Moffațalia

The Journal of Clan Moffat UK

Clan Chief
Madam Jean Moffat of that Ilk



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CONTENTS

Chairman's Report	5	
Clan Chief's Letter	7	
Genealogist's Report	9	
Secretary's Report	14	
John Moffatt of Ayrshire and Coal Mining in Nova Scotia - Darcey Peters and Colin Moffat	15	
DNA Project - George W Moffat	18	
Membership Secretary's Report	20	
The Aftermath of the Maori Wars - Colin Moffat	22	
The Unmasking of William Moffatt (1840 -1880) A Kiwi Outlaw - Susie Tsaclis	24	
Update from Corehead Farm - Ali Murfitt	51	

Acknowledgements Cover photo of Corehead - Ali Murfitt Border Forest Trust

Deadline for Autumn 2018 Edition 31 August 2018

Chairman's Report

2018 already, the wet winter almost over but it seems with a sting in its tail.

As I write this piece (yes, I'm back to my usual, last minute, deadline dodging), the snow is falling thickly and is forecast to continue for the next few days so any plans to crack on with outside activities is like nature, suspended for now. Even the birds have gone from collecting nesting materials and staking out their territories to huddling miserably in any shelter they can find in between rapid trips to the feeders to grab what they need. Who knows what the rest of the year will bring, hopefully a drier one than the last three 'summers'.

Maybe it's the weather but I'm starting to feel my age, I've had a couple of health concerns in the last few months that have reminded me of my mortality and the need to start getting things in place. We need some of the younger ones to become involved in the committee and I feel I've probably been in the chair long enough so I'll be happy to step down at this year's AGM.

Clan Moffat continues to be strong sound and growing (albeit slowly). We are fortunate to have a very able committee to whom we should all be very grateful.

It is however becoming critical that others begin to step up and take Clan Moffat forward and to build on the legacy of their work for future generations. I know that many will have commitments such as children and work but many of the positions really don't take up that much time so please give it some serious consideration otherwise we may reach a position where Clan Moffat is unable to continue We desperately need someone to take over from Betty as Website admin.

It is always a pleasure to renew acquaintances and I look forward to meeting many of you again at the AGM in August.

Yours aye

David Kennedy Moffat

Clan Chief Madam Jean Moffat of that Ilk



Dear Members,

I hope you all had a good festive season. It has been a mixed winter but we are now enjoying what I call proper winter as I write. Lots of cold nights and lovely sunny days. Although March is just around the corner it doesn't feel like spring is looming! Hopefully knowing this country it will be here soon. At least my bulbs think so!

I have not much to report on the clan front but one thing has come to my attention recently. I had a note from my commander in America wondering about an international gathering next year. They usually come over every five years or so and we had thought there might be another Homecoming organised, but that is not the case as far as I know.

What disturbed me was that he mentioned that their numbers attending their AGMs have decreased and he was not sure how many would come over here in the future. It is also a problem in this country – not many new people are attending our weekends in August. It is disheartening to think that we are losing the interest in our Clan after we had made such good progress. If at all possible, please do try to contribute at least to Moffatalia or make a trip to see us in Moffat.

My father was made aware of our clan as a small boy by his grandfather which led us to having a Chief after nearly 400 years. My son was only ten when my father died but he has inherited the interest in our clan from him and has been telling his young son all about him so that we can keep the spirit going within our family. I am sure you have done the same with your families and that is what gives me hope that we will continue as the great Clan that we are.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it in August.

Spero Meliora

Genealogist's Report

The two celebrities I mentioned in my Sept 2017 report have again both featured on television, this time as guests on Frank Skinner's programme Room 101, in which the guests are invited to name their pet dislikes, for assignment to oblivion in George Orwell's Room 101. Scarlett Moffatt was airing her dislikes, as was Stephen Moffat. Stephen was not at all keen on "Being Scottish". According to Stephen, now living in London, people say to him: "Oh, you're Scottish. What did you think of the match yesterday?" Stephen: "I neither know nor care - but they tell me anyway!". He also disliked sandy beaches. Whereupon another guest asked "Oh, you're Scottish! Have you tried any English beaches?" Frank Skinner appeared smartly dressed, sporting a Dr Who kilt, as well as wearing a Clan Moffat tie. We viewers did get to see the kilt - but the tie went sadly unremarked.

A recurring problem is the small number of forenames used in 19th century Scotland. A case in point was encountered by the Lanark Library, desiring to commemorate soldiers from Lanark who died in WW1. There was just one Robert Moffat on the war memorial, but searching the records showed up two such persons. However, it was possible to separate the two. Firstly, Robert Fraser Moffat was born in Symington in 1894, he learned the trade of farrier and blacksmith, and joined the Army at Markinch, Fife, in 1914, as a driver in the Royal Army Corps.

He was wounded in action in 1917, and transferred home to Bath Military Hospital, where he died of his wounds. His remains were sent to Scotland for military burial in St Leonards Cemetery in Lanark. Secondly, there was Robert Eden Moffet, born in Aghavarry, County Antrim in 1888. He is listed as a farm labourer in the Irish Census of 1901, but together with his parents and four siblings, the family moved to New Lanark, circa 1909, and they are listed there as "Moffat" in the 1911 census. As war broke out, Robert enlisted as a driver in the 79th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. He had the incredibly bad luck to be killed in action during the last week of the War (30.10.1818). He was interred at the St. Sever War Cemetery in Rouen, France. Perhaps because of the relatively short duration of his domicile in Lanarkshire, his war service became confused with that of Robert Fraser Moffat. It was satisfying to be able to confirm to Lanark Library the contributions of two soldiers named Robert Moffat.

It is always a pleasure to receive an e-mail from Rosey Moffatt. This time she was researching her Huguenot ancestor, James Lebeau, in Bethnal Green, in the London Land Tax records dated 1796, when she spotted "James Moffatt", with apparently tenants Palmer, Fless, Hornblower, Bennett. There seem to be several Moffat families in London in the late 18th century: James Moffatt, Hop merchant, 311 Borough High Street; James Moffatt, saltpetre refiner, Castle Street, Shoreditch; James Moffat, scale maker, 126 Minories; John Moffat and Andrew Moffat, merchants in Lombard Street;

William Moffat, merchant, 11 Mincing Lane - but it is not easy to fit them into a coherent family context. All this is contemporaneous with William Moffat, shipowner with the Hon. East India Company, but William lived rather more grandly in Queens Square, Bloomsbury.

Angela Moffatt wrote to me from Dublin concerning her ancestor James Moffatt (1823-1906). She had tracked James back to his wedding in 1853. James's father was James Moffatt (snr), by occupation a cotton manufacturer. James (jr) was a "Gentleman", Presbyterian, and married in the (protestant) Church of Ireland in 1853 a lady, Harriet Walker, of the Catholic faith. They go on to have three children: two daughters: Mary Harriet and Margaret, and a son, Charles, who are brought up as Catholics. James shows up later in the Irish census of 1901, by then a widower, as a tailor living in a tenement in Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin. The sad part of this story is that when James died aged ca 83, he could not be buried with his late wife because he was Presbyterian. He was buried in a paupers grave in a cemetery for Protestants. His two daughters ended up in the poorhouse in Dublin city. They had died within three months of each other in 1936. Angela had found their grave where their mother was also buried but it was unmarked. Charles Moffatt thrived as a tailor, married Catherine Stanley, and had 8 children (6 girls, 2 boys). I was able to identify James's parents as James Moffatt (snr), cotton merchant and petticoat manufacturer, 1788-1870, and Sarah Brown. Two of James (jr)'s younger brothers, John and George Moffatt, became wealthy as chartered accountants and stockbrokers.

George married Isabella Morton, and their son, b Glasgow 1870, was James Moffatt. This James excelled academically, mastering Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and earned the degree of Doctor of Divinity at St Andrews University. In 1896 he was ordained minister of United Free Church of Scotland, in 1912 appointed Professor of Greek at Mansfield College, Oxford; in 1915 Professor of Church History, Glasgow; and in 1927 he accepted the position of Washburn Professor of Church History at the Union Theological Seminary New York. He made a new translation of the Bible, known as the Moffatt New Testament, 1913, and the Moffatt Old Testament, 1924. He married Mary Reith in 1896, and died in New York, 1944, aged 73. (See Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.) Thereby Angela, who descends from James Moffatt (1823-1906), Charles Moffatt (1862-1933) and Joseph Moffatt (1898-1974), has distinguished relatives.

Two other investigations are dealt with elsewhere in this Moffatalia. It has been a pleasure to work with Darcey Peters of Canada, seeking the family origin of her great-grandfather, coal miner John Moffatt, Dalry, Ayrshire, who emigrated to Nova Scotia, and became the highly principled grand secretary of the Provincial Workman's Association. It has been an equal pleasure to liaise with Susie Tsaclis of New Zealand, seeking the almost mythical origins of her ancestral relative New Zealand adventurer and folk hero William Moffatt.

It seems that William was an educated Scot, born Hokianga, New Zealand, or alternatively Jersey, England (!), a descendent of Scottish Kings, and related to Robert Moffat, the missionary to Africa, and father-in-law to David Livingstone. There was no truth in any of this, but the facts as revealed by Susie, with help from Roger Moffat and myself, are more prosaic, but equally fascinating. William Moffatt's son, Rangi Mawhete, was a much revered Maori politician, OBE and member of the New Zealand Legislature.

Colin Moffat, Genealogist, Clan Moffat UK, Kingston-on-Thames, February 2018



Secretary's Report

Bunty Davies

bunty.davies@btinternet.com

This year's AGM will be held on the weekend of August 17th/19th 2018.

The committee meeting, for those involved, will be held at 10.30 am on Saturday August 18th at the Proudfoot Centre.

The AGM will be at 2.30pm at the Proudfoot Centre on the same day.

Our dinner will again be at Moffat House Hotel at 6.30pm for 7pm on Saturday 18th August. Lesley will again be organising this, but please contact me or Lesley at lesley.white46@gmail.com if you are interested. Lesley will send you a menu for the meal – we need to have numbers and choices by the end of June please.

We are hoping to arrange a visit to Abbotsford House (the home of Sir Walter Scott) on Friday 17th August. For a guided tour we would need a minimum of ten people and the cost would be £10.60 per head. We would also arrange a bus from Moffat to Abbotsford, leaving mid-morning, which would give us time for a look around the garden and lunch before our tour at 2.30pm. The cost for this (if we can get ten people) would be £26. I would need to know if you are interested as soon as possible, at least by early June, so that I can confirm or cancel the bookings.

Hoping to see you in August

Bunty

John Moffatt of Ayrshire, and Coal Mining in Nova Scotia by Darcey Peters and Colin Moffat

It is thanks to the Clan Moffat web-site that Darcey Peters made contact. She is the great granddaughter of John Moffatt. He had married Lydia Fraser MacMillan in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. Their daughter was Lydia Annette Moffatt and she was Darcey's grandmother. Lydia Annette Moffatt married Daniel Martin and their son, Donald Fraser Martin was Darcey's father. She was named for her grandmother and was christened Darcey Annette Martin. Donald Martin, prior to his passing, had been in Nova Scotia and had photos of a display in the Mining Museum which credited his grandfather with being involved with the Canadian Labor Congress. John Moffatt was also a safety inspector at the Dominion Mines in Nova Scotia, and listed his occupation as General Secretary for the Provincial Workman's Association (PWA). Darcey had found a book written by David Frank which detailed the leadership of the PWA in Nova Scotia. He wrote that John Moffatt was from Ayrshire and was brought to Nova Scotia to work in the mines in 1882 and he later became General Secretary for the Provincial Workman's Association in 1898. According to Frank "John Moffatt, who became grand secretary of the PWA in 1898, had been a spunky young Ayrshire coal miner when he was brought to Cape Breton in 1882 to work in the GMA coal mines. Almost at once he quarrelled with mine manager Donald Lynk at Lingan over the accepted hours of work; as he later recalled, "I told Mr. Lynk in the argument that he brought people out of Britain to make slaves of them."

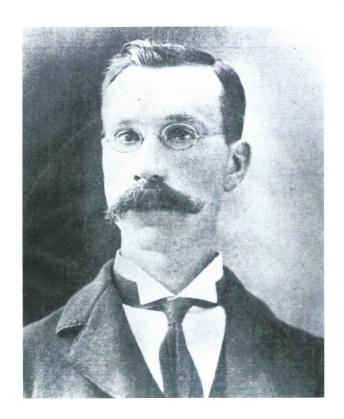
Moffatt then tried to organise a lodge of the PWA, but he was blacklisted and went to work in the coalfields of mainland Nova Scotia. He did not return to Cape Breton until after the formation of the Dominion Coal Company in 1893, which was opening up new mines on the south side of the Sydney coalfield. In the town of Dominion, Moffatt became a pillar of the community: temperance man, church elder, school commissioner, and officer of the Golden Rule Lodge of the PWA. As grand secretary Moffatt faced the challenge of rebuilding the union out of the ruins of Drummond's association. It would need to be a union strong enough to stand up to the new consolidations, such as the Dominion Coal Company, which now dominated the industry. Moffatt initially had some success. In 1900 the PWA accepted a sliding-scale arrangement with the coal companies, and in a time of rising prices this resulted in several wage increases. By the time of the Grand Council meeting in September 1903, the PWA was experiencing a revival. Membership was close to 7,000 men, organised in 34 separate lodges, including several among factory workers, railwaymen and retail clerks."

Darcey went on to say: All documents that I found for John Moffatt listed his ancestry simply as Scottish or as from Scotland. Dalry was listed on her grandmother's birth certificate as the father's birthplace. The clue of "Dalry" was sufficient to unravel John's ancestry. First however, it was necessary to exclude two other men of a similar age from Dalry named "John Moffat", in that their life histories did not involve emigration to Nova Scotia. In what follows, I will refer to John Moffatt as John Moffatt(3), his father as John Moffatt(2), and his grandfather as John Moffatt(1). It was possible to unravel John(3)'s family history as follows:

John Moffatt (1) was b in Ireland in 1805, and married Agnes Boal (or Beal) in 1838. They had 4 boys, John (2), Robert, Thomas and William, then ca 1858 moved to Dalry in Ayrshire where John (1) worked as an ironstone miner. A fifth child, Agnes, was born in Dalry 1860.

The eldest son, John (2), was working as a coal miner in the Peesweep mine, in Stoopshill, just outside Dalry. He married Mary Jane McTee, also born in Ireland, in 1861. They had two children, John (3) b 1862/63, and Eliza b 1866. It seems that the birth of John (3) was not registered, but that of Eliza was, and it is from that certificate that details of the marriage of John (2) and Mary Jane McTee were obtained. Thereafter, tragedy struck, and John (2), a furnace keeper in the Blair Iron Works, died due to injuries received by being pushed between a wagon and wagon seat (or leat?) about 14:00 on 20.12.1867

Thereby John Moffatt (3) aged ca 6 lost his father to a mining accident. We don't know what befell Mary Jane McTee Moffatt, but we know that John(3) and his sister Eliza went to live with their grandparents, John (1) and Agnes. John (3) went to work as a coal miner in the colliery where his father had died, Eliza worked at a farm nearby. Compensation to the family would be between minimal and zero. Thus it is fully understandable that when he grew up, John (3) was so supportive of a Miners Union, seeking safety measures, and workers compensation, as well as reasonable working conditions and a decent living wage.



John Moffatt, Grand Secretary of the Provincial Workman's Association (79-975-3955, Beaton Institute, Cape Breton University)

DNA Project

Since I took over the administration of the DNA Project following the last Clan Association AGM, I have been surprised by the amount of e-mail I have received giving new updates to our members' data. Unfortunately somehow Family DNA have got my e-mail address for my i-Pad and I can't store the information on it because the iPad doesn't have a hard disk and all information is held in the "cloud".

Consequently I am having to forward all the e-mails to my other e-mail account which I access on my laptop on which I have created a file in which to store the information. The process then requires me to transfer each e-mail separately into the file. This all sounds fairly straightforward, but you have no idea about the volume of e-mails that come from Family DNA! I have not had the time to keep on top of this and therefore have several hundred e-mails on my laptop waiting to be so filed. The problem is excacerbated by the fact that I am unable to change my e-mail address on the Family DNA website. There are in fact two on the site one which is the Clan Moffat official e-mail address, which I can see and the other being my i-Pad e-mail which is invisibleto me!

All of that apart, what particularly strikes me about the information I am receiving is the wide number of names that appear in our database. You would expect most of them to be Moffat, Moffit, Moffet, and all the various alternative spellings, but it is really surprising how many non-Moffat surnames appear, such as Partee, Hoffman, Harris, Thuvesson, Bell, Mullin, Mackie, Kuntz, Sheppard, and so on. All of which seems to show that the Moffat DNA has been spread very widely indeed!

George W. Moffat

DNA Co-ordinato

Membership Secretary's Report

Since our last newsletter we have 5 new members from Australia and Ireland. Welcome to you all.

This year we will be attending the Lanarkshire Family History Fair and Conference once again. It is to be held on Saturday 27th October in Motherwell Concert Hall, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell ML1 1AB. The event takes place from 9.45am – 4.30pm. There will be representatives of various Family History Societies among the stall holders as well as talks by various family research professionals. If any of you are interested please come and join us. It is a good opportunity to further ones own research. We can recommend the food as well!

Those of you who read Family Tree Magazine regularly will have received the Family History Handbook at the end of 2017 in which we have an entry. Hopefully the publicity will help to increase our membership in the future.

I look forward to meeting you once again in Moffat in August.

Erica.

A Warm Welcome to New Members of Clan Moffat UK

313 – WILMA HOFFMAN – 48 CALIFORNIA DRIVE, OXENFORD, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA 4210.

314 – MICHELLE HOFFMAN – 26120 FORTUNE STREET, COOMERA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA 4209.

315 – JASON MOFFAT, BEARDMORE CRESCENT, DYSART, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA 4745.

316 – VALERIE MOFFAT, 25 ORLAGH VIEW, SCHOLARSTOWN, TEMPLEOGUE, DUBLIN 16D16 W6W7.

317 – ANGELA MOFFAT, 7 SWORDS MANOR COURT, SWORDS, CO.DUBLIN.

When Membership renewal comes around in June each year I would be grateful if those of you who pay by either Standing Order or PayPal would let me know when you have done so.

(erica@eastalbasw.plus.com)

This will help to keep our list of members up-to-date.

Erica

The Aftermath of the Maori Wars by Colin Moffat

Perhaps a brief explanation of New Zealand history is needed to preface Susie Tsaclis's article which follows. European settlement in New Zealand began early in the 19th century, and immediately came up against the Maori, themselves relatively recent Polynesian settlers from the 14th century. A treaty between the two groups was made at Waitangi in 1840, establishing the New Zealand state, in which one of the areas marked as exclusively Maori was the central highland area of North Island. Indeed, the Maori endeavoured to attain parity with the British monarchy by appointing their own King. They became known as the Kingites, and the central Highlands as King Country. Thus it was into King Country that William Moffatt penetrated in the early 1870s. As an engineer and expert in metals, he helped forge ploughshares, and renovate flour mills. He also repaired firearms, and manufactured gunpowder - a sideline that did not endear him to the Government authorities. Nevertheless, he was the only white man ever to bridge cultures, and find acceptance within the Maori community. Sadly, he fell foul of factional in-fighting amongst rival Maori groups, and was murdered. The British authorities were disinclined to take action, as they had other designs upon Maori land. They had no desire for hostilities with the Maori, and every desire to build a national infrastructure encompassing all parts of New Zealand, including Maori land.

William was defending his own actions, and wrote various letters to the Government and to the Press. I quote a newspaper report of one such letter below. Note that the final paragraph of comment by the newspaper gives some useful information (e.g. his association with Sharps of Manchester), but then states a connection with Robert Moffat, the African missionary, which is wholly false.

Thames Advertiser 22 December 1874

NEWS FROM THE KING COUNTRY

THE POWDER MAKING DENIED

We have been placed in possession of a letter written at Te Kuiti on the 10th of last month by William Moffatt, the only white man who is allowed by the Kingites to reside amongst them. The letter is written to Mr. Nott, of Parawai, who has long known Moffatt, and lent him money for his defence when he got into trouble some years ago and was prosecuted. We cannot give the letter in extenso, because there are some very strong and libellous statements in it against the head of the Native Department, but the extracts we give below are probably true, and are certainly of public interest. The writer says:- "It seems that the Government heard that I was making powder and repairing guns for the Maoris. It is all 'gammon'. I am repairing all the ploughs, and carts, and steel mills, and other blacksmiths' work.

The Government sent two Government Maoris to arrest me, and they said they were to get £200 for it. I should like you to make this public, to let people know how their money is spent. It is on account of land at Rotorua and other places that I blocked them in getting. The Government are making a road now over the line into the native country without purchasing any right. There will be a row about it, you will see. In January I will send you some papers to publish, showing how the money is spent in bribes instead of purchasing land. WILLIAM MOFFATT"

The writer of the above is an engineer by trade, and served an apprenticeship at Sharps, of Manchester. He is a relative of Dr. Moffatt, the well-known African missionary, but came to New Zealand with his parents (who are buried at Mercer) many years ago. He has long lived among the Maoris, and after his term of imprisonment expired he was welcomed back to Te Kuiti by the King, where he seems to be engaged in a more harmless occupation than that of making powder.

The Unmasking of William Moffatt (1840–1880) A Kiwi Outlaw

by Susi€ Tsaclis

William Moffatt was the father of Rangi Mawhete (1880-1961) a long serving Maori Labour politician, member of the legislative council, interpreter and former land agent, who received an OBE in 1959. Committed to engendering the welfare, land and interests of the Maori, he was known to be gentle and shrewd.

His mother's family were Rangitaane tribe from Rangiotu. Rangi did not know the origins of his father's family - on Rangi's own birth certificate William had stated he was from Hokianga. Seeking clarification, Rangi consulted a historian and Somerset House in London, but drew a blank. As a newsworthy frontiersman other surmisings of William's origins were that: he was an educated Scot born 1828, a relative of Robert Moffat the missionary, descended from Scottish Kings, and a sea-faring engineer who jumped ship. Family members also indicated origins in Moffat, Dumfriesshire, or Greenock, near Glasgow. A whole chapter in David Young's book "Woven by Water - Histories from the Whanganui River" is dedicated to William, an enlivening read of an intelligent but greedy and ruthless opportunist with a bent for land and women. William's fate was that he was executed by Maori, probably with his own gunpowder, in the Taumaranui district in late 1880. He had been warned off the area, but there was a hidden "stash" to collect. William had befriended the Maori, polygamously marrying at least three women of different tribes, one of whom was the chieftainess Emiri Mokena (Emily Morgan). He used his skills as engineer and millwright in repairing and erecting flour mills for Maori on the Whanganui and other rivers. At the same time, he used squatter's rights and Maori signatures for mill work to get access to their land and timber. A skilled repairer of guns, an expert in gunpowder manufacture, and a supplier of arms to the Maori, he was described as a "Paheka-Maori alchemist", he was also a double agent, supplying intelligence to the Government in his well-written, audacious and sometimes libellous letters.

The Government of course feared Maori uprisings. All this was to hide William's own acquisitiveness. He was prosecuted, and sentenced to two years hard labour for illegal gunpowder manufacture, jailed until 1878, but on release, he was soon up to no good. He was killed by another Maori faction, and this was the only murder of a white man by Maori since the Maori Wars. All of three years later, a threadbare inquiry was held, and the result not even published until a further three years had elapsed. Suspected culprits were virtually ignored, perhaps to placate Maori for the purpose of enabling railway construction through their land.

Footnotes in David Young's book give much of the saga regarding William's family origin: "William and his siblings, Henry and Emma, who originated from Jersey, England, were orphaned, taken back to Scotland by their aunt, Mrs. Woodrow, who later went to the United States, and Emma followed. The source was his grand-nieces Hazel and Myra Moffatt, descendents of his brother Henry". Recognizing that family lore is often garbled, and that past inquiries hadn't revealed very much, I have instigated a search to find William's family origin, and started with an on-line search by looking for Hazel and Myra. New Zealand births showed the birth years for Hazel and Myra Moffatt as 1907 and 1909 at Otaki to Herbert Moffatt and his wife Julia Whiley. Herbert Moffatt's father was Henry Moffatt born in 1847 in New Jersey, USA, and his mother was Betsey Clegg. In the English census of 1871, Henry Moffatt, 24, and his wife Betsey, 25, were living in Rochdale, Lancashire, as was their 6 month old son Herbert.

This Henry is a foundry worker, turned Open Brethren minister who, together with Betsey and three children, arrived in New Zealand in late 1878 by being shipwrecked at Otaki beach when the ship "City of Auckland" foundered. Searching the 1861 census shows William, 20, and Henry, 16, at Rochdale, Lancashire and their father Henry, 53, and his (present) wife, Mary, 53. William is a machine-maker's clerk, born USA, but a British subject. This is the only English Census in which William can be found.

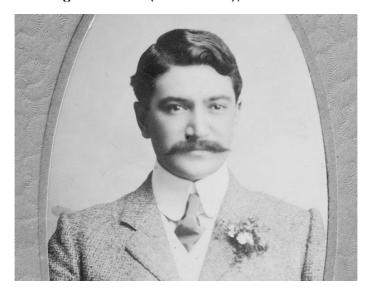
From the 1861 census, William's birth year is calculated at 1840/41, and William could not have been in New Zealand earlier than mid-1861, as it takes three months to sail to NZ from the 7th April census date. This tallies with the narrative of Young's account, where it states at his marriage in April 1879 that Emiri was 21 (b ca 1858), and William was almost 20 years older (i.e. b ca 1839/40). The father of William, Henry and Emma was Henry Moffat (snr), born about 1809 in Kendal, Westmorland, England. Father and sons had occupations in the metal and mechanical trades. The third sibling, Emma, however was still missing. A search in England revealed two marriages by Henry Moffat (snr), one to Mary Buckley in Oldham, 1850, and another to Esther Stewart in Bolton, 1835, both Lancashire, England. A child, Emma, parents Henry and Esther Moffat, had been born and registered in Bolton, June 1838. Given a destination of New Jersey, it was hard to find them en route, but this fits: a Mrs Moffit and child Emma, 1³/₄ years old docked at New York 27 Dec 1839 on the ship "Napier". Henry's absence from the ship probably means that he had gone on ahead to prepare the way for the family's arrival - as he did yet again on the return journey. 27

In the English census of 1851, Henry had returned from the US, his wife was no longer Esther, but now Mary (that is, Esther must have died, and Henry re-married - to Mary Buckley Oldham, Sept 1850), and they were living with Henry's aged mother, Lucy Moffet (b 1768, Kendal) and brother William Moffet (b 1798, Maryport, Cumberland). The three children were not (yet) with them.

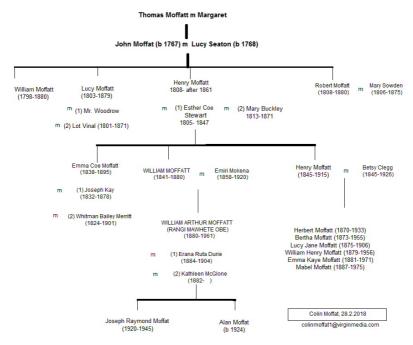
About this time, I came into some much needed assistance from Colin Irvine Moffat based in London from the Clan Moffat website. Colin did the lion's share of the genealogical research, detailing and cross-checking evidence and exclusions. He expanded the family to more than 50 people, finding Lucy's husband, John Moffit, b 1767, and his marriage to Lucy Seaton in 1791, as well as John's parents, Thomas and Margaret Moffat. Furthermore, Roger Moffat, a kiwi long resident in the US weighed in on the search and exclusions especially in the USA. There is no obvious trace of the three children Emma. William and Henry in the 1841 or 1851 census of England or Scotland or the US under the various spellings of Moffat, nor their aunt Mrs Woodrow, neither are there birth details for William or Henry in the US, nor a death record for their mother Mrs Esther Stewart Moffat. On the birth of her third child, Henry, 1847, Esther would have been about 42, and may have died in childbirth. If so, Mrs Woodrow the aunt would be caring for a new-born - the "orphaned" part of the saga. There is no picture of William, but his wife Emiri was known to be very handsome. A photo of William's son, Rangi Mawhete, the politician, shows a moustachioed young man of strikingly good looks.

William, the outlaw, was described as 5 ft 8 ins, grey eyes and fair complexioned. William's brother Henry, having survived a shipwreck on his arrival in New Zealand, subsequently went as a missionary to Australia, and died 1915 in Toowoomba, Quieensland, and is buried in the Methodist section of the cemetery there. His wife Betsey died in 1928 in Brisbane. William's sister Emma Moffatt married Joseph Kay in 1858 in Bury, Lancashire. They are seen in the English census of 1871, where Joseph is a chapel-keeper, and appear to be childless. They returned soon afterwards to the USA, and lived in Scituate, Massachusetts, where Joseph died in 1878. Emma re-married and died in Scituate in 1895. They may have re-located to the USA after the death of her father Henry, or when her brothers emigrated to New Zealand. The aunt of the family, "Mrs Woodrow", has not yet been positively identified. There was only one aunt within the extended family, Lucy Moffat, b 1803, Maryport, Cumberland. Recalling family clues that Mrs Woodrow later went to the US, a search revealed that a Mrs Lucy Moffat Vinal, in Scituate, Plymouth, Massachusetts, married to Lot Vinal, living on their own in the 1855 state census, and the 1860 and 1870 US Federal Censuses. Lucy died there in 1879, the death certificate gave her parents as John and Lucy Moffat. Perhaps this Lucy had had an earlier, as yet undetected, marriage to a Mr. Woodrow. Lot Vinal had been previously married in 1824, but his wife died in 1842, and Lot and Lucy will have been married between 1847 and 1855, Lucy having the care of the three children who were subsequently returned to their father in England sometime before 1855. There was no trace of Lot, Lucy, or the children in the 1850 US or 1851 English census. It is thought that Lot, an ocean mariner was stationed elsewhere, which may be where they met and married.

Portrait of Rangi Mawhete (1880-1961), son of William Moffatt.



Family relationships of William Moffatt (1841-1880)



Update from Corehead Farm by Ali Murfitt

Now 7 years into the project, habitats are really starting to ourish at Corehead Farm, along with the volunteer groups and education projects that are a vital part of the work there.

Our Thursday volunteer group has recently experienced a big boost in numbers and the work they are achieving is fantastic. The work they do is invaluable in ensuring our restoration projects are a success. We recently completed a survey of the trees and happily found both the survival rate, tree density and health was very good. In the summer months the wetland area is a sight to behold, with marsh marigolds in spring, and a blossoming of meadow sweet and other plants which like the damp conditions. The wild ower meadow areas are making a promising recovery with a gradual increase in abundance and diversity of owers and in upland areas heather is making a comeback now the grazing has been removed.

One of the challenges we face is maintaining the access track and the bridges to Corehead Farm, volunteers occasionally help with this, but we are looking into more major improvements to make the drive out to Corehead a more pleasant one!

There are a variety of walking routes at Corehead and it is really worth a trip out if you haven't already visited.

We'd like to thank Scottish Natural Heritage for their continued support of our Natural Connections project in the Wild Heart.

By Courtesy of Border Forest Trust

www.bordersforesttrust.org