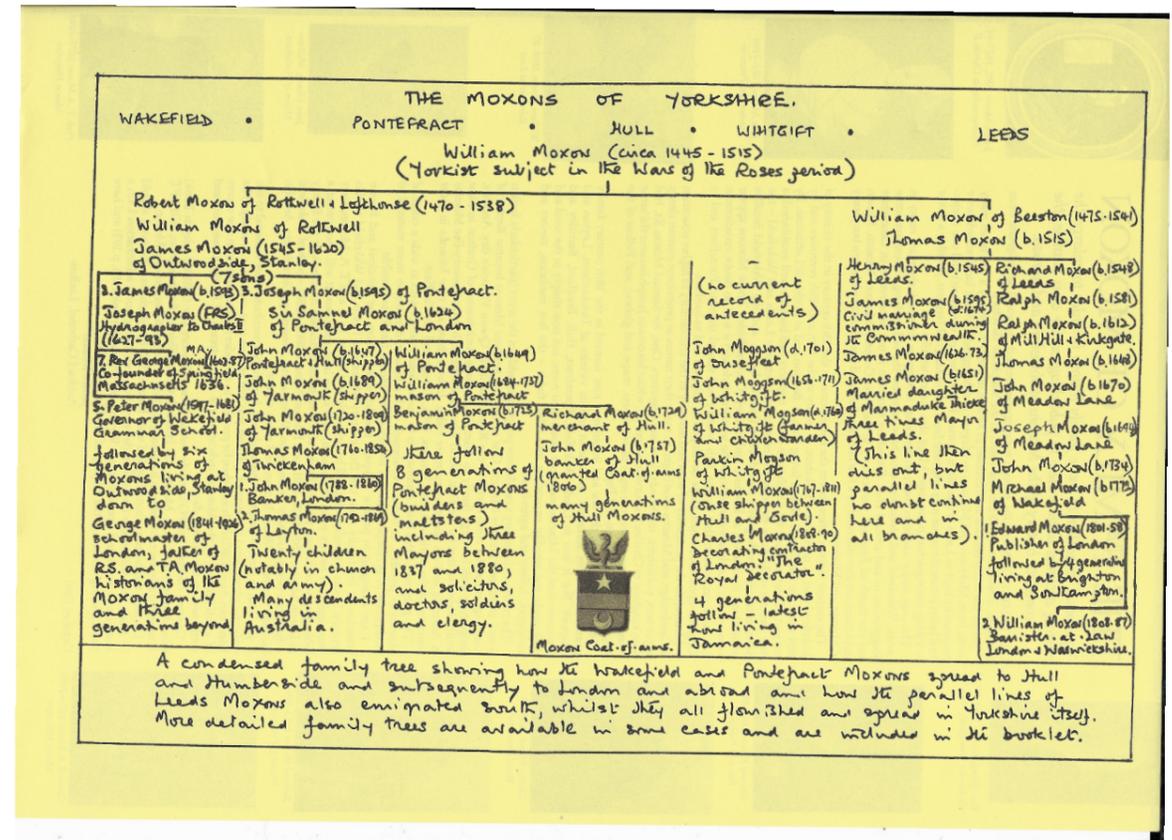
William Moxon 1808-87
Barrister-at-Law



John Moxon, Maltster
Mayor of Pontefract



Preb. T. A. Moxon 1877-1943
Moxon Historian



WE ARE INDEBTED TO JOHN MOXON for sending us this copy of "Jimmy" Moxon's original advertising pamphlet which led to the writing of his 1987 book "The Moxons of Yorkshire" about which we heard in Graham Jagger's fascinating after-dinner talk at this year's Annual Gathering. The book is still available (from Amazon, among other outlets) but is now known to contain significant errors.

It is sobering to consider that what was intended by an historian just thirty or so years ago as an earnest academic history can be so wrong now, but more sobering to think that perhaps what we write now might suffer the same fate over the next thirty years, despite the many technological advances in our ability to search for old documents, and to converse with each other around the world.



Pictured on eBay:

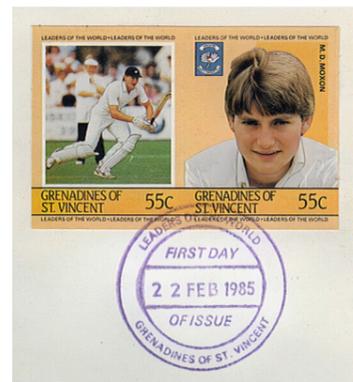
Christopher Albert Moxon noticed these items for sale on eBay:

CYLLENE MOXON - The famous actress has previously been featured in the magazine in issue 32 as “The Most Beautiful Woman in the World” but to date there has been nothing about her origins / background – we hope to rectify this in the next issue of the Magazine!

HENRY MOXON - Following the “Mysterious Woman” article in issue 66 about “Mrs Moxon of Islington, Liverpool”, another Carte de Visite appeared on eBay, this time from W. Butcher’s photography studio in Cambridge with the name “Henry Moxon” and the date “1890” written on the back. It did not take long to determine that the photographer’s studio in Cambridge did not open until the mid-1890’s which is when the photograph must have been taken. Given the age of the sitter it is most likely to be Henry James Moxon, the son of James Henry Harmar Moxon, Barrister at Law, of MX05. The latter drowned in Cambridge in 1883. His son Henry was born in Cambridge in 1875 and attended university in Cambridge at St John’s College. The photograph probably dates from about 1894. Sadly, in 1909 Henry caught pneumonia and died, aged just thirty-four.



MARTYN MOXON - Images of Martyn have appeared in the magazine many times but this one, from a Grenadines of St Vincent First Day Cover, is, we think, the first time we have featured a Moxon on a postage stamp! Does anyone know of any other instances of Moxons or Moxhams appearing on postage stamps?



Editorial Endpiece

IT MIGHT JUST BE ME, but it has been a very strange and unsettled year. In every walk of life there have been difficulties, shortages, and delays. This has even happened in my old profession, General Practice, where it has become difficult not just to see a doctor face-to-face but even just to talk to a receptionist. And even then, telephone triage by the receptionist usually only leads to a telephone consultation with the medical practitioner, and frankly, to old-school doctors like me, so much is missed by that remote, impersonal interaction.

So it was a great delight to be able to meet in person for this year's Annual Moxon Gathering in Manchester. It seems likely that a number of our members avoided this Gathering because of understandable ongoing fears about encountering the coronavirus. We hope and pray for larger numbers next year when we will be gathering near Silkstone and Cawthorne, cradle of our biggest Moxon Family Trees.

One of the advantages of face-to-face meeting is a much easier and better exchange of information, and when one of the Missing Links was discussed at the Annual Gathering there was an enthusiastic and very helpful discussion, to the end that much of the mystery of that particular Missing Link was resolved, and even led to the creation of another Moxon Family Tree, number MX102.

And so research into the genealogy and relationships among the Moxon Family continues, with thanks to all our Members.

There's an old joke which goes, "Why did I become an Editor? Well, to cut a long story short..."

But it is a huge twice-yearly privilege and truly a joy to put together this Moxon Magazine. Regular readers might note that it is somewhat thinner than some we have published in the past, but I can only include material which I received from members. I am most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue, many of the regular contributors to whom I extend a special gratitude, but I am always pleased to receive and to publish anything that might be of interest to the wider Moxon membership, so please consider this an open and heartfelt invitation to send me Moxoniana material to be published next April!

And if I might be permitted to don my other working hat, do please visit and contribute to the Moxon Research website, especially the new Missing Links section. Comments and suggestions to improve the website are always honestly sought and gratefully received.

Trevor Jordan

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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 can be obtained from from the webmaster webmaster@moxonresearch.org

THE MOXON MAGAZINE

THE MOXON MAGAZINE is published twice a year and 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 October 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.

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