

# Moffattalia

The Journal of Clan Moffat UK



## Clan Chief

Madam Jean Moffat of that Ilk

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# From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2016 edition of Moffatalia.

We are pleased to include the two remaining winning entries from the Clan Moffat Writing Competition. Well done to Erin Wright and Laila Deaton. Many thanks to Hazel Crammond for all her hard work in updating the Members' Directory. Betty Davidson's article illustrates how valuable the Directory can be in helping members to connect with each other. Theresa Marsh has produced a fascinating account of the life of Henry Moffatt, a butcher from Gloucestershire and the first part of the story appears on page 13. Gill Hanham reports on a talk she attended at The Borders Heritage Festival which gives a fascinating insight into Moffat's past. I am sure you will enjoy Colin Moffat's article about Hedvig Beata Moffat, daughter of Robert Moffat. Also in this edition are Lorie Marshall's tribute to her father Aubrey Moffett (1927-2015), an update on the earthquake in New Zealand from Colene Vincent and news of a wedding in Australia from Rob and Valena Moffitt. I have just heard of the birth of a new Moffat, my granddaughter, born two hours ago !

Jim Moffat

Editor

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Deadline for Autumn 2016 Edition

31 August



# Chairman's Report

Presenting the prizes for the 2015 writing competition was fairly problematic, firstly the children couldn't make it to our AGM for prize-giving and the people I'd ordered the medals from continuously let us down. Finally I changed suppliers and was able to present the prizes to the deserving children. This year things will be well in hand before the competition starts.

Erica, Bunty and I attended a very well organised FHS event in Carlisle with a wide variety of stands and some interesting presentations where as an added and unexpected bonus we won a prize for the best stand. The next FHS event we will attend is in April.

In January I attended a meeting at Drumlanrig Castle organised by the Lowland Clan and Families under the auspices of Clan Scott, to explore the possibility of having a Border Clans Heritage centre. The meeting was very interesting with many good proposals and ideas being exchanged. While I could see the merit of the idea in principle, for a number of reasons I did not see the project as proposed being something of much benefit to Clan Moffat. I will await any future developments with interest.

My thanks as ever go to our committee members, their hard work, ability, and dedication is key to the continued success of Clan Moffat.

Finally many thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Yours aye

David Kennedy Moffat

# Clan Chief Madam Jean Moffat of that Ilk



Dear Members,

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. It seems quite a while ago now as we have had a very busy few weeks. Also I hope you had your haggis for Burns night. I always have a few haggis or 'haggi' from Moffat in the freezer as, in my opinion, they are the best. Still made to the same recipe as when I was a child.

We are looking forward to the AGM in August. I hope that the weather is better than last year. Please try and come if you can. The visit to Dumfries House should be good. I have always wanted to go there since I saw a programme about Prince Charles' interest in restoring it several years ago. You may have seen it featured in the recent programme with Ant and Deck with Prince Charles.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in August.

Spero Meliora"



# Secretary's Report

**Bunty Davies**

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

This year's AGM will be held on the weekend of August 12th/13th 2016.

The committee meeting, for those involved, will be held at 10.30 am on August 13th at the Proudfoot centre.

The AGM will be at 2.30pm at the Proudfoot Centre.

Dinner (for a maximum of 20) will again be at Moffat House Hotel at 6.30pm for 7pm. On Saturday 13th. I will not be organising it this year, but please contact me if you are interested by the middle of June so that I can send details on to Lesley. She will then send menu choices on to you which will need to be at the hotel by the end of July.

In my last report I suggested organising a trip to Dumfries House on Friday 12th August. However, only one person replied before my deadline of the end of November, so I have not done anything about it.

As our coffee morning last year proved to be successful, we have decided to repeat this, hopefully with a speaker. This will be at 10.30am on Friday 12th August in the Proudfoot Centre.

In the afternoon we have booked a tour to The Globe Inn in

Dumfries, starting at 3pm. There will be a guided tour by a local Burns expert around Burns' 'howff' (ie his local pub) which would last for about an hour. There will also be an option to pre-order refreshment- afternoon tea or a bigger meal. We will use our own transport as we did last year and there is plenty of parking near by. I will need numbers in for this by the middle of June, please. Also to know if you are interested in eating there as we will have to pre-book this.

Hoping to see you in August

Bunty

## Wedding of Yvette Moffitt and John Clay 10th August 2015



Left photo. From the left Shannon Moffitt, Chloe Moffitt with George Moffitt, Valena and Rob Moffitt, Yvette Moffitt-Clay with new husband John Clay and Sean Moffitt in the back in the checked shirt.



Right photo. As before, with Yvette's daughters Jasmine Moffitt - Karl (blue dress) and Hailey Moffitt - Karl in front row.

Moffat Academy  
Clan Moffat UK  
Children's Writing Competition  
June 2015

Bronze Award - Erin Wright

Was that the bakery's last words --

Today was the strangest day of my life, it started off normally when I stepped out of my tiny red house in Moffat. Then I went to go and fetch my dad's loaf of bread from the bakers like I usually do. But when I get to the bakers there is a sign on the door bakery shut down because of theft. I really wanted to know what was happening inside, so I put my trembling hands shaking like a vibrating machine on the cold silver handle. I slowly opened the door, I peeked through, there was nothing but an old wooden table that had a Moffat Toffee tin that hadn't been opened yet. I went round the back to try and find a can opener. I found one on the desk. Strangely it was engraved, it read bakery opened in 1881, weirdly the baker man said that he opened the store in 1892 so I thought to myself that someone must have owned the store at an earlier date but who?

I had to find out who was behind this and who owned the bakery before the baker man. So I set off to my little red house with the tin of Moffat Toffee perched at the bottom of my blue denim bag. When I got to my house I told my dad that I would be coming home later than normal he was fine with that, my dad was fine with everything when I was away he just sat in front of the fire and read the daily Telegraph. So after that I

packed some water and some food just to keep me going. And I set off to the first stop I went to the bakers again to pick up a tin opener just to make sure I had some evidence if I met someone that knew about the bakery. When I went to pick up the tin opener I wasn't scared to go in I just turned the handle but the handle was warm but the last time it was freezing cold, I walked inside the tin opener was still there thankfully. But also there was a scruffy teddy bear there with a name tag on it, it read Molly, the teddy bear was scruffy but it was kind of cute so I also put the teddy bear in my bag next to the Moffat Toffee tin. But I wondered who was in the bakery when I was at my house was it the baker or was it a thief?

I went to the school library the council couldn't afford to build a new library so there was a spare hall in our school so they turned the old worn out hall into a library. When I got to the library I got the book from the shelf that was about bakery stores in our town but the strange thing was there was not a bakery in our town in 1881. By now I had looked through several books trying to find anything else. But it was hopeless, maybe it was just a myth, maybe the can opener was from a different bakery. By now I had given up. To celebrate for all my hard work I opened the Moffat Toffee tin and picked out the most biggest most smoothest my mouth was in heaven. Then after my Moffat toffee I went home to my little red cottage.

Spero Meliora !!

By Erin Wright

# Genealogist's Report

The Database continues to grow, and the count as of the March Edition was just over 38,900. Growth in numbers is slowing down, although the quality of the entries is increasing. This is due to accurate dates for births, marriages and deaths, names and maiden names spouses, together with the improved structure of Moffat families. For example, William Moffat born Dalkeith 1860, moved to Yorkshire where he married Elizabeth Anne Johnson, and returned to Musselburgh in 1901. It was via his profession as a tailor that I could be certain of his identification. Originally this William appeared in the Database 3 times (Dalkeith, Yorkshire, Musselburgh), but now these entries have been amalgamated.

I was contacted by Marg O'Leary of the Fromelles Association of Australia, commemorating the ANZAC troops who died in the action at Fromelles in 1916. After the battle, the German forces hastily buried the fallen soldiers in a communal grave in Fromelles. The site was recently rediscovered, and the bodies exhumed in an archaeological excavation. It is hoped to identify individual casualties via their DNA. One of the fallen, was Harry Lowry Moffitt, born Enniskillen, but joined the Anzac force after emigrating to Australia. He died in from enemy fire whilst attempting to rescue his wounded CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Ignatius Norris. Marg was hoping I could provide a contact with living relatives, so that a match to Harry's DNA could be found. Alas, I was unable to help on that one. Harry's death was particularly poignant. He was just engaged to be married to Alice Ross-King, serving with the Royal Australian Nursing Corps. Learning of Moffitt's death, she wrote in her diary: 'Well, my world has ended. Harry is dead. God what shall I do!' Lieutenant Moffitt's body was not found at the time and his name was engraved on the memorial at VC Corner in the Australian Cemetery at Fromelles. Alice Ross-King returned to Australia in 1919, where she eventually married and had a family.

When entering the names of Moffat families from the Irish censuses of 1901 and 1911, I was aware that a number of families using the spelling Moffett originated in County Monaghan. Surely they were related, but as

discreet families in the census, there was no way to determine their mutual relationships. Thus I was happily surprised to come across "Ballybay Moffetts - A brief history of the Crievagh House Ballybay County Monaghan Ireland branch of the Moffett family", George & Adam Moffett, USA, 1908" and to which Betty has put a link on the Clan Moffat web-site. I was able to use this to discover how the family was inter-related, and now have the correct family structure going back to James Moffett, b ca 1700 County Monaghan.

I'm still working hard on the Database. I was in Edinburgh for two days last December, and am planning another visit shortly. It's often difficult to highlight a specific achievement, but the end result is a methodical increase in quality. The chances are, that if you seek a Moffat family within recent memory, you will find more than you expect in the Database. And I'm still exhorting people to examine their own families within the Database – and let me know of improvements.

Colin Moffat,  
Genealogist, Clan Moffat UK,  
Kingston-on-Thames, March 2016

We have again arranged to have a coffee morning and organised tour on the Friday of the AGM weekend. That is, Friday 12th August 2016.

The guided tour will be of The Globe Inn in Dumfries. This was Robert Burns' favourite howf (gathering place or inn) in Dumfries, led by Jane Brown, who is associated with the Scottish Burns Federation. This will cost around £4.

High tea is available after the tour at a cost of £11 (including the tour)

Transport will be by car as last year On the Friday morning at the Proudfoot Centre, there will be a coffee morning, again open to the people of Moffat, with a talk by Jane Brown on 'Burns in Dumfries' Please let Bunty Davies know by July 1st if you: Wish to go on the tour, Wish to have high tea at the Globe Inn, Would like a lift or are willing to drive and would take other people

When I hear from you – e-mail [bunty.davies@btinternet.com](mailto:bunty.davies@btinternet.com) – I will send further details including the menu choices, times etc.

# Gloucester's 'Grand Old Man of Meat' \* Part One

Henry Moffatt was to live 91 years as fully as possible and leave behind generations of individuals with their own tales to tell. He not only was a successful butcher, with his own business that he passed onto his sons, but he saved some money by farming his own animals. A distinct character he was interested in sport and was very involved in the community. This meant that like brother Joseph and his family, Henry and family featured in newspapers and other historical records giving us a more detailed picture of their lives.

Henry was one of thirteen children, the younger six including him were born in Gloucestershire. (BMD Muffitt -Thornbury 11 480 - Sep 1846). He grew up in Salter Street, Berkeley as part of a family business that was a grocery shop and tea dealers that sold their own baked bread. (1851 Census) The Moffatt's were very much part of the community and involved in the local Penny Readings in which older siblings regularly performed during the 1860s. According to The Bristol Mercury (22.01.1870) Henry, a young man of 22 or 23 years, also became involved and sang a song. In fact Henry was a young married man by this time having married Elizabeth Frances Brearley of Cardiff at St John's there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1868.(Cardiff 11A 282). By 1871 he was living in Gloucester at 7 Kingsholm Road with his wife, one year old daughter, and domestic servant 17 year old Elizabeth Webb. He had begun his own business as a butcher.

Henry and his beloved Welsh wife Elizabeth had had their three children by 1881 when they were living at 24 Sebert Place, Kingsholm, Gloucester. They were Mabel(1869), Harry Nathaniel(1871) and Ernest Godfrey.(May 28<sup>th</sup> 1873 – GJ 7.06.73) )The oldest two were still residing with him in 1891, Harry (19yrs) was a grocery apprentice. His two sons were to follow him into the family business.

Henry stayed in the local area for many years being recorded as a butcher at 24 Kingsholm Rd in the 1897 Kelly's Directory of Gloucestershire (page 195) and at 60 Kingsholm Road in the 1901 Census, where he is described as butcher *and farmer*. According to the Gloucester Journal (6.3.1937) he began his butcher's shop in Kingsholm when only 22 years old. It was a well equipped shop to which he added the most up to date slaughterhouse in Gloucester. According to the Gloucester Journal of December 12<sup>th</sup> 1896 Henry had erected a brand new butcher's shop that year far superior to the "inconvenient and makeshift building" in which he'd worked "for the past 18 months". This is clearly the Kingsholm address referred to in the directory, the original butcher's shop most likely being in Hopewell Street. In 1894 Henry in a letter to Gloucester Council had agreed to give up some of his land in Hopewell Street to widen the street. (G. Chron., 5.05.1894)

What kind of farmer was Henry?

At a show in 1868 "Mr Moffatt of Kingsholm showed a very fine heifer, 10 wether sheep and 3 large bacon pigs" (GJ 26.12.1868) He was certainly still keeping sheep by 1891 as the meeting minutes of the Gloucester Football and Athletic Ground record him renting the ground for sheep grazing from 1891-1896, the cost of which varied from £2 to £10 depending on building work and availability due to fixtures. Entertainment events on site damaged the grazing. ([http://www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk/GF\\_AG\\_Co\\_Directors\\_Meetings](http://www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk/GF_AG_Co_Directors_Meetings)). In 1897 he apparently managed to lose a 2 yr old white heifer suggesting that he still kept cattle (GC. 15.09.1897). He also kept chickens which made the news because their eggs were stolen. (Glos.Chronicle 26.06.1897) He would have needed horses of course to pull carts to transport his meat.

In 1903 Henry witnessed a collision between a tailor on a bicycle and a butcher's employee driving a horse and cart. Neither were able to move in time and the horse's hind leg got caught in the spokes of a bicycle wheel. Both men were fine and the horse recovered. The bicycle was written off.

Henry and another man took care of the horse, freeing it and enabling it to stand. Henry was quoted as saying 'it could have been a lot worse'. (Cheltenham Chron.14.03.03)

Henry's farms were called Innsworth and Paygrove, situated in the area of Wotton St Mary. Paygrove Farm (situated by the Horsbere Brook, Paygrove Lane, Longlevens, Gloucester) existed in the 1700s and is now a three bedroom semi, part of a residential area, with only a garden attached. Innsworth Farm, was one of a number of farms and cottages that were built in the 1800s, and was demolished in the twentieth century to make way for a housing estate, according to a book on the history of Gloucestershire. (History of County of Gloucester Vol. 4. Edtd.by NM Herbert 1988 and Kelly's Directory of Gloucestershire 1897 p. 364)

As a farmer Henry was also a part of the local Farmers Association or Gloucester Farmer's Union.( 6.03.1937 GJ )(Cheltenham Chron.17.04.20) In fact he became President of it as well as President of the Gloucester Master Butcher's Association, being honoured by a chain of the latter office in June 1928. He had previously been honoured in 1919 by the then Gloucester Meat Trader's Association with a presentation at their annual dinner. ( GJ 6.03.1937 ) As a farmer and butcher Henry was very vocal and active. The Gloucester Butcher's Association was an organisation Henry started to form in 1869 because the butcher had been despised rather than respected. The aim of such organisations was to maintain high standards in the trade to show the community they provided a service and should be respected.(GC 25.11.1925) In 1911 he was actively promoting the building of a milk depot in Gloucester as referred to in the minutes of the Director's meeting of the Gloucester Football and Athletic Ground Limited, the Directors having offered to sell some of the land to be considered for development. (<http://www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk> GF AG Co. Directors Meetings Pt III 1911-1915 - 12.10.1911). On May 6th 1912 Henry was appointed official reporter of the Gloucester Cattle Market for the Board of Agriculture after retiring from being a butcher, being responsible for the collection and return of prices at the market.

(GJ11.05.12)

In 1914 as a parishioner of Wotton Without and Barnwood Henry became involved in an offer of hospitality to Belgian refugees, expenses to be borne by the locality to begin with. He was to be part of a large committee to help make arrangements to meet their basic needs. (Glos.,Chron., 7.11.1914)

Henry was a keen sportsman which impacted the community he lived in. He was a long term member of Gloucester Rugby Football Club, originally known as just Gloucester Football Club.

(Gloucester Echo 5.03.1937). He usually played the positions of half back or back during the 1880s with home games being played at the Spa until 1891.(GJ FOOTBALL- H.Moffatt (back) 20.11.1880,GC: 2.11.83, 6.01.82, 26.02.84) He was also involved on a committee level with the Atlas Club, an engineering works rugby football club.(GC 21.10.1882)

By 1898 he was a shareholder of Gloucester Football and Athletic Ground Limited which had been created in 1891 and held its offices and meetings at Oddfellows Hall. It provided sporting facilities and ground for a number of different events (cricket, football, rugby, athletics such as Gloucester Harriers, military drill and sporting events, fireworks displays, fêtes, flower shows, pony races, polo, cycling) and is considered to have played a significant contributing part to the history of Gloucester Rugby Club providing grounds for them to play upon when the Spa was no longer available.

Henry was involved in discussing early provision of facilities at these sportsground meetings and favoured gas lighting to light the ground which was near the vinegar factory as detailed in the minutes of the meetings. ([www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk))

He was also President of Barnwood Bowling Club (lawn bowls) 1922-1937. Initially part of a group who played on the green at the Waggon and Horses, when that green was no longer available in 1921 they sought an alternative. They formed Barnwood Bowling and Tennis Ground Company Ltd, a Public Company, in order to buy shares to purchase the needed land. Turf was cut from the banks of the Berkeley Canal, owned by

the Gloucester & Gaslight Company with their permission, to provide a green once the land was bought. The original pavilion less the dressing rooms were two Army Huts purchased from the War Office. Members carried out much of the work voluntarily, Henry supervising building work including a concert room in November 1922.(GC 18.11.22) (www.barnwoodbowling.co.uk) His wife Elizabeth was one of the vice presidents of Barnwood and District Tennis Club in 1925,1926 and1929 at least. (GJ:2 May 1925, 1 May 1926,16 Mar 1929 ) It was an important part of their lives including events such as fetes to raise funds (GC 16.06. 1927) and weddings(GJ 28.09.1918)

In their leisure time Henry and his wife were also a part of the Dickens Society. The Dickens Society met in Gloucester. It was a group of people who enjoyed discussing, reading aloud extracts, and dramatising the works of Charles Dickens. This group included the Mayor. Sometimes younger family members also got involved. At the Centenary Birthday celebration their granddaughter Doris played Little Emily, with Henry as Pegotty.(GC 30.08.1921).

In 1933 Henry and Elizabeth celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary receiving a telegram from King George V and Queen Mary to mark the occasion. In 1936 they celebrated 68 yrs, unfortunately it was his day of rest but they enjoyed reading their telegrams and letters together. Both were in remarkable good health in these late years, Elizabeth hampered most by deafness.(GJ 26.09.1936)

According to the Gloucester Journal (6.03.1937 ) Henry and Elizabeth were 'closely identified with the Society of Friends',or Quakers. He was clearly a community minded man showing an interest in the Sherborne Mission. In 1892 he hosted their sunday school annual outing into the countryside at Innsworth Farm where the children "had tea, games and races ....in the barn" on that wet day(GJ 16.07. 1892)If he hadn't been busy enough in his full life Henry was also interested in the parochial affairs of Wotton Without and had held therefore the office of Overseer before it was

abolished by an Act of Parliament, making him the last to do so. He was involved in a motion regarding the need for improved drainage there in a council meeting for example in 1903.(Glos. Echo 7.03.03) He was also involved in an enquiry about the site of a potential smallpox hospital which Wotton Parish council were against. Not only would it undermine chances of improved drainage in the future but waste water from the hospital would run into the brook which his cows drank from. (Chelt. Chron.03.01.03)

Henry died March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1937 aged 90 years. He was living at Glendarnel, 96 Elmbridge Rd at the time. In his last years on doctor's orders he spent one day a week in bed. Every Monday if the weather was fine he went to the Market as he had for 68 years. (GJ 6.03.37) He left an estate of £5,727 4s 3d gross. His property was left to Elizabeth for life, to Berkeley Gasworks Directors, which were of course family, he left his gas stove and meter! £50 each were left to the RNLI, Berkeley Hospital, Sherborne St Mission, and his son Ernest who died before receiving it that same year. £100 went to Mabel, £20 annuity to sister Eliza, £25 to the Quakers at Park Street, £10 to the Home of Hope, further legacies were made to his grandchildren. His shares in Barnwood were on trust , the dividends to be used to keep the pavilion in repair. Perhaps the donation to the RNLI was in part prompted by the ship wreck grandson John or 'Jack' was involved in.

Elizabeth died just two months afterwards. Their son Ernest's death following later the same year. Were Henry's children anything like him?

\* Title based on Gloucester's Grand Old Man of the Meat Trade used by the Echo, Citizen and Journal to refer to Henry 1936- 1937.

Thanks to Genes Reunited Newspaper Archives and the British Newspaper Archives for access to old newspaper reports, (particularly the Gloucester Citizen, Gloucester Chronicle, Gloucester Journal, Gloucester Echo and Western Daily Press) to BMD Online for most BMD references, to Ancestry.co.uk & Ancestry.com for census access, to Gloucester Rugby Club for the invaluable minutes of meetings accessed on line, Familysearch.org, and to Kelly's Directories.

Theresa Marsh

Last September, Scottish Borders Council hosted the Borders Heritage Festival. There was a good mix of events and activities around the Borders area, including, somewhat to my surprise, an illustrated talk on the History and Heritage of Moffat by Richard Torrance of the Scottish Genealogy Society, held at the Ormiston Institute in Melrose. As well as his interest in genealogy, Richard is a keen collector of photographs and postcards. He explained that his collection includes over 400 hundred postcards of old Moffat, as well as a large number of early photographs, many taken by members of his own family.



His great grandfather, William Allan, went to Moffat in 1871 to convalesce after a rather nasty industrial accident. It seems he loved the place and returned many times, including for holidays with his family. His grandson, Richard's father, did the same, eventually retiring to live in the town. Richard therefore has an



intimate personal knowledge of the town, linked to pleasant childhood memories.

Obviously, in the time available he could only show us a small selection of his postcards and photographs, but enough to give a good impression of how the town developed at the end of the 19th century. I'm not going to try to describe the pictures, but recall a few highlights such as the Proudfoot Institute, venue for our



Clan AGMs, as a WWI hospital and an early picture of the High Street before the Ram, both taken by local photographer John Weir; a 1898 Ladies bicycle gymkhana complete with florally decorated bikes and more skirts than I could cope with on a bicycle; and the ruins of the Moffat Hydro after a devastating fire in 1921, with members of the public right up close to the scene having a good look without a single health and safety notice in sight, along with a picture of Moffat's one fire engine (which may have been commissioned in response to the hydro fire). All in all, a fascinating insight into the town's past.



Gill Hanham

On looking through the directory of members (a wonderful publication) I turned to the last page on which there was a large family tree (mostly from Musselburgh) and I wondered why my tree was being published again (unfortunately my full tree was missed from my listing!).

It seems that the phrase "long lost friends" takes on a new meaning when one finds a common family tree from 1575 - 1779 !

I found that member 301 and myself 273 both live in Edinburgh quite close to each other! We've now spoken on the 'phone and have arranged to meet up for a coffee, and no doubt lots of chat!

Betty Davidson

## Aubrey Bryan Moffett 1927 – 2015

Aubrey Bryan Moffett was born on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1921 in Moree NSW Australia; he was the youngest of 5 children born to James & Esther Ann Moffett.

The family moved from the North Country area of NSW to Petersham Sydney when he was 12 years old. A country boy new to the city. He attended Fort St High School in Petersham. After finishing high school he started work as an apprentice Bootmaker, but he couldn't keep it up, as his first love was working with wood. He soon changed to a Wood working apprenticeship. His apprenticeship was interrupted by World War 2. He joined the NSW Scots Guards when he was 19 years old, but as the Australian Government was unwilling to send Militia Units overseas as they would be required for home defence he resigned from the Scots Guards to join the Royal Australian Air Force. He served as a Leading Aircraftsman from 1943 to 1945 over the jungles of Papua New Guinea.



He returned from WW2 to take up & finish his apprenticeship becoming a Wood Working Mechanist. He started work with the furniture manufacturer Berrymans first as a wood mechanist, working his way up until he was designing the furniture that was being made. He worked with them until he retired.

He married the love of his life Leila Maud Brook on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1947. They first lived with his mother in Petersham. After they first born Lorie (Lorraine) Ann was born they moved to Matraville a southern suburb of Sydney which was a lot closer to the factory in which he worked, 3 more children were to follow, Vivienne Gail, Barry Gerald & Diane Beryl.

They struggle hard to raise their 4 children & finally achieved their dream of owning their own home in Maroubra Beach, a beach side suburb of Sydney NSW.

Aubrey was a strict father & worked hard for his family. He liked his beer & treated himself to a Glenfiddich Whiskey every now & again when he could afford it. He loved his country but also had a love for Scotland which came from his father who told stories of his grandfather who had been born in Scotland. He loved the sound of Scottish music & constantly played it much to his family's annoyance.

He passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in the house he & his beloved Leila had worked so hard to get.

Lorie (Lorraine) Marshall nee Moffett Member No. 288

# The Christchurch/ Canterbury Earthquake Update February 2016

by Colene Vincent (Member 129)

As we neared the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 Earthquake, which caused the death of 185 people both from NZ and Overseas, Mother Nature let us know we are still living in an earthquake prone part of the country. This could go on for over 10 years.



Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 4.1mag  
12.26pm. First felt in many months

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 5.7mag  
1.13pm Followed by several aftershocks.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 4.4mag 7.17pm Followed by several aftershocks

Though some rock fall happened from the cliff faces near to Sumner and Taylor's Mistake the rocks went down mainly into the sea. A little rubble came of the Christ Church Anglican Cathedral over which no decision has been made to repair or rebuild. (The Catholic Basilica is under repair) Many Anglican Churches have had repairs put on hold. Insurance payments still to be finalised plus there will be extra costs to have stronger foundation or under pinning of the same. Scaffolding has been taken down and temporary fences erected to keep people safe near the churches. St Peters Anglican Church at Church Corner, Upper Riccarton, where my Moffat Gt grand parents and Gt Gt grandmother are buried, is one of these. After 5½ years parts of the surrounding grave yard is accessible, though some burials take place away from possible falling masonry.

We are very thankful that although there is still a lot of deconstruction and reconstruction to be completed, the new commercial buildings were not effected by these new events.

I know some Clan Members have been to Christchurch pre quake and post quake and seen some of the changes. It is sad to see acres and acres of red zoned land where whole communities lived. 7200 homes have been cleared already with about 300 still to come down. Several new sub divisions have been created as the city expands to the north, north west and south. Some young families are coming to these parts but there is also an ageing population who will be catered for in the many retirement villages being developed.

We are still a city of road cones with approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of roading repaired and infrastructure completed. Many anchor projects to be completed and some not started. Eg: Sports Stadium, athletic track, international size swimming complex. The time frames keep being extended.



Most Cantabrians do not want to live else where. We still love our city and region. When all this is behind us Christchurch we will have the safest city to cope with any quakes.

Do visit if you can, you will receive a great welcome.

# The Adventures of Hedvig Beata Moffat

## Swedish High Court, Criminalia Nr 12

(translated from Swedish by Colin Moffat)

Year 1696, 12 February the following Criminal Investigation from Skaraborg District was resolved by:

Assessors:	Gust. Örnevinge	Petrus Cederschöld
	Paul Ehrenbielke	Olaus Hägher
	Johan Obenius	Israel Stickman
	Paul Kock	

An investigation and judgement from the District of Skåning regarding the female Hedevick Beata Mofat, who came up for trial, as she herself declared, daughter of a Scottish nobleman (but whose actual entitlement had not yet been recognised by the House of the Nobility due to her father's earlier grave excesses in Skåne) in which the aforementioned female two years ago eloped to Norway with a Cavalry Officer of Colonel Selou's Regiment, Johan Hare, a married man, and during this escapade they lived together in the manner of husband and wife, begetting an illegitimate child, for which deed the wife of the Cavalry Officer persuaded him they should both make a Penance in Norway, where they should stay until the Cavalry Officer's wife forwarded to her husband his Royal Majesty's ruling, through which he was brought to trial in the District Court, from which Mofat was absent, and sentenced for adultery to a fine of 80 silver dalers which he had already paid and Penance, and which he had already completed, after which his wife grandly proposed that she would keep her husband provided the woman was kept out of their affairs, for which reason she should be excluded from her mother's family and expect to be disowned and driven from the district. The Court takes the view that the matter is serious, but since the Cavalry Officer had already been sentenced to a very mild punishment by the Court, and the punishment undertaken, he has humbly submitted the matter to the Royal Court's final judgement and Resolution.

Although the Cavalry officer Johan Hare, who is equally culpable with the lady Hedevik Beata Mofat, has already been sentenced by the District Court to a fine of 80 silver dalers and Penance, which punishment has already been undertaken, therefore despite the fact that their crime is more heinous than simple adultery, in that they fled the country and during their escapade lived together as husband and wife like righteous folk, and begot child, equally the Royal Court cannot visit upon her a greater punishment than that which the Cavalry Officer has already undertaken, and in proportion sentences her to a fine of 40 silver dalers and a Public Confession. If she cannot pay the fine, she will be birched outside the Door of the Court.

Wherefore Hedevick Beata Mofat is sentenced to a fine of forty silver dalers, and to make a Public Confession, and if she fails to pay the fine, she will be birched at the Door of the Court.

Gustaff Örnevinge	P. E. Cederschöld	
Paul Ehrenbielke	O. Häggher	J. Obenius
Israel Stickman	Paul Kock	Erich G. Ehrencrona

Notes:

The Swedish Parliament was divided into four Chambers, the Nobility, the Church, the Merchants and the Farmers. Hedvig's father Robert Moffat had sought entry to the House of Nobles (in Swedish *Riddarhuset*), but needed to prove his own nobility by supplying a Birth Brief authorised by the Scottish government. He went to Scotland to get it, but died on the way back to Sweden when the ship in which he was travelling was lost.

The grave excesses of Robert Moffat and referred to in this document concerned his adultery with the wife of a fellow officer in his Regiment, which resulted in his paramour murdering her husband. Robert was sentenced to death, but escaped execution through the intervention of his

wife with a plea for mercy to Queen Hedvig Eleonora. It is believed that Hedvig Beata (may Hedvig be praised) received her name in gratitude for Robert's escape.

A Penance (*kyrkoplikt* in Swedish) was an officially recognised form of atonement for various transgressions, such as adultery, theft, violence, etc. The culprit would attend a public church service, and in front of the congregation sit in a Shaming Stool, and confess his or her crime, show due remorse, and beg the priest for forgiveness. The priest would no doubt make a vociferous sermon denouncing the evils of crime, and ultimately forgive the culprit. Thereby was the sin discharged. A Penance for adultery was eventually abolished, since it was found that male culprits were escaping by simply denying the charge – but females were trapped, and sometimes sought to evade detection by infanticide.

It is not known what happened to Hedvig Beata's illegitimate child with Johan Hare. A year later, in 1697 Hedvig married Per Andersson Unger, a pistol smith, and moved to Lidköping, and had children, Helena (1699-1754), Elisabet (who lived just 4 days in 1701), Anders (1702), Elisabet (1704) and Anna Maria (1705). After Unger's death, in 1707 she married Mårten Sterling, ship's boatswain, and had three more children, Georg (1707), Elisabet (1709) and Johan Vilhelm (1711). Hedvig died in Lidköping in 1721. Through her daughter Helena (and possibly others of her children), Hedvig Beata's descendents thrive to this day in Sweden.

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On my return from holiday on Friday I heard from Ruth Ann Moffett that her husband, our good friend Dick, who had been fighting illness for some time, had died. Dick, Ruth and their family were very enthusiastic Clan members and organised many events in US and in Scotland. We had kept in touch, often exchanging jokey e mails, ever since we all met in Moffat on a Clan Gathering many years ago. He was such a great part of the Clan and he will be so very much missed.

Betty Telford, UK Web site admin. 3 October 2015



## Membership Secretary's Report

At last we have some signs of Spring. The winter here in Dumfries and Galloway has been milder than usual but we have also been

battered by frequent severe storms. This unusual weather caused flooding and other damage. However we have been fortunate to

have avoided the severe floods which were so traumatic south of the border.

Since the last newsletter we have 3 new members with 2 more Moffats planning to join us soon.

In October Bunty, Helen, David and I attended the Cumbria FHS Conference in Carlisle. This was a first for us over the Border. The

venue was excellent with good food provided for us throughout the day. We talked with several visitors who told us of their interests in

Moffat and Moffats. Although the Conference was not busy we did win the prize for the best display tables and received a very

acceptable prize of an alcoholic beverage!

Our next visit will be to the SAFHS Conference in April. The venue is New Lanark Mill, a World Heritage Site.

I look forward to seeing you in August.

Erica.

# Children's Writing Competition

It was an emotional evening for the Parker twins because they had just found out that there had been a sudden car crash on the A 701 Moffat to Dumfries.

That evening Robyn and Wrenn were watching border news when sadly the car crash came on. They said that it killed two people and injured three. The people who died were identified as Max and Ruby Parker. It was also said that the crash was caused by an empty Mc Donalds box that was left in the middle of the road which caused the car to go out of control and for Max to lose control of the wheel and sadly the car rolled down the embankment at Rea hills near St Anne's bridge on the A701. Luckily they said that one of the injured people managed to find the phone and call the paramedics. It was too sad for Robyn and Wrenn to watch any more so I ran quickly turned off the TV and slammed the remote down.

Five days later the funeral was held at the beautiful St Andrews church where Max and Ruby got married and where Robyn and Wrenn were christened. Robyn and Wrenn were wearing their best black dresses and after the minister had finished speaking Wrenn went up to say her speech. She said "I never thought of mum and dad leaving us so quickly but you don't know what life brings. When I was little I used to go to the beef tub up all the time with mum dad and Robyn. We would always sit down on the long grass and talk to the birds and eat our delicious picnic mum always made for us. Dad would always trick us and say that there was at their home and me and Robin would always scream but all I really wanted to say was that I loved mum and dad so much." "Robyn it's your go." said Wrenn. "Ok" said Robyn.

" I remember when I was younger me, mum, dad and Wrenn would always go to station park every Sunday and feed the ducks.

I loved it when dad would always tell me about how station park used to be a train station and he would show me where the tracks used to be and I

would always think to myself what if the tracks were under the grass but when I said it in my head it just sounded silly. After our picnic me and Dad would go back to where the train tracks used to be and we would pretend that we drove our own trains. I would always pretend that I drove my train into the pond and dad would always say I wouldn't like to be on that train and it would always make me laugh but I will treasure that memory for ever and ever. " Thank you.

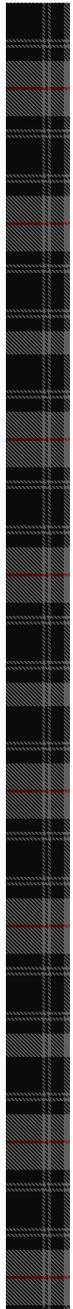
After the funeral Robyn and Wrenn went home and got the stuff ready for school the next day. It was 7:30 AM and Wrenn's alarm went off. They both groaned i'm happily and got up and by 8:15 AM Robyn and Wrenn were ready to go to school. On the way Robyn and Wrenn quickly went into the bakers and bought two very large pancakes to eat on the way to school.

Robyn and Wrenn only have today and tomorrow before the school holidays and they were very excited but they didn't know that their granny and grampa had paid for a bench to get put in station park in memory of their mum and dad.

Once the bell went for home time Robyn and Wrenn decided to go to Station Park to see the new park that was getting put up (or that's what they thought). When they got there they so that it wasn't a park at all it was a bench and when they saw the plaque they were both crying and wouldn't stop but they gave each other a hug and quietly whispered I love you to their mum and dad.

The End

Laila Deaton (Highly Commended)



# Members

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

194 – Dr R W Moffat 118 Farmcombe Road, Tunbridge Wells,  
TN2 5DL

253 – David B Moffat Walstead House Care Home,  
Scaynes Hill Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex  
Rh16 2Qg

299 – Miss Elizabeth Man Rey 8 Sandy Way, Barford, Warwick  
CV35 8DY

291 – Christine Houser, 2408 Pinecrest Drive, Nacogdoches, TX  
75965, USA.

290 - Monica Moffat 629 Vineyard Road, Tryon, North Carolina  
28782 USA

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to

304 – Bruce D Moffat, 10800 East Cactus Road, Unit 36, Scottsdale,  
Arizona 85259, USA. Life Member.

305 - Connie Zimmerman, 556 Saddleback RD NW, Edmonton,  
Alberta, T6J 4Z3, CANADA.

306 – Michael Watson, River Bank House, Castle Island Way, North  
Seaton, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 0XL