



# CLAN MOFFAT UK NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 Issue 1

October 2013

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## Welcome to the October 2013 Edition of Clan Moffat UK Newsletter

As in previous years I very much enjoyed my visit to Moffat in August for the AGM. It was good to meet new members and to talk again to members I have known for some time, including Colene Vincent who had made yet another journey to Moffat from New Zealand.

This is a time of change for the committee with Gordon Crammond handing over his role as Treasurer to Paul Moffat, one of the founder members of Clan Moffat UK. George Moffat and David Kennedy Moffat are returning to their earlier roles of Publicity Officer and Chairman respectively. In the photograph below of George and Pam Moffat taken at this year's meal they are sitting in almost the same spot where I met them on my first visit to a Moffat AGM many years ago.

In between arranged meetings and events I always enjoy wondering around the town. There is always something new to discover and some things never seem to change. The lady in the fish and chip shop has worked there for 77 years!

I do hope you enjoy this edition. David Burns Moffat has made good use of a new resource available on Scotland's people to develop the article he wrote for the last edition of this newsletter. We have articles about the significant achievements of two Moffats who moved to the United States and Canada. John Castle from Woking shares his memories of a much loved Great Aunt and Stephen Lewins, member 265, provides an obituary for his Uncle, Cyril Derek Moffat.

Last but not least Colin Moffat, our genealogist, has translated an article by Anders Larbring providing us with an exciting update on the Birth Brief of Robert Moffat from Sweden.

Jim Moffat Editor



## Letter from Clan Chief

Dear Members,

I am writing to you today from the Loire valley in France whilst on holiday so will keep this letter short. I hope you have all enjoyed the summer as we have.

We had a successful AGM in Moffat last month with more attendees than usual and some new faces for which I have been wishing for some time. I hope more of you will attend the Gathering next year at the end of June. We have made plans for the events and I must thank Bunty for her hard work in making the reservations some of which had to be made at short notice. We will have a dinner in Moffat House on the Thursday evening with the Americans then on Friday evening there will be a parade of Clans in Stirling. Coaches have been arranged to and from Moffat. Let's make a good show of Moffat tartan! The reenactment of Bannockburn will be on Saturday and Sunday. We have our own Clan tent so it would be great to see you there. Bring friends and family with you if possible.

In the meantime, have a good winter and festive period.

Spero Meliora

Jean Moffat of that ilk

## New Members of Clan Moffat

**A warm welcome from Clan Moffat UK to -**

288 Lorraine Marshall

289 Mrs Irene Moffatt

290 Monica Moffat

291 Christine Houser

## Ex - Chairman's Letter

As you will see from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, this year I resigned from the chairmanship and resumed my previous position as Publicity Officer. So this is just an opportunity for me to say thank you to my fellow committee members for their support and hard work during my time as Chairman. I have some happy memories of my time in office, and two things stand out as particularly memorable: the International Gathering we held a few years ago, and The Homecoming in Edinburgh.

The organisation of the International Gathering went like a dream, and there were significant contributions from various committee members; Bunty and Erica did a sterling job of managing the admissions to the Clan Chief's reception, meal and ceilidh. Colin put together a splendid symposium with some very interesting speakers, and as usual Gordon managed the financial side of things with quiet efficiency.

The Homecoming was equally well organised, with buses laid on to get us all from Moffat to Edinburgh and back day after day. Our clan tent was a great success with lots and lots of visitors, some from far flung corners of the world. Next year will see the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn when the larger army of Edward II was outmanoeuvred and defeated by Robert the Bruce, and the commemoration at Stirling is expected to be similarly well attended, but I will not be involved in the organisation of that (phew)!

Your kinsman,

George



## **Robert Moffat's Birth Brief**

**By: Anders Klarbring**

**Translated from Swedish by: Colin Moffat**

Family historians with an interest in Värmland sometimes come across the unusual surname Moffat. Its origin might seem obscure, but Moffat is a clan of the Scottish Borders, and even a town in Dumfries and Galloway. The name came to Sweden during the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century with Captain Robert Moffat, and is represented up until the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The family structure of those persons who bore the name during this period can be mostly traced. However, the origin of Robert Moffat himself has been unknown, despite it being known that a Birth Brief was issued by the Scottish Privy Council in 1672, in support of Robert's application for admission into the Swedish nobility. Up until very recently, everything pointed to this Birth Brief being lost in dramatic circumstances. But as I shall describe below, the Age of Miracles is not yet past! Before coming to that, I will give some basic facts on the main character.

Robert Moffat was one of the many Scots who was in Military Service of Sweden during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. According to the muster rolls for the Närke-Värmlands Regiment he was enlisted in Leipzig 1643 as ensign in Björn Nilsson's Company. Four years later, he is named as Lieutenant, and in 1658 he is found as Captain with his own Company. From latest 1649 he was resident in Vässby in By parish on Värmland's Ness, and from latest 1651 he was married to Elisabet Rutensköld. For his accomplishments in Swedish military service, on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1665 Robert received a Royal Letter in which he was awarded rights to nobility in Sweden. However, there was one condition in the Letter:

... with the proviso that by the time of the next Swedish Parliament he obtains from Scotland official and complete evidence which can *verify* his noble parentage ...

That meant he needed a Birth Brief. And not just any birth brief – it should demonstrate his noble ancestry. However, Robert did not as required acquire such a Brief prior to the next Parliament. Possibly because of the incident which was described in Nordensvan's "History of the Värmland Regiment":

During his posting at Varberg 1666, he committed adultery with a married woman named Carin Helgesdotter, who with poison made away with her husband. Moffat was prosecuted by a Court Martial, which on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1666 sentenced him to death.

His wife petitioned for Mercy, on the grounds that if the judgement were to be carried out, she would be left alone to bring up 9 under-age children. In the Petition, she says that her husband had served the Crown for 30 years. He received a pardon, but of that reason had to resign from the Regiment.

Eventually, the need for a Birth Brief became critical. The reason was a dispute between Robert and his two brothers-in-law Gabriel and Göran Rutensköld regarding the inheritance after the death of his father-in-law, their father, Sten Rutensköld and his wife Catharina Wagner. After a series of lawsuits, the matter finally rested on the Birth Brief – no Birth Brief meant no inheritance. Under this pressure, Robert travelled to Scotland where he contacted influential persons, and with the required evidence he approached the Scottish Privy Council. The Council's decision is extant, and based on evidence dated 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August 1672, Robert was granted a Birth Brief under the King's Seal. However, the saga now took a new turn, which is best described in the first part of the letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> August 1674 to the King:

In regard of Your Royal Majesty's published gracious decision dated 30 Apr 1670 to my brothers Gabriel and Göran Rutensköld regarding my landed heritable property which are due to accrue to me after the death of my late parents, and of my husband Captain Robert Moffat, having betaken himself to Scotland, in order to fetch a Birth Brief therefrom, which he received, as the enclosed Letter from 1st February last from the Scottish merchant George Galbraith attests, but was destined last autumn, God willed, to be drowned on the way home when the ship in which he was travelling was lost.

Thus Robert's ship back from Scotland to Sweden was lost! Not only was the incident tragic, but a family historian might reasonably assume that the Birth Brief would lie on the sea-bed, and that knowledge of Robert's Scottish heritage was probably forever lost. But this is not the case, as we shall show in what follows.

The narrative above had been clear to me for several years, and despite the fact that the route back in time seemed blocked, I have devoted time and energy in researching the structure of Robert's descendents, reading through Parish Records and scouring Court Rolls. This search took me in January this year to the National Archive in Marieberg where in the Biographical Collection I found two folders of interest: one marked Moffat and one marked Mofatt.

The latter is a Swedish variant of the spelling of the name: during the 17<sup>th</sup> century the spelling was most often the Scottish Moffat, whereas during the later 18<sup>th</sup> century Robert's descendents were most often referred to as Mofatt in church and court records. So I expected to find earlier material in the first folder, and the later material in the second.

I began with what was probably the older material, and found, amongst other items, the original source to the incident at Varberg, as later described by Nordensvan. In the folder with what was probably later material, I first found a letter from 1805 to his Royal Majesty from Christina Margareta Moffat (1749-1812) in which she hoped to receive a pension, in recognition that her father and grandfather had served Sweden in wartime respectively as Armourer and Captain. As I flicked through the pages, one page shone out as a more elegant letter, and it didn't take long before I realised that this, against all the odds, was a copy of the presumably lost Birth Brief, of length in total 6½ pages. The Brief starts with "Charles, by the Grace of God, King of Scotland, England, France and Ireland". The first two pages comprise a long description how a good ruler should support his loyal subjects. The central thrust of the document from the genealogical view is given here: For that reason, after we have through several distinguished and trustworthy men, whom we have entrusted and instructed, diligently allowed to investigate regarding the said nobleman's family and descent, so we have found such we publicly certify that our subject Mr. *Robert Mofatt* is of legitimate birth, and in respect of both father and mother born of high and noble *families* who governed in the kingdom during several hundred years, and have *flourished* - namely: His father honourable *axel ander mofatt*, Commendant over Edny, his father was *Vilhelm Mofatt*, *Commendant to the Chapel*, his paternal grandfather's father was *Johan Mofatt*, Master of Mofatt, whose wife was *Evphemia Hum*, daughter to Baron wadderburn; his paternal grandfather's mother was Mrs. *Maria Kera*, daughter of *Thomas Keri*, baronet of *mereinton*, who had as wife *Johannam* of Jonston, daughter of Baron of Jonston; his paternal grandmother was Mrs *Christina Hendersona*, daughter of *Johan Hendersoni*, baron of *Hordel*, and granddaughter of *Thomas Hendersoni*, baron of Hordel, whose wife was Mrs. *margareta wärneta*, daughter of Baron Leyes; his paternal grandmother's mother Mrs *Christina Menesia*, daughter of Baron Pitfält and Knight Mr *Pauli Menosi*, whose mother was Mrs *Isabella Horbes*, daughter of Baron honourable Mr. *Johan de Horbes*; and on his mother's side, he is born of the honourable Mrs. *Isabella Richardsons*, daughter to *Vilhelmi Richardsons* of Abercromby, whose paternal grandfather was *Jacob Rechardsson* of Smeton, whose wife was *Marina Duglas*, daughter of the right honourable Earl of *Mortone*; his maternal grandfather's mother, was Mrs. *Agneta Keri*, daughter of Mr *Mani Keri*, Baron of wiebotte, whose wife was Mrs *margareta maxvol*, daughter of Baron of herris, whose maternal grandmother was

Mrs *Elisabeta Jeum*, daughter of *Robert Jeum* of welty, whose father was Baron of dräm, *Alexander Jeum*, whose wife was *Isabella Douglas*, daughter to the right honourable Earl of wastam; whose maternal grandmother's mother was Mrs *Margareta Innes*, daughter of *Johan Innes*, master of Bretorffer, whose wife was *Elisabeta Gordonia*, daughter of Baron of Haddo.

(This translation preserves the names and titles of the hand-written original. See the accompanying diagram for Colin Moffat's interpretation of the Scottish original.)

The Birth Brief is dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1672, which is in agreement with the date which was given in the decision of the Scottish Privy Council. After space for a seal there is a text which reads: "11<sup>th</sup> April 1765, Attested in agreement with the Original the undersigned of the vicarage of Millesvik". Those who signed were Elof Sejdélius (1713-1788), vicar of Kila; Carl Spak (1711-1782) vicar of Millesvik; and Elias Lindgren (1702-1766) then assistant vicar in Millesvik. Several questions now arise:

(1) How did the Birth Brief come to be in the Biographical Collection ?

This question has a rather straightforward answer: The Brief is situated together with the aforementioned pension application from Christina Margareta Moffat. From the content of her letter, it seems as if she attached the Birth Brief as evidence that her grandfather, Captain Robert Moffat jr (ca 1678-1748) served Sweden in a military capacity. This Robert Moffat is probably grandson to the Robert Moffat whom we have previously discussed, and it is fascinating that Christina Margareta uses her grandfather's grandfather's Birth Brief as evidence of her grandfather's deeds. Either, she didn't herself appreciate the circumstances, or she was taking a chance, in that this was the only document of substance that was in her possession. In the event, her application was approved, as was shown by another well-written letter to his Royal Majesty which is filed together with the first letter in the Biographical Collection.

(2) Why is the Birth Brief written in Swedish ?

The reason is that the original was written in Latin, and has since been translated into Swedish. This is evidenced by the endings to names that have presumably been translated from the latinisation of Scottish names, and this presents a problem in the genealogical utilisation of the Brief: the names are corrupted by first going into Latin, and then, independent of the first translation, translated into names that seemed right for the Swedish translator.

Robert's father is given as Axel Ander and should surely be Alexander, Vilhelm should be William and Johan should be John. Further suggestions are given in Colin Moffat's genealogical diagram, together with this article.

(3) Why was a copy of the Brief made in Millesvik in 1765 ?

As yet, this question has no easy answer: Millesvik was at that time the residence of Göran Moffat (1710-1772) and Elisabet Moffat (1698-1777), paternal uncle and aunt to Christina Margareta. A related question is whether the translation from Latin was made in connection with the copy of 1765, or whether the translation had been made earlier and only the signatures were of that date. In as much as the spelling Mofatt is used, rather than Moffat, one could argue that the translation was made early into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Another puzzle is that the certification of the Brief's authenticity by the three priests is written in a hand different to the one that wrote the rest of the Brief.

(4) Finally, the most interesting question: Can we construct a Family Tree from the Brief?

As of now the answer is, maybe, maybe not! The immediate interpretation of the genealogical information is that Robert's father was Alexander, his grandfather William, his great-grandfather John, and that "John's wife was Euphemia Hume".

However, immediately afterwards in the text, it states that “his grandfather’s mother was Mary Kerr”, whereby John seems to be married to two women. Not impossible, but why should both be mentioned in a document giving a blood-line? The corresponding contradiction also occurs on the mother’s side. How so? Was the contradiction already in the Brief, or has it come in the translation from Latin, or is it my own interpretation that is incorrect? Another difficulty is that there is a possibility that the family tree has been improved relative to the actual situation. Robert, and later his wife, needed ancestry of high class, and one might wonder how four generations backwards can have been known in such detail. Hopefully, studies of known Scottish genealogies can give more information on the accuracy of descent as stated in the Brief.

This article first appeared in Swedish in *Släkt och Hävd*, 2013:2, where source references can be found as footnotes.

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### **Appendix Translation of the full Birth Brief into English.**

**Charles [ II ] by the Grace of God, King of Scotland, England, France and Ireland:** Defender of the Faith, gives greetings in [the name of] our Lord to all and in particular Kings, Dukes, Earls, Marquises, Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Counts, Knights, Barons, Mayors in Towns, eminent Magistrates; likewise to all and in particular Admirals, Vice-admirals, Governors of Provinces, Commanders in cities, Intendants over castles, forts, armies, fleets, ports as well as all those who receive and see our open letter.

In as much as the Ruler’s and his Advisors’ most diligent efforts must be those who deserve virtue, who should be rewarded with suitable honour and renown, conversely the evils of the depraved should be awarded suitable punishment: thus we have in truth: for such opportunity we would not be found negligent: to herewith with the greatest diligence according to the situation has happened, taken account of that We of unbending will, that all the rights, privileges and advantages accruing to the noble ancestors, all the excellent activities that they have left after them should apply to those coming after them: with less of their ancestors renown and piety surrender as long as the possibility is according to their legitimate line of descent is valid and is not overturned; otherwise the descendents memory of their family and descent, and not do something that besmirches the high respect of their parents, after all of which the precious country strives: but strives to spread and increase after equal credit in guarding their parents wide-ranging name with the light of their own shining acts; and thereby strive to light up the footsteps of their ancestors, acting in everything to their greatest ability, who are the honest and loyal subjects and citizens of the King and the Fatherland. Of the aforementioned reason it has occurred that We will decorate the noble man, Mr Robert Moffatt, renowned as to his family for good deeds and in the matter of military great knowledge and discretion such that in the course of many years the most powerful Royal Majesty of Sweden in War, serving as a Captain, with Our favour and Recommendation Testimonial; and because he has both in his native land as in foreign places, especially the warlike Swedish Nation, made many firm proofs of his discrete understanding, courage and loyalty such that he has significantly increased his ancestors’ renown with his own virtue and manliness: thus we have found in addition on account of his most humble petition is right and proper, and do not deny him our testimonial, confirming the undeniable truth of the honours and offices which our predecessors the highest renowned Kings of Scotland have awarded his ancestors, so that our testimonial shall serve him in the Swedish Nation where he has settled, to enjoy a well deserved honour and living standard. For that reason, after we have through several distinguished and trustworthy men, whom we have entrusted and instructed, diligently allowed to investigate regarding the said nobleman’s family

and descent, so we have found such we publicly certify that our subject Mr. Robert Moffatt is of legitimate birth, and in respect of both father and mother born of high and noble families who governed in the kingdom during several hundred years, and have flourished - namely: His father honourable Alexander Moffatt, Commendator of Edny, his [paternal grand-] father was William Moffatt, Commendator of the Chapel, his paternal grandfather's father was John Moffatt, Master of Moffatt, [ *whose father was John (?) Moffatt* ] whose wife was Euphemia Hume, daughter to Baron Wedderburn; his paternal grandfather's mother was Mrs. Mary Kerr, daughter of Thomas Kerr, baronet of Merinton, who had as wife Johanna of Johnston, daughter of Baron of Johnston; his paternal grandmother was Mrs Christina Henderson, daughter of John Henderson, baron of Fordell, and granddaughter of Thomas Henderson, baron of Fordell, whose wife was Mrs. Margaret Warne, daughter of Baron Leyes; his paternal grandmother's mother Mrs Christina Menzies, daughter of Baron Pittfodel and Knight Mr [Sir] Paul Menzies, whose mother was Mrs Isabella Forbes, daughter of Baron honourable John Forbes; and on his mother's side, he is born of the honourable Isabella Richardson, daughter to William Richardson of Abercrombie, whose paternal grandfather was James Richardson of Smeaton, [ *whose father was James (?) Richardson of Smeaton* ] whose wife was Marion Douglas, daughter of the right honourable Earl of Morton; his maternal grandfather's mother, was Mrs. Agnes Kerr, daughter of Mr Mark Kerr, Baron of Newbottle, whose wife was Mrs Margaret Maxwell, daughter of Baron of Herries, whose maternal grandmother was Mrs Elizabeth Irvine, daughter of Robert Irvine of Beltie, whose father was Baron of Drum, Alexander Irvine, whose wife was Isabella Douglas, daughter to the right honourable Earl of Buchan; whose maternal grandmother's mother was Mrs Margaret Innes, daughter of [Sir] John Innes, Bart, master of Orton, whose wife was Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of Baron of Haddo.

All the aforementioned have been joined in legitimate marriage, and therefore been legitimately born, and have sprung from high and renowned families; all have been renowned both as to their origin and their own merit and duly been honoured by our ancestors the Kings of Scotland for their courage and the loyalty that they have shown their native land with suitable Services, advantages and conditions from the most ancient times; and in passing have held themselves pure and untarnished as to their good reputation as well as their noble lineage, without any besmirchment, and bequeathed to their descendents who are still living the footsteps of their ancestors to follow.

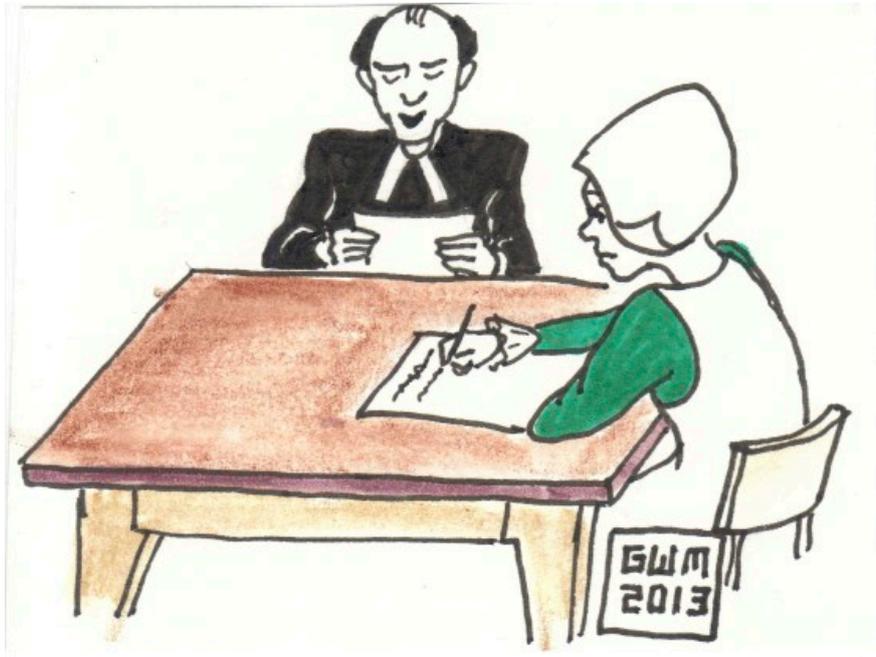
Abroad in whichever relevant countries to all our friends and good acquaintances, according to their position and reputation, our assiduous prayers and request that our aforementioned subject, the honourable Mr. Robert Moffatt, is much appreciated and loved not only on account of his own virtue, manliness and skill, will demonstrate all honour, renown and goodwill; therefore we enjoin that You should show a corresponding friendship for as long as in any matter should wish to avail oneself of Our help or mercy, which, although it is fast and unwavering, could be more knowing, stronger and surer, if we could not deny to inform the aforementioned Robert Moffatt this open letter which is confirmed in greater respect in that we have set our Seal in Edinburgh the 22<sup>nd</sup> August Year 1672 after the birth of Christ, and the 24<sup>th</sup> year of our reign.

(SEAL)

The undersigned certifies that this is a correct rendering of the original at Millesvik Vicarage 11<sup>th</sup> April 1765

E. Seidelius / vicar of Kila  
Carl Spak / vicar of Millesvik  
Elias Lindgren / Curate of Millesvik

**For Diagram of the Ancestry of Robert Moffatt derived from this Birth Brief by Colin Moffat see P 11.**



### Events of 2013/14

Bunty and Erica attended 2 History Fairs this year in Galashiels and Motherwell. Both events were very interesting and well attended. They are looking forward to welcoming new members as a result.

Next year they will be attending the SAFHS Conference again, this time in Dunfermline.



Erica and Bunty at the Local and Family History Show at Motherwell in August, organized by Lanarkshire Family History Society.

Ron Moffat, member 7, has sent in a newspaper cutting from the Daily Telegraph showing a photograph of Prince Harry wearing the number one uniform of the Blues and Royals, paying his respects to the fallen at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. He is walking past adjacent graves of a Moffitt and a Johnston.



## Auntie Lil – Ulelia Moffatt (1885-1963)

By John Castle, Woking

The Moffatt family appears once in my family tree. My very well loved Great Aunt whom we called 'Aunt Lil' lived on the Trenance Road as it comes up from Newquay High Street. She was born and lived in St.Columb Minor, living above a shop in Treviglos Terrace. She married into my mother's mother's family and for some time lived in North London until her husband died and she moved back to Newquay to be near her sister Margaretta and brother Richard. Margaretta was known as 'Gret' and married Philip Furse who sadly died in 1954. Unlike today widows then often stayed widows and so Lilian and Gret were very close. Gret and Philip had bred pigs at a smallholding. According to probate they lived at 'Bodrugan', Treninnick. which I presume is the name of a house. His widow is named as Hilda Margaretta, and a widow called Gertrude Mary Bunt is also mentioned. With the callousness of youth I lost track of my Great Aunt and so regret it now as she gave my parents [my mother was her neice] and my brother and I so much pleasure in welcoming us into her home most years for a fortnights stay at the seaside after the war. Newquay was genteel and modest in those days. When I got engaged my future wife and I visited Aunt Lil, I stayed at her terraced house at the top of Trennace Hill and Eunice stayed with Gret down in Treninnick. I have tried to find out the place that Gret lived. I remember the pigs and a vague recollection of a line of terraced houses but cannot see them on maps and the whole area has changed out of recognition. I even paid Newquay Records Office to do a search but at the time hadn't found out that Gret married a Furse so it drew a blank. I am astonished at just how big the Moffatt family is. I do hope that you find this a little interesting. By the way, the Moffatt sisters obviously didn't like the birth names they were given because my aunt Lil was Ulelia and of course her sister Hilda was Gret.

I have several treasured photographs of Ulelia. Attached are two pictures: The couple are Ulelia and Lawrence Ash, my Great Uncle, in the garden of their home in Kensal Green north London. She called him Lawrie They were childless and Lawrence was a survivor of the first world war. The second pictures is of Ulelia in her late sixties taken on a trip that she treated us to in the fifties. Travelling by coach from Newquay to Dart meet in Devon and cream teas all round..



**From Bunty Davies, Secretary**

[bunty.davies@btinternet.com](mailto:bunty.davies@btinternet.com)

2014 will be very different from the norm as we will be meeting twice in Moffat. Our AGM will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August and there will be more details about this and our meal in the Spring newsletter.

However, 2014 is also going to be the year of the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn . There will be a Clan Village and many activities including battle re-enactments. To get tickets for this apply to [Bannockburnlive.com](http://Bannockburnlive.com)

We have now heard that we have a Clan Tent on the site so we will be there for each of the three days, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June. For other things that will be going on, please check their website. Many people will be staying in and around the Moffat area, including many of the Americans who are coming over, and there will be buses to take you to Bannockburn and return on each of the three days,

The itinerary so far is:

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – Clan Chief's Reception at 6pm at Moffat House Hotel followed by a meal. This will be three courses with a set main course (probably beef) with a vegetarian alternative and will cost in the region of £30

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – There will be a Pipefest March through Stirling from the Castle to the Albert Hall starting at 6.30pm. There will be a bus laid on for this from Moffat to Stirling and return, and the cost will be in the region of £11, depending on how many are travelling.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – The first day of Bannockburn Live. For information and to get tickets please visit [Bannockburnlive.com](http://Bannockburnlive.com) The event starts at 10am and finishes at 5pm. A bus will be laid on from Moffat to Bannockburn and return and the cost will be in the region of £12.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – details as above

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – details as above

Please let me know, by e-mail or post (my address is on the front of the Newsletter) as soon as possible whether you will be joining in with any of the above as I need numbers, especially for the buses. I will then contact those people as more details become available. I will need to know numbers for:

- the Reception & Meal,
- the Pipefest March,
- bus to the Pipefest,
- buses from Moffat on all or any of the three days, (please specify)

Payments must be paid for all of these beforehand, but will not be necessary until May next year, when we will have accurate details.

Thank you for your patience.

**Gift Membership**

Do you have friends with Moffat connections or family who are not yet members of Clan Moffat UK?

Membership of the Clan makes an ideal birthday or Christmas gift.

## Genealogist's Report

The Database of Moffats continues to grow, but not quite as fast as previously – although the total of individuals is now up at 36,400, some just 500 extra entries in the recent 6 months. It does have an improvement in quality, often due to my correspondents, whose information and my corresponding research have led to more accurate data within the families concerned. My next project will be to analyse and enter the 1911 census data from Scotland, and I am waiting impatiently for it to be available on *ancestry.com*, because although *scotlandspeople* is fine for individual entries, it is far too expensive to use en masse. I made another visit to Edinburgh, in the May, of two days duration, getting some 250 certificates in total. Each time I had a pre-determined agenda of certificates to seek, all designed to clear up ambiguities or shed light on anomalies that had mystified me earlier.

Regarding the safety of the Database – Roger Moffat continues to receive an updated copy once per month. He processes this to mask all detail (including names) of all living persons, and then publishes it on-line in the Web-Site. At the previous AGM, 2012, I gave a memory stick with a GEDCOM file of the full Database to both the Clan Chief, and the Chairman of Clan Moffat UK. This summer, I've been rather more pro-active, and visited both of them in their homes, in order to install the full, unedited Database on their personal computers.

In January this year, I received word from a very excited Anders Klarbring in Sweden that he had made an amazing discovery. He was searching through papers of Christina Margareta Moffatt, daughter of Johan Jacob Moffatt, dated 1765, almost 100 years after Captain Robert Moffat had died, in particular her application for a State Pension, as it seems she had fallen on hard times. And she supported her application with a document, which was a translation into Swedish of Robert's Birth Brief from 1672, originally written in Latin. Anders very kindly sent me a transcription of the Swedish text. I have translated Anders' own article of how he came to discover the Brief, and the text of the Brief itself. It gives the names of some 30 of Robert's direct ancestors.

The Database has been consulted by internet users world-wide, and I receive a regular stream of comments, corrections and requests. One such user was Dan, from Florida, who was convinced that his ancestor was Phillias Moffat, who married George Thomson, both from the Shetland Islands. One son, Robert, and six girls, Janet, Mary, Margaret, Helen, Lillias and Phillias, were the result of this marriage. At the age of forty-eight, George Thomson died from what the family many years afterward recognized as appendicitis. Phillias (Moffat) Thomson, who had always longed to educate her daughters, and realizing the facilities in the Shetland Islands were not to her girls' advantage, decided to go to America and settle in Oberlin, Ohio, where one of her relatives was studying for the ministry. Accordingly, Phillias (Moffat) Thomson emigrated to America, accompanied by her daughters. Phillias was not in the Database – but research showed that a lady Philadelphia Thomason, from the same village, had actually married George Thomson, whose mother was Mary Moffat, so it easy to see how confusion set in over time.

Glenn McDonald from Canada contacted me about his grandfather, Nathaniel Moffatt. The investigation concerned Nathaniel's mother, Susan Sneddon, who married James Moffat in 1872, and settled in Carluke. They had 6 children. James Moffat died as a result of a coal-mining accident in 1883, and Susan re-married in 1891 to James Corbett. They had a son Nathaniel Corbett in 1893, but the marriage failed, and James Corbett deserted his wife and child. Susan Sneddon came to Canada twice, once on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1905, showing her name as a Corbett, with her sons Thomas Moffat and Nathaniel Corbett. She must have returned to Scotland at some point and came back to Canada on 8th June 1912, this time showing her name as a Moffatt. Also, Nathaniel enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces as Moffatt. Glenn added "On a personal note, I find Susan Sneddon quite fascinating actually. She was quite the individual, married twice, the second husband 12 years junior, 7 children, and came back and forth at least twice between Canada and Scotland.

And she still raised her family alone for many years. I am still however wondering what exactly happened to James Corbett and when he died. He may have married again. Note that Nathaniel did not assume his biological father's name, Corbett, but instead chose to use Moffatt. The result is that although our blood line is really Corbett, we are using the name Moffatt. I haven't yet told my cousins that their name should really be Corbett, not Moffatt." James Corbett seems to disappear from the records, being absent from the censuses of 1901 or 1911, neither is his death certificate to be found in Scotland.

To all these correspondents, and others, a heartfelt thank-you. Each investigation we have made together has illuminated another facet of the Moffat family – the information is documented permanently, and available to all researchers.

Colin Moffat,  
Genealogist, Clan Moffat UK,  
Kingston-on-Thames, September 2013



Whilst waiting outside Moffat Town Hall for the outing to Dunscore during the AGM weekend I had the pleasure of talking to Billy Duncan of the Hartfell Weavers who played at our ceilidh at the 2005 International Gathering. He recognized the tartan of the trews I was wearing as the Hartfell Weavers wear the Moffat tartan. Ed. Billy has sent me the following song,

### **Moffat in Upper Annandale**

I've travelled o'er the world wide,  
From Alaska to Tasmania's southern tail,  
Knowing that someday I would return,  
To Moffat "The Queen of Upper - Annandale".

Chorus  
For Moffat, dear old Moffat  
Has many attractions to regale,  
And you'll aye get a real warm Scots welcome,  
In Moffat the Queen of Upper - Annandale.

It nestles midst the rolling hills,  
Where peace and beauty are in hill and dale,  
For that's my dear old home, where I always love to roam.  
Moffat, the Queen of Upper Annandale.

Chorus  
So should you desire a relaxing break,  
Whilst on the Scottish tourist trail,  
Then come along and visit us,  
In Moffat the Queen of Upper - Annandale.

Chorus  
There is a beauty in the highlands,  
And in the lovely Lomond Vale  
But the place that I loe' the best,  
Lies here, In verdant Upper - Annandale.

Words by Billy Duncan  
Music arrangement William Mc  
Roberts. March 2007

## Tour of Edinburgh, Moffat and Galloway Part 2

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August.

Bunty and Erica met us in Lockerbie at about 10am and we drove to David Kennedy Moffat's where we had a cuppa, talked about the Moffat ancestry and made great friends with their ginger tabby cat. Following David and Helen in their car we saw a Motte and Bailie on a hillside nearby and then journeyed through Penpont (Welsh/Gaelic name), Tynron and Kirkland heading to Glencairn Kirk. Here we saw several Moffat Burials dating from 1813.

We went on to Moniaive where we had lunch at the Craigdarroch Arms Hotel.

David ordered an Irish coffee which was so strong it nearly knocked our socks off. Somehow we managed to down it all.

Erica mentioned that David was one of the founding members of Clan Moffat in the year 2000 and is now Honorary President. A very knowledgeable and interesting man.

Next we went to Loch Urr up in the hills. It is a very ancient site with a Motte and Bailie at one side. There are various settlements around the Loch.

We continued on to Sundaywell built in 1731 which was bought by Alexander Moffat, aged 81, in the name of his son. The well they used is on the hill behind. He was of the Covenanter Sect which held meetings in the open air and which was greatly disliked by the conservative religions. Many people were driven out and because they held their meetings in the open they were not listed on the parish records.

After an interesting and informative day we returned to Moffat for an evening meal at The Limetree restaurant.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

After looking through the Moffat shops we went to the Woollen Mill to buy cashmere jumpers and Rob bought a Clan scarf and beret.

Then we met Erica and Bunty at Cafe Ariete at 10am for a coffee before our next excursion.

We drove north from Moffat on the Old Edinburgh Road to see past Moffat-owned properties.

The first was Reddings with a picturesque stream running down the side of the garden then on to Gardenholm, Ashybank, Howslack, Meikleholmside and Granton, a grand house sadly now a ruin. Further on we came to Newton Farm then Ericstane where there is a river ford. Next on to Corehead at the foot of the Devil's Beer Tub where the Reivers hid their cattle from other Clans. We met a group of people from the Borders Forest Trust who are replanting the area with indigenous trees. They will also be searching for an old tower in the area of Corehead and will begin a dig in accordance with the geophys results. They said they would be grateful for any information about the location of the tower.

We returned to Moffat and took the road to the Borders as far as the Grey Mares Tail waterfall passing Craigieburn, Capplegill, Bodesbeck and Carrifran. The road to the waterfall is in the area known as Moffatdale and the water running alongside is called Moffat Water.

After a photo stop and a short walk at the waterfall we returned to Moffat for a meal at the Black Bull Arms.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

This is our last day with Erica and Bunty. Erica has admirably soldiered on despite a broken wrist: Bunty has been a great organiser. Today we go to meet Dr David Hannay the Clan Hannay Chief as Rob is a Hannay-Moffat. He hopes to get more information as he knows nothing about the Hannays. His mother was a Hannay born in Glasgow as was Rob. Firstly, after Bunty and Erica came to collect us from Hartfell House, we followed them in our car going through Dumfries, Crocketford, Springholm and Haugh of Urr to Dalbeattie where Bunty left her car and they both came with us. We travelled through Palnackie where the river Urr joins the Solway and on to Auchencairn and Dundrennan with its ruined abbey. We were told that there was a lot of smuggling along this coast in days gone by. From a viewing place we could see over the Solway to the Cumbrian coastline. Very picturesque. Then we drove down Gilroanie overlooking Kirkcudbright Bay and St. Mary's Isle Estate before driving into Kirkcudbright where Erica was raised.

We crossed the River Dee there and on to Gatehouse of Fleet where we had lunch at Galloway Lodge Preserves. While there we visited Carol a kilt maker and a friend of Bunty. At one time Gatehouse was a cotton spinning town with 4 mills. One still remains as a Heritage Centre. We passed Cardoness Castle part of the Cardoness Estate where David Hannay's son lives, then along the Solway tidal estuary passed Laggan Activity centre which has the longest zip wire in Europe. Further on we passed the road to Cairn Holy chambered cairn and Carsluith Castle ending at David Hannay's house on the shore.

He was very hospitable and over tea and coffee gave us information about the Clan and Clan Association. Both Rob and David are GP doctors so they had the usual discussion about medical systems in Australia and Scotland. David said he had worked in Perth, Australia for a time.

He suggested we visit the Hannay Clan Sorbie Tower which we did and found it being restored. They were to re-roof it to save it from further deterioration. On the way we



drove through Creetown, over the River Cree to Bladnoch which has the only distillery in South West Scotland, Kirkinner and Garlieston.

Later we drove to Whithorn for coffee and a visit to the ruined Priory and graveyard. Rod found 2 Hannay graves.

We returned to Bunty's place for a delicious fish and chip dinner and found we had a very flat tyre. About 2 hours later help arrived at 9pm.

Meantime we had a tour of Bunty's lovely garden.

After the wheel change we drove Erica home to the outskirts of Lockerbie then wended our way back to Hartfell House. As we weren't allowed to drive faster than 50mph it wasn't a speedy trip. We arrived back at almost midnight. This of course is way past our bedtime.

We are so grateful to Erica and Bunty for organising so much Moffat and Hannay things for us. We owe them big time. They spent so much time with us and in pre-organising our stay in Edinburgh, Moffat, Galloway and surrounds. A big thank you to you both.

Rob & Valena Moffitt. (269)



Rob has sent us this photo of a Moffatt gravestone, taken in Cookstown, far North Queensland, Australia, a long way from their home in Melbourne.

## Acting Treasurer's Report 2012/2013

As I conclude my Treasurer's responsibilities at this year's financial year end and hand over to Paul Moffat my successor, it is pleasing for him to start the new financial year 2013/2014 with a balance of £3,882.40p, which thanks to an increase in subscriptions should enable us to pay our expenses for this year, leaving a cushion for eventualities. At year end included in this balance are 10 Life Memberships amounting to £1,538.50.

Unfortunately Paul & Lynne could not attend today due to prior commitments. Paul and Lynne were amongst the founder members of Clan Moffat UK association in 2000 and Paul was Publicity and Recruitment Officer for a few years. I am sure you will welcome Paul onto the committee. It is very gratifying to find young people taking on these responsibilities.

During the financial year we were obliged to close our Halifax Building Society Deposit Account, their decision, which used to pay us interest. This money was transferred into our Lloyds Bank Treasury Account which you will see by the contra entries on the Balance Sheet.

We have opened a PayPal Account to enable overseas members to reduce the cost of their subscriptions by not paying the large bank charges which they were incurring. It is heartening to see more members using an annual standing order facility through their bank which reduces the administrative costs on our membership secretary. We now have 17 members doing it this way. Anyone wishing to pay in this way please ask Erica for details.

It may be timely to consider the cost savings by sending our newsletter electronically. I have read with interest other societies that are doing it electronically and the feedback seems to be encouraging. Please note this suggestion would only affect those with computers and if it is their choice. The total cost this year for producing two Newsletters was £453.57 and £174.97 postage. A good subject for debate!

I commend the accounts to the meeting and ask that a non-committee member sign the accounts as a true record.

Gordon Crammond  
03.08.13

### CLAN MOFFAT UK INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT – JUNE 2013

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£		£
Opening Balance	3050.59	Stationary	4.99
Donations		Postage	240.72
Subscriptions	1104.60	Photocopying	20.00
Standing Orders	500.00	Newsletter Printing	533.60
Interest from Halifax	1.58	Proudfoot Institute	30.00
Transfer to Lloyds TSB from Halifax	3057.27	Membership Sec's Expenses	57.68
PayPal Trials	0.53	Website	
PayPal Subscriptions	186.93	Secretary's Expenses	24.84
		Family History Fairs	50.00
		Transfer to Lloyds TSB	3057.27
		From Halifax	
		Lloyds TSB year end balance	3882.40
	<u>£7901.50</u>		<u>£7901.50</u>

A G Crammond  
Acting Treasurer  
14.06.13

## Obituary for Cyril Derek Moffat of Morpeth, Northumberland

12.2.34 – 2.4.13

( by Stephen Lewins, nephew )

This is for those in the Clan Moffat that might have known or come across my Uncle. He was the eldest member of my branch of the Moffats, he died after a short illness culminating in a stroke while in hospital.

He was born in Morpeth, Northumberland. He was the son of Albert Moffat and Elizabeth Lowes. Albert, my grandfather was the son of William Moffat and Mary Jane Moore. William moved from the family seat in Hawick sometime after 1887 to work in the Northumberland coalfields.

Derek did not follow his father and grandfather down the mines instead he attended St. Roberts Roman Catholic school in Morpeth where he proved to be a good scholar. He had some of the best hand writing you could wish to see. The “copper script” form of writing served him well gaining a job with Morpeth Town Council in their records department. He also kept Alice Hudson’s shop and business details. She was of A.R. Hudson in Morpeth. They had a shop and were electrical engineers.

Derek’s writing skills might have been lost at an early age when he opted for a job in Duncan’s Bakery in the town. This job did not last that long, I don’t know if it was the very early starts or the baking that caused him to leave for the Council job.

Drawing and reading were two of his hobbies. He always bought ALL the Sunday papers and spent the rest of the week reading them and doing the crosswords. As a child I remember Derek cutting out all the football photos from the local newspapers and storing them in shoe boxes. There was a reason for this as we would sit by the open range in my Nana’s house on Shields Road, Stobhill toasting “Wonder Loaf” and searching for the photo that matched that weeks “Spot the Ball” competition. He never won!!

Derek was also very interested in history especially World War 2. Aeroplanes were his thing. He could draw any plane you could name. The interest in history helped when he was involved with an archaeological dig at the site of Newminster Abbey on the edge of Morpeth. Many of the finds ended up in his house at Castle Villa and were catalogued and preserved by the university.

His other passion was music; he enjoyed a wide range of styles from classical to Country and Western and had a huge collection of 78 rpm records. These are coming my way in batches to catalogue.

A change in job led him to move away from Morpeth for a while to working for the Cyrenians charity. Around this time he met and married Karen Wilkinson. They had a daughter Claire and a son Richard and now there are three grand children Tom, Sam and Olivia.

Derek was well known in Morpeth and a very kind person. As a well read member of the community he was often asked for advice on many topics. He attended St Robert’s Church for most of his life and had many friends there. In his latter years he always managed to have a joke for anyone who would listen, sometimes good and sometimes not so. Another connection to St Roberts was the school reunions that he helped organise along with other stalwarts Jakey and Geordie Conroy.

Derek was buried at Fairmoor Cemetery, Morpeth on 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2013.



Left (facing photo) - Derek Moffat  
Centre - The author’s father  
Right - Derek’s friend John

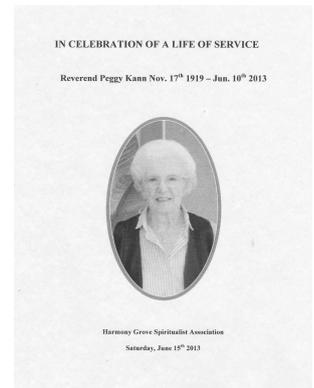
Reverend Peggy Kann was born 17<sup>th</sup> November 1919 in Manchester to William Martin Moffat and his wife Annie Ernestine Lambert. Her birth name was Annie Margaret Moffatt, and would soon be called Peggy. She told her children that it was because of a skinny peg shaped tooth that she had, but more likely, just to distinguish her from her like-named mother and all the other Annie Margarets in her class. Peggy was an avid swimmer, and centre half in field hockey at St Margaret's High School.

She lived in Manchester until she was five and moved to Bristol. She resided at 48 Kellaway Avenue, Bristol, and later at Yew Trees, Almonsbury. She graduated from The College of Bristol with a degree in Domestic Science as World War II broke out in Europe and quickly became instrumental in the British Admiralty, ordering parts for battleships and assisting the War effort.

She would meet and marry Milton Slavkin and leave for America in 1946. Peggy moved from the Church of England to Judaism, and became mother to David, Deborah and Diane before embracing Spiritualism and moving to Phoenix, Santa Barbara, meeting David Stroup and moving to Harmony Grove.

She was ordained by the National Spiritualist Association of the United States on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1973. Her work at Harmony Grove touched and rewarded many. Peggy remained a pillar for her family, guiding her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren throughout their tribulations and sharing in their celebrations.

Peggy is survived by her son David (md Joanie), her daughter Deborah (md Michael), 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.



Colin Moffat writes: The above is the text of Peggy's biography as printed in the Order of Service for her funeral. Additionally, Peggy was briefly married, 1941, to Leonard Dudley Cox, but divorced in 1945. She re-married to Milton Slavkin in Andover, Hampshire on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1946. They divorced in the 1970s. Peggy married a third time, Kurt Kann, but the marriage was short-lived. She eventually found happiness with David Stroup, but they never married.

Peggy's parents remained in England. Her father, William Martin Moffat died in 1964, aged 73. Her mother lived well into her 100s, and died in 1993, aged 105.



## William and Mary Bryden - A Correction

In the last edition of the Clan Moffat Newsletter I gave an account of the lives of William and Mary Bryden (“How did they meet”, pp 21 - 24). Mary was the daughter of James Moffat (1832 – 1904) and they were married in Dryfesdale in 1883 and eventually lived in Waterbeck, near Middlebie. William was a tailor and I surmised that he lived in a prosperous neighbourhood because according to the 1901 census their next-door neighbour was Thomas Carlyle who lived in Waterbeck House, a mid-nineteenth century house with 17 rooms. However, In view of later data that have become available, the census turned out to be misleading and the Brydens were, in fact, tenants of the Carlyle family, paying a rent of £4 per annum for their house.

The valuation rolls for 1895, 1905 and 1915 are now available on the website “Scotlands People” and these show that in 1895 the Brydens were tenants of Robert Carlyle who, as well as being a merchant, owned a huge estate including a large number of farms and houses in and around Waterbeck and extending as far as Gilmartin to the North. He also owned the shooting rights over this land. Other tenants included a surgeon, a number of farmers, two blacksmiths (the site of the smithy is shown in the O.S.map for 1897), a watchmaker and numerous widows as well as other members of the Carlyle family who had to pay rent to the estate. The Carlyles were a large family who originally lived in an imposing mid-nineteenth century house (now a listed building) in Waterbeck called Templehill and which was occupied in 1895 by William Lee Carlyle. The 1901 census shows that Robert Carlyle (the Bryden’s **landlord**), now widowed, lived with William Lee Carlyle and his family in Templehill.

The valuation roll for 1905 shows that the Bryden’s landlord was now William Lee Carlyle, Robert Carlyle having died of “angina” in 1902. Their rent has gone up to £7 p.a. (equivalent to about £720 in today’s money).

William Lee Carlyle died suddenly in 1914 so that Templehill was now occupied by his widow while the Bryden’s landlord was now Thomas Robert Carlyle. Luckily, their rent stayed the same.

One of the dilemmas face by amateur genealogists is “knowing when to stop” and I have therefore not tried to unravel the intricacies of the Carlyle family or to ascertain for sure whether they were relatives of Thomas Carlyle (1795 – 1881) the famous author. He certainly knew Waterbeck well and often used to walk there when visiting his parents who lived nearby.

David Burns Moffat

## **BIOGRAPHY OF ARTHUR JOHN MOFFATT (1876 – 1968)**

**By Amy Sheila Street (m.s. Moffatt)**

City Clerk of the City of Fernie, BC from May 1, 1914 to Dec 31, 1931

Municipal Clerk of the Township of Richmond, B.C. January 1, 1932 to Dec 31, 1941

### **EARLY LIFE**

Arthur John Moffatt was born on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1876, in Hexham, Northumberland. He was the youngest of eight children of John Stevenson Moffatt, a successful ironmonger. Arthur was a follower of the Congregationalist Church and was educated at Barnard Castle School (then known as North Eastern County School) in County Durham, and after leaving school entered the family business in Hexham. When their father died, they learned that the first two sons (children of J S Moffatt's first wife) had inherited the business interests, and the younger sons began looking beyond Hexham for future employment.

Arthur was engaged to Miss Amy Elizabeth Joy of Hexham, and when he left for Canada in 1912 it was with the promise to send the money for her ticket as soon as he had a job and could save enough. Arthur and one of his brothers decided to look into the offer of land made by the Canadian government to attract new immigrants. They came across Canada by train to Vancouver, British Columbia, on the west coast, then by boat to the town of Squamish where they hired horses and camping necessities to reach a settlement which had started in Pemberton. The right of way for the future railway to Pemberton and beyond was being cleared at this time, and the Moffatt brothers followed this trail as far as the clearing went, and then camped where necessary. Some families had already settled in Pemberton, but Arthur and his brother decided to return to Vancouver and look elsewhere.

With his training in his father's hardware store in Hexham, Arthur was hired by Ashdown's Hardware Company in Winnipeg. Ashdown's was a well-known company with interests across Canada.

### **FERNIE**

Arthur was sent to Fernie, British Columbia, to help one of their creditors improve his business and continue as their customer. This was apparently successful. While AJ was still there the position of City Clerk became vacant and AJ applied for the job and was accepted. From all accounts, he was also Secretary of the School Board and assessor for tax purposes.

His position began on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1914 but AJ was not able to send for Amy Joy until 1916, halfway through World War I. He met Amy when she reached Medicine Hat in Alberta, and there they were married. He had been boarding at Mrs. Whimster's Boarding House in Fernie, with other young bachelors of the town, and she kindly arranged for the newly weds to have their first dinner at her son and daughter-in-law's house in Medicine Hat.

Back in Fernie, they rented a house on Main Street (possibly owned by the Alfred Cumming family) while they looked for permanent quarters and finally settled on Baker Avenue facing the train tracks, where they lived until they left Fernie in 1941.

Things went well at first, but in the early 1920s the Home Bank closed its doors, and the Moffatts lost their savings, as did many others. This was a precursor of the Depression that continued for years. They had two children by this time – Bernard Joy Moffatt born on December 13, 1917, and Ann Sheila Moffatt, born on November 8, 1921.

The Moffatts were active in the Presbyterian Church (later the United Church) both in Fernie and later in Richmond and Vancouver. Arthur had a fine baritone voice and in Fernie sang in the choir and was sometimes a soloist. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge in Fernie. He had first joined the Masonic order in Hexham in 1902, and in Canada attended meetings at a local lodge wherever he happened to be. This contributed greatly to his quick acceptance and wide number of acquaintances from his earliest days in any community.

Before Amy Joy came from England, Arthur had been a member of a group of young people in Fernie who went hiking up the Lizards Mountains and built themselves an alpine lodge as a base at Island Lake. He took many pictures, which he developed himself, not only of the alpine group but of Fernie and its surroundings, its people, men leaving for service in the War in Europe, etc. He also took part in plays that were performed in the local theatre, and presented to the public. In 1927 he became a Notary Public, which he used both at City Hall and later in a business of his own.

While he was City Clerk the Government of BC introduced the Superannuation plan to give pensions to government workers when they retired. The date of their employment with the City was taken as the starting point for calculations. All the employees signed up for this, and Arthur chose the monthly payment plan for himself which would include payment of a pension to his wife if she was left a widow when he died. As he was 12 years older than Amy he felt that this was a chance to make provision for her future after he was gone.

## **RICHMOND**

In approximately 1931 Fernie began restructuring its local government and consolidating positions. AJ saw that his job was going to be declared redundant, and started to look elsewhere. He attended annual meetings of the Union of BC Municipalities and heard that the Township of Richmond (near Vancouver) was looking for a new Municipal Clerk. He applied and was accepted and began his new job on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1932.

He found that Richmond had not joined the government superannuation plan, and was not making any provision for retiring employees. Some of the secretaries had worked for Richmond for many years. The plan had not been explained well before, but thanks to AJs urging, they all joined when he came to Richmond. Much to his dismay, his own plan was NOT portable from Fernie, and he had only 9 years in Richmond for payments to apply to his pension. He was advised to take a cash payout of his payments in Fernie, but he decided to leave them in place and hope payments would soon be made portable.

When he had to accept mandatory retirement at 65, AJ was asked to stay on as Assistant Clerk, as they had no replacement in view. (The candidate that had been slated to step in was overseas fighting in World War II.) He was glad to have five more years on salary to augment the small pension, as salaries had been cut several times during the depression.

On May 10, 1941 on their Silver Wedding Anniversary, ten years after leaving Fernie, fifteen of their Fernie friends now living in Vancouver area held a surprise party and presented the couple with a silver tureen to mark the occasion.

On November 10, 1942, the Moffatts' son, Flying Officer Bernard Joy Moffatt, with the RAF in Valetta during the siege of Malta, was an Observer in a Wellington aircraft which was shot down by an enemy plane from Italy over the Straits of Medina in the Mediterranean. He was 24 years old. AJ had bought a car while they still lived in Richmond but Bernard had done most of the driving. After Bernard was killed in the war, AJ sold the car and never drove again.

In 1939 the Moffatts moved to 1451 Park Drive in Vancouver, and after their daughter's marriage in 1946 moved to a smaller house with an apartment in the basement which was already rented, which helped add to the small pension AJ received.

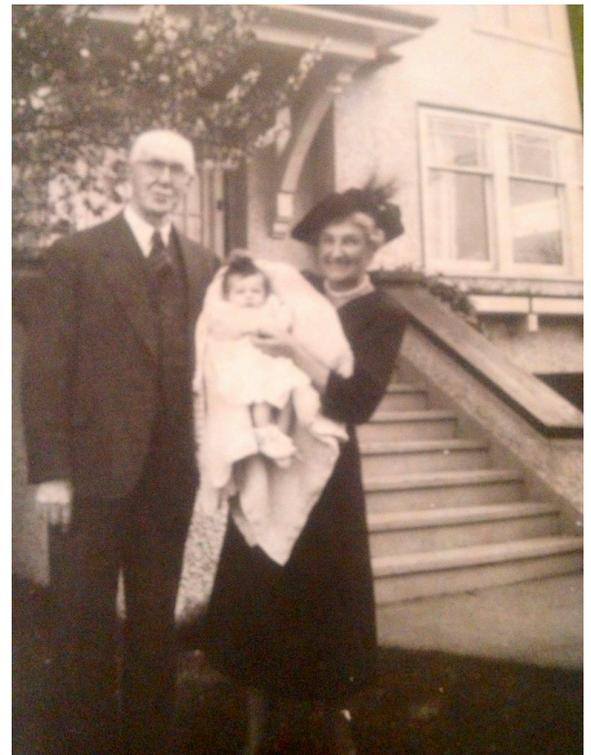
When Arthur finally retired in 1946, Bert Fairhall of Fairhall Realty, a local Vancouver company, needed someone to do the Notary Public work in his office in Marpole, and offered the use of a desk in return for notary work for Fairhall. This was the beginning of AJ's accounting business which continued until his mandatory retirement at age 65. However he returned to work in this profession until he was 88 years of age, at which time he had to retire due to health problems. Nevertheless he continued to be robust in overall health for several more years, and was a common sight walking through the neighbourhood in a three piece suit, elegantly swinging his cane.

Arthur celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on New Year's Day 1966, and although there was a massive snowstorm during the night, every one of the 60 or so invited guests braved the weather to attend the birthday party at his daughter Sheila and son-in-law Bill Street's home in Kerrisdale, Vancouver. On May 16, 1966 he and Amy celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with family and friends at a dinner at the Officers' Mess on 2nd Avenue near Jericho Beach.

He was a true gentleman, honest and honourable, with a wonderful sense of humour. In 1881, in the obituary for his grandfather, the following words appeared: "His probity and integrity in all he undertook were not only well-known, and confided in, but simply proverbial. His word was his bond, and his engagements were always beyond question, or even misgiving." The same words were entirely true for his grandson, Arthur John Moffatt.

He died on August 26, 1968, at age 92, well-liked and respected by his colleagues and friends, beloved by his wife, his children and his grandchildren. His funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Arthur Carr, whose father Rev. A. Lee Carr had been minister of the Fernie United Church and had christened Moffatt's son there in January, 1918.

After his death, due to the efforts of his lawyer son-in-law William A. Street, Arthur's pension contributions from his time in Fernie were finally made portable, and his widow Amy was awarded a full widow's pension and enjoyed her final years as AJ would have wished.





## Clan Moffat Merchandise

Clan Bookmark £0.75	Paperweight £5.99
Clan Postcard £1.00	Leather Key Fob £9.50
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'The Moffats' book by Major F Moffat £25.00	Lapel Pin £8.40
Add £2 towards p&p	Decorative Spoon £3.99
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'The Moffats' Mini Book £2.50	Decorative Thimble £2.99
Add 35p towards p&p	Moffat Corsage (made to order) £7.99
	Add 75p per item towards p&p.

All items are available from Erica Seggie, Whinney Brae,  
Tundergarth, Lockerbie DG11 2PP

### 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  
No.1 (Oct 2000) to No.12 (April 2006)

Supplied in PDF Format, for reading on your PC, or printing into a book at your local copy-shop.

The cost is £15.00 per CD (inc P & P) with a percentage going to Clan Moffat UK.

Please send cheque made payable to "C. Moffat"  
address: 74 Dickerage Road, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, KT1 3SS.

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### CLAN MOFFAT CREST IN CROSS STITCH

Kit includes 14 count Aida, threads, needle, chart and full instructions.

Crest on a background of the Clan Moffat tartan.

*(A coloured photo is available on request)*

Designed by Bunty Davies, member 24 in co-operation with the Clan Chief

The cost is £16.50 (plus p&p)

For kits or further information, please contact  
Bunty Davies Tel: 01556 612463 or  
Email: [bunty.davies@fsmail.net](mailto:bunty.davies@fsmail.net)

### BACK NEWSLETTERS

We hold a stock of past newsletters.

If members are interested in purchasing any please contact the Membership Secretary.

### DEADLINE

MATERIAL FOR

April 2014 Newsletter

28 February 2014

## Visit to Moffat Land around Dunscore

The day after the AGM this year David Kennedy Moffat led a group of members on a tour of land associated with his Moffat line.



They met in Moffat at 10am on a fine and breezy day and drove to Dunscore where the party had a coffee break at David and Helen's house.



The first stop on the tour was at Sundaywell built in 1731 which was bought by Alexander Moffat for his son. They were Covenanters holding their religious meetings in the open air.

Next the group drove to Lochurr situated in the hills above Corsock. David described the ancient site to the group pointing out the Motte and Bailie and other archaeological sites around



the loch. Jim Moffat, who had brought his bagpipes with him, played 'Highland Cathedral', a favourite with many in the group, against a backdrop of hills and sky.

Glencairn Church was the next stop where David pointed out graves of his ancestors as far back as 1813.

The day concluded back in Dunscore with a wonderful buffet laid on by Helen.

They were thanked warmly for their hospitality.

The day was an excellent finale to the weekend.

Erica Seggie



Photos 1 David Kennedy Moffat showing his family tree and family Bible to Colene Vincent from New Zealand and Membership Secretary Erica Seggie 2 Sundaywell 3 and 4 Lochurr 5 Glencairn churchyard

## Annual Dinner at Moffat Arms Hotel



## Moffat August 2013



The new Moffat Museum

Work in Progress Moffat Town Hall Restoration Project

