

Volume 4 Issue 2 April 2011

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New Zealand Moffats meet UK Moffats at Dunedin, the "Edinburgh of the South"



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Welcome to the April 2011 Edition of Clan Moffat UK Newsletter

Since taking over the job of editor, I have particularly enjoyed the contact with members both in the UK and abroad. As well as reports and articles from committee members, this edition includes some fascinating material from Colene Vincent on the earthquake in New Zealand, along with interesting information about her Moffat ancestors. David Burns Moffat has written a second interesting article, following on from his talk at the Symposium last year at the International Gathering in Moffat. After such a long hard winter I am looking ahead to the AGM in Moffat in August. Colene Vincent is planning to be there. This will be her third visit to Moffat from New Zealand in recent years. Bruce Moffatt and family from Florida, who were unable to attend last August, are hoping to meet up with some of us at the Clan Moffat AGM in Fairfax, Virginia in 2012.

A few years ago, whilst attending an AGM in Moffat I had a day enjoying the tranquillity of the hills and I am including a couple of photographs I took to set the scene for Moffat in August. I hope you enjoy this edition and that you might consider sending in some of your own material for the next one.



October 2010 Edition

Correction. Page 18. Obituary, Peter Moffatt. Joan Kemp Welch died 5.7.1999 (not 1959), so her marriage to Peter Moffatt lasted forty years. Colin Moffat.

The excellent report on the Reivers Trail outing during the International Gathering in August last year was written by Colin Moffat. My apologies to Colin for omitting his name.

DEADLINE

MATERIAL FOR

OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

31 August 2011

Please send material to Editor: Jim Moffat

moffatclanpiper@me.com

Photographs

Front Cover Meeting the Aurora at Dunedin Larnach Castle Dunedin

Page 2 Moffat Hills above Loch Skeen

Back Cover Looking down to Loch Skeen

Letter from Clan Chief

Dear Members,

I cannot believe it is this time again to write to you. I have been so busy with family life, going up and down to Moffat to sort out my mother's affairs etc. that I have hardly stood still. It is the 1st of March tomorrow already but at least spring is on the way and we may hope for some better weather. I would love to get into the garden again if only it was not so wet.

I do hope you are all fairing well. Robin and I are making plans for next year already and are looking forward to going to Virginia and environs in September. It would be lovely to have a good representation from the UK so do think about it. I believe the weather is particularly nice at that time of year.

I am pleased that John 'Jock' Moffat has now received his Roll of Honour. He is such a lovely old man and I did enjoy talking to him in Edinburgh. May I also say that the last Newsletter was a good read. Congratulations, Jim, on your first edition. We have come a long way since the first Newsletter ten years ago and I am sure all members gain a lot of information from it. Thank you everyone for your contributions.

I will close now wishing you all the best for 2011.

Spero Meliora

Jean Moffat of that Ilk

Secretary's Report

HYPERLINK "mailto:bunty.davies@btinternet.com" bunty.davies@btinternet.com

Our meeting in Moffat this year will be held on the weekend of 13th August.

The AGM will be held at 3pm on Saturday 13th August 2011 at the Proudfoot Centre, Moffat, with the Committee Meeting, for those involved, at 6.30 pm on Friday 12th August in the small meeting room.

Our annual dinner will be held again at the Buccleuch Arms in Moffat. This will be on Saturday evening 13th August 2011, at 6.45pm for 7pm. Numbers will again be limited to 25. Enclosed with the Newsletter is a form on which to indicate your interest in attending the dinner. If you are interested, please return the form to me by the end of May. Menu choices for the meal will be sent out nearer the time.

Bunty Davies

Membership Secretary's Report

Here we are once again at the start of a new year. I hope the winter months have provided you with the opportunity to spend more time on your research. Personally I have made some useful discoveries on a branch of my family just last week although not my Moffat ancestors. They seem to be well hidden behind a very high stone wall!

As usual, subscriptions will be due by June 12th. Renewal forms are enclosed with the Newsletter and I hope you will renew your membership once again.

I look forward to meeting up with those of you who are planning to travel to Moffat in August.

Erica Seggie

Chairman's Letter

As I think many of you already know, Pamela and I spend the winter in The Algarve, Portugal, and in the past we used to drive from the north-east of England to Plymouth from where we took the ferry to Santander in northern Spain, then drove down through Spain to the town of Badajoz where we crossed the border into Portugal.

This was a marvellous journey and we used to see in the landscape things we remembered from geography lessons at school fifty years ago but had never seen before, such as escarpments! The journey was also quite costly, and after ten years we decided to buy a car in Portugal and fly back and forth.

This was a lot cheaper, but brought its own problems in that it limited the number of clothes we could take with us. I always took my kilt to wear on Hogmanay (and many a strange look that caused in our small village I can tell you!), but the whole outfit weighs quite a bit and would most likely swallow up my luggage allowance on the plane, so last year I took the plunge and got myself measured up for trews at Anderson's of Dumfries.

Technically they are tartan trousers rather than trews, but nobody would be able to tell that unless they saw me from behind with no jacket on - and if you don't understand that, then you can't tell the difference in any case!

Our winter stay in the Algarve is usually for five months but this time we will have to return after three months as I have to report to hospital for a health check - up. Some of you may recall that I had an emergency operation a couple of years ago, and I am currently on a new treatment for the underlying problem which caused an emergency, Crohn's Disease, and it is required that I have regular check - ups in case of adverse side-effects. Now for those of you who don't know, Crohn's Disease is a hereditary condition (but does not affect every family member), and I have a daughter and two sisters who also have the disease. Last year I discovered that a senior member of the clan also has the disease, and I began to wonder about how close might be the links between our two branches of the family.

However, when I mentioned this to the specialist sister who treats me, I was disillusioned of this notion. It turns out that there is more of this disease in Scotland than in the rest of the UK. I can only speculate that this is a result of a small gene pool in Scotland, and perhaps also from the clan system itself. It also makes me wonder whether any other of our members are similarly afflicted, and I'll be very interested to hear from anyone who is.

Your kinsman,

George.



Genealogist's Report

The Moffat Database is expanding, with the number of entries now in excess of 27,000. I know I'm repeating myself when I say that the Database has been updated every month, and giving my thanks to Roger Moffat for the US-based web-site Database facilities and Alan Telford for the Clan UK web-site links, who both ensure that the update procedure goes very smoothly. I've spent most of the previous six months enhancing the quality of Scottish data the same manner in which I've just completed England & Wales, although much of it has already been done thanks to John Moffat in Canada, and the fact that most intense interest pertains to Scottish families. With this in mind, I visited the Record Office in Edinburgh on two occasions, 4 days in total, resolving a number of knotty points. I came away with notes on some 500 certificates of birth, marriage and death.

I've also had considerable fun chasing records for correspondents who have consulted the Database. Maureen Legget is descended from David Moffat (1802-1883), the baker, originally from Edinburgh, who married Jemima Brownlie in Edinburgh, but who then moved to London where they prospered and raised a family of 10 children. In researching David's roots in Edinburgh, Maureen encountered David Moffat (1800-ca 1855) from Penicuik, and his brother John Moffat (1796-ca 1865), both bakers, and both of whom raised large families. From another contemporary family in Kilsyth, Stirlingshire, three more brothers William (1797-ca 1865), John (1801-ca 1855) and Thomas (1808-ca 1855) were also active in the bakery trade. As a reminder, what is now the Moffat Museum was once a bakery, where David Smith Brown, baker, had married Margaret Moffat (1848-1932) of Penpont.

George Davison Moffat lived in County Durham in the early 19th century. He moved to London, and became manager of a joint stock bank. No doubt his sons were associated with him in the business. Perhaps the dealings of his eldest son, George Davison Moffat II were not up to the highest professional standards. George was convicted in the Central Criminal Court in 1853 for forging and uttering with intent to defraud. He pleaded guilty. He was aged 22 at the time and was transported for 15 years. He arrived as convict Nr 3275 in Australia on "The Stag" on 2 July 1855. George however managed to get his life back on track. He married Elizabeth Jean Finn, of Limerick, Ireland, in Perth, Western Australia, on 15 Jan 1858, and was given a conditional pardon on 1 July 1859 leading to conditional freedom on 9 January 1873. George and Lizzie raised a family of 6 children. One of these, Alfred Augustine Moffat, married and had 8 children. This dynasty continues to thrive in Australia.

I'm also grateful to Rosemary Moffatt, for information on her ancestors Alfred Peace Moffatt who married Sarah Alice Wilby in Leeds, 1908. They emigrated to Canada in 1913. Rosemary showed me the papers filled in when Alfred volunteered to enlist in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War 1 (and wondered what the military authorities would make of his middle name). Alfred's parents were Frederick Waitt Moffatt and Sophia Peace – thereby explaining the reason for his middle name.

I visited the "Who do you think you are" Genealogy Exhibition at Olympia in February. One gem that I came away with was a reference to the freely available site of HYPERLINK "http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk", regarding places in Scotland. One benefit was to see the Horse Tax records of 1797, where every Scottish farmer or carter owing one or more horses had to declare them. These records are extant. I looked up various farmers in Dumfriesshire, and saw that Francis Moffat of Craigbeck had 2 horses, and paid 4/- tax, as also did Alexander Moffat of Stroquhan, Dunscore. William Moffat of Belesbank, Dunscore had 1 horse (2/-) and James Moffat of Drumswhirn, Balmaclellan had 3 horses (6/-).

More news on the 1911 census. The census for all of Ireland is already available free of charge at www.census.nationalarchives.ie and the census for England and Wales is available from www.1911census.co.uk on a payper-view basis. This will shortly be available at no extra cost for those who have a subscription to ancestry.com. News from Scotland is that the Scottish 1911 census will be available from HYPERLINK "https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk from 5th April 2011 on a pay-per-view basis. When these censuses eventually become available at a cost that is not prohibitive, e.g. via my sub to ancestry.com, my intention is to include all Moffat data in the Database.

And with a Royal Wedding coming up, we wonder if the Moffats have any connection to the Middleton family. James Moffat (1839-1892), Greenock, married Betsey Middleton of Bolton, Lancashire. He worked as a builder of iron ships. They lived in Hull, and had 11 children. William Moffat (1744-1844), Newbattle, Midlothian, married Mary Middleton. He worked as a coal miner. Via their sons Peter and Alexander Moffat, they today have many Moffat descendents living in the Midlothian area. Richard Thomas Middleton (1813-1882) was a newspaper proprietor in Islington, Middlesex. After his first wife died, he married Martha Ann Moffat, but there were no children.

Colin Moffat, Genealogist, Clan Moffat UK, Kingston-on-Thames, February 2011 These are pictures of Margaret Moffat, daughter of Alexander Moffat and Beatrice Logan, Musselburgh, East Lothian and John Outerson on their wedding day in 1866.

Photos courtesy of Mary-Ann Baker, Australia.

If anyone can identify the uniform that John is wearing, we would be most grateful.

Colin Moffat



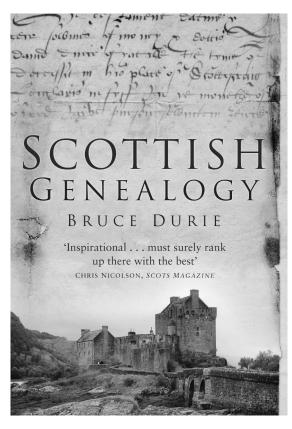


Book Review - Scottish Genealogy by Bruce Durie

I was at the Genealogy Exhibition at Olympia last month, and happened to meet up with Bruce Durie. He was at the stand promoting Distance Courses in Genealogy at Strathclyde University, at which he is the Academic

Manager of Genealogical Studies. He has just published a book on Scottish Genealogy, based on his vast knowledge of the subject as a whole, and presented in a fashion that is both easy reading and great for learning. His skill as an educator shows through. He discusses all the major topics of Scottish genealogy, and takes the reader thorough all the pitfalls, enlivened at times by his dry sense of humour.

The first few chapters outline birth, marriage and death certificates, as well as the census records from 1841 through 1911, followed by the Old Parish Records. He then shows other records of the population, census substitutes, such as Valuation Rolls, Poll and Hearth taxes, Poor Law records, and many more. He showed me how to look up the Horse Tax records, and we did this together, on-line, applying to farmers in Dumfriesshire. He describes the Religious situation in Scotland, and how to the various types of surviving Church Records may be consulted. He then goes on to describe the Scottish Legal System, Scottish Wills and Testaments, and Scottish Property Law with its Charters and Sasines. He supplies extensive glossaries of Scots words found in genealogical documents and Latin words found in legal documents. He lists occupations found in census records. He makes sense of the various monetary systems in use in Scotland, as well as explaining terms used in weights and measures.



He has other chapters of real utility. He gives the most succinct and comprehensible explanation of DNA as used by genealogists – what it means, and the extent to which it can be used. He also has explanatory chapters on the heraldic system applied to Scottish families, and the Clan system with its tartans. He also has a chapter on palaeography, taking the reader through the process of deciphering hand-written documents.

At just over 300 pages, this book is a veritable goldmine of information. I'm still avidly reading my copy, and it will be a permanent work of reference on my library shelf. "Scottish Genealogy", Bruce Durie, The History Press, £14:99.

Colin Moffat, Genealogist, Clan Moffat UK, Kingston-on-Thames, February 2011



Colin Moffat, Genealogist, at the Moffat Clan Tent, The Clan Gathering, Holyrood Park, July 2009.

Colin Moffat has received and translated this letter from Anders Klarbring, Sweden.

Hej Colin,

Jag har gjort vissa undersökningar angående Nils Olof Moffats huvudbanér. Ingen i församlingen verkade veta något, men jag fick några olika namn som jag grävde vidare på och jag fick slutligen lite hjälp av Carl-Johan Ivarsson som tydligen är intresserad av inventarieförteckningar. Han hittade under By (S) KI:2 bild 141 sid. 271 en inventering av By kyrka år 1796, där finns

"Ornamenter": 1. Hufvud Banér efter Fouriren Nils Olof Mofatt.

Jag bifogar en bild! Således vet vi att huvudbanéret fanns kvar 1796. Jag ska se om jag kan fortsätta och leta på senare inventeringar. Vad man noterar är att det tyvärr inte står något årtal för begravningen, men om man tittar på årtal för andra huvudbanér så är ju de från 1600-talet. Således är det inte omöjligt att Nils Olof är son till den äldre Robert (-1673). Vidare är han tydligen furir. Detta medför att det kan vara ide att titta på millitärrullor för att hitta honom.

En annan sak jag kollat på är var alla 1700-tals Moffat tar vägen. Här är det väldigt lite spår, vilket är konstigt. Kan de ha flyttat till en annan del av landet? Det enda jag hittat från 1800-talet är en Änka Katrina Mofatt som dör i Olserud, Ölserud (S) 1829. Bifogar bild! Detta kan vara Maria Catharina Moffat född 1761-09-11 i Låxerud, Millesvik (S)?

Hälsningar Anders

Subject: Nils Olof Moffat

Dear Colin,

I've just made some inquiries regarding the gravestone of Nils Olof Moffat. Nobody in By parish seemed to know anything, but I found the names of several other people who dug deeper and I received help from Carl-Johan Ivarsson who is clearly interested in inventories. In By parish, he found an inventory from By Church, dated 1796, in which it states:

"Ornamentation": 1. Commemorative stone of Sergeant-at-Arms Nils Olof Mofatt.

I enclose an image of the text! Thereby we know that the commemorative stone was extant in 1796. I'll see if I can continue to seek information from later inventories. Sadly, we see that the year of burial was not noted, but if one examines other commemorative stones, they date from the 17th century. Thereby it is not impossible that Nils Olof was the son of the elder Robert Moffat (-1673). Further, he was a Sergeant-at-Arms. That suggests we should look in the Military Rolls to find a trace of him.

[Because there are no Moffats in 19th century Sweden] I wondered what had happened to all the 18th century Moffats. Perhaps surprisingly, there are few clues. Did they perhaps move to another part of Sweden? The only 19th century reference that I can find is to Widow Katrina Mofatt who died in Olserud, in 1829. I enclose an image of the text! This might just refer to Maria Catharina Moffat born 1761-09-11 in Låxerud, parish of Millesvik

Anders Klarbring, Sweden

Nils Olof Moffat (continued)

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Summa mankon 8. 29

Letters to the Editor

I have just read the note in the last newsletter by Colin Moffat on Robert Moffat.

In the middle ages and beyond into the 18th century it was normal for any Scottish, or indeed English, person who came from an acknowledged armigerous family to be admitted into the noblesse in Europe. There were usually tax advantages in being a noble, rather than not! There is an article, Social Status and the Travelling Scot, by Matthew Glozier, about this in relation to France in Volume 23 (2000) of the Double Tressure. The continental definition of untitled noble was the same as the British definition of an armiger, a man who had a coat of arms.

The procedure was as Colin Moffat outlined; they got a birth brief from the local Burgh Council, or even better from Lyon. The birth brief normally recited the last three or four generations, but often the fathers of the wives were noted by name, effectively giving a bit more detail.

There is a similar birthbrief given on 21 August 1644 to William Moffat, from Glencairn, the son of Neil Moffat (son of Thomas Moffat of Punmoodie and Jean Blaiklock daughter of Robert Blaiklock of Kirkhill and his wife Margaret Crawfuird) and Rosina Richardson (daughter of William Richardson of Clarastoun, descended from the Richardsons of Smeaton in Lothian, and Jonet Huntar, daughter of William Huntar brother of Norman Huntar of Polmude in Tweeddale); it is recorded under the Great Seal (vol IX, no 1554). Indeed I have also found other birthbriefs recorded under the Great Seal, but in some cases the pedigrees are not reliable.

Andy Moffat (member 57) has sent in a correction to his article which was printed in Vol 3 issue 7 October 2009 page 23. He says half way down the first page of the article it mentions that his "Grandma & Grandpa Tinning and his Aunt Margaret lived in another house in the Close". This was incorrect. He, his mother and brother and sister stayed in a rented flat up a close of a tenement block – 23 Clyde Street, Dunbarton. His Grandparents and Aunt however lived in a house they owned at High Mains Avenue, half a mile from his house, which was a more up market area. His Grandfather was a Station Master.

John W Moffett, Editor of Moffatana writes, "I also wish to thank all those who were involved with the festivities during the gathering. I was able to attend only the Reception and the AGM. I had 12 in our group form Kentucky and we had a most enjoyable time. We rented a farm house (5 bedroom) called Chapelhope about 15 miles east of Moffat on the road to Grey Mare's Tail. The farm house was almost to Loch of the Lowes. It was beautiful in the country and we thoroughly enjoyed our stay. It gave us a chance to feel at home. My daughter also got married at the Moffat House Hotel garden on Wednesday before Thursday's Clan Chief Reception."

Alex Maxwell Findlater

Clan Moffat Roll of Honour

Hazel and Gordon Crammond visited John Moffat to present the Citation to him in Scotland on behalf of Clan Moffat UK. Hazel reports "He was very pleased with it as I think you could tell from the photograph in the newsletter. The following is the note I received from him afterwards."

"Dear Hazel & Gordon

I enjoyed meeting you all. Please thank all who were involved in producing such a unique honour. How much I appreciated your taking time during your 'hols' to visit me with the citation which I will cherish. Please give my regards to all.

Yours sincerely, John."

Agnes MacPhillimy (Member 128) writes,

I came accross the following while reading "Historic Dunfermline" -(a book written by E Patricia Dennison and Simon Stronach, and published by the Dunfermline Burgh Survey; Community Project)

"The only other mention of a slated house comes in 1506 - west of the tolbooth and inhabited by John Moffat (Montefixo), the schoolmaster....." The property was probably owned by the church.

The source for this is the Burgh Records of Dunfermline (ed. E. Beveridge, Edinburgh 1917)

I would be interested to know what people think of this spelling.

Agnes MacPhillimy (Member 128)

It is with sadness that we report that Nadine Moffat (member 8) one of our founder members died on 20th November 2010. We send our deepest sympathy to her husband Ron Moffat.

Alister C Moffat (member 195) sadly died on 30th December after a short illness. We send our sympathy to his family.

Future Events

This year Bunty and Erica are planning to attend the South Ayrshire History and Family History Fair to be held in Troon on Saturday 4th June. There have been good reports about this Fair from other societies who have attended previously. This will be a new area for Clan Moffat to visit and hopefully a venue where there are lots of Moffat connections.

The Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS) conference will take place on 25th June in Adam House, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. This annual conference includes speakers and exhibitors including Family History Societies and representatives of various Clans. The Conference title this year is 'Census, Church & City'. We will be represented this year for the first time although some of our members have attended in past years.

It has been decided not to attend the National Family History Fair this September. The Fair which is held in Newcastle is proving to be a much more expensive occasion than any of the others. The cost of a table is more than double that of other events and now exhibitors must take out their own Public Liability Insurance the costs are now too high for us to cover.

If you happen to be in either Troon or Edinburgh on these dates do call in and spend some time with us.

Erica Seggie

Memories of a Past Event





Hazel Crammond and Colin Moffat at the Clan tent in the Clan village at the International Clan Gathering, Holyrood Park, July 2009

Moffats in the News

10th Dr Who Actor David Tennant announced his engagement to his girlfriend Georgia Moffett daughter of Peter Davidson and his first wife Sandra Dickinson, in the New Year, and it is said that they are planning to marry on New Year's Day 2012. Peter Davidson played the 5th Doctor from 1981 to 1984. David and Georgia met when she had a guest role in a 2008 episode playing the Doctor's daughter, Jenny.

Hazel Crammond- January 2011

"Moffat sacked as SRU try to halt Edinburgh slide."
Extracts from article by David Ferguson, The Scotsman, Tuesday 1st February 2011

Edinburgh coach Rob Moffat was sacked yesterday, paying the price for poor results in the first half of this season. The Scottish Rugby Union chief executive Gordon McKie and Scotland coach Andy Robinson, along with director of performance rugby Graham Lowe, took the decision to remove Moffat and put assistant coach Nick Scrivener in charge until the summer. Moffat, 53 had been Scotland's longest-serving professional coach having quit his teaching career at the onset of the pro game in Scotland to take charge of the Border Reivers team in 1997.

Widely considered a fine, forward-thinking one-to-one coach, Moffat was a key part of Edinburgh's rise from 2006 to 2009 but as the head man his side produced just 14 wins in 32 league games and four victories in 12 Heineken Cup matches. No matter how competitive his side was results remain the monitor of pro rugby.

McKie said: "Clearly we were all disappointed at the end of last season, when Edinburgh were unsuccessful in their bid to reach the Magners League play-offs, and results this season have not been as we would have hoped for. Rob is equally disappointed with these outcomes as he has always given the club his total and absolute commitment, and acted with great dignity and professionalism. Rob is rightly held in great affection by Edinburgh and Scottish rugby fans and it is with a degree of regret that we make today's announcement.

On behalf of Edinburgh and the SRU, I have thanked Rob for his hard work and dedication, and have asked him to take a short break. Upon his return we will discuss the potential to agree a different role for Rob elsewhere in the SRU. "

As for Moffat, where he goes now is uncertain, but he will have options. A former teacher of 20 years' experience in education and over 30 years in schools, youth, club and professional rugby, will be highly sought after.

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World Swimming Championships

The young French swimmer, Camille Muffat, has won the World title in the 200 metre Freestyle on the fifth and final day of the World Swimming Championships in Dubai. She has succeeded in proving wrong the sceptics, who felt she was too young to excel at this level, by achieving the third best performance of all time and beating her American and Australian opponents.

New members of Clan Moffat UK

Welcome to Alistair Stevenson, member 266, from Newton Stewart and to Alexander Moffat, member 267, from West Lothian.

Moffat Measure

Whist recently having a meal with my aunt from Wanlockhead, (who is not a Moffat), she referred to someone's very full cup of coffee as a "Moffat measure". She said that she hadn't used this expression for years but that it was often used in her family to refer to a full measure. Has anyone heard of this?

Jim

The New Zealand Earthquake

At 4:35 am on Saturday 4th September 2010, a massive earthquake hit Canterbury. It was centered near Darfield, about 40 kilometers west of Christchurch. Measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale it devastated the lives and homes of thousands of Cantabrians. The tremor lasted for over 30 seconds and has forever changed the face of Christchurch, New Zealand's second largest city. Luckily timing meant there was no loss of life, but the damage was massive. The noise which preceded the quakes was horrendous. It was as though a freight train was coming through the house and in the days and weeks ahead people were on edge not knowing if the noise they suddenly heard was a quake, in our area, a plane coming into the Christchurch International Airport or large trucks rumbling down the street. There was huge impact on homes, property, and damage to many historic buildings. Much of the city and some suburbs were badly affected. There was much disruption, widespread power cuts, water supplies cut or contaminated by sewerage disposal problems, and severely damaged houses. In parts of the City streets were strewn with rubble, chimneys fell through roofs, sand and water bubbled up through the ground and from broken pipes, flooding roads. Liquefaction was something many knew nothing of but it comes about when the earth shakes in a severe guake and underground water is forced upwards turning soft, unconsolidated material into slushy mud. Many Christchurch homes were built on relatively soft ground and underground slush came up in fountains cloqqing damaged streets. This would have to be shoveled up and carted away before it could get into storm water pipes. Huge cracks appeared in the land and houses slipped off piles and concrete slabs broke. Many of the damaged buildings were built before the Second World War and those of brick and masonry were some of the worst affected. Sadly some of these were suburban strips of small shops, which in some cases have accommodation on upper floors, which have already been demolished, meaning homes and livelihoods are lost. Canterbury has much fine traditional stone English architecture buildings, particularly churches and sadly many of these were badly damaged. The central city was closed for several days as buildings were checked and schools closed for a week. The majority of pupils were able to return to class rooms but there are several schools which will have to be rebuilt on same or new sites. There was a large 4.9 after shock at 10:30 am on Boxing Day which was nearer to the city centre, only 5 klm deep, which was felt from north to south, as apposed to the usual west to east. Unfortunately this caused damage to many buildings that had not been affected earlier. For many life has returned to near normal but there are hundreds or families that still don't know if there homes can be repaired or demolished and in some cases their land will not be able to be rebuilt on. Some of the rebuild to properties is on hold until the after shocks drop in magnitude. To date there have been over 4200 after shocks. Three of these are being treated as separate events because of their severity.

One of the churches damaged in the earthquake was the Anglican Parish Church of Upper Riccarton. Colene Vincent

Christchurch Earthquake Update Saturday 26th February.

Tuesday's quake struck at a very busy time of the day during many peoples lunch breaks. The loss of life was something we were spared in the September quake. As of today there are 124 confirmed deaths and still over 200 reported as missing. It is feared that these missing people are trapped under damaged buildings. Though rescue teams from all over the world are assisting there have been no live recoveries since Wednesday (Another after shock as I write this). Again the western suburbs have again been spared and there is little or minimal damage in our area. But not so for the central city or the eastern suburbs and much damage to Lyttelton where the epi centre was only 5 klm deep. The historical buildings that were spared in the September quake were severely damaged this time. Our beautiful Christ Church Cathedral in the city centre lost its spire which in turn brought down other parts and it is in these ruins there are thought to be possibly 22 bodies. Many of our beautiful Churches have been destroyed across all denominations and the Catholic Basilica has much more additional damage. Also experiencing further damage is St Peter's, Upper Riccarton, most of which seems to be in large areas already damaged. This has reinforced the reason that authorities were waiting to start major repairs until the after shocks dropped away.

Christchurch, with a population of nearly half a million, is small enough that we will know of someone that has been affected by the lives lost and it is gratifying to learn of the support that is coming to us from around the world. Cantabrians are reslient and we will stand together and with the support of other New Zealanders and from world wide we will rebuild our lives and our city.

My personal thanks for the messages I have received from clan members as well as other friends in the UK. It means so much. Thank you all. Murray and I are looking even more forward to the arrival of Betty and Ian when their cruise ship arrives in New Zealand waters next month.

Colene Vincent.



St Peter's Church Riccarton





















Repairs after the September Earthquake



The Church of St Peter

St Peter's Church, Church Corner, as it is locally known, has strong links to my Moffat family. The church is situated at the junction where the main road leading to the West Coast splits from the Main South Road which continues down the east coast of the South Island. In 1851 subscribing for a church was started by the Reverend Octavias Mathias after he was licensed to the Cure of Christchurch by Bishop Selwyn, first Bishop of Christchurch. In 1852 Mathias deeded 20 acres of land for a church, vicarage, Sunday school, cemetery and glebe land. On 6th April 1858 St Peter's Church was consecrated by Bishop Harper, the church being fully paid for. Over the years additions were made till it is as we now see it completed in stone and brick. The earth quake caused damage to the exterior of the church, with cracking to the stone work, and several of the top sections of the gable ends where the stone work reaches the apex of the roof fell to the ground. Luckily there was minimal interior damage. The church was closed while temporary repairs were made and these were completed in time for services on Christmas Day. The restorations will not be completed till the aftershocks have decreased in strength over several weeks.

My Gt Gt Grandmother, Mary Moffat, aged 42, had arrived in Lyttelton, New Zealand from Cumberland aboard the clipper ship Merope on 26th August 1871. With her were her two children, Joseph my Gt Grandfather, aged 17, and his sister Betsy, aged 13. They settled at rural Lincoln south east of Christchurch where Mary's younger brother had a flour mill. After a year or two working with his uncle as an apprentice flour miller Joseph then found employment with Daniel Inwood at the Avon Mill in Christchurch. It was while working there he met Ellen Gaskell. Ellen was born in 1857 in Nelson Province in the upper South Island after her parents had arrived from England in August 1851 with 3 children and a fourth child was born a few months later.

On 14th June 1876 Joseph and Ellen were married at St Peter's, Riccarton and the long family association with the church began. Joseph built a flour mill at Avonhead but after it burnt down another mill was built west of Christchurch at Kirwee. Their first 2 sons died at 1 day old and 6 months. They were buried at St Peter's. Two daughters were born in Christchurch, the second being my Grand mother Adelaide Beatrice on the 8th December 1881. Nana, as we called her was baptised at St Peter's Church. The family moved further west to Annat where 3 sons were born. A flour mill and a house were built at Darfield, between Annat and Kirwee. It was a stone mill, later fitted with rollers, the first in the country, and it was driven by water power. Another son and a daughter were born in Darfield. Later our Grandmother moved to Christchurch to begin work as a tailoress, but after only 9 months she had to return to Darfield as another baby, a son, was expected. Nana was the first of the Moffat children to marry. She met James Calder, a builder, living in Darfield from a large family of 11 children from Halkett near Darfield. They married on 25th October 1905 and built a home in Darfield. They had 3 sons born in Darfield, Robert Alexander, my father, born 18th September 1906. Keith Vivian born 26th November and James Douglas born 28th November 1919. After the death of her husband 28th November 1918 my Grandmother sold the family home and moved into Christchurch were she bought a property in Riccarton.

In 1906 James and Ellen moved to Rangiora and leased a flour mill there leaving their son Winfred to operate the mill in Darfield. Their last mill was built by 2 of his sons in Addington, Christchurch and they were to operate it on Joseph's retirement. Joseph and Ellen lived their last years in a home on the lower slopes of the Cashmere hills. As this home became too large they built a home lower on the section. On their marriage in December 1931 my parents bought the original home and we lived there until my parents shifted from the hill to Riccarton in 1961. Ellen Elizabeth Moffat died 29th October 1930 aged 74 years and Joseph Moffat died 17th July 1932. On 1st November 1876 Gt Gt Grandmother Mary married for the first time to John Hamilton, 11 years her junior. John pre deceased her and died 27th April 1897 and was buried in the St Peter's Cemetery. Mary died 15th October 1900 and was buried with John. I do not have the date of Betsy Moffat's marriage to Edwin Blakeway but she gave birth to the first of their 11 children when she was aged 22, 2 daughters and 9 sons. Their 8th son died at 11 weeks of age, and at 41 years Betsy gave birth to twin boys. She died 10 years later on the 28th May 1908 aged 51. Edwin died in 1934 and is buried with her at St Peter's not far from her mother's grave.

St Peter's Church is in a lovely setting and though bounded on two sides by very busy roads there are mature trees and grassed areas and garden plots.

Colene Vincent Member 129.

Upstairs Downstairs

By David Burns Moffat

During the 19th century illegitimacy was a major problem in Scotland especially among the rural communities. It was even the subject of a question in parliament (Hansard, 28th March 1892) and the kirk sessions were kept busy interviewing and admonishing the miscreants. My own branch of the Moffat family contributed generously to the problem and forms the basis of this study.

There have been numerous attempts to explain the causes of illegitimacy ranging from the accommodation of farm workers in bothies to the ancient custom of "bundling" and even to "a great deal of oatmeal being consumed here which contains a great deal of phosphorus and has a tendency to inflame the passions" (Royal Commission cited by Blaikie, 1993). My own pet theory used to be that the long, cold evenings of the Scottish winter led to a certain amount of clandestine activity in a dark corner of the cottage but this proved to be wrong. From a study of 124 birth records, of Moffats and others, it was possible to work out the dates of conception and there was no significant difference between those in the winter months and those in the rest of the year.

There was, however, one factor which almost guaranteed illegitimate births. The girls in the farm workers' families, often at the age of 15 or 16, were very frequently employed as domestic or farm servants on the larger farms or on the big estates. They very often then became pregnant and were sent home in disgrace to have their babies and were then sent out to work again. In the 124 birth records mentioned above, 36 (29%) of the births were illegitimate and of these, 33 (91%) of the mothers were servants. It could be argued that this could be coincidental but in a similar investigation in Rothiemay, Banffshire, 94% of 306 mothers of illegitimate children were servants (Blaikie, 1993). The extent of the problem is well illustrated by a single page of the birth records for Caerlaverock in 1890 in which all three of the births are illegitimate (including one Moffat) and all three mothers are domestic servants (Fig. 1).

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Fig 1

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Fig 2

Upstairs Downstairs (continued)

These figures do not include the rather frequent "in the nick of time" weddings in which the minister had to turn a blind eye to the bride's advanced stage of pregnancy.

An extreme example of the prevalence of illegitimacy among servant girls is provided by Ann Moffat, daughter of Francis Moffat and Helen, née Johnstone. She was an unmarried farm servant in Johnsfield, Dryfesdale and she gave birth to Mary Boyes in 1866 when she was 21. She was duly admonished by the elders of the kirk and gave the father's name as John Boyes. She appeared at the kirk sessions again 6 months later and was again admonished but was then absolved from the scandal (Fig. 2).

Unfortunately the admonishments didn't have the desired effect on Ann and in November 1872 she was a servant in Kirkpatrick Juxta and gave birth to Helen Johnstone Moffat, probably named after her grandmother, father unknown. Ann then moved on to Dumfries and had a third illegitimate child, Frances Ann Moffat. She finally gave birth to Thomas Walls Moffat in May 1880, also in Dumfries where she was still a servant. A little detective work makes it possible to find Thomas's probable father. In the 1881 census Ann was living in Queensberry street with Mary Boyes, Frances Ann and Thomas Walls (Helen Johnstone Moffat had gone to live with her uncle and aunt in Kirkpatrick Juxta). The unusual forename "Walls" makes one suspect that Thomas was named after his father and a search of the same census shows that a Walls family were living in Loreburn street. A modern street map of Dumfries shows that the two streets are next to each other with three interconnections. In the Walls family were three unmarried brothers, Francis, Lawrence and William, aged 25, 28 and 39, a mason and two horse dealers. Thus the most likely father was either Francis or Lawrence. In the 1901 census Ann was living alone in a house in Greyfriars, Dumfries which she shared with 22 other people and her occupation is given as "seamstress". Her accommodation is recorded as only having one window so she was probably living in a single room. She died in 1910. What happened to all these illegitimate children? Many of them died shortly after birth or during early childhood but the majority married and led perfectly ordinary lives. The mothers, of course, had the problem of looking after the baby while still going out to work. The solution, nearly always, was to deposit the baby with the grandparents and Paddock (cited by Blaikie, 1993) found that in Dryfesdale and Lochmaben in 1881 nearly 80% of illegitimate children lived with their grandparents. A good example is provided by James and Janet McKenzie (née Moffat) who, in the 1881 census, lived in Kirkmahoe and had living with them their illegitimate niece Helen Johnstone Moffat (See above). In the 1891 census they gave a home to their grandson Francis Moffat, the illegitimate son of their daughter Annie, a domestic servant. In the household too was another granddaughter Jessie Cowan Bisset, aged only 2 months but she was Annie's legitimate daughter born18 months after her marriage to Charles Bisset. Jessie was presumably "farmed out" so that Annie could get back to work as a domestic servant. Just to put all these figures in perspective, in 2007 more than half of all babies in England and Scotland were born out of wedlock. Plus ca change.....

REFERENCE

BLAIKIE, ANDREW (1993). Illegitimacy, sex and society. Northeast Scotland, 1750-1900. Oxford, Clarendon Press.

LEGENDS FOR FIGURES

- Fig. 1. Part of a page from the birth records of Caerlaverock, 1890.
- Fig. 2. Two entries from the kirk sessions for Lockerbie, February, 1867 and July,
- 1868. In the first Ann Moffat admitted the name of the father and was admonished and in the second she was admonished again and absolved.

Burns Celebrations

The year of the homecoming in 2009 was chosen to coincide with the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Burns' birth. It was intended that the new National Trust for Scotland Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway would be opened during the homecoming year but unfortunately this was delayed and the new museum was opened on 21st January this year in time for Burns Night this year.

The exciting new museum includes some of the places associated with Burns, such as the cottage where he was born, and Brig O' Doon and the Auld Kirk which feature in "Tam O' Shanter". It aims to appeal to visitors of all ages and replaces the former Burns Heritage Park.

Burns celebrations are held all over the world and are very popular in the south of England where I live. For the last few years I have been piping in and addressing the haggis about eight times each year. These venues have been quite varied and have included church halls, golf clubs, schools, a private members club in London a restaurant on the Essex coast and Culzean Castle.





Piping in, addressing and toasting the haggis



Burns was a visitor to Moffat and etched the epigram, "Ask why God made the Gem so small and why so huge the Granite? Because God meant mankind to set the higher value on it", on a window in the Black Bull, Moffat. The original window is rumoured to have been given to the Tsar of Russia.

Burns Celebrations (continued)

This year I was asked to give the Immortal Memory speech at one of the Burns Suppers I attended. As part of this I attempted to make a connection between Burns and my own family history by showing my family Bible which helped me to discover that my great, great grandfather, James Moffat came from Lamington. Whilst sitting in the church at Lamington, Burns wrote,

"As cauld a wind as ever blew. As cauld a kirk and in it but few." I wondered if any of my Moffat ancestors were amongst these few?

I imagine that my family Bible is very similar to the one read aloud by the father in "The Cottar's Saturday Night, ""The big ha' Bible ance his father's pride ". It is thought that Burns may have modelled the father in this poem on his own father and the Burns' family Bible is one of the artefacts in the new museum in Alloway.



Lamington Church

At the Clan Gathering in Holyrood Park in July 2009, I attended a talk with Gordon Crammond given by the photographer Andy Hall, author of a book with the appealing title. "Touched by Robert Burns". I think it is the poem "A cotter's Saturday Night " which touches me most about Burns as when I read it I get a sense of where my Moffat ancestors came from.

Jim Moffat

Burns has a timeless and universal appeal and he is celebrated all over the world.

Collene Vincent describes traditional Burns celebrations in New Zealand and George Moffat gives an account of less formal festivities in Portugal.

"I have been in touch with the Scottish Society of New Zealand based here in Christchurch. A Burns night is held each year on the Saturday nearest to the 25th January. During the evening, the Selkirk Grace is said and the haggis is piped in and addressed. Haggis is the main course of the meal, served with neeps and tatties. After the meal the Immortal Memory is given by the Clan Chief and there is a Toast to the Lassies and a reply. A singer who has won a competition at an earlier ceilidh, sings "Star of Robby Burns". This is followed by a piping selection by the band, a solo singer and a violin. They then conclude with Auld Lang Syne.

He suggested that I might like to join the society which wasformed in 1902. They have monthly ceilidhs and a Gathering of the Clans in November plus Scottish dancing etc. Maybe that is a thought."

Colene Vincent

Burns Night in the Algarve

This year we had Burns night at home. We bought a haggis in UK and flew it out to Faro when we came here in the middle of December. Potatoes are easily available as you would expect but we had some trouble tracking down neeps. Turnips are usually easily available as well but for some reason there were none in the shops when we wanted one. Having exhausted all our local shops we headed out to the next village where there is a British shop that caters for ex pats and we were able to buy a turnip though at a ridiculous price for that humblest of vegetables.

Everything in that shop is ridiculously expensive and they make a fortune from ex pats and holiday makers who cannot do without their favourite brands. In front of us in the queue was a British couple stocking up on PG tips tea (several boxes), Robertson's jams and Heinz tomato ketchup..They paid over £40 for what would have cost half that in the UK!

And believe me the Portuguese "Goluso" brand of ketchup tastes every bit as good as Heinz at a fraction of the cost. Anyway we got our turnip and were able to make a Burns Supper. Pam saw to most of that, but I made the pudding which was an Ecclefechan tart. I switched on my laptop and played a video clip of Jim Moffat piping and that was how we piped in the haggis! I wore my newly acquired trews for the occasion.

We used to go to a local restaurant for a Burns Supper, but the curiously named "Kilt and Kelt" in Albufeira has closed down. There they used to stage the Burns Supper on the Saturday night of the same week rather than on the actual night of Burns' birth. The last time we went the place was packed with people of various nationalities, including some Canadians (for some reason The Algarve is a popular winter destination for Canadians). I asked the man behind the bar if I could put up one of our "Moffats - Your Clan Needs You" posters and he was happy to let me.. Everybody was having to share tables, and we sat next to a Scots couple a few years older than us.

The man, who was called Alec, had a broken nose. After we'd introduced ourselves his wife tapped her nails twice on the wine glass in front of her, producing two distinct rings and immediately Alec jumped out of his seat and, with raised fists adopted the stance of a boxer! This was obviously his party trick / joke as, sitting down again, he explained he'd been a boxer in his youth and it was second nature to respond to the sound of a bell. I judged by his height that as a youngster he'd have been a lightweight so I asked him if he'd ever fought Andy Wyper (a Scots champion of 1960s). "No", he replied, "but my brother did". Having established my boxing bona fides we got on very well for the rest of the evening.

The supper itself was okay, but the drink was free-flowing so it turned out to be good value for money! The pudding was cranachan, which again was okay. Then came the reading. An elderly Scotsman read the address to the ladies, and his wife replies on their behalf. Then the man from behind the bar came out and read the first poem. He was wearing a kilt and had a genuine Glasgow accent, but it soon became clear that he'd never read a poem in his life. It was "For 'a that an "a that ", and the poor soul read it completely mechanically and without any feeling. From the look on his face it was obvious he didn't understand a word of what he was reading! When he'd finished he disappeared back behind the bar and didn't re-emerge. The elderly chap who made the first address then took to the floor and saved the evening by reading a few more verses of Burns with feeling and understanding. So a good evening was had by all, and it was fascinating to see how many folk still revere the bard even in a place like southern Portugal.

There is also a St. Andrew's Society in the Algarve and they advertise a Burns Night every year, but it's held in a town called Silves (pronounced Silvush) – which was the Moorish capital of the Algarve and is some distance away. To drive there would mean I couldn't have a drink - and what would Burns Night be without a drop of whisky?

(Inspirin" bold John Barleycorn! What dangers thou can"st make us scorn! Wi' tippenny, we fear nae evil; Wi" usquabae we'll face the devil!)

So the beauty of having Burns Night at home is that drink can be taken without fear!

OBITUARY

Vera Trebilcock nee Moffat Q.S.M.

3rd February 1912 - 12th September 2010

Vera Moffat was born in Cust, North Canterbury on the 3rd of February 1912, the eldest of four children born to Winfred and Henrietta Moffat. A second daughter Verna was born on 20th March 1913. There followed two sons, Horace Winfred born 29th June 1914, and Cyril Joffie born 4th December 1916. Sadly following this birth Henrietta died and the baby was adopted by an elder brother of Winfred, Albert and his wife Ethel. John, as he was then called, went to live with them in Kirwee. Winfred with the support of his parents Joseph and Ellen Moffat, my Gt Grandparents, raised the three children and they lived in Addington near the family flour mill.

Vera married John Trebilcock on the 19th of August 1941 with my two elder sisters Lois aged 5 and Pat aged 3 as their flower girls. Vera and John raised 4 children, Rosemary, Michael, Prudence and Jeremy on a farm at Oxford in North Canterbury. Teaching was a profession that Vera had always been interested in and she was instrumental in setting up the library at the local Rangiora High School where she taught English, as well as the reformation of the Addington School in the area where she was raised. On retirement, Vera and John bought a home in Rangiora. John died on 30th April 1983. Vera was very active in her community for nearly 70 years until she moved into a rest home in Rangiora for the last 5 years of her life. Her interests had been in the drama field, church, youth work, work with schools and for 20 years she had lead a Ministry team at the Rolleston Prison near Christchurch. She was also very interested in the Moffat genealogy and it was to Vera that Phil O'Malley turned to for information as he wrote his book "The Life and Times of Henry Moffat, which the Clan has a copy of. My late sister, Lois spent many happy hours with Vera over the years she was researching our family.

Vera's many years of Service to the Community was recognized in the New Years Honors' in January 2002 when she received the Queens Service Medal.

Vera suffered a stroke on the day of the earth quake and died eight days later on the 12th September 2010. She is survived by her daughter Rosemary, fifteen grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren.

When I saw the photo of Vera I was amazed at her likeness to my Nana, her Aunty. My sister Lois and Nana often sat with their heads to the side in the same way. Perhaps a Moffat trait.





Brett Moffat, son of John Moffatt (member 186) of Ripon, Yorkshire, died on 24th February 2011 aged twenty eight.

It was an honour for me to represent Clan Moffat by playing the bagpipes at the funeral in Ripon, Whilst it was a very sad occasion, it was also a beautiful celebration of Brett's life and it was good to be in the company of so many Moffatts.

We send our deepest sympathy to John and his family.

Jim

Madam Jean has provided the following details of a new book about Bonnie Prince Charlie which may be of interest to members.

The author would be deeply grateful if, as Clan Chief, you would pass on this special offer on to all your clan members and clan associations, as this book was written for them more than for anyone else.

Amberley Publishing plc and the author, Peter Pininski, would like to make this special offer to all members of the

clans and clan associations of Scotland

(Details below)

This new book by Peter Pininski is unique – it tells the story of Prince Charles Edward Stuart and that of his daughter and sole heir, Charlotte, Duchess of Albany,

then reveals the lives of his three secret grand-children and descendants. Pininski does not take the usual anglo-centric view, but sets the prince against the British-Polish family and Italian home of his actual upbringing. Then, after the failure of the 1745 Rising, the author details the prince's pan-European network of cousins, British Jacobites, international bankers and freemasons who tried to further the Stuart Cause and then hid the prince's grandchildren whose existence was a tightly-held secret until discovered by Pininski's research.

(Hardback with colour and b&w illustrations)

"Moving, fascinating, compelling. This new biography discredits two centuries of Stuart impostors by at last revealing the extraordinary story of the Prince's secret descendants. Pininski's pan-European research is astonishing. Essential reading for anyone with an interest in the Jacobites and later Stuarts."

(Professor Edward Corp, author and leading authority on the exiled Stuarts, curator of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery's exhibition 'The King over the Water'.)

- Clan members may order this book for the special price of £15.00, instead of the high street price of £20.00.
- Either phone (+44) (0) 1285 760030; or write: sales@amberley-books.com Please quote the code: CLANS.
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All items are available from Erica Seggie, Whinney Brae, Tundergarth, Lockerbie DG11 2PP

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Please contact the Membership Secretary for a form or download the form from our website.

Clan Moffat UK Directory and Lineage 2010

Our thanks to Hazel Crammond for all her hard work in producing this useful directory. Hazel has provided some additional material below.

Alterations & Corrections to the 2010 Directory

No. 254 John D Moffat delete from the Index of Members List at the front of the Directory.

No.14 Paul & Lynne Moffat have moved to 30 Willian Road, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 0LS.

No. 57 Andrew Moffat 's wife maiden surname is McWhirter

No. 8 Nadine Moffat deceased

No. 195 Alister C Moffat, Letchworth, deceased.

Additions to the Family Tree of Marion Doidge (No. 125)

Marion Lorraine Moffat married William S Doidge
Joseph Andrew Moffat married Mary Welford
Andrew Moffat married Cynthia Belle McLean
Andrew Moffat married Agnes Scott
Charles Moffat bc1804 married Margaret Watson
Charles Moffat bc1760 Gordon Parish, Berwick married Jane Bowhill

CLAN MOFFAT LITERATURE and NEWSLETTERS CDs

- 1) Five rare and early books on the Moffat Family and Town.
 - (i) A Short History of the Family of Moffat of that Ilk, Robert Maxwell Moffat, Jersey, 1908
 - (ii) History of Moffat, W. Robertson Turnbull, 1871
 - (iii) Moffat Past and Present, John Brown, 1873
 - (iv) Fairfoul's Guide to Moffat, 1879
 - (v) Robert Moffat, Hero of Kuruman, David Deane, 1890

2) Clan Moffat UK & Eire Newsletters on CD

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Moffats Keeping in Touch

Dear Jim
Editor of Clan Moffat UK newsletter.

When Doug Finnie joined Clan Moffat UK, his address appeared in the newsletter as Canada, but when he submitted a letter to the editor in the Apr 2008 newsletter, he included his email address which told me that he lived in Saskatchewan. I was excited to think that there was another Clan Moffat UK member in the province. Using the Net directory, I found 14 Finnies listed in Saskatchewan, but only two Doug Finnies. It was then an easy matter to pick up the telephone and dial. With good luck I found Doug in residence at their cottage near Prince Albert. He was very receptive to my call, and encouraged further contact. Since then we exchanged emails, and discussed a face to face meeting.



We finally met on Thursday, October 28 when my husband and I were in Saskatoon. Doug , who is a very busy man, made himself available to meet us over coffee. We recognized each other from photos in earlier newsletters and from a photo that Hazel send to me of Doug and Jane, and from the fact that I wore my Moffat tartan scarf. We settled into an easy conversation. Doug gave me some photos taken on his visit to Scotland in August, and also brought some "Moffat" books for me to look at. It did not take long to discover that we knew , or knew of, some people in common, and we shared information about our families and our ancestors.

The time passed very quickly, and then we had to go.

We were sorry not to meet Jane, but she had a very good excuse not to be there as she was doing some important grandmothering. We agreed that we will meet again, and the next time, we hope to meet Jane.

Sincerely, Marion Moffat Doidge

PS As a matter of interest, there are 14 Finnies listed in the Saskatchewan directory. There are 123 Moffats, 73 Moffats, 7 Moffits, 1 Moffet, and 6 Moffitts. As far as we know, neither Doug nor I are related to any of these Moffats.



Bruce Moffatt and family from Florida are sorry they were unable to attend the gathering in Moffat last summer. Bruce is pictured above with his sons at Holyrood House on the clan march up the Royal Mile, Edinburgh in 2009 and with his nephew, Robert on Alcatraz island, San Francisco.



Whilst walking in London I came across this Newsagent near Berkeley Square. I spoke to a member of staff who told me that a Mr Moffat owned the store about twenty three years ago. Mr Moffat was from Ireland and owned the shop for around twenty five years. The current owner has kept the shop name because of public interest. I was told that lots of people call in to enquire about the name. Jim.

