

Moffattalia

The Journal of Clan Moffat UK

Clan Chief

Madam Jean Moffat of that Ilk



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Acknowledgements

Tattoo Photographs -Marja Moffat

From the Editor

Welcome to the Autumn 2017 edition of Moffatalia.

When I drove into Moffat last month it was good to be welcomed by the new sign, "Welcome to the Dark Sky Town of Moffat", reminding me that the town was the first in Europe to be awarded the status last year. Moffat was extremely busy as it was hosting the World Gold Panning Championships, attracting competitors from over twenty countries. As I walked around the town in the evening I could see the Scottish dancing in the recently renovated Town Hall and hear traditional Scottish music and loud singing coming from one of the hotels. I felt the scene was being set for the wonderful experience that was to follow the next day when a group of us planned to travel to Edinburgh Castle to represent Clan Moffat at the Tattoo. I had the honour of piping the clan over the drawbridge onto the esplanade just prior to the start of the performance. It was an unforgettable experience. It was good to be with Moffats who had travelled from Scotland, England, Australia and Canada and to meet friends old and new.

New member from Australia, Cassandra Moffatt contacted the Clan via the Clan Moffat website whilst touring Scotland and at the last minute was able to join us at the tattoo. Cassandra writes about her experience later in this issue. This is an example of the value of our website as a point of contact for Moffats around the world.

Jim Moffat
Editor
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Deadline for Spring 2018 Edition
28 February 2018



Chairman's Report



Could someone check that Jim has recovered from the shock of my piece being in well before the deadline without having to be reminded.

We're now well through 2017 and it has been a fairly quiet one as far as Clan activities are concerned, we haven't attended the usual FHS fairs for health reasons. All being well we will be back in action next year keeping a presence where we feel it can promote the clan.

Sadly I was unable to be at the Edinburgh Tattoo, however I am pleased that many of you were there, put on a strong showing and by all accounts had a great time.

I was deeply saddened to receive a card from Hazel and Gordon Crammond notifying me that they would have to retire from clan activities due to ill health. They were there right at the genesis of our organisation way back in 1997 and have been stalwarts ever since, they will be sorely missed. I hope they will enjoy continuing to follow the clan through the excellent website and newsletter.

The AGM went well with those office bearers due to retire by rota soldiering on for another 2 years and George taking over the DNA coordinators role from Gordon. We are very fortunate in having a very strong committee.

There is room for at least one other member and we could really do with someone to take over the Webmaster role from Betty who has been doing an excellent job but has been trying to hand it over for the last three years, there must be someone out there who could pick up the baton.

After some discussion it was decided to put next year's AGM/Weekend back one week to the third weekend in August which should make it easier for people to attend. We received an approach from Moffat Golf Club about holding our AGM and meal there and I am currently trying to sort out more details. I had hoped to have this sorted in time for this edition of the newsletter, however it's been a bit of a struggle arranging a meeting with the manager. Once I have more information I will circulate them to the committee for a decision.

Many thanks to all of you for your support, especially the committee for their hard work.

Yours aye

David Kennedy Moffat



Clan Chief Madam Jean Moffat of that ilk



Dear Members,

As I write this I feel a little sad as summer seems to have departed rather rapidly and winter is on the way. However it is nice to look back sometimes and we certainly had a good time at the Tattoo this year. We were treated very well and it was an experience to go right up to the Great Hall of the Castle. The view as we marched back down to the esplanade was spectacular and we were privileged to be able to walk over the drawbridge. Jim piped us in to the esplanade and I think the audience appreciated our participation. You will see the lovely photos Colin's wife Marja took later in this edition. The performance was marvellous as usual and I liked the way they showed pictures on the castle walls.

I was particularly pleased to see our overseas visitors who came such a long way from Australia to be with us and we were lucky enough to catch Cassandra Moffatt in Moffat as she was visiting, who has become a new member and joined us in Edinburgh. Also I was thrilled we had an honorary member for the night who was the Royal Marine conductor and who is married to a Moffat.

The next day we had our AGM in Moffat. We were saddened to hear that Gordon and Hazel Crammond will not be able to travel to the meetings any more and I wish them well in their retirement from the Group. They have worked very hard for us since the inception of the UK Group for which I thank them and I know they will keep in touch with us. It is also sad that Betty Telford has retired from being webmaster but again I completely understand and thank her so much for all she has done for us too. I would urge anyone who is able to use a computer to think about taking on this job as it is an important source for new and old members and we need to keep the site going as it is such a good contact point for anyone looking into their ancestry.

We all enjoyed the dinner in Moffat House in the evening and we had a good number of members.

Perhaps some who have not been before might consider joining us next year.

I hope you have a good winter and festive season when it comes.

Spero Meliora

Genealogist's Report

I'm always pleased to follow the Moffat celebrity scene. The present showrunner of the Doctor Who series, Steven Moffat, has broken with tradition and cast a woman as the 13th incarnation of the famous time-traveller. We wish Jodie Whittaker well in the role, and hope that she can grapple with the exciting adventures that Steven will surely write for her. Even so, Steven has indicated that he will step down as writer and producer at the conclusion of the current series. Also, a Didn't She Do Well? award for Scarlett Sigourney Moffatt, who won the title "Queen of the Jungle" in "I'm a Celebrity - Get me out of here!". Scarlett's general enthusiasm and amazing capability to cope with bush tucker clearly resonated with the voting public. And actress Lynsey-Anne Moffat appeared in "Everything Between Us" in the Finborough Theatre in West London. Lynsey-Anne plays Sandra, a protestant Irish politician at the start of a Stormont truth and reconciliation commission hearing, when her wild and damaged sister, Teeni, played by Katrina McKeever turns up, and the sisters have to face a violent past and divided present. In his review, Michael Billington of the Guardian described strong performances by both actresses, and awarded four stars.

The Database is now being used by families other than Moffat. When researching some other family, the maiden name of "Moffat" of a wife will occur, and the researcher will find her name in the Moffat Database. This provides clues and pointers regarding the original family. For example, Tony Robson of Australia, researching his Robson ancestry, came across Ada Crossling Moffat (1878-1959).

The Database showed that Ada's maternal grandparents were John Corner and Ann Crossling - hence Ada's middle name. Moreover, in 1906, Sunderland, Ada married Joseph Robson, son of Robert Robson and Sarah Danskin, a hydraulics engineer, who worked in South Africa during the early years of his marriage. Joseph and Ada had 4 children: Joseph Vernon Robson, b South Africa 1.3.1908, d Liverpool 1975 (m Daisy Fowler); Reginald Vincent Robson, b South Africa 1910, d Australia 1982 (m Ivy Marshall); Audrey Robson b 1913; Rupert Terence Robson b Sunderland 12.3.1921, d St Albans 1996 (m Shirley Brocklehurst). Unravelling the movements of this family was complex.

In another case, I was contacted by Liz from Australia, regarding the entry for Una Clegg Hunter, b Stockton-on-Tees, 1889. In 1917, Sedgefield, County Durham, Una had married bricklayer George Moffett, b South Shields, 1889, after which George was posted to the Western Front. He was caught up in the battle to retake Flers, Somme, from German forces in August 1918, but died in the fighting. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission gave George's parents as Thomas and Mary Moffett, and his widow as Una Moffett, so it was straightforward to identify him. Liz told me that Una's parents were Margaret (Meg) Gouldsbrough and Jim Hunter, who had married in Durham, 1887. Jim Hunter died in the early 1900s, and Margaret re-married in 1905 to John Roche - of the family of primary interest to Liz. In the 1911 census Una is listed as the step-daughter of John Roche. In 1925, the family moved to Buffalo, Brooke County, West Virginia, USA, and Una Moffett is listed in the 1930 census as widow and housekeeper in the household of her stepfather John Roche.

Eventually, John Roche and his stepdaughter returned to England. Una did not re-marry, a possible reason being that re-marriage would entail the cessation of her war-widow's pension. Una Moffett died in Kent in 1986.

Tom Moffat wrote to me from Canada: "I'm looking for records of my grandfather, John Smith Moffat, from Greenock Scotland. Died in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada around 1960. He was married to Janet Cameron of Dunoon, Scotland. Any info you have would great." Clearly not John Smith Moffat, son or grandson of Robert Moffat the missionary to Africa. And no other John Smith Moffats either. However, there was a John Moffat, b Greenock 1880, son of Robert Moffat and Margaret Smith. His middle name had not been used in the census entries that I had seen. However, a quick check on his birth certificate gave "John Smith Moffat, b 13.8.1880, Greenock"; and his Marriage Certificate was "John Smith Moffat married Janet Cameron of Dunoon, 6.4.1917". Thereby identifying John Smith Moffat, and giving to Tom Moffat his Moffat ancestry some 6 generations back to ca 1680, and the information to me that John Smith Moffat and Janet Cameron had emigrated to Canada.

A recent correspondent from Queensland, Australia, via the Moffat web-site is Michelle Hoffman, on behalf of her mother, Wilma Hoffman, maiden name, Wilma Hudson. Wilma was b in Stirling 1952, her father died when she was just 3 years old, and 9 months later, her mother re-married to John Porter Hudson, and the family emigrated to New Zealand.

To avoid complications, Wilma was given the surname of her stepfather, and she didn't realise until her mid-teens that her birth name had been Moffat. It turns out that Wilma's father was William Neilson Moffat, who died in a motor vehicle accident in Burnbrae, Bearsden in 1955. The Procurator Fiscal was informed, who recorded a verdict of accidental death. Accidents seemed to run in that family. William Neilson Moffat's grandfather, Thomas Richard Moffat, had died in 1900, aged 41, due to injuries received when a railway engine ran over the end of the embankment at the Inchgreen terminus of the branch line between Inchgreen and Carlsburn Junction. The Census has Thomas's partner, Catherine Darby, as a delf hawker, and I take it to mean that she was selling Delft porcelain, or at least ceramic ware from Glasgow made in the Delft style.

A piece of breaking news concerns William Moffat, b 1774. He was active in the Merchant Navy of the Honourable East India Company, chartering ships, and made an absolute fortune there. I knew that he died in 1822, but his affairs were not settled until court cases were completed nine years later in 1830. A correspondent, Elizabeth, from Australia, has provided me with a detailed report on the legal wrangling. William had died in 1822 with a fortune upward of £200,000 (multiply by 100 to estimate today's value) in today's money. In 1822, estates were not taxed as a whole, but each individual bequest was taxed, at different tariffs, where bequests to direct descendents were taxed at 1%, and "strangers in the blood" were taxed at 10%.

Joint bequests to legatees in different categories were sub-divided into beneficial interests, and each taxed according to the relevant tariff. After other bequests had been paid, including a substantial endowment for his ailing wife, as well as £5,000 each to 14 grandchildren, the residue £60,000 was left to his son William jnr and his wife Jean. Noting the 1% rule, William jnr tendered payment of £600 to the Exchequer. They refused it, saying that William's wife Jean was a "stranger in the blood", and her half-share in the £60,000 should be taxed at 10%. They presented William jnr with a bill for £3,300. (There was a precedent - a case in which an earlier testator had bequeathed a fortune to his "daughter and son-in-law" was taxed in this way, after all appeals to higher courts had been exhausted). With a bit of inheritance tax advice, William should have been aware of this precedent, and could easily have left the whole sum to his son, trusting him to do the right thing by his wife. The actual wording cost the family £2,700, plus legal expenses of fighting the case. For all that, William jr seemed to be OK, we know that he subsequently could spend at least a year or more living with his family in Florence, whilst paying for his son Augustus to attend Winchester College.

Alison Parfitt has recently drawn my attention to her grandfather, William Patrick Moffatt (1884-1958), who was a soldier in the Royal Munster Fusiliers at the outbreak of WW1. The regiment crossed to France with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), and advanced to Mons, where they were surprised by a superior German Force.

The Battle of Étreux was a rearguard action fought at Étreux by the BEF during the Great Retreat on the Western Front in 1914. Wikipedia gives an account of the battle: The German 2nd Army commander General Karl von Bülow had ordered a rapid pursuit after the battles of 21–24 August against the French Fifth Army and the BEF. The German 1st and 2nd armies were sent to the southwest to gain the left flank of the Allied line. The 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers, had been ordered to hold their ground at all costs, in their first action in France. Less than a battalion strength, just 3 companies of the 2nd Battalion of the Munsters supported by a couple of field guns halted the advance of the German Army for fourteen hours in the area of Oisny and Étreux during the retreat from Mons on August 27. Under continual pressure from German attacks, the Munsters fell back to an orchard near the village of Étreux. As night fell on the evening of the 27 August, the Munsters found themselves surrounded on all sides by the German army. Having exhausted their ammunition, they had no other option but to surrender. In their action at Étreux, only four officers and 240 other ranks of the 2nd Munsters survived but the battalion prevented German pursuit of I Corps, gaining time for the BEF to escape. The 2nd Munsters were outnumbered at odds of over 6:1 and when finally defeated, the survivors were congratulated on their supreme bravery by the German soldiers they had fought. Amongst the survivors, William P. Moffatt, was one of those taken prisoner. Thus Alison's grandfather spent most of the War as a POW. However, five soldiers from the Munsters and a 15th Hussar evaded capture at Étreux and were hidden by French civilians in

the village of Iron, near Guise, along with 5 Connaught Rangers, who had become separated from their own battalion. On 22nd February 1915, these soldiers were betrayed to the German garrison and taken prisoner. After a summary trial, the 11 British soldiers with Monsieur Chalandre, who had hidden them in his farm, were shot in the grounds of the chateau at Guise on 25th February 1915. The houses of French civilians who were considered to have assisted the British soldiers were burnt and a number of French civilians were given lengthy prison sentences. The soldiers were Lance Corporal James Moffatt and Privates Buckley, Horgan, Innocent and Nash of the 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers, Lance Corporal Stent of the 15th (King's) Hussars and Privates Howard, Murphy, Thompson, Walsh and Wilson of 2nd Connaught Rangers. A memorial to the 11 British soldiers and the French civilian, shot by the German Army on 22nd February 1915, was dedicated in the churchyard in Iron and a plaque placed in the grounds of Guise Chateau by various organisations including the Royal Munster Fusiliers Association on 25th October 2011. James Moffatt is listed in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as the son of Matthew Moffatt (1855-1915) of Birkenhead, but b in Mullingar, Westmeath, Ireland, and his wife Helen Bird, of Oxton, Cheshire. James appears in the 1911 Census as a professional soldier with the Royal Munster Fusiliers, on military duty in India.

Colin Moffat,
Genealogist, Clan Moffat UK,
Kingston-on-Thames, September 2017

Tattoo Memories





Needed - Web-site Administrator for Clan Moffat UK

Clan Moffat UK is seeking a person to administrate the Clan Moffat UK Web-Site. The post is voluntary, and is ideal for someone seeking to interact with web-site users, or wishing to gain some experience of a fascinating aspect of modern IT usage.

The Clan Moffat UK web-site aims to introduce users to Clan Moffat, to disseminate information over Clan activities, to provide data about the Clan, to share news and pictures of current interest to Clan members, and to give links to related services and web-sites.

The duties of the web Administrator are two-fold:

(1) to reply to all correspondents who contact the web site, and forward correspondence to the Membership Secretary, the Clan Genealogist, the Clan DNA Co-ordinator, etc, as appropriate.

(2) to edit the web site so as to keep important information current, such as methodology for joining the Clan and paying subscriptions, the dates and venues of the next AGM, Clan Dinner, etc. It is hoped that the site administrator will take initiative in providing the material for a good-looking and lively web-site.

The web domain "clanmoffat.info" is already provided. The web-site is currently hosted by Alan Telford of Nordicski. The web-site administrator will maintain, update and edit this web-site in situ using WORDPRESS or equivalent software. This activity can be done remotely - it is NOT a requirement that the new administrator be resident in the UK. A copy of WORDPRESS will be provided. Hand-over training will be given by Betty Telford, the out-going web-site administrator.

Please contact Colin Moffat at colinmoffat1@virginmedia.com if you would like to volunteer for this post.

Secretary's Report

Bunty Davies

bunty.davies@btinternet.com

Our weekend in Moffat was again slightly extended this year as an outing to the Tattoo in Edinburgh was arranged on Friday evening, with ten of us travelling by minibus from Moffat, while the remainder of the contingent met us in Edinburgh. I will not describe the event as I am sure it will be written about elsewhere, but it was a very enjoyable evening.

Next year, our AGM will be held at 2.30pm on Saturday 18th August 2018 at the Proudfoot Indoor Sports Club, in Moffat. David visited the Golf Club in Moffat, but decided that it wasn't suitable, for this year at least. The Committee Meeting, for those involved, will be at 10.30am on the same date and at the same place.

For next year again, the organising of the annual dinner will be taken over by Lesley White.. It has been booked again at Moffat House Hotel for Saturday 18th August 2018 at 6.45pm for 7pm.

Lesley's e-mail address is lesley.white46@gmail.com and bookings can be made for next year either direct to her or through me.

Hoping to see you next year

Bunty

Moffatmania

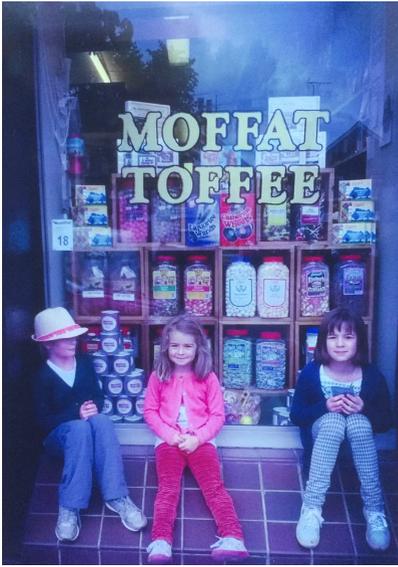
Last year our son Jonathan and his wife Bridgid, who live in Nelson on the South Island of New Zealand, brought their three daughters to Europe for the first time. Freya, 10, Dora, 9, and Iris, 6, already knew that there was a town in Scotland called Moffat, and they were most interested in going to see it. There were eight of us altogether as Jonathan's mother-in-law had come along as well, so we had to travel in two cars. Maureen (mother-in-law), Pam and I met Jonathan and Bridgid and the girls at a fort on the Roman Wall before travelling on to Scotland.

For the occasion I wore my kilt, and as we approached the family I could read the lips of the eldest granddaughter as she said to her father " He's wearing a skirt ! " They were all quite unaware of things Scottish



and of things Moffat ! We set off, and Jonathan quickly left us behind and we didn't see them again until we arrived at the Colvin fountain. Jonathan quipped "You must have taken the high road !"

So we went off to explore the town and both Bridgid and the three girls were amazed at just how much Moffat there was in existence, from the Moffat mail to the Moffat Toffee Shop, to the Moffat Chippy, the Moffat Post Office (sadly now closed) and the Moffat House Hotel.



Many photos were taken and later posted on Facebook. Freya, Thora and Iris were completely bowled over by the whole experience.

Then this year, Brigid

took them all to Australia's Gold Coast for Jonathan's fortieth birthday (we gave him a bottle of 40-year-old tawny



port), and they were astonished and delighted to

find themselves on Moffat Beach, and later on Moffat Street. There is so much that is Moffat that by now I think our granddaughters probably think the world belongs to the Moffats !



George W Moffat

My time in Scotland

On the 8th August I went to the Military Tattoo. After this amazing experience I emailed the Moffat clan facebook page enquiring about attendance with the Moffat clan on the 11th. This is when the adventure began. After being in contact with Bunty I obtained a ticket and set off for the town of Moffat. I drove the back streets in my campervan never having driven a vehicle of that size, let alone never having driven outside of Australia before. During this trip I passed heather purple mountains, farms and small towns. I reached Moffat, settling at the Gold Panning camping area for the night. I met Bunty and other fellow Moffats at the Moffat House Hotel for lunch in the following few days. On the 11th another adventure began as I set off accompanying the family to the Military Tattoo. Around 4pm we departed the Town Hall of Moffat towards Edinburgh, wearing my Moffat tartan scarf and a tartan blanket as a skirt. We arrived at Edinburgh castle despite a road detour and on the castle grounds we reunited with other family members. Around 30 of us had arrived for this event, some others from Australia and other parts of the globe. Before the show began we were escorted into Edinburgh castle over the draw bridge. On the inside of the castle we were greeted by bagpipers on either side playing loudly and proudly as we walked through and after this encounter we were led to the Great Hall. At the Great Hall we met with two other clans as the director thanked us for our attendance at the event. All the clans exchanged words of thanks for the invitation. The clans then went outside of the Great Hall to rehearse our pre-performance.

Holding the Moffat flag in formation we gave a war cry walking over the draw bridge of Edinburgh castle. Following our chieftan we paralleled the other clans, in front of mostly filled seats. Our chieftan gave many thanks and drank from a cup, kissing the bottom as the other chieftans did. After this celebration we returned to our seats to enjoy the show. The show was incredible especially being accompanied by so many Moffats. My favourite part was the lone piper. There is something magical about a bag piper in his military attire playing at the top of Edinburgh castle on a dark and starry set background.



Kassandra Moffatt

A Warm Welcome to New
Members of Clan Moffat UK

310 – Kassandra Moffatt

311 – Mrs Alison Parfitt

312 – Miss Angela Moffat

Professor David Burns Moffat VRD MD FRCS 1921-2017

David Moffat passed away peacefully In Lindfield, Sussex on 21st May 2017. He was born on October 2 nd 1921 in Swansea where he attended Swansea Grammar School. His English teacher was Dylan Thomas` father, famous for his school lunch time trips to the pub rather than his teaching ability. In 1939 he headed to Barts Hospital, London to complete a crash course in medicine. In wartime Britain they needed to push doctors through in three years. He joined the Royal Navy at the end of 1943 and carried out multiple Trans -Atlantic convoys as a surgeon lieutenant aboard the merchant aircraft carrier, Adula . This vessel was built in 1937 in Glasgow as a 480 foot long tanker capable of carrying 10,000 tons of oil . In 1943 a flight deck was added to the ship in Falmouth and 3 Swordfish planes were placed on board to provide convoy cover. Early in 1944 the ship began convoy duty loading oil in Halifax occasionally in New York returning to discharge in the Clyde. It continued in this service until the end of the war. After the war he continued his naval career in the R.N.V.R. becoming a surgeon captain and in 1969 became an Honorary Surgeon to Her Majesty The Queen.

He returned to Wales in 1947 where he began an academic career at the Welsh School of Medicine as an anatomist specializing in kidney research eventually becoming a professor. He published many books and articles during his long career including the standard textbooks for medical students , Lecture Notes in Anatomy and Anatomy at a Glance which was translated into over a dozen languages.

Profmof as he was affectionately called by his students always had a very good rapport with his pupils who were also very impressed with his ability to draw on the blackboard ambidextrously. David spent a number of years visiting Baghdad teaching Iraqi medical students . He and his beloved wife, Joan adored this country and its people and were very happy to sit down on oriental rugs in the Arab marshes and chew their way through a whole sheep with their local friends.

He was always very proud of his Scottish roots . His grandfather, William Burns Moffat was born in 1859 in Dryfesdale, the illegitimate son of Thomas Moffat, a ploughman and Helen Rieve. In the mid 1870s the young William allegedly walked to Swansea, or more likely travelled there by train or boat and next appeared in the Welsh 1881 census as a lodger in the household of a baptist minister, Enoch Williams . By this time he had secured a job with a draper named Wilson in central Swansea and with typical Moffat acumen he married Wilsons daughter and subsequently took over the business. He had three sons and three daughters. David's father, William and his uncles Andrew and James followed their father into the business which became the tailors, W.B. Moffat and Sons. The speciality of the business was selling the Welsh miners their " Sunday best " suits. The three brothers would drive up the valleys, take measurements, make up the suits and return a week later with the finished article. With the economic depression during the 1920s and 1930 s tens of thousands of miners lost their jobs and the business suffered. As a consequence his father suggested that David and his sister, Mary should become doctors rather join the family business .

David and his family had a huge love of their Scottish heritage and were very proud of their achievements in Wales. His grandfather was an elder of the Church of Scotland in Swansea , St. Andrews in St Helens road and was an influential member of the congregation. David`s father continued the commitment becoming an elder of this church and David himself during his childhood was expected to attend two sessions on Sundays . The Moffats were also very active in the Swansea Scottish community organizing Scottish dancing and Burns night celebrations.

In his later years David became very interested in his family past and was delighted to become a member of the Clan Moffat society. He spent so many happy hours researching both the family and more generally the social and health issues of his ancestors in Scotland. With his medical background he really enjoyed researching and writing his articles " The health of our ancestors " and " Life and death in rural Dumfriesshire " . He always used to smile at his family`s achievements which started with the long walk from Scotland to Swansea by his beloved illegitimate grandfather. The 2010 International Moffat clan meeting was a highlight for him, he was so proud to present his paper and also at the ripe old age of 89 to actively take part in the dancing . As a born and bred Welshman he even picked up a Scottish accent whilst he was at the festivities. He is survived by his two sons and daughter and by 7 grandsons and 5 great grandchildren- plenty of potential Moffats in the pipeline.

Brian Burns Moffat



David Burns Moffat at the International Gathering in 2010.

David's contribution to this publication is greatly appreciated by Clan Moffat. When I met him in 2010, having just become the editor, he was most encouraging and provided me with a series of fascinating articles over the next four years. His research for one of these articles at the National Library of Scotland led to the library saying that it was very keen to hold our journal in the national collection. The library now keeps a complete set in the National Published Archive.

Jim Moffat

All at Clan Moffat offer our condolences to the families of two of our members , Miss J M Moffat and Michael Watson on their recent passing.

Clan Moffat visits the Edinburgh Tattoo

The production team that organises the annual Edinburgh Tattoo is continually seeking ways to introduce new ideas to the programme, especially those that have relevance to Scottish cultural traditions. This year they invited the Clan Chiefs to participate, with a different Clan featured at each performance. The Clan Chief, accompanied by his/her own tartan clad retinue, would be invited to a Reception in the Great Hall of the Castle, march to the Esplanade, and share the Gaelic Toast with the Lone Piper. The night selected for Clan Moffat was to be Friday 11th August, and the event shared with the Chiefs of Clan Leslie and Clan Urquhart.



Some Clan members travelled from Moffat on a hired coach, others came directly from Edinburgh, and we met up as a group of some two dozen Moffats on the Castle Esplanade. Suitably clad in all the tartan we could muster, and wearing bright yellow security



wristbands, we made our way through the Castle Entrance. As we made our way up Castle Hill, we were serenaded by the massed pipe bands. We entered the Castle courtyard, and after some group photos, we were invited into a Reception in the Great Hall. We were treated to a serenade of drums and bugles, after which our host, Brigadier David Allfrey, Chief Executive and Producer of the

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, bid us all welcome and introduced us to the Castle and the Tattoo itself, and explained why an invitation had been extended to Scottish Clans. The clan chiefs of Leslie and Moffat, and a representative of the Urquhart chief each made a thank you speech in reply.



Re-convening in the Courtyard, the Garrison Sergeant-Major drew us up into marching order, two companies three persons abreast, and then led by our Clan Chiefs and the stirring music of our pipers (Jim Moffat and Campbell Urquhart), we marched, tartan swirling, banners flying, down Castle Hill, through the main entrance and out on to the Esplanade, where the general public were just taking their seats prior to the evening performance.



On the Esplanade, the Clan Chiefs were met by Air Vice-Marshal Ross Paterson, and the Lone Piper who offered the Gaelic Toast. After the toast “To the Chief of Chiefs, the Queen”, the drinker must upend the Scallop shell that had contained the drink, and put his/her lips to its base, as proof that all the liquid had been consumed. Thereupon the clanspeople broke formation, and made their way to their seats for the Tattoo itself.

Colin Moffat

Photographs Marja Moffat

News from New Zealand

Clan Moffat member Colene Vincent has kept us informed of developments in the Christchurch area since the earthquake in 2011. Christchurch Cathedral is to be rebuilt on its current site and could take seven years.

Colene has a special interest in St Peter's Anglican Church, Upper Ricarton, where her Moffat great grandparents and great, great grandmother are buried in a part of the graveyard away from the restoration work. She has written articles about her ancestry in previous editions of Moffatalia.

Six years after the destruction of the church, there is still a lot of restoration work to be done. Reverend Nick, Mountford, whose great great great uncle, Benjamin Mountford, was the original architect of the building, hopes that the church will be restored by 2019. Undamaged stone walls will be strengthened to maintain the original architecture of the church while the north and south transept will be extended to allow for more amenities that were not in the old building. The extension of the northern transept will open up gathering space including kitchen facilities. The project will cost \$3.5 million. So far \$ 200,000 has been raised by donation and fundraising activities.

The church was first established in 1858 and is of historical interest with the cemetery being the final resting place for several significant Cantabrians. The site has 147 trees situated around the cemetery, with some estimated to be the same age as the earliest church on the site.

With thanks to Colene Vincent and WesternNews.