

Moffattalia

The Journal of Clan Moffat UK



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Madam Jean Moffat of that Ilk

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Cover Photograph Annan Water - Rosey Moffatt

Images in "Jersey Lives of the Maxwell - Moffat Family"
by Courtesy of Jersey Heritage.

From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of Moffatalia.

I am writing this in my garden in warm sunshine. I have been delighted with the volume and quality of material I have received for this edition. I have not been able to include it all this time and it is good to be able to make a start on the Autumn edition with material which I had no room for this time. Many thanks to all contributors. I hope to see some of you during the AGM weekend which will be a busy one in Moffat where the World Gold Panning Championships are to held.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Jim Moffat

Editor

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Deadline for Autumn 2017 Edition

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4

Spring 2017



Chairman's Report

As we go into 2017 I'm relieved that we haven't seen the amount of flooding of the last few years and it has been a relatively benign winter, let's hope the rest of the year is similarly kind.

This spring I'm joining Erica and Bunty to fly the flag at the Lanark FHS event in Motherwell and then I think the next event is the AGM weekend. The FHS events are a mixed bag some are well organised, have interesting talks, we learn a lot and gain members, others we stand or sit at the table bored to distraction. Thankfully Bunty and Erica have worked out the ones that are worth going to.

Hopefully all those of you who are able to go to the Tattoo are all organised for what I am sure will be a thrilling and hugely entertaining event. Unfortunately due to other commitments I am unable to go but it is definitely on my 'bucket list'. I hope all of you who attend have a wonderful time.

Betty continues to keep us up to date with snippets, and James collates everything into what in my opinion is one of the best 'newsletter's I've seen.

I've recently been in contact with Alex Maxwell Findlater who continues to tease out little pieces from the more intractable areas of the Lochurr & Sundaywell Moffats which continue to tantalise. I sincerely hope the links back from Alexander to Annandale can be confirmed in my lifetime.

I sometimes look back to where things were when we had the ad hoc meeting in the shed at Lochurr and am amazed at just how much progress we have made in terms of research and collating the information. This has created a lasting legacy for future Moffats and indeed for anyone interested in the Family. Thank you all.

My grateful thanks to all the committee members who continue to keep Clan Moffat UK in good order and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in August.

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 has been a much better winter with frosty nights and nice sunny days.

When you receive this the deadline for tickets for this year's

Tattoo will have closed for us clans on 1st March. As of this moment only 18 people have booked tickets from both here and abroad in which I am a little disappointed. I had hoped that we Moffats could have made a bit more of a splash, however we are not as bad as some clans who have had no bookings!

We are to parade from the Castle into the arena and everyone in the parade must be wearing tartan.

We are allowed our own piper and flag bearers. The other clan with us that night are the Leslies, who as yet are one of the clans with no bookings which will make us look good. They may come in with a flourish at the last minute of course. I am looking forward to it very much as it should advertise the clans more.

If you are not coming to the Tattoo, please think of coming to the AGM which is the same weekend. It is always good to see new faces. I should like to thank Bunty and Erica for trying to drum up support and arranging transport etc.

Spero Meliora



Secretary's Report

Bunty Davies

bunty.davies@btinternet.com

This year's AGM will be held on the weekend of August 11th/12th 2017.

The committee meeting, for those involved, will be held at 10.30 am on Saturday August 12th 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 12th 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 have had a disappointingly low take-up for the visit to the Tattoo in Edinburgh on August 11th, but a bus will be organised from Moffat for those who need it. I will let the relevant people have costs at a later date.

It has often been difficult for people to book our designated seats for the Tattoo, but they have persevered and managed to book places. I believe that tickets will be sent out in April. All we need now is a fine night!

Hoping to see you in August

Bunty

Moffatt Family's Cinderella Relation

by Julie Ann Godson

A fascinating Cinderella marriage between an Oxfordshire fisherman's daughter and an Anglo-Irish viscount lies behind the apparently colourless Mary Moffatt, née Ridge (Person ID I36690, Family ID F10845). Mary was the wife of merchant George Moffatt Jnr of Montreal in Quebec (1821–1902).

The chain of events which brought Mary Ridge Moffatt to Canada goes back to a fairy-tale romance on the banks of the river Thames in Oxfordshire in 1763. The Ridges were a well-established family of fishermen in the area. Mary's great-grandfather, the ambitious and enterprising fisherman Thomas Ridge, decided to exploit the increasing traffic on the river by opening an inn. It was sited in the Ridge-family cottage on a tiny island in the Thames called Noah's



Ark, near the village of Northmoor.

NOAH'S ARK ISLAND IN THE THAMES AT NORTHMOOR, OXFORDSHIRE. THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE NOAH'S ARK INN CAN STILL BE SEEN.

At this time 19-year-old William Flower, Viscount Ashbrook of Castle Durrow in Ireland, was studying at Oxford University. During a jaunt on the river in the summer of 1763, William fell madly in love with Thomas Ridge's pretty daughter, Betty Ridge, who was serving at her father's inn. In spite of Flower-family opposition, William and Betty eventually married in the little village church in 1766. The tale is told in full in my book *"The Water Gypsy: how a Thames fishergirl became a viscountess"* (ISBN-13: 978-1784075545).

Betty was one of six children; the youngest was Mary Ridge Moffatt's grandfather John Ridge. John was just 12 years old when Viscount Ashbrook came into the Ridge family's life. John seems to have expected his sister's marriage into the aristocracy to be his ticket to a life of ease. His father Thomas Ridge was more of a realist.

At enormous expense, a place was secured for John at Oxford University. At the time graduates would generally become clergymen, a job for life with a reasonable standard of living compared with the average 18th-century Thames fisherman. The one and only thing John had to do was to remain a bachelor for the

duration of his time at college but, right in the middle of his studies, John ran off and married a village girl. Was it a deliberate attempt to disqualify himself in the eyes of the University authorities?

It does at least suggest that John's career path may have been more the choice of his father Thomas and his brother-in-law Viscount Ashbrook than of John himself. Ashbrook strings were pulled, John was frog-marched back to the University to complete his studies, and his inconvenient wife was parked under the watchful eye of John's sister Betty, now Lady Ashbrook.

Once John qualified – however reluctantly – as a clergyman, he was packed off to Ireland in the care of his elder brother, another William. William Ridge had moved to Ireland to devote the rest of his life to overseeing the vast Ashbrook property interests there.



CASTLE DURROW, FORMERLY IN COUNTY KILKENNY, NOW IN COUNTY LAOIS.

While the dissolution of John's marriage was arranged in England, William Ridge found his wayward brother a more suitable wife in Durrow.

John's highly-respectable second wife Judith presented him with nine children, but the fortunes of these children varied greatly. One son was banged up in Dublin jail, one became a chaplain to the aristocracy, one "lived in sin" with a Catholic girl and their three illegitimate children, and one, Mary Ridge Moffatt's father, became an officer in the New Brunswick Fencibles. His name was George Warneford Hawkins Ridge (1791–1828) and, while he was serving as a soldier in Canada, he met and married Mary's mother Anne Gerrard (1795–1876), daughter of the Hon Samuel Gerrard, president of the Bank of Montreal.



MR AND MRS GEORGE
MOFFATT OF MONTREAL
IN 1865.

Mary and George Moffatt's son Samuel George Warneford Moffatt, a writer, is recorded on the Clan Moffat website (Person ID I36687), but their daughter Sophie Moffatt is not. Sophie married William Frederick Collings (1852–1927), Seigneur (feudal ruler) of Sark in the Channel Islands. Consequently in 1927 Mary Ridge Moffatt's granddaughter, the formidable Sybil Collings Hathaway, became by inheritance the much-loved twenty-first Seigneur of Sark. She ruled through the reigns of George V, Edward VIII, and George VI, including during the difficult period of the Nazi Occupation of the Channel Islands, then right into modern times under Elizabeth II. Dame Sybil died in 1974.



SOPHIE AND SAMUEL GEORGE
WARNEFORD MOFFATT IN 1871.

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Seigneur of Sark

Colin Moffat, Clan Genealogist, writes: This article relates to a family to which I had not previously paid much attention, and, whilst Sophie Moffatt is indeed in the Database (ID nr I 1851), I was unaware until I saw Julie Ann's article that her husband was the Seigneur of Sark.

It seems that George Moffatt, a Canadian merchant, married Mary Ridge in Montreal ca 1850, and their children Samuel George Warneford Moffatt (b 1852), Sophia Wallace Moffatt (b 1854), Amy Georgina Moffatt (b 1861) and Maud M Moffatt (b 1865), were all born in Montreal. The whole family re-located to England at some point in the mid-1870s, taking up residence at 29 Eastbourne Terrace, Paddington, London. One wonders if this was for business reasons, or whether George wished to increase the marriage prospects for his children. However, in 1878, his wife Mary Ridge Moffatt died in Paddington, aged 57.

Samuel George Warneford Moffatt married in Paddington 1883 to Fanny Ethel Gordon (b 1856, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire). The couple are absent from the English censuses of 1891, 1901 and 1911. Samuel died in Kensington 1924, Fanny died in Weston-super-Mare 1942.

Sophia Wallace Moffat married in Kensington 1882 to William Frederick Collings (b 1852, St Peter Port, Guernsey). In 1882, on the death of his father, William inherited the Seigneurie of Sark, which

he held until his own death in 1927. Sark is an island of the Channel Islands, population ca 600, and like Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man, is a crown dependency with its own independent administrative and legal system but Westminster has ultimate responsibility for "good government" on the island. Sark is one of the few remaining places in the world that is car-free, only tractors and horse-drawn vehicles being allowed. It is self-governing in respect of its internal affairs, levies no tax, and until recently was governed according to the Feudal System by the Seigneur. The local lingua franca is Sercquiais, a dialect of Norman-French. William and Sophie took up residence in the Seigneurie, a mansion in the north of the island, and are listed there in the censuses of 1891 and 1901. In April 1906, the Seigneur and his wife survived a shipwreck, but it exacerbated Sophia's existing illness, leading to her death a few months later.

Amy Georgina Moffatt married in Paddington 1886 to George Wilkinson Prall (b 1857), a Solicitor and Legal Practitioner, and the family took up residence in George's home town of Rochester, Kent. They looked after Amy's father, George Moffatt, until his death in 1902. George Prall died in 1908. Amy died in Rochester, 1917, aged 56.

Maud M. Moffatt never married. She lived with her sister, Amy Prall, in Rochester, and died in Brentwood Essex in 1944, aged 79.

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

Genealogist's Report

The Moffat Database continues to expand, in quality and quantity, as new stories, accompanied by facts, dates, addresses, come to light. Correspondents continue to offer new insights into aspects of the wider Moffat family. I've been privileged to see early drafts of articles in this edition of *Moffatalia*, and have incorporated data from within them into the Database. A new place-name is Sark, an independent self-governing crown dependency within the purview of the UK Parliament.

Michael Phillips is a descendent of Legh Richmond Battye (1845-1888), an officer in the British Army in India in the 1880s, who met his death when gallantly attempting to rescue a comrade during an action in one of the Army's attempts to quell native unrest on the North-West Frontier in 1888. Some 20 years previously, in Lucknow, 1868, Battye had married Margaret Fanny Jane Moffat (1847-1917), daughter of Augustus Kay Moffat and Jane Baldwin.

Michael was chasing up Augustus' military record, especially a laconic note that he had attended Winchester College as a "Commoner" in 1838. On contact, Suzanne Foster, archivist at Winchester College, replied, "I have now been back to the headmaster's original register of admissions and I'm afraid he didn't have any details of the boy called Moffat admitted in June 1838 as a Commoner. We don't have a Christian name for the boy or his father - the only details on the father are 'son of ... esq, Florence'". Suzanne added that the headmaster had noted that he was the ward of 'Rev George Morris, Saresbury (*sic*) Green, Southampton'. She also checked the annual lists in October each year, wherein the boy called Moffat was listed in 1838 and 1839. She also noted that a further notebook kept by the headmaster confirmed that Moffat left

at Christmas 1839. So although Augustus hailed from Mortlake, Surrey, the boy's father seemed to be resident in Florence, and the correspondence regarding his enrolment had come from Saresbury Green. I was pleased to show Michael that Augustus' parents, William Moffat and Jane Wheatley were in all probability residing in Florence at that time (and, due to inherited wealth from India, they were sufficiently affluent to be able to do so), as witnessed by the death of their daughter Charlotte Augusta Moffat in Florence, November 1834, as recorded in Robert Maxwell Moffat's book "*A Short History of the Family of Moffat of that Ilk*", and that furthermore, William and Jane Moffat retired to Sarisbury (*sic*), a village midway between Southampton and Fareham, Hampshire. They are listed there in the 1841 census, and living in the adjoining property was Rev George Morris and his family. These two items of confirmation enabled Michael to verify his assumptions, and Suzanne to update her records, establishing the correct identity of one of the 19th century alumni of Winchester College. Thanks to Michael, there is a photo of Augustus' daughter, Margaret Fanny Jane Moffat, wife of Legh Richmond Battye.



MARGARET FANNY JANE MOFFAT
(1847-1917), DAUGHTER OF
AUGUSTUS KAY MOFFAT, WIFE OF
LEGH RICHMOND BATTYE. PHOTO
COURTESY MICHAEL PHILLIPS.

← BACK

✖

Bengel (1842) C.P. xciii. 53
 FFAT, Augustus Kay. (1824 - 1887)
 n of William Moffat, 1d, Royal Cresc., Weymouth (of
 orence), A. Jane
 pt. Mortlake, Surrey, 26 Nov. 1824.
 uc. at Winchester Coll.; adm. Commoner Jan. 1838.
 tired as Hon. Maj. Gen. 1 Apr. 1876, Col. 58th N.I.
 18 Feb. 1887.
 Agra 29 (? 24) Oct. 1844, Jane Flower, dau. of the late
 lliam Baldwin, Esq., of Bristol.
 ther of Percival Charles Kay b 27 Jul 1846 born Mussoorie
 / Oct 1856 (Ben 90/392)
 dau born Dec 1847 (Delhi Gazette); inf son died May 1851 (Siala
 bur reg)

b. (8 Jan. 1842) 58 NI. 2 July 1842; Lt. 3 Mar. 1843;
 pt. 15 July 1849; Capt. 1 Jan. 1862; Lt. Col. 15 Feb. 66;
 l. (15 Feb. 1871).

ARMY RECORD OF AUGUSTUS
 KAY MOFFAT. IMAGE COURTESY
 MICHAEL PHILLIPS.

I had been somewhat bemused by a number of people in the 1901 censuses named Moffat all born 1881-1896 in Greenock, Renfrewshire, but for whom I was unable to discover birth records. Agnes and Mary, both 20, in service in Greenock, James, 17, a labourer in Greenock, and John, Robert and Janet, siblings aged 12, 10 and 5, in the village of Strachur on the banks of Loch Fyne, Argyllshire. And none of them were in the 1891 census either. The solution was given to me by Elaine Gray, grand-daughter of Robert Moffat. They were all the children born out of wedlock to Agnes Kerr Hughes and James Moffat. Agnes had registered all births as "Hughes", and they were all listed in the 1891 census under the

surname "Hughes". However, in the mid-1890s, all the children adopted the surname "Moffat". James Moffat was an absent father, and provided no support for the children. Agnes Kerr Hughes worked in a mill and as a waitress and barmaid to earn a living to make ends meet. Twins Agnes and Mary, b 1880, were given to the orphanage "Home for Friendless Girls" in Greenock, learning skills to earn a living as domestic servants. The three youngest were cared for at home. By 1901, Agnes and Mary were live-in maids at houses in Greenock, James was a shipyard labourer, and the 3 youngest were with foster-parents in Strachur. Their mother, Agnes Kerr Hughes was a live-in domestic servant in Govan. The father of this family was James Moffat, a railway guard. He had married Sarah Burns some years before he met Agnes Hughes, and had 9 legitimate children with her, contemporaneously with his second and illegitimate family. No wonder he had no resources spare to help the second family. Clearly, James was away on railway business on many occasions, and now it is known how he occupied his spare time. Just how he managed this double life, and why Agnes Hughes kept up the relationship through 6 pregnancies, without support, over a period of at least 16 years, is a mystery. There seems to have been no animosity towards James, because all his illegitimate children adopted his surname. They may even have convinced themselves that James was actually married to Agnes. On his own marriage to Agnes Robb in 1928, Robert gave his name as "Robert Hughes Moffat, father James Moffat, mother Agnes Moffat (maiden surname Hughes)". When Agnes died in 1925, her son John Hughes Moffat, as informant, gave her name as "Agnes Hughes Moffat (maiden surname Kerr), widow of James Moffat". In fact, in 1925, James Moffat was still alive. He had a long life. His wedded wife Sarah Burns died in 1934, and James himself passed away aged

88 in 1942. Elaine Gray wrote to me regarding her grandfather Robert Moffat: "He was a gentle and easy-going man. My mother told me that during the First World War, his role was as an ostler in the Veterinary Corps, looking after the horses. After the war, folk would bring him sick animals. If he couldn't help them directly, as he had a car, he would take them to Dunoon to the vet. He always said that had circumstances been different he would have trained as a vet. His descendants all love animals, and his legacy lives on in that now my own daughter is a vet."

I had very interesting information from David Brunton regarding his ancestor Agnes Moffat, known in the Yarrow valley for her ability in singing. Quoting from a family memorandum "David Brunton was born on or about 1769 at Yarrow Feus, which is the largest village in the Yarrow Valley in Selkirkshire. David was trained to be a joiner and cartwright/wheelwright. One of his sons was Robert Brunton (1822-1854), who was trained in the same trade as his father at their workshop in the Feus, Yarrow. This son Robert was a scholar above the average, also a good singer. Like his father he was born and brought up at the Feus. He was about 30 years old [22 in fact] when he married Agnes Moffat [Yarrow, 16.6.1844], a daughter of William Moffat [(1800-1851) and his wife, Elizabeth Lambert (1799-1877)], of Douglas Burn, Yarrow which is 2 or 3 miles from St Mary's Loch (the largest loch in the Borders). Agnes Moffat was a well known singer in the Valley. They had a family of 3 sons and 2 daughters, namely David Br., Lizzie Br., William Moffat Br., Agnes Moffat Br., Robert Russell Br. Their father Robert Brunton was a precentor (leader of praise) under Rev Dr Robert Russell in Yarrow Kirk for some time and when he was 37 [prefer 27] years old he was appointed to be schoolmaster at the newly opened first

school at Mount Benger, Yarrow. [His wife Agnes also contributed as schoolmistress.] Previously there had not been a school between Yarrow village and St Mary's Loch, a distance of over 10 miles so the lairds and gentry of that part of the Yarrow valley decided to open a school at Mount Benger. They converted an old croft and toll house directly opposite the Gordon Arms Hotel, which is at the crossroads from Selkirk to Moffat [intersection of the present A708 and B709]. The old toll house and the croft buildings are all away now (1962), but traces remain of the barn which was made into the school. [Robert Brunton died in Yarrow, Selkirkshire in 1854, aged 31; Agnes died in Wilton, Roxburghshire in 1877, aged 51]" (If you search the census for this family using *ancestry.com*, see under "Brenton" in 1861, "Branton" in 1871).

There were some interesting side-effects from Rosey Moffatt's studies of the Moffat family in Jersey. Her husband, Steve Moffatt had some time ago purchased a book "*Queen Louisa of Prussia*", 4th edition, published in 1907, authored by Mary Maxwell Moffat. He assumed this was the Mary Maxwell Moffat, daughter of Robert Maxwell Moffat, author of "*A Short History of the Family of Moffat of that Ilk*". Mary certainly had the opportunity, education and intellectual capability to write such a book. But Mary was born in 1891, and at 16 was too young to have been the author. A quick search of the Database gave another and unrelated Mary Maxwell Moffat (1859-1938), daughter of Robert Moffat (1828-1904) and Catherine Maxwell (1830-1891). She was aged 47 in 1907. Her father Robert was a commercial clerk with dealings in India and China, and was probably wealthy. Thus his daughter Mary Maxwell Moffat did in all probability have a suitable home environment, education and opportunity, and so should be credited as the author of this

book. She followed up this with a biography of "*Maria Theresa*" in 1911. These two books have scholarly value to this day. Mary Maxwell Moffat never married, and died in Hampstead, 1938.

Another Channel Islands connection was Stephen Alban Moffat, unmarried, b 1848, King's County, Ireland, and in 1881 stationed as Sergeant, 2nd battalion, 12th Regiment at the Fort Regent Barracks, Hospital, Military Prison and Married Quarters at St Helier on Jersey. By 1891, Stephen was married, and living in Ely, Cambridgeshire, a soldier and Colour Sergeant of the Militia Permanent Staff. His wife was Marie J. J. Moffat, age 26, b Jersey. Their eldest daughter, Lily, 5, was b Cork 1885, and other children Rose and John b in Ely, aged 3 and 1 respectively. Research shows Stephen's wife's full maiden name was Marie Jane Julia Audouard, b St Saviour, Jersey in 1864, although we have not yet established whether her marriage to Stephen took place in Jersey or Cork. The family has Moffat descendents today in the Midlands.

An additional piece of information has emerged from Sweden, where Katarina Sohlborg found a document in the Stockholm City Archives and she quoted it in "*Anbytarforum*", that "the unmarried Christina Margareta Moffatt died 16 April 1812 aged 63 years, in such a state of poverty that there was no-one to attend her funeral". As far as we know, Christina is the last descendent of the 17th cent Robert Moffat who served in Sweden to bear the surname "Moffatt".

Commiserations to Sylvia Moffat, who in November stood in a local council by-election for the SNP. She said "As a local pharmacy manager, I worked in Moffat, Annan, Lockerbie and Lochmaben. I am the secretary of my community council and a member of

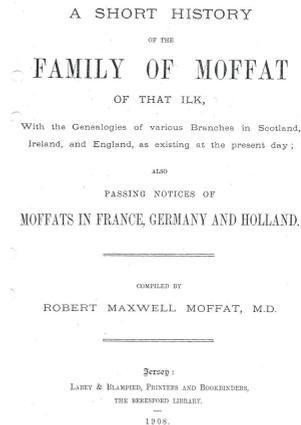
Beattock station action group. As well as campaigning for community improvements, I help on the family farm and understand the problems facing rural workers." Born Sylvia Anne Lane, Winchester, 1952, she is now married to Christopher Moffat, and lives at Bodesbeck, a farm in Moffatdale with a long Moffat tradition. Sylvia polled well in the election, but was defeated by the Conservative Party candidate.

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

Jersey lives of the Maxwell-Moffat family.

Robert Maxwell Moffat was born on 13 August 1843 in Annan, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and is the author of "A Short History of the Family of Moffat of that Ilk". He married and raised his first family in Moffat, Dumfriesshire. After the death of his first wife, Christina, he married a second time to Mary Ellen Meanock, and moved to Jersey.

This study is a summary of my research in Jersey of Robert and his second family. (With thanks to Jan and Trudy at the Jersey Archive for help with my research).



From the 1901 Census we see that Robert was living in Jersey and practicing as a doctor:

Moffat, Robert M	head	57	Doc of Med	b. Scotland
Moffat, Mary Ellen	wife	47		b. England
Moffat, Alexander M	son	11		b . 1 8 8 9
Blackpool, England				
Moffat, Mary	dau	10		b. 28 Feb 1891
St Helier, Jersey				
Moffat, John M	son	8		b. 6 Jan 1893 St Helier, Jersey

The Moffat family lived at Egyptian Lodge, 50 Val Plaisant, St Helier.

Here is a photo I took of the house:

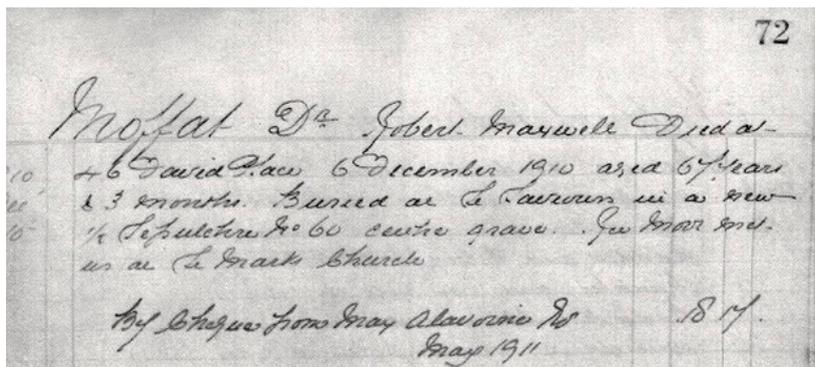
From the Funeral Directors, Sinnott's, in Jersey, I have ascertained that Robert died on 6 Dec 1910, aged 67 years and 3 months, at Wimbolt House, 46 David Place, St Helier. His death was attended by Dr Falla and the informant was Herbert Smith. The cause of death was Phlébite (phlebitis). David Place is just around the corner from Val Plaisant, and to this day there are still physicians practising in David Place.



Here is a photo recording Robert's death from the Register:



Robert was buried in St Saviour's churchyard in Jersey on 10 Dec 1910. Here is a photo of the burial record showing funeral expenses of £18.17 being paid by a May Alavoine in May 1911:



I visited St Saviour's church where I met the Verger's assistant, who revealed the position of the sepulchre in row 1, place 60. It was a sunny day and I was able to take several photos of it, however, it was almost too sunny to clearly see the inscriptions on the front and side of the stonework. I have since been back and rephotographed it with no better results! The front stone reads: "Memory of Robert Maxwell Moffat, M.D. of Sundaywell, Dumfriesshire son of Alexander Moffatt died Dec. 10th 1910 aged 67 years". Note the date of Dec. 10th, whereas we know from the death records that he died on Dec. 6th and Dec. 10th is the burial date.





Approuvé ce 9th jour du
 Mars 1911.
 Madame Mary Ellen Maxwell
 Moffat veuve de Robert Maxwell
 Moffat Esq. L'Exécutiveur y
 a vu et a été le surint
 vigne.
 Samuel Latta
 Docteur de Jure

Robert's wife, Mary Ellen Maxwell Moffat was his Executrix:

And here is a copy of Robert's Will:
 We do not know how much money
 was left in the Will or whether
 Robert owned his house. It is
 generally thought that doctors
 rented their homes at that time.
 Notice there is no headstone on the
 sepulchre, only engraving of his
 name on the front stone, and that of
 his son, Alexander on the side stone
 (I will come to Alexander's fate
 later).

This is the last & last Testament of
 me Robert Maxwell Moffat Esq. of
 Lodge Leury, Doctor of Medicine & Surgeon
 in Glasgow.
 I give & bequeath to my wife abso-
 lutely everything & all of which I am possessed
 at the time of my death.
 I have no other issue wife Mary Ellen
 Maxwell Moffat, born Maxwell, dying before
 me the 29th of August 1891 being three infant
 children, Alexander, John & Mary absolutely
 everything & all of which I am possessed at the
 time of my death unless I be in consideration
 of their tender age & other inability to keep their
 - Estates -
 I have appointed my wife my sole executrix
 & guardian of my issue children & in the event
 of her death I appoint my daughter Miss
 Margaret Maxwell Moffat & Adelaide Christina
 Maxwell Moffat to be Executors and guardians
 in the place of my wife & children & I have
 written by my own hand & signed the last testament
 this 9th of September 1900 at my residence Glasgow Maxwell Moffat

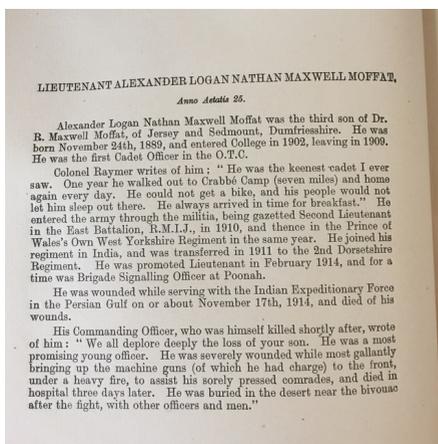
From the Will one can see that in the
 event that his wife, Mary should pre-decease him, he advises that two of
 his elder children from his first marriage, Margaret Maxwell Moffat and
 Adelaide Christina Maxwell Moffat to be the guardians of his younger
 children, Alexander, John and Mary.

I have not researched Robert's children by his first wife as my research concerns his Jersey life. So I have only looked at his younger three children by Mary Ellen, his second wife.

The St Helier Parish Church Baptism Register records the godparents to young Mary as Edith Margaret Maxwell-Moffat and her twin sister, Adelaide Christina Maxwell-Moffat. Mary was born on 28 Feb 1891 and baptised on 20 May 1891. John was born on 6 Jan 1893 and his godparents were his parents as well as another child from Robert's first marriage, Winifred Maxwell-Moffat.

Now we come to Alexander. Alexander would have been 24 years old when the First World War began. In an open bookcase in the Jersey Archive sits a large, beautifully bound leather book entitled "Role of Honour, WW1, Victoria College Book of Remembrance", and in it this is what I found:

"Alexander Nathan Logan Maxwell-Moffat, Lieutenant (access to records reads "unusable") died 17 Dec 1914, "died of wounds", Dorsets regiment:



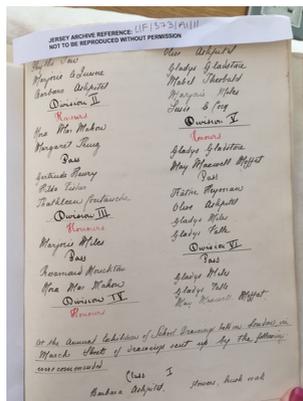
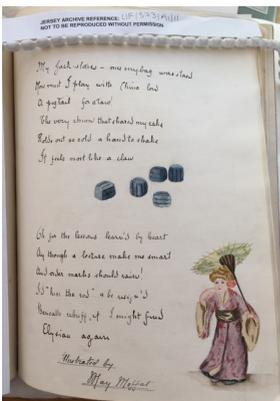
A sad ending to a young life and a good-looking young man. I wonder when Alexander's name was added to that of his father's on the sepulchre in St Saviour's churchyard? The side gravestone reads: "Also of his son Alexander Maxwell Moffat Lieut. 2nd Batt. Dorset died in action at Shaiba near Basra, Dec. 17th 1914, aged 23 years".

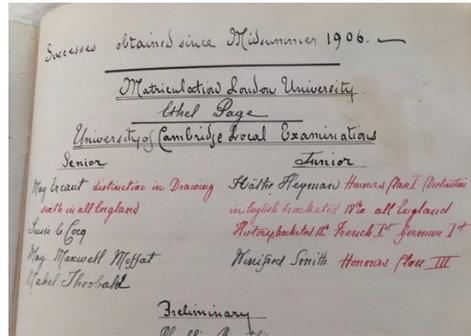


Now we come to young Mary, or May as she seems to have been known. Note where I have added a hyphen between Maxwell and Moffat as occurs many times, but not always. One record was hard to find as it was

transcribed as Moffot!

Mary (May) was a pupil at the Elysian School in Jersey, a girls' school of some repute as it was known that the headmistress at the time Mary was there was a supporter of the women's rights movement, the Suffragettes. Subsequently it is well-known in Jersey that she inspired "her girls" to become strong minded and independent young ladies! The Jersey Archive threw up a lovely little book, known as The Jackdaw, written and illustrated by the girls of the Elysian School when Mary was a pupil there. The book is dated July 1907 and shows drawings, poems, badminton, hockey and tennis awards and matriculation information for Mary:





What of the fate of young Mary? In 1915 she was living at 5 Norfolk Terrace, St Helier, Jersey and she applied for an Aliens Restriction Order in order to travel to England to stay at Unsted Park, Godalming, Surrey:

On 30 Dec 1915 Mary was on her way to Weymouth and bound for Unsted Park. Further research showed that Unsted Park (now a school) to be a large and imposing country house set in very large grounds. Records show marriage bans on 22 March 1916 for Mary to Harry Edward Cortlandt Anderson. Mary's mother, Mary Ellen was a witness to the marriage. Harry had been a school teacher at Stowe, and later headmaster at Norwich School. In 1916 they are living at Unsted Park and Harry is recorded as Indian Civil Engineer. At some point Harry died as Mary remarries to Theodore William Gull Acland on 24 May 1944. (A story told me by Trudy at the Jersey Archive is that Theodore's grandfather, Sir William Withie Gull, was the infamous physician who successfully treated the Prince of Wales from typhoid and was also a main suspect in the Whitechapel "Jack the Ripper" murders!) Mary lived a long life and died in Chelsea, London in 1990 aged 99.

Aliens Restriction Order, 1914.

This form must be filled up by each passenger and produced to the Aliens Officer before embarkation at Jersey.
 Ce questionnaire doit être rempli par chaque voyageur et livré à l'Inspecteur avant l'embarquement à Jersey.

Surname Lanswell W. J.
 Nom
 Christian Name W. J.
 Prénoms
 Age 24 Sex Male Occupation Law
 Sexe
 Nationality British
 Nationalité
 Exact reason for leaving Jersey Parents
 But précis du départ de Jersey.
 Address in Jersey 5 Norfolk Terrace
 Adresse à Jersey.
 Where going? (Full address) Unsted Park, Godalming
 Où allez-vous? (Adresse complète) Surrey
 Signature of Passenger W. J. Lanswell
 Signature du Voyageur
 Date 30th Dec 1915

Now we come to young John Maxwell-Moffat. We know he was born in 1893 but what of his fate? He would have been 21 at the start of WW1. I checked death records for 1901-2009 (not too big a task in Jersey) and he was not there. However, he does appear in the Great War Study Group records, which show that on 9 Feb 1911 he departed from Liverpool to Australia, aged 18, on board the White Star line ship "Suric". John worked for T.A. Vance in survey of Port Augusta-Kalgoorlie railway in August 1914. Society Gossip shows "Mr J Maxwell Moffat, of Port Augusta, spent the Christmas holidays with his uncle Colonel Moffat, of Renmark": *The Critic*, Adelaide, 13.1.1915. The uncle is probably William Johnstone Moffat. John married Elsie Hannah Holdsworth in Australia, but more work needs to be done to ascertain whether he had issue. Finally, from the ancient faces.com website we find that John died in Fitzroy, Australia in 1964 aged 71.

So what happened to Robert's wife, Mary Ellen Maxwell Moffat? We know from the 1911 Census that she was a widow, living as a boarder at 11 Elizabeth Place, St Helier, Jersey along with her daughter Mary.

From the Great War Forum we find that Mary's step-daughter, Edith Flament, neé Maxwell-Moffat married a Frenchman, and became Matron-in-Chief of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve. Edith is further mentioned in an obituary for Mary Ellen her stepmother. Mary Ellen Maxwell-Moffat

emigrated to Australia, presumably to be near her son, John and his wife, Elsie. The Argus newspaper for Dec 28, 1935, reports that Mary Ellen Maxwell-Moffat died on Dec 27, 1935 at her residence 12 Waterloo Street, St Kilda, Victoria, Australia. Her funeral took place on Dec 28, 1935 where she was laid to rest in St Kilda's Cemetery.

Rosey Moffatt

JOHN WILLIAM CHARLTON MOFFAT



It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Lt. Com. John Moffat (Jock) in Perth, Scotland on 11th December 2016 aged 97 years.

John William Charlton Moffat was born in Swinton in the Scottish Borders in June 1919 and was the son of Peter and Mary Moffat. Whilst still young the family moved to Earlston where his father owned a garage. When he was about 6 years old the family moved to Low Fell, county Durham, a coal mining area. After about two years his father moved them back to the Scottish Borders to Kelso. He was educated at Kelso High School and played Rugby for the school and also Kelso RFC and trialled for Scotland B. He married Marjorie Cochrane in 1944 and they had two daughters, four grandchildren and 4 great grand children. Marjorie died in 2001.

His father Peter had served in the First World War joining in 1914 as an Air Engineer for the Royal Navy. He saw part of the war in Belgium and then was posted to the seaplane carrier 'Ark Royal'.



John joined the navy in 1939 just before the outbreak of WW2 and signed up with Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm joining HMS St Vincent as a Naval Airman 2nd class. He learned to fly in a Miles



Magister at Sydenham, Belfast, where there was a flying school run by Short Brothers. At the end of 1939 he moved to No. 1 Flying School at Netheravon and in the New Year he joined 759 Squadron at Eastleigh where the naval fighters school was temporarily based, to fly the Gloster Sea Gladiator Bi-plane.

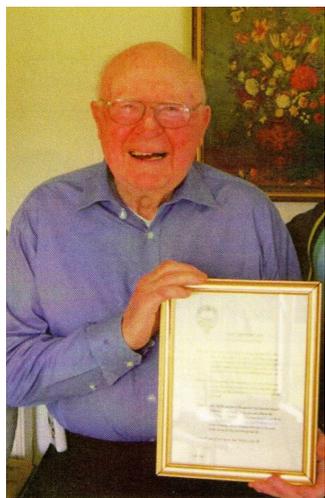
In 1941 he joined 818 Squadron and embarked on the "Ark Royal" becoming a Fairey Swordfish Pilot. His co-written autobiography with Mike Rossiter "I Sank the Bismarck" (the title of the book being a bone of contention with him) was published in 2009 in which he tells the story of his career as a navy pilot during the second world war and his involvement in the sinking of the Bismarck. The book is still available from Amazon.



John left the Royal Navy in 1946 and after studying for a degree in Business took a Diploma in Hotel Management before running 'The Grandtully Hotel' in Perthshire, retiring from the hotel in 1972, He then went on to run a shop selling tweeds, tartans and antiques until 1997.

He hunted with the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Hunt, and then with Fife Fox Hounds. He stopped riding when he was 70 when his horse died.

Shortly after this whilst on holiday in the United States he was taken on a joyride in a light aircraft and re-discovered his love of flying.



He joined the Scottish Aero Club and celebrated his 90th birthday by performing aerial acrobatics.

In 2000 John became a member of Clan Moffat UK and attended several AGMs and Gatherings held at Moffat, Dumfriesshire, and also attended the Homecoming events in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, in 2009.

In September 2010 Lt Cmdr John William Charlton Moffat, R.N.V.R. became the first member to be added to the Clan Moffat Roll of Honour, honouring Clansmen and women who, by their works great or small, have brought honour to the Moffat name or who have contributed to the general good of Clan Moffat. John was presented with the Citation on behalf of Clan Moffat UK in October 2010 at his home in Dunkeld, Perthshire.

It was a privilege to have met him.

Hazel Crammond, 25th February 2017

MOFFAT MUSEUM OPENING TIMES 2017

- The museum is opening on 1st April until 30th September 2017
- The opening times will be :
- Weekdays 10.30 am until 1.30 pm and 1.30 pm until 4.30 pm
- Sundays 1.30 pm until 4.30 pm
- Closed Wednesdays.



Steven Moffatt has sent this photograph taken at a Moffatt Wedding on New Years Day, in Winnipeg, Canada. The five Moffatts are, from left to right, David Moffatt, Steve Moffatt (1), Stewart Moffatt, Steve Moffatt (2) and Gordon Moffatt. The occasion was the marriage of Steve Moffatt (1) to Miriam Christoph on 31st December 2016.



Niamh Elliott has provided this photograph which she took of the restoration work recently carried out at The Black Bull in Moffat. The photograph shows the much earlier sign which was stone inset, not painted, and was uncovered when the paint was removed.

Niamh also writes “The Gallow Hill has been bought in January this year for the local community from the Annandale Estate. It is being re-planted with native broadleaves.”

