
MINNEY NEWSLETTER

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PAVENHAM NAMES INDEX

http://www.pavenham.btinternet.co.uk/names_index.htm

Names appearing on readable headstones are indexed here by cemetery.

The names shown do not represent all of the headstones in the cemetery - just the readable or part-readable ones. Not all of the headstone text may be readable. Nor does the list for each cemetery represent all of the interments that have taken place.

Entries for Minney;

Colmworth, St Denys

Keysoe Row, Baptist Chapel

Little Staughton, All Saints

PRIMROSE MINNEY

Primrose turns back the clock by Ivan Sage, Essex Chronicle.

I found this article on the internet. Primrose is the daughter of R J MINNEY.

Regional news bygones - this story published 24.7.2001

<http://www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk/bygones/2001/07july/010724prim.shtml>

The clock was turned back 50 years recently when former reporter Primrose Minney visited the Essex Chronicle's headquarters.

Now 72, the former Chronicle trainee still works part-time as a sub-editor on the Sunday Times magazine. She was interviewed by Ivan Sage.

It was the first time Primrose has set foot inside the newspaper's offices in which she worked from 1951 to 1953 when it was based in Chelmsford High Street in a building now occupied by Jessops, the photographic shop opposite the Saracens Head.

Although she is now 72 years old, Primrose is still involved in the world of newspapers, commuting three days a week from her home in Lawford, near Manningtree, to London where she is employed as a sub-editor on the Sunday Times magazine.

The hustle and bustle of meeting press deadlines can prove very stressful to people far younger than primrose but she takes it all in her stride - her only concession to her age being a recent reduction of one day in her working week.

However, there is far more to Primrose than her involvement in newspaper and magazine production (as the accompanying story will confirm) and, when Chronicle editorial director Stuart Rawlins heard about her, he was keen to invite her back to the Chronicle to hear her

story.

"I was in my early twenties when I first arrived at the Essex Chronicle," said Primrose. "When I started the Chronicle was run by Reggie (RJ) Thompson. "I remember Reggie telling me I should always get the point of the story across as early as possible in each report. He used the Bible as an example.

He would quote 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.' - the first words in Genesis to demonstrate what he meant.

"I was employed as a general trainee and, in theory, I was a feature writer. There were not too many staff. The deputy editor was Rae Handley who was Reggie's son-in-law, and three, maybe five of us in the newsroom.

"I also worked on the Newsman Herald which came out every Tuesday.

"The window of our office looked out onto Chelmsford High Street and the Shire Hall. The composing room was on site."

In those days it was hot metal printing, with Linotype machines setting the type for the Chronicle's pages... a far cry from today's hi-tech computer production systems. During the 1950s, the Essex Chronicle was usually 24 pages in size.

"We had a couple of photographers, one of who was called Ronnie Crowe (who currently runs a fishing and tackle shop in Great Baddow) and one other whose name I cannot remember," said Primrose. "Ronnie was a bit of a joker, then there was a reporter called Freddie Tapp, who I suppose was in his sixties at the time, and Bernard Webber on sport."

There were many things that remained in Primrose's memory from her time in the Chronicle's offices, some amusing, some sad, some ironic.

"I remember when one of our reporters heard of a fatal road accident and went to speak to the victim's family," said Primrose.

"Unfortunately, he arrived before the police had had the chance to inform the family and they were not best pleased to hear the news from a newspaper reporter - I should know - I was the one who took the telephone call when they complained!

"Another time, a crowd of prostitutes gathered in Chelmsford. It was well known they often went to the USAF base at Wethersfield. "One of our reporters called Rossie had been sitting in a café over the road - we didn't have a canteen at the time - when she found herself surrounded by these ladies.

"At first she didn't know who they were but, when she realised, she hurriedly rushed back into the office!

"Another memory is when Rae Handley told me he was popping over to the court to hear the sentencing of a murder trial. Rae knew the judge would be putting his black cap on - a sign he was about to pass the death sentence."

Some of Primrose's most vivid memories came from her court visits on behalf of the Essex Chronicle.

"Two cases at Witham come to mind," she said, "one where Jewish witness did not think the New Testament was right to swear on, the other regarding a road fatality.

"Apparently, a car driver pulled out of a pub car park right in front of a bus and was killed.

"The bus driver, who was very matter of fact with the most broad Essex accent that even I found hard to understand, was asked to described the victim.

"Well,' he said 'his face was like that (pulling an expression), his arms were like that...' - it was all very graphic!

"Another time I was in court with Jack Chaplin who was a court reporter who doubled up as a sports reporter. This particular case was a rather juicy sex case, but Jack soon got bored.

"There's nothing much in this,' he told me 'I'm catching up on my football report!'"

"My father had known Reggie Thompson who ran the Chronicle during my time there when they both worked for the Daily Express. At that time my father had been earning around £3 a week - that was around the 1920s.

"Sadly, a bomb landed on Reggie's house, killing his father, mother, and one of his brothers who had been running the Essex Chronicle, so Reggie left London, where he had been managing editor of the Evening Standard to take over the Essex Chronicle.

"While I was working in Chelmsford I was pleased to know I was being trained by a proper Fleet Street person.

"At the time, my father was working for the George Newnes Group and he found me a job on a magazine they intended to start up but, because this was not long after the war, newsprint was still rationed.

"Nevertheless, they were able to obtain a consignment - but not enough to start the magazine.
"However, the consignment of paper went to another magazine - Titbits - and I went with it.

"Later on I went to work on Homes & Gardens where, for many years, I was deputy editor in charge of production.

"Eventually, in 1986, I took voluntary redundancy. For a few months I worked in many different places then, 15 years ago, I walked into the Sunday Times offices in London and I've worked there ever since."

Following Primrose's visit to our offices last week, she was taken to the Essex Record Office to see some of the Essex Chronicle printed during her time in Chelmsford. Here, she found copies commemorating the death of King George VI in February 1952, and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953. At the time, the Essex Chronicle cost 3d.

"I remember the proclamation outside the Chronicle offices by the High Sheriff in front of 2,000 people that Elizabeth II was to be queen, and I must have been at work when the news of the death of King George came through because I remember telephoning my mother to tell her," said Primrose.

On the front page of the June 5, 1953 edition, the following message was printed to our readers: "Pressure of space prevents us from bringing our readers the full number of pictures of local coronation events this week.

Furthermore, many coronation functions, including the large carnival events, are still to be held. We have, therefore, decided that in order to give the best presentation of pictures of these to our large family of readers, the Essex Chronicle will be enlarged next week to 32 pages - the highest number of pages in our long history which extends over nearly 200 years and seven coronations."

How time have changed!

STUDENTS IN THE ORPHAN SOLDIERS SCHOOL

from Washington County, Pennsylvania

June 1, 1902

Harry Minney, born May 26, 1887 & Clara B Minney, born Feb 14, 1889 Father (decd)
Augustus Minney Pvt 127th USCT. Application by mother Mary J Minney of Monongahela.

Dates of Order: Jun 1, 1895 and Sep 11, 1899

MR MINNEY - Teacher at WOKING GRAMMER SCHOOL, UK

In the last issue I referred to this Mr Minney. I have now traced his baptism as follows; Godrey
Harry King Minney bpt 1908 Ampthill, Beds son of Sidney Harry, a grocer's assistant and Edith
Mary Minney

ICELANDIC NAMES OF NORSE ORIGIN

In the past I have mentioned coming across the female first name of Minney in Iceland. I found
a report on the internet a couple of years ago that listed a number of Icelandic first names it
considered to be of Norse origin. Of course, Minney is listed again!

SOME BEDFORDSHIRE MARRIAGES

Eversholt

30th Sept 1876. Alfred BASS to Elizabeth MINNEY. Both of full age, batchelor and spinster.
She is the daughter of William MINNEY, labourer. Mary Ann MINNEY is a witness.

Luton - Christchurch

20th Oct 1862. George LEVI to Hannah MINNEY. He is 22, a glazier. She is 20 years and a
sewer. She is the daughter of William MINNEY. labourer.

Luton

25th Dec 1869. Thomas MESHAM to Sarah MINNEY. Both 23 years. He is a labourer, she a sewer. Of 7 Chapel St, Luton. She is daughter of William MINNEY, labourer, deceased. Witnesses; Caroline MINNEY and George LEVI.

17th Jul 1870. John NEKEROIS to Caroline MINNEY. Both 21 yrs. He is a boiler maker, she is a sewer. He is from Gainsborough. Her address is 7 Chapel Street, Luton. She is the daughter of William MINNEY, well sinker, deceased. Witnesses; Samuel MINNEY and ? LEVI.

SEEN IN

<http://www.btinternet.com/~c.r.wallace/galbedsherts.html>

You will need to log onto the website for these.

These images mainly relate to the Beds & Herts Infantry Regiment section of Allied Assortment.

Quote: "Three members of Allied Assortment line up to face the enemy. Serjeant Hanson of No3 Commando (far left), Pte Coley, also No3 Commando and Pte Minney, Beds & Herts raise their Lee Enfields and take aim."

Well that's it, short and sweet I know but I am conscious of the fact that a long email newsletter is not a good read. I have loads of stuff to send out so the next issue wont be long, honest!

Barrie

21 Spences Lane, Lewes, East Sussex. BN7 2HF