

Minney Newsletter

I have no idea where time goes and I must apologise for taking so long to get another newsletter out to you all.

I have started to do some work on my family history again after so many years but I feel that the explosion of interest in the subject has left me standing. The amount of information available on the internet makes a lot of my old research superfluous. On the upside though is some of the amazing databases and the ability to link family histories.

This has led me to start building my family tree online. Yes I know it's a surprise to know that I have never put my family tree together – its all scribbled down in folders and card indexes. Another project is to start scanning all the old photos I have and make them available. Its amazing what you can do to restore old photos. I use GIMP software, as good as Photoshop but much cheaper (free in fact!).

A very interesting snippet from Diane Harriman should be of great interest to those researching R J Minney's line;

“Also found a husband and wife Minney born in Calcutta. Maurice Minney born 27th April 1899, Calcutta, India and Helena Minney born 28th November 1895, Calcutta, India. They arrived in Canada aboard the Duchess of York in 1931. Both gave nationality as English and religion as Hebrew.”

Finally, the website has taken a bit of a hammering recently from visitors downloading stuff and that uses up the bandwidth. The IP then removes access until the next month (unless I pay an extortionate upgrade fee!). So apologies if the website was unavailable a few times recently.

Barrie Minney
Lewes
Sussex
UK
Jan 2010

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Samuel L Minney Lawnside NY

Hello Barrie,

I was so surprised when I came across my 3rd cousin on your newsletter. I have been doing research for about 7 years and this is the first time I came across a Minney family member on line. I was so excited to see it. I'm sorry to say, Sam Minney passed away last year. My Uncle Warren Minney, Sam's second cousin had been helping me a lot with our family tree. He gave me a lot of information that gave me a foundation to really start on. Uncle Warren also passed away about a year before Sam.

He told me all about the Irish, Indian, and Black people in our family. There is a book in the Burlington County College in New Jersey. It talks about Oliver Minney (b.9-12-1875), Sam's uncle. How the Minney's lived in Hunterdon County, NJ on Sourland Mountain, about them being Indian and Irish, how his grandfather was full-blooded Indian, also an Indian Chief, and so on.

Author of Folktales And Legends From The New Jersey Pines, Herbert Norman Halpert said in A Collection and A Study that, 'Oliver Minney was his best informant from the area. Excellent singer and storyteller, completely in the Piney tradition. He says that Oliver's sister had very light skin and red hair, while his nephew had complete Negroid appearance.'

Sam and I were suppose to get together at my Uncle Warren's home in Philadelphia, but Uncle Warren got sick and Sam and I never got to have a sit down talk. I'm really interested in the pictures and the information that Sam sent in to the newsletter. The oldest picture I have a any Minney's is my great-grandfather George Henry Minney (b.9-19-1888-d.8-2-1960). My mom said he use to dance the jig. I would really appreciate any information you could give me. Thank you for your time.

.....

Hi Yvonne

A lot of the stuff Sam sent me (photos mainly) are in store but i will dig them out and scan them for you and anything else he sent.

I'm certainly fascinated to know more about Oliver. This line of the family would make a fascinating addition to the website. Would you mind sending me what you have? Do you know where your gt grandfather came from? I have some stuff on the early Minney line in USA.

I did decide to stop the indexing unless it was something really interesting to add, mainly because I would simply be repeating stuff that is already available on the internet. I would rather have the website as an interesting resource for the name Minney with fascinating information especially stuff like yours and old photos.

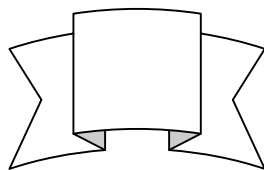
A quick Google search produced this;

From Folktales and legends from the New Jersey pines: a collection and a study

By Herbert Norman Halpert dated 1947.

Oliver Minney gets many mentions. Says he was born and still lives in Cookstown. Apparently in chapter II there is data on his family.

Also, I believe the book review below may also be connected to this family of Minney– take a look at the facial descriptions;



Diademi Minney and Julia Minney found in;

More Forgotten Towns of Southern New Jersey
By Henry Charlton Beck
Reprinted and Published by Rutgers University Press, 1988
ISBN 0813504325, 9780813504322
372 pages

This is a 1937 book and some of the reading material comes across as racist in this day and age.

References are made to a place called Cookstown and there were apparently a large number of mixed race people with two main surnames, Minney and Greenwood;

The author names an old matriarch figure called Diademi Minney and her daughter Julia (who later wed a Greenwood) although I don't know if the author is quoting local history from earlier times.

He describes many of these people as a clan with blonde or red hair and having "negroid" faces and skin of a peculiar colour.

Cookstown is in the North & New Hanover Townships in Burlington County

This is the relevant extract from the book;

In this sequel to *Forgotten Towns Of Southern New Jersey*, the authors visits to the state's early heritage-- churches, villages, and roads--are continued. He explores the routes of old railroads and the tangled wilderness of the Forked River Mountains, and he tells the lost stories of forgotten glass and iron and shipbuilding villages.

From Colonial days to the early 1900s, iron forges, glass plants, lumber and paper mills flourished in the New Jersey of the Pine Barrens, in old Burlington, Gloucester and Salem Counties.

Around the inlets of the Atlantic shore and on Delaware Bay, whaling and shipbuilding were important industries. Times have changed. Many of the old towns have fallen into ruin or disappeared, swallowed up in the abandoned lands of South Jersey or swept away by the unrelenting tides of the Jersey coast.

Henry Charlton Beck, raised in Haddonfield, for years shared his endless delight in the land and the lore of South Jersey. He, like a few other devoted Jerseyans began to hunt out in the 1930s the old sites and to record the stories handed down from generation to generation, clear back to early settlers. In this sequel to *Forgotten Towns of Southern New Jersey*, his visits in the state's early heritage — churches, villages, and roads—are continued. He explores the routes of old railroads and the tangled wilderness of the Forked River Mountains, and he tells the lost stories of forgotten glass and iron and shipbuilding villages.

After the book's first publication in 1937. the *New York American* wrote: "Characters leap out of these pages and old legends have been unearthed... It would be interesting to follow Mr. Beck's trail. ..." And this is exactly what Jerseyans, old and young, have been doing ever since, and will go on doing.

Many of the photographs in this volume record the people and the places of southern New Jersey as they were in the 1930s but some are even older. William F. Augustine. photographer and long a friend of Henry Beck, discovered photographs that had been preserved in old attics throughout the area. But more than that, he took an archive of pictures while he travelled the length and breadth of the state with the author.

Extract from page 124

COOKSTOWN: COBWEBS AND HALF-CASTES

Soon after these researches were begun, long before many of the lost backgrounds of other towns were hunted down, it was suggested that a somewhat garish story could be made if we rediscovered a strange colony of blond and red-haired people with dark, yellow and almost white skin, in an out-of-the-way corner of Burlington County.

We hesitated to write about them for a number of reasons. First, while the clan itself seemed to be well known to the folk of Cookstown, New Egypt, and that vicinity, we had never seen the people ourselves. Second, it was indicated that the “white niggers” had a perfectly natural origin with no reason for their comparison to the white indians of South America, as the man who spoke to us about them chose to believe. Yet these people, with straw-colored and carrot hair and peculiar color, have cropped up in the small courts of the County in a variety of cases which have brought them time and again into undue prominence through the years of more than half a century. Although there has never been anything approximating an organized colony, this group of people has come from and clung to an unnamed settlement not far out of Cookstown. Here, on the fringe of the pine belt, near the Camp Dix that has seen war-time, ruin, and reclamation in these latter days, they are reputed to be the result of a condition which once caused serious trouble and drawn-out investigations in the backwoods—intermarriages. In former years there were many mixed marriages of whites and blacks in Burlington County.

When we were there, having had no difficulty in finding the shacktown but having more in keeping ourselves from staring at the mysterious combination of red hair, blond hair, brown skin and skin that was freckled and almost white, the majority were laborers. They were and still may be employed by farmers and bog owners. In season they pick blueberries and cranberries and at others they hark back to the habits of their forebears, hunting and fishing in primitive fashion. Most of these people live routine, humdrum lives. Only a few get beyond the neighboring villages or ever expect to. To venture far is to be conspicuous and the cause of trouble.

The fact that most of the families of the clan have been known by the names of either Greenwood or Minney proves the mixed marriage background. It may be that Greenwood was the name of one of shacktown’s white visitors and again, it’s possible that some of these folk came from Greenwood, a town of which not one brick or joist remains today.

Strange first names matched hair and skin, we found Old Diademi Minney seems to have held considerable sway in her lifetime, although she is said to have complained that her large family was getting beyond her at the last. One of her daughters, Julia, was said to have married a Greenwood, and, according to the Squire, our guide, figured in a recent court case.

It appeared from testimony given that Walter Green, a white man, had married Margaret Greenwood, a half-caste, and that Margaret had complained to the State Police that Walter was at best an irregular provider for her and their two children. Green informed the Squire that he was perfectly willing to support his family with his \$ weekly wage but he objected to supporting her mother, old Diademi, and Julia, too.

It was brought out that the home of Diademi and Julia had burned down two years before at the climax of a strange rite, akin to voodoo. It was no mere wild party, that is certain. Whatever was happening, some of the countrymen outside the shacktown’s limits were not sorry to hear the place had gone up in smoke. Julia, called as a witness, said she was white—and she seemed to be, almost. When she said her husband was a Negro and that she had eighteen children “by last count,” the poor Squire decided he had heard enough testimony and advised Diademi to find another roof under which to house Julia’s brood.

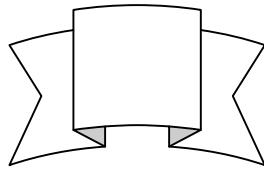
We wondered if some of those we saw knew Julia as their mother. Their features were regular. A few noses were large and fiat but most of them were not. Only here and there were there thick negroid lips. Hair that appeared to have been bleached, tresses that were of a beautiful auburn color and fine texture, mingled with the usual ink-black woolly tops.

So, against the background that is Cookstown, these people have moved from cradle to grave.

Cookstown is located in North Hanover and New Hanover Townships on the eastern border of the County.

From Wiki

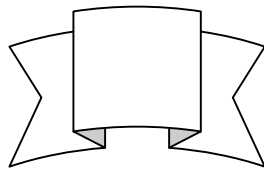
Cookstown is a small unincorporated area near Fort Dix in the U.S. state of New Jersey, located within New Hanover Township in Burlington County. The area is served as United States Postal Service ZIP Code 08511. As of the United States 2000 Census, the population for ZIP Code Tabulation Area 08511 was 1,133.



Governor General by RJ Minney.

This book was recommended reading (book of the month) in the British Journal of Nursing, November 1935

I have never been able to track this book down. I know that RJ Minney re-wrote this in 1951 as The Governor General's Lady as an expanded version. It features the love story of Warren Hastings (6 December 1732 – 22 August 1818) and he was the first Governor-General of Bengal, from 1773 to 1785. He was famously accused of corruption in an impeachment in 1787, but was acquitted in 1795. He was made a Privy Councillor in 1814.



Minneys on the Internet

Construction Parliamentary Update – 26 June 2009

The Welsh Sustainability Committee considered the draft Flooding and Water Bill and heard evidence from Environment Minister Jane Davidson, Claire Bennett, Peter Jones, **Olwen Minney** and the Association of British Insurers. (24 June 2009)

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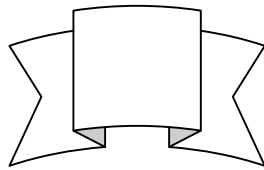
THE first ever national Armed Forces Day to honour service men and women past, present and future was marked in Huntingdon on Monday by military and civic dignitaries. A special commemorative flag was raised at Huntingdonshire District Council's premises, Eastfield House in Latham Road, Huntingdon. For the past three years, the nation has marked Veterans' Day on June 27.

All veterans should to book their place on the day for catering purposes. Enquiries to **Ken Minney**, chairman of the Royal British Legion on 01480 219759 or Keith Ridley Royal Naval Association on 01480 810848 Or The RAFA Club.

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John Lineham Minney Died suddenly on Friday 19th June 2009 aged 75. Well known entrepreneur of Olney. Father of Stephen, Grandfather of Katie and Sophie, Brother of David and Brian. He will be sadly

missed by all his family and friends. The funeral service will take place at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Olney on Tuesday 30th June at 10.30 am. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired for Cancer Research UK, may be sent to H.W Mason and Sons, 9 High Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8AR



Italian Connection

I'm Stefano Minney from Italy,

I will talk to you about Minney surname's origin. In a document that my relatives sent me some years ago they talked about a man that moves from a town in Normandie during the foundation of the Scotland kingdom. It was a knight and he was going to serve the Scotland king. The town in Normandie was called Mesniers. I checked it and already exist. So the surname is one development of Mc Mainz. It means the son of the man that come from Mesniers. Is it true do you think it could be attendible? Sorry for my English! My grandfather moved in Italy during the II War he discovered that Italian girls was pretty so here we are :)
ByeBye
Stefano Minney

.....

My reply

Hi Stefano

What a pleasant surprise!! I vaguely recall knowing that there was a Minney family in Italy. Tell me, do you know where your grandfather was born? Do you still have relatives in UK?

I have heard many stories of Minney coming from France but I have yet to find any proof. Most Minneys originate from Northamptonshire in the 16 & 17 centuries but from before that one can only guess. Most of what I know is on the website (now moved to www.minney.org.uk).

Can you tell me more about yourself and family? How many Minneys are there in your country? Does your father live in Italy?

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More from Stefano

My Grandfather John Arthur Minney was borned in Clay Cross on the 2nd April 1921 he died on 28 of February 2000 after becoming grandgrandfather of my son Matteo Albert Minney 17/08/00.

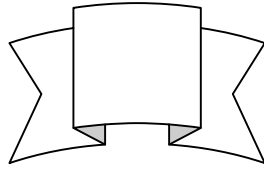
I was born here in Italy in 04/04/1977.

My father live here. We stay in Cervignano del Friuli it takes ten minute to reach the Adriatic sea the most important cities here are Trieste on the border with Slovenia, Tarvisio on the north in the pre alps on the border with Austria,Udine,

We are 50 mls far from Venice the same distance from Austria. The country is called Friuli -Venezia- Giulia. We have many relatives in Clay Cross John and William Minney and many others. Here in Italy we are three me my father and my son is the last of the Minneys, there are no other families!

I'm a dental technician but I have also just opened a sailing shop, we sell light boats engines windsurf and tech equipment. We also sell clothes and other stuff the shop it's called The Lighthouse. You can find us on E-bay Thelighthouse

Other news about us about me and my association on www.airtime.it

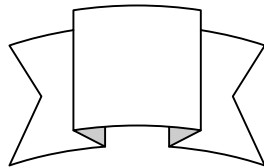


Thomas Miney, Angus, Scotland 1861

From Roz Doyle rozdoyle@railwayroad.com)

Just seen your site; I think I may have another Miney for you, although in the Scotland Census of 1861 it is spelt "Mirreey", and other people have taken it to be "Merry".

I have Inglis ancestors from Edzell in Angus, Scotland. One Agnes Inglis appears to have married a Thomas Miney, according to the family bible which is lodged in the Inglis Memorial Hall in the village of Edzell. I attach a photo of one of the pages inside the bible which lists family deaths; about halfway down is Thomas Miney", and 5 lines later is Agnes Miney or Inglis.



John Minney, [Scourer] of the Silver Scullery 7 Mar. 1796 Carlton House London

Below I found two mentions of John Minney who was a servant in the Royal Household from 1796 to 1812 at Carlton House. It appears he transferred to the Windsor household in 1812.

Source <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=43888>

Court Officers, 1660-1837

Sponsor: Institute of Historical Research

Publication: Office-Holders in Modern Britain: Volume 11 (revised)

Year published: 2006

'Index of officers: Mc - My', Office-Holders in Modern Britain: Volume 11 (revised): Court Officers, 1660-1837 (2006), pp. 1266-302.

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Minney, John Assistant [Scourer] of the Silver Scullery 7 Mar. 1796 (Lord Stewards Papers 13/267, f. 32). Vacated 19 Feb. 1812 on transfer to Windsor establishment (Lord Steward's 13/184, p. 253).

The household below stairs;
Carlton House
Scullery 1660-1837
Sponsor: Institute of Historical Research
Publication: Office-Holders in Modern Britain: Volume 11 (revised)
Year published: 2006

Assistant Scourers 1764–1837
1796 7 Mar. Minney, J.

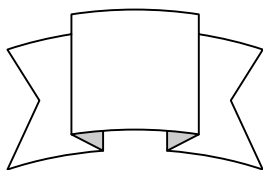
Scullery 1660–1837

The servants of the scullery washed and set out the royal plate and pewter.

The pewter scourer was appointed by the clerks of the green cloth or, from 1782, the clerks of the household [in rotation]. He received £30 per annum in 1727. The assistant scourers and whitener were appointed by the lord steward. By 1769 there were six assistant scourers at £30 per annum apiece. Their number rose to nine by 1797, then fell to two at £70 in 1815. The two assistant scourers at Carlton House made £40 per annum apiece. From 1830, the assistant scourers at Carlton House were folded into the main Household scullery. The whitener made £30 per annum. By 1803 she was simply listed among the assistant scourers. (fn. 9)

From Wiki;

Carlton House was a mansion in London, best known as the town residence of the Prince Regent for several decades from 1783. It faced the south side of Pall Mall, and its gardens abutted St. James's Park in the St James's district of London. The location of the house, now replaced by Carlton House Terrace, was a main reason for the creation of John Nash's ceremonial route from St James's to Regent's Park via Regent Street, Portland Place and Park Square: Lower Regent Street and Waterloo Place were originally laid out to form the approach to its front entrance



F/O Minney
RAF High Ercall, Shropshire

From Looking Back, Shropshire Star

<http://www.shropshirestar.co.uk/2007/01/cricket-team-fielded-by-base/>

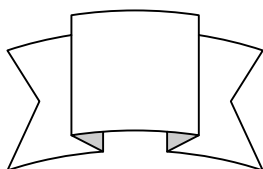
Cricket team fielded by base



Anyone for cricket? This is the "High Ercall Cricket Team" in August 1944. A village cricket team it was not, because this was the team from RAF High Ercall, which was a major wartime airfield.

This photo came from Mrs Aileen Chimonides, of Annscroft, from the collection of her late mother Mrs Mary Blake, who served at the base as a civilian teleprinter operator - she was at that time Miss Mary Egerton.

The names of some of those pictured are written on the print, but are difficult to read. However, they are something like: F/O Wolfe, F/O Wright, F/O Ford, F/O Minney, W/C Knowles, F/L Christie, F/O Weaver, F/O Gosbic, F/O Pearce, W Yates, RAF J Lewiliers.



Minnell Minney Gutteridge and Morris

From Garth Proffitt

I wonder if you could help given your particular interest in Minnell and Minney families.

I have just been given sight a family tree showing descendants of Thomas Minel (1645- ?) which traces a lineage through Thomas Minnel(1668-1721) and then Thomas Minnell (1715-1778)(married to Mary ? and then Eleizabeth Olibar) through Jeffrey Minnell married to Mary Waite to Samuel Minney (1787-1843)(married to Elizabeth Gutteridge 1787-1832). Then the line goes down to Hannah Minney (1819-?) married to one Robert Morris (1824-1896) which begins a closer family line to the Morris and Robinson families (of Lancashire).

I am reasonably sure that much of the informant's info comes through IGI and have traced some of the entries there.

Much seems to rest on the fact that the Minel and Minney family are the same with name changes or similar transformation in the Yardley Hastings area ? IGI lists Mary Waite married to Jeffrey Minnell and to Jeffrey Minney (same marriage dates) . Given your expert family knowledge can one be reasonably secure in these assumptions ? IGI also list a Samuel Minney marrying an Elizabeth Gutteridge but he was born in Lancashire c 1790. The Minney/ Gutteridge children (ie Hannah Minney) were born in Buckinghamshire.

As the relevant branches of the Morris / Robinson and McCabe families all lived in Lancashire, I am curious to justify the family links and individual parental movement and contact around Bucks, Northants and Lancashire in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

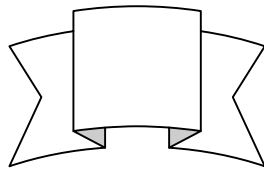
It would be very easy and helpful to accept the provided info but there do seem to be a number of assumptions and reliance on unsourced IGI and tenuous possible links. Am I just cynical but I came across one Thomas Minnell (born 27 Feb 1715 Yardley H) whose designated parents Thomas Minnell died 1721 (YH) and Elizabeth died in 1868 in New South Wales. A rather ripe old age for the lady I feel (153 years after her husbands death !!

I would very much appreciate any light which you could cast upon these stories. May be all is true, in which case I shall be pleased but ??

Best wishes

Garth Proffitt

I did confirm the Yardley Hastings entries but have heard nothing further.



Minney

Hope you are well! I've just come back from a visit to my family in Northamptonshire and while there I was given some pictures of my Minney ancestors. Thought you might like to take a look at them, you can view them on my website here: <http://robinshector.rootschat.net/PaternalFamilyPhotographs>

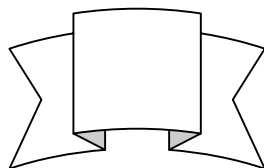
Also, I've generated a .PDF file of the Minney information I have so far, most of it is from contacts online, what I've been able to decipher from census records, etc. That can be viewed here: <http://robinshector.rootschat.net/surnames/Minney.pdf>

Hope you find the information of interest.

Best wishes, Sarah,
DebraHector@aol.com

.....

Unfortunately, I could never find this information!



Summer 2006 Newsletter correction

Mr. Minney,

I came across the Summer 2006 newsletter which pertained to my mother's obituary. My mother, Guistina, died last year and several notices had her name misspelled. I don't know if you do corrections but that would be one. It's just that the u and the i are switched.

Anyway most of the other information was correct, if you would like more details of our portion of the Minney name, let me know.

As far as historical background and other research, your website seems to be the only source I've found that is as vast.

Thanks for all your hard work.

Joseph E. O. Minney
jhawkeye73@hotmail.com

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Hi Joseph

Do you know how your parents met and the link to Wales? I always like to add any extra information because it helps any other Minney families.

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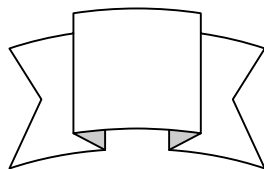
Reply from Joseph

Well, they met in Swansea. Both grew up there and met in their early twenties. Also, coincidentally, both their parents ran a family Fish N Chips restaurant.

My father's parents were Joseph and Ellen (Nellie) Minney, and my mother's parents were Guiseppe and Elena Macari. My parents moved to Canada in 1966, got married that year, then moved to Clinton, Iowa USA in 1968. My sister, Maria, was born in 1968, myself in 1973 and my other sister Barb, in 1976.

For now, as far as my family goes, we're still establishing a second generation in America. If you would like to know anything else,

Thanks, Joe

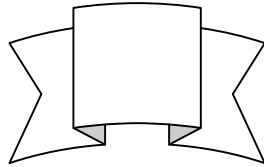


Interesting Website on Sephardic families and Minney

<http://www.farhi.org>
Quote;

Les Fleurs de l'Orient. The major Sephardic families of the Middle East that are linked to the Farhi's. The tree includes the extended families of their spouses and their own relatives from Asia, Australia, Europe and the Americas.

It lists several Minney & Minny names. Most seem to be submitted by a regular contact, Leanne Minny. I would be interested to know where the early entries such as Jacob (born prior 1787) came from.



Night life of Calcutta

An expensive early R J Minney book

From Abe Books;

“We have matched your Want with one or more books now available on our Web site, including the following;”

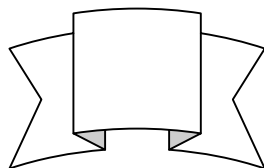
1. Night Life of Calcutta,
Minney, RJ

Thacker, Spink & Co, 1922, , INDIA ASIA BRITISH EMPIRE TRAVEL, Softbound 8vo, 67+ pp, pictorial cover by Phillip Greaves Collection of pieces originally published in The Calcutta "Englishman" paper; content includes Chinatown, An Opium Den; Criminal Area; Indian Opium Dens; A Toddy Shop; Pilgrim Rest Houses; Sea

Bookseller: Pages Past, Kingston, NY

Price: US\$ 75.00

Needless to say I couldn't justify buying this 67 page booklet for £60. Although I have purchased Maki and Midst Himalayan Hills through Abebooks. One is an Ebook, the other a reprint (to order) in hardback.



MR G H K Minney

From William Van Duyn Halifax, Nova Scotia

Thank you for the website, it is most useful.

The snippet of the photograph of GHK Minney at Woking County Grammar School For Boys - (now alas a casualty of government policy, closed and transformed into the local Woking nick!) has helped me to reconnect with the seven years of my life that I spent there - from 1957 to 1964.

I went on to study Civil Engineering at Nottingham.

Mr Minney taught Art and History, he was my form master when I was in class 3A. His Classroom was in a place called School House, an annexe just around the corner from the main school. He shared it with a Mr John Eveleigh - very Welsh and the senior Art teacher. Mr Minney commanded a natural respect from his

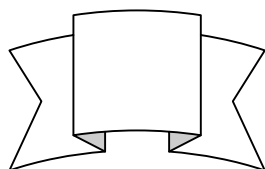
pupils through his kindness and had a passion for Egypt and the supernatural and when he felt we had done enough work would read us Ghost stories from a large tome. They still make me creep even now - but he would have us spellbound.

He must have had a nickname - all the masters had one but for the life of me I cannot remember it. He was also in charge of one of the four houses into which the pupils were divided. These were named after various English sailors and given colours - Drake - Blue, Hawkins - Yellow, Nelson - Green and Raleigh - Red - Mr Minney was the Housemaster of Raleigh.

The Masters in the picture from left to right as you look at it are Mr Butterworth - Geography, Mr Minney - Art and History, Mr Rigby Hardacre - Second Master who also taught Latin and was responsible for conduct, (he was also the main subject of a particularly offensive rhyme that was often sung about him!) and in the fancy wooden chair sits John Goode - a rather aloof Head Master, who, when available, taught religion. It could be me standing behind Mr Butterworth. It is very intriguing - Do you by any chance have the rest of the Picture? Thanks again for the memories...

Best regards

William Van Duyn Halifax, Nova Scotia



Charlie Chaplin play in Siliguru, India

Adapted from R J Minney's Charles Chaplin

Statesman News Service

SILIGURI, Sept. 9: 2007

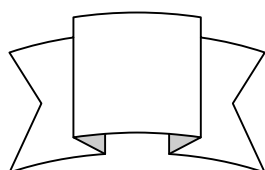
Come 13 September and the theatre lovers of the town would get an opportunity to face the great performer, Charlie Chaplin, on stage at the Dinabandhu Mancha here!

Siliguri's first and north Bengal's second man to receive training at the prestigious National School of Drama, Mr Subhodip Raha would make his professional directorial debut on the day by staging A Chaplin Prepares ~ a play depicting the life and works of Charlie Chaplin, the legendary performer. The one-and-half-hour play is being produced by Uttoree Hawa, Siliguri's own repertory in the making.

"The script of the play is an adaptation of RJ Minney's Charles Chaplin and mainly focuses on the struggles of the legendary actor," said Mr Raha, claiming that it would not be just another play.

"In the course of the play, we have amalgamated the struggle of current day theatre artistes with those experienced by Charlie Chaplin and here lies the uniqueness of plot," the NSD-ian added.

Source <http://www.thestatesman.net/page.arcview.php?clid=10&id=196667&usrsses=1>



Rushden Workhouse Minneys

Hi Barrie

Glad I can contribute something. It is sad to think of these Minneys though especially the death of the twins in 1886. Also the battle of John Minney to keep himself out of the workhouse.

Regards. Diane

Diane Harriman (dianeharriman@internode.on.net)

Rushden Workhouse

infant deaths

1880 Ernest Arthur Minney male died 8th February aged 2 months. Father Isaac Minney shoemaker

1886 Frederick Minney male died 13th February aged 2 weeks & 3 days. Father James Minney finisher

1886 John Minney male died 15th February aged 2 weeks 5 days. Father James Minney finisher

1887 Clara Minney female died 31st May aged 6 weeks. Father Isaac Minney rivetter

1892 Eliza Minney female died 26th March aged 11 days. Father Harry Minney mason

admissions and discharges

1897 John Minney boot finisher admitted 4th February Baptist born 1829. Discharged 15th February 1897 own request

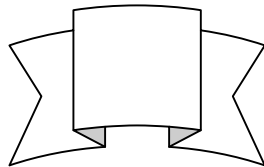
1898 John Minney shoe finisher admitted 30th September Wesleyan born 1829. Discharged 26th October 1898 own request

1899 John Minney shoe finisher admitted 17th March Wesleyan born 1829. Discharged 10th April 1899 own request

1900 John Minney labourer admitted 20th January Wesleyan born 1829. Discharged 10th February 1900 own request

1900 John Minney labourer admitted 4th July Baptist born 1829. Discharged 6th October to Northampton Infirmary

1900 John Minney labourer admitted 20th October Baptist born 1829. Discharged 21st November 1901 by order of M.O. to Berrywood Asylum



William Minney Hereford 1757

Came across this Minney reference. Thought I would send it in case you don't have it in the index.

Apprenticeship indenture

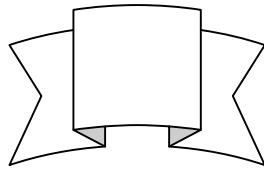
Herefordshire Record Office ref. BG11/11/26

1757, Hereford ... William Minney apprenticed to Cornelius Rowlands, tailor

Regards

Diane

Diane Harriman (dianeharriman@internode.on.net)



Minney Strays Dorset & Derbyshire

Hi Barrie

Me again! Don't know if you have these Minney "strays" from the 1901 census. The Nathan Minney in Derbyshire is my gr gr uncle (born 1863) but young Albert in Dorset is not mine.

All the best

Diane Harriman

Portland, Dorset -Verne Citadel

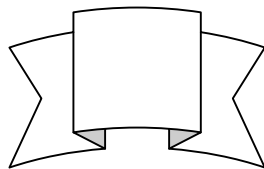
Albert Minney single 19 private 2nd Northamptonshire Regiment born Yardley Hastings, Northamptonshire

Hathersage, Derbyshire- 94 Station Road

Nathan Minney head male married 37 railway train examiner born Yardley Hastings

Sarah J Minney female married wife

Horace N Minney 14 son machine minder in boot factory



Clifford Minney

Dear B. Minney,

I would be very grateful if you could give me contact details for the estate or family of Clifford Minney who is mentioned on your website. I work for the Public Catalogue Foundation on a series of catalogues entitled Oil Paintings in Public Ownership. We are currently preparing to publish a catalogue of publicly owned paintings in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. (Our project involves cataloguing all oil, tempera and acrylic paintings held in public ownership in the U.K. Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire will be our 24th catalogue; please visit our website for further information.)

The Museum of Berkshire Aviation holds one painting by Clifford Minney: Miles M28 Mercury. I would like to contact the artist's estate or family to ask for copyright permission to reproduce this work in our series of catalogues. Any help you might be able to offer would be very much appreciated. If you know the artist's year of birth and year of death (if applicable) that would be very useful too.

The Public Catalogue Foundation is an arts charity based in London. Proceeds from catalogue sales go towards painting restoration and gallery education.

If you have any questions, please feel free to telephone me on 020 8940 4246. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Mary Rose
Mary Rose Rivett-Carnac
Copyright Officer
The Public Catalogue Foundation
maryrose.rivett-carnac@thepcf.org.uk

Please note our new address:
33 Maiden Lane
Covent Garden
London WC2E 7JS
Telephone: 020 7395 0332

My reply

Hi Mary Rose

It took some tracking down but I did receive two emails a few years ago from the wife of the late Cliff Minney. All I have is an email address - I have copied the email below. Hope this helps. I think I may have an address for Jaqui Minney as a roundabout way of contacting Vivienne.

Let me know if you are successful.

Best wishes

Barrie

“Hello Barrie,

Re Cliff Minney – on Famous Page on website

Cliff was born in Kempston, his dad Sid was from Cardington.

Cliff was my husband - he died last year. Are you related to us?

If you find we are related is it possible to send some family history, trying to do a family tree, got minneys from 1745 but no link.

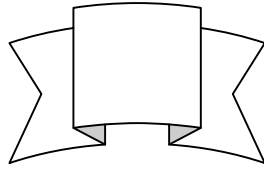
Cliff's dad was Sidney Joseph, parents Joseph and Rose, thanks anyway. I've been in touch with Jacqui Minney of Great Barford and she is going to send me the Minney family tree when she receives her new computer. There's a lot of it.

Regards”

Viv

vivienne-minney@tiscali.co.uk

Unfortunately Vivienne didn't respond to the email. So if anyone can help then please let me know.



R J Minney

Dear Mr. Minney

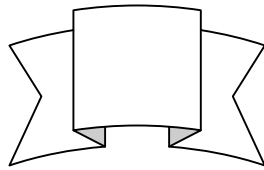
I am doing a book on Jews of India. This will be a short piece. I would like to know how such a firm proponent of British Imperialism become a Labour politician.

From what I read in his books, he felt the British should stay in India and be tough. Did he change his views? If you have any information on how his religious beliefs changed, I would appreciate it too. He was a versatile and amazing man. Please feel free to share this e-mail with other Minneys. I appreciate your help
thank you

Ken

Ken Roberts

rajanawab@comcast.net



Syd Chaplin blog mentioning R J Minney

from <http://sydchaplin.blogspot.com/>

Milan

The Gasparinis—and their collection of 100+ Syd letters to R. J. Minney

A private collector there has kindly offered up his collection of 100 Syd letters to R. J. Minney for my research use. Hopefully, that will be a fruitful trip and I will be able to report on it in my next blog.

Part of the reason I decided to take the time and expense to go to Milan is because I kind of knew about these letters. A tantalizing few of them exist as copies in the Charlie Chaplin archive. Syd had more than a rational fear of trusting other people--ANY other people--but I knew that of the one or two folks he might trust, British journalist and author R. J. Minney was one of those people. Unfortunately for Syd, I don't think Minney's affection was motivated by much more than the desire to get close enough to Charlie to write his 1954 book, *Chaplin: The Immortal Tramp*, but perhaps that's unfair. God knows, after reading these letters, Minney paid dearly for that book, because Syd put him through the ringer. I can say now, after reading the letters that Minney was Syd's titular confidante--perhaps his only such--during the very trying years 1929-39, in which Syd tried so hard to clear his name of the British International Pictures and Molly Wright scandals and return to film--all unsuccessfully. The Gasparini collection of letters gave me a blow by blow of this time

period, answering many questions long unanswered. They show a whining Syd, an angry Syd, and an irresponsible Syd, among many others, but also a Syd who constantly wrote the refrain, "Well, at least I still have my sense of humour!"

Lisa K. Stein, Ph.D.

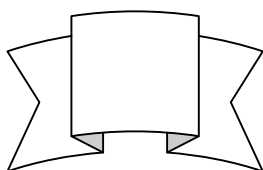
Assistant Professor of English

Ohio University Zanesville

1425 Newark Road

Zanesville, OH 43701

740-588-1535



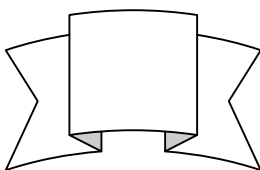
Bedfordshire Gaol Register Bedfordshire & Luton Archives and Records Service

<http://apps.bedfordshire.gov.uk/grd/search.aspx>

Elizabeth Minney age 25 year1850 residence Bedford, born Swineshead On 29th Aug.1850 at St.Paul in Bedford stealing 3 shillings the property of Samuel Bollard Result 9 Calendar Months Hard Labour ref BLARS QGV10/3

Elizabeth Minney age 25 year1850 Stealing Money Result 9 Calendar Months Hard Labour . Ref BLARS QGV12/1

William Minney age 6 year1856 Arson. Setting fire to a stack of haulm. Acquitted Ref BLARS QGV12/1



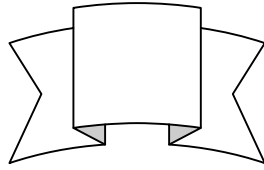
Albert Minney Little Staughton Beds

From Clive Shaw

Thought you might like to know that there is a memorial stone at All Saints' Church, Little Staughton Bedfordshire, UK dedicated to Albert Minney. Little Staughton was his birth place and his parents and other relatives were laid to rest there.

Little Staughton is both a 'ribbon village' and a 'plague village'. As such the church stands about 400 yards east of the village at the end of Church Lane. It can be clearly seen on the ridge approaching from north or south. The gravestone/memorial can be found under the big tree to the right of the path. There are two or three bearing the name Minney and are redstone.

CLIVE SHAW (clive50shaw@btinternet.com)



Rena Minney Lambert

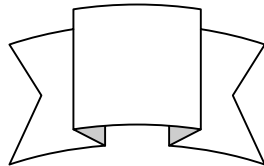
From Medina Gazette

July 25th, 2008 · Rena Minney Lambert, 95, of Windham, Ohio, passed away Wednesday, July 23, 2008. She was born July 28, 1912, in Chestnut Lick, W.Va., to Ira and Myrtle (Meadows) Minney. Mrs. Lambert worked for a basket factory. She was an accomplished seamstress and made her own clothes and quilts. She loved to crochet and garden, and enjoyed traveling with her husband when he showed his fox hounds. Mrs. Lambert is survived by her husband, Don; son, Edsel (Louise) Minney; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; half sister, Darlie Schoolcraft; half brothers, Audie and C.A. Minney; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Ressie and Renis Minney; and sisters, Ena Allan, Ina Cotrill and Cressie Hunt.

Service: 11 a.m. Saturday at Carlson Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Garrettsville. Gene H. Miller will officiate.

Interment: Windham Township Cemetery.



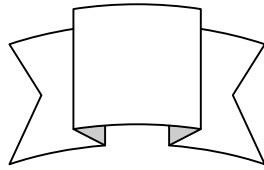
James Bettel & Ann Minney

I came across one of your Minney newsletters from January 1991 while doing a search for Ann Minney born about 1805 in Yardley Hastings, who married James Bettel in 1824 in Hendon. They were my 3xgrt grandparents. I was very interested to read that the query had been sent to you by Peter Hallows who must be a cousin of mine through Margaret Bettel, Ann and James' daughter who married John Hallows in Australia in 1863. I know an awful lot of time has passed since 1991 but I was wondering if you were still in contact with Peter and could perhaps pass on my email address to him?

I would also be very interested to know if the question of Ann's parentage has been solved. It looks like she is the daughter of Ann Minney but is this Ann the same one who was married to William in June 1799 and whose maiden name was Bettle, or is she a different one?

Thank you very much for any help you can give me and thank you too for your website which makes for a very interesting read,

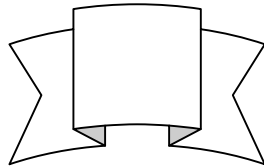
Helen Nisseron
(hf.nisseron@free.fr)



Mary Ann Minney Australia

INWOOD, REGINALD ROY (1890-1971), soldier and miner, was born on 14 July 1890 in Adelaide, eldest son of Edward Inwood, labourer, and his wife Mary Ann, née Minney. He was educated at North Adelaide Public School and Broken Hill Model School. Inwood worked as a miner at Broken Hill.

Supplied by Diane Harriman (dianeharriman@internode.on.net)



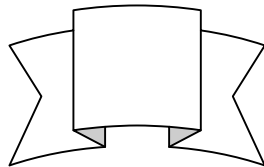
Swansea Minney or Meany?

Dear Barry

I came across your webpage. The Swansea Minneys are cousins of mine. Their name appears to be a corruption of Meany and is so spelled in early censuses.

Seán Duggan (sduggan@omsoft.com)

I did ask Sean for any supporting evidence so I could amend the webpage but I haven't heard further.



Minney family in Plymouth, Devon, early 1900s

From an article in the local Plymouth newspaper

<http://www.thisisplymouth.co.uk/features/Minney-history-city-family/article-493362-detail/article.html?cacheBust=yOu7MWINy42y#community>

The photos referred to are on the website.

EDITH MINNEY'S father was a builder, and, one hundred years ago, he was operating from a three-storey property in Tavistock Road.

Edith's bedroom looked out over the street, directly facing what became the site of the new Museum and Art Gallery and there, as a very young girl watched the 'buildings built'.

There's no indication as to whether her father was involved in the project but it is perhaps unlikely. F Minney was apparently a general builder, mason and plasterer who, according to his advertising signage, was happy to give estimates for all kinds of house repairs.'

Drain work was another speciality of the man who owned three neighbouring properties in a row here – all of them run by different members of the family.

The first of these was Minney's 'Museum Tea and Dining Rooms' which has Edith's sister Mabel standing in the doorway with two other people and signs up advertising Hot Pasties and Chips Tonight.

Next up was Minney's Grocery and Confectionery Stores and the photograph of this shop shows Edith herself in the doorway.

Edith Minney was born in 1904, in Ebrington Street, and sadly died just a few weeks short of her 96th birthday on December 23, 1999; of her various siblings, Mabel, Dorothy, Fred, Reg and Norman, only the latter is still with us – he now lives in Tavistock and will be 88 next May.

In 1931 Edith married Belfast-born Wilson Weir and for a time the couple lived with Edith's parents in Sea View Terrace, which is where the family moved after these buildings were demolished to allow Tavistock Road to be widened.

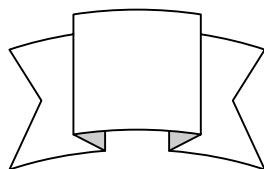
At some point in the Thirties Edith and Wilson moved up to a big house, Dower House, in Slindon, in Sussex, where Wilson worked as a butler and Edith as a cook. During the war Wilson contracted some illness as a result of the work he did in 1940 working for the RAF on barrage balloons and the couple moved back to this area and took up residence in the lodge of Kitley House. And there they stayed for some years with their son Patrick (the only survivor of twins born in 1937) before moving out to the new family home up at Gunnislake which granddad Minney had done up.

.....

According to my database F Minney is Frederick Minney son of William & Eliza born around 1873 in St Columb area of Cornwall. Trade directory shows that he was a builder at 25 Tavistock Road, Plymouth from at least 1906 to 1925. Frederick was married to Mabel?

Patrick has been in touch and very kindly supplied the photographs from the newspaper article. These are now on the website.

Patrick can be contacted at patrickweir1937@googlemail.com.



South African Minny/Minnie

Hi Barrie

I am currently doing research on the Minnie family in South Africa. I found your website while searching the web for info and found it very interesting. I also see that you mention the different spelling forms for the surname in South Africa.

According to "Suid Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters" (South African Family Registers) there are 2 progenitors for the Minnie family (surname) in South Africa, namely:

Dirk Mennen from Paderborn in Germany who arrived in 1741 as soldier on the ship Amsterdam, became permanent resident in 1741, lived in Stellenbosch. His second marriage took place in Paarl on 2.6.1743 when he married Christina SCHEEPERS.

His descendants uses Menne, Minne and probably also different forms of Minnie.
And;

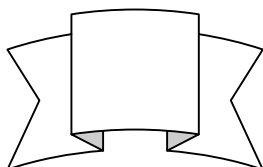
Jean Willems Minie who married Susanna MARSCALK. She was baptised on 2.11.1692 and was the daughter of Jean Marschalk from Antwerpen (Netherlands) and Maria Helmus (daughter of Hans Helm and Geertruy Willemse)

He has the bigger family. The name Minnie is the most common, but some members also use Minie, Mienie and one line of descendants (or maybe more) started using Minny. My mother's sister's daughter is married to a Minny (from there my interest) and I am helping him to uncover his ancestors. I suspect the -ie- sound which was often written as -ij- in Dutch (the language of the Netherlands) turned into -y- which are all pronounced the same in Afrikaans in this surname's variations.

I hope to find out more during my researching of the surname!

Regards

Nada Crafford
(nadacrafford@gmail.com)

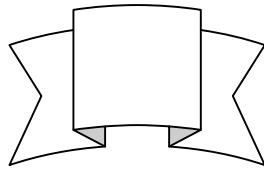


Charles Minnie Frenchtown

Hello Barrie,

You contacted me by US mail several years ago inquiring about the family name Minney. I ran across the letter a short time back and keep thinking about it. I would enjoy corresponding. My wife Dari and son Cameron are flying across the pond this spring to Harrogate. I was wondering if you have ever run across the name Charles Minnie from Frenchtown, Michigan from circa 1800's. He married Sarah McCluskey, daughter of Paul McCluskey who was born in late 1700's. I believe Charles emigrated from Quebec. If you have any info please contact. I would appreciate any info you might have to share.

Thank you,
Michael Minney
(imominney@hotmail.com)

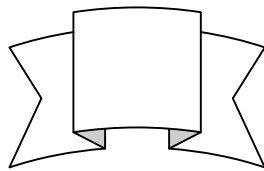


Thomas Mynnyng Denton 1544

Found this man on the Northamptonshire Tax Assessment for the Wymersley Hundred. (Taken in 1544 for Henry VIII.) THOMAS MYNNYNGE listed as paying tax at Denton.

Don't know whether you have come across this reference before. Thought I would bring it to your attention as he sounds like "one of ours".

Diane Harriman



Nathan Minney in Canada (and other Minneys)

Hi Barrie

My gr grandmother's brother Nathan Minney migrated to Canada in 1913. He was the son of Ebenezer and Jane Minney baptised at Yardley Hastings on 27th August, 1863. Nathan and his second wife Sarah Jane (nee Rafferty) and their two children Doris and William sailed on the Megantic which arrived in Canada on the 2nd November, 1913. Found the family on a 1916 Canadian census residing at Humboldt, Saskatchewan. Nathan was a railway examiner in England and worked on the railways in Canada. The records are very hard to read so can't determine exactly what job he had in Canada.

There are lots of Minneys arriving in Canada but most records don't give place of birth other than to say England. Have made a note of the ones that give a place of birth or are unusual.

Dora Annie Minney aged 30 born Denton, Northamptonshire, domestic, destination Women's Hostel, Halifax, NS, father Arthur Minney, Castle Ashby, Northants. Arrived on the Pittsburg landing in Canada on 15th May 1925. Dora must have returned to England in 1927 as she again arrived in Canada aboard the Westernland 23rd March, 1930. She stated she had lived in Canada before between 1925 and 1927. Employed as a domestic by Mrs C.C. Carrie 38 Rosebery Place, St Thomas Ontario. Father Arthur J. Minney, Castle Ashby. Northants

Nellie Minney aged 30 arrived 18th December 1926 aboard the Doric. She gave her place of birth as Rushden, Gt Britain

Arthur Reginald Minney married born Cogenhoe, England, engineer. Born c. 1892 arrived aboard the Carmania in 1928 and the Scythia in 1927. Both times his destination was the same The Horn Tree Co. Ltd. Gave his wife's name as Mabel Minney. 45 Hawthorn Terrace, New Earswick, York.

Mabel Minney crossed from Canada to the USA on 6th July, 1937 aged 33. She was born in Yorkshire England father's name given as Edgar Whitwell. (Could be Mable wife of the above.)

Also found a husband and wife Minney born in Calcutta. **Maurice Minney** born 27th April 1899, Calcutta, India and Helena Minney born 28th November 1895, Calcutta, India. They arrived in Canada aboard the Duchess of York in 1931. Both gave nationality as English and religion as Hebrew.

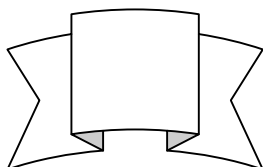
Mrs A Minney aged 20 married, born Wales arrived in Canada 7th June, 1911 aboard the Royal Edward.

Margaret Minney aged 18 arrived in Canada 8th April, 1928 aboard the Montcalm she gave her country of birth as Wales

Hope this information is of use to someone.

Regards

Diane Harriman (dianeharriman@internode.on.net)



Hannah Minney Yardley Hastings

Hello from Penny Franks

I hope you do not mind me emailing you.

I have recently found out that I am descended from a Hannah Minney (1795-1892) who married Stephen Brealey (spelt different phonetic ways, like Breerley) in Yardley Hastings on 8th June 1819. They had, I believe, 10 children and my interest runs with the youngest, Elizabeth (precise date of birth not yet established - 1843?) who married a William Isaac Groom Davis in Northampton in 1857.

Can you let me have any information regarding Hannah, whose name has also been written as Anna, and her forebears? She must have been a remarkable lady living to 97. Stephen made it to 86. Strong genes!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Penny
penny.franks@virgin.net

.....

Reply
I have one possible Hannah Minney from Yardley Hastings;

Hannah dau Jeffery & Thomasine Minney bapt on 20/7/1797 (IGI) or 20/7/1799 (parish register).

There is a record of banns being read on 19/12/1817 for Hannah Minney & Charles King but no wedding in Yardley Hastings.

There is no mention of another Hannah who would fit yours. My records have not been updated for awhile so I may be missing something.

Let me know if you think Jeffery Minney is one you would like more info on (thankfully he's not called Thomas or William!!)

Regards

Barrie

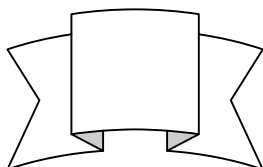
.....

Hello Barrie

Thank you for your response.

I had an email from Lynn www.bowser2@btopenworld.com regarding the Brearley family which reads: Marriages solemnized in the Parish of Yardley Hastings in the County of Northampton in the year 1819. Stephen Breeley of this Parish and Hannah Minney of this Parish were married in this Church by Banns & no impediment illedged this Eighth Day of June in the year One Thousand eight hundred and Nineteen By me Henry Boudier - Curate This Marriage was solemnized between us The mark of Stephen breerley and The mark of Hannah Minney In the Presence of Elizabeth Smith and Wm Brawn

From her death age, 'my' Hannah Minney would have been born 1795/6; it's not the one married in 1817 and it's 50/50 guess whether I can claim Hannah born to Jeffrey and Thomasine. I am not sure where to go from here.



Charles John Minney China Campaign 1860

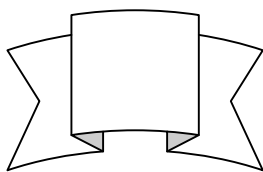
From Life, Letters and Diaries of Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Graham with portraits, plans and his principal despatches by Robert Vetch 1901. Can be read online <http://www.archive.org/details/lifelettersdiari00vetcuoft>

Mentions that Senior Purveyor Charles John Minney left for Tien-Tsin (Tianjin) on Sept 4 1860.

From Wiki

The Second Opium War, the Second Anglo-Chinese War, the Second China War, the Arrow War, or the Anglo-French expedition to China, was a war of the British Empire and the Second French Empire against the Qing Dynasty of China from 1856–1860.

The result of the Second Opium War meant the end of the great Qing Dynasty. Great Britain got Kowloon, the Opium trade was legalised and diplomatic missions were established in Beijing and Tianjin.



John Minney in; The life of Benjamin Banneker, 1796

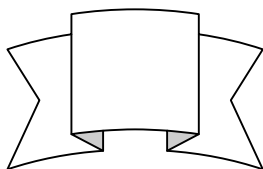
By Silvio A. Bedini 1972

See in Google Books

A modest but intriguing biography of the self-taught black astronomer, mathematician, and surveyor whom admirers were to describe after his death as ""the Newton of his race."" Banneker (1731-1806), a free-born black tobacco farmer, lived his entire life in Baltimore County, Maryland, poor, obscure and solitary.

On page 296, 30 August 1796 mentions blood letting of a John Minney.

Intriguingly it also states "The identity of John Minney is uncertain, but it is noted that on August 10, 1792, he had sold to John...." And there it finishes. I have ordered the book from Abebooks so I hope to have more on John Minney by the next newsletter.

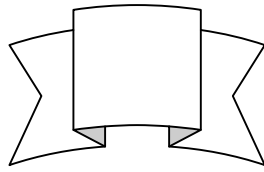


Charles Minney New Jersey

Hello Barrie,

My name is Laurie Conner, and I descend from Charles Minney who was born 1834 in New Jersey and is listed on your site. Your website was brought to my attention by another Minney descendant who has done lots of research, and because of her I have a picture of Charles that we'd love to share. Charles' daughter Nellie (Louella) is my great great grandmother. I am happy to give you all the information on this line that I have if you'd like. I also have a few pictures of Nellie. Interestingly enough, I was looking at your 'famous Minney' section and Bruce Minney the artist in Florida, is also a descendant of Charles Minney. I had his parents in my tree, but not him.

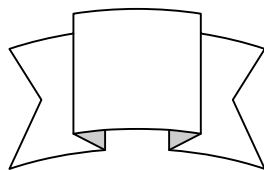
Laurie Conner (laurieconner23@yahoo.com)



Congratulations to Safia Minney

Awarded the MBE June 2009

Ms Safia Laila Minney. Founder and director, People Tree. For services to Fair Trade and to the Fashion Industry. (London, SW17)



Charlie Minney, Villa Louis found in; “The Wisconsin River” River of a thousand Isles by August Derleth

Book overview

Derleth traces the story of the Wisconsin River from its early exploration by French traders and Jesuit priests through the 1940s, telling of the Winnebago, Sauk, and Fox peoples. Derleth mixes folklore and legend with established history, and his genius as a storyteller brings *The Wisconsin* to life as a history written from the heart.

Vacation Land

Page 264

Villa Louis

Undoubtedly a large part of the success of the Villa Louis as an addition to the tourist attractions in the Wisconsin River valley was due to the guide and caretaker who first introduced the house to the public— a voluble, imaginative, garrulous fellow: the late Charlie Minney. And it was precisely because Minney did not adhere to the familiar pattern of guide lingo that he contributed so much to its success as a tourist attraction; for he allowed his imagination free rein, giving forth stories of romance or horror in such a way that his listeners were never quite certain that they were not true—like the shuddersome tale of the spot in the tunic of the portrait of Lieutenant Sturgis in the lower hall, the place above the heart which turned the color of blood under certain psychic conditions, or the grotesque expansion of the story of the rifled trunks and the strange doings that went on at Villa Louis in the days of Prohibition. He could invent a story about any aspect of the estate without blinking an eye, from the construction of the walls to the Audubon folios, and his imagination was equalled only by his volubility. There is no record, however, of his distorting history; he simply added color to it. Before the bad heart of which he constantly complained took him off in the course of last spring, Charlie Minney had woven enough legend about the Villa Louis to be assured that some of it would adhere to the dignified old building long past his own time, and would continue to bring to Prairie du

Chien an increasingly large share of the tourist trade, for it was apparent that, though the restored Fort Crawford, the old French Cemetery, the Brisbois graves high on the bluffs, and various lesser facets of the old town might appeal to many travelers, it was the Villa Louis which was certain to become, as it did, the focal point of attraction.

From Wiki;

The Villa Louis, also known as Dousiuaii Mansion, is a National Historic Landmark located on St. Feriole island in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Today the site is restored to its appearance during the late 19th Century, when it was the estate of the prominent H. Louis Dousman family. At the center of the estate is the elegant Villa Louis mansion, designed by E. Townsend Mix and built in 1871. Earlier the estate had been home to Louis's father Hercules L. Dousman, and before that the land was occupied by Fort Crawford. Prior to this, in 1814, the Battle of Prairie du Chien was fought at the site by American and British troops hoping to control Fort Shelby during the War of 1812. Still farther back, the site was of importance to American Indian tribes, especially the Mound Builders, as is evidenced by the large mound upon which Fort Shelby, Fort Crawford, and the homes of Hercules and Louis Dousman have all stood. Currently the site is a historical museum operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

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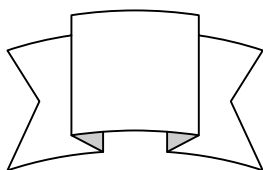
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Minney Reunion

(see webpage)

Hi there.

I was born Alan Francis Minney on 13/10/46. My father was William Henry Minney. He was the brother of the George Minney whose photograph appears in the archive photos of the Minney Reunion section of your Homepage. Their sister was Violet, also photographed. (On a balcony in Lupus St) The young baby, Frankie, is my cousin - George's son.

George was a member of the occupying forces in Germany, post WW2, and married a German, Irmschoen. She is the woman in the photo of George's stall. In about 1948, my mother Marian Elizabeth Minney, and I, went and stayed in Germany with Irmschoen and her family for about a year. George and Irmschoen had 3 children, Frankie, Vicky (Victoria?) and Georgina.

Violet married Chris Deneen.(possibly Dineen) They also had 3 children, Michael, Dorothy and Christine, I think. I believe dad had another sister, Lillian but I don't know much about her.

Regarding your enquiry re George Minney/ Derby County. That might well be my grandfather. I think he parted from my grandmother and had a somewhat chequered career. But I can remember dad saying that his dad had been a good athlete in his day, being a professional footballer, sprinter (athletes competed for purses in the early 20th cent especially in the north of England) and snooker player. Certainly the gene pool would bear it out. George was a decent boxer and my dad actually played for England v France in an Armed Forces soccer international in N. Africa during the war.

I have one sister, Lorraine Madeleine Dunn b 1952 who lives in Weymouth, Dorset.

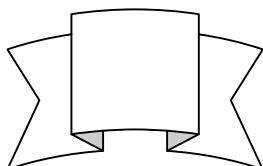
I must say, I got quite a shock seeing photos of my uncle, aunt and gran and it was quite emotional. I have been living in New Zealand since 1976 and have rather lost touch with family.

Vi's son, Michael Dineen, is very knowledgable about the Minneys. I met him in London a few years ago when dad died.

I should add, in closing, that I am married to Patricia Alice Stuart and we have a son Joshua, 27 and a daughter Hannah, 21. The name change is a long, long story and I won't bore you with it.

Sincere best wishes

Alan Stuart, nee Minney.



Jabez Minney Yardley Hastings

B 1868

Hi Barrie

Long time no speak, I hope you are well. I was not sure whether you are still doing anything with the Family history or not so I hope you don;t mind me mailing you.

I have only just started to pick things up again after a long time.

A few months ago I spent some time with one of Jabez's grandchildren who has lived in Yardley all her life and is in her eighties. She told me that Jabez never worked but that he regularly received a considerable sum of money (I'm sure she said gold sovereigns but I must ask her again!) ,he always had money and she said his mother (Eliza) worked for a family in a large house the opposite side of Northampton to Yardley

Hastings and it was said that he was the illegitimate son of Edward v11. (It wouldn't surprise me, he was a bit of a lad to say the least!)

Now I know that lots of people say these things and they are never proved, but I then recently went to see a relative of my fathers who is in her eighties and has lived in Yardely Hastings all her life (My family name was Partridge -not related to the Minney family) and we were talking about family and she said "Well I'm sure my husband told me a story about your husband Martins great grandad being the illegitimate son of royalty".

I wondered if you could advise me how I can find out which house Eliza might have worked in. I wondered if she had worked at Castle Ashby house for Lord Northampton and then gone to their other family home at Compton Wynyates in Warwickshire. However the lady seemed to think that the house Eliza had worked in had been demolished.

Hoping you are able to advise me but I understand if you are busy.

Many thanks
Rosemary
mminney@btinternet.com

.....

My reply
Hi Rosemary
Good to hear from you!

I haven't done much research since 2000. I do intend to take it up again, especially now its much easier using the internet. I keep planning to send out a newsletter because I have loads of interesting emails here!

Have you seen this <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/SOG-UK/1999-07/0932465239>
It appears that if he did put it about he kept it within his social circle!!

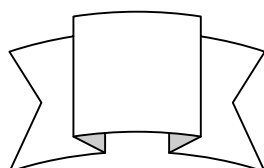
My database shows that Jabez bpt age 2 son of Eliza on 31/12/1871 at YH. She is a spinster. In a later census (1881) entry he is living with his uncle Jabez and aunt Susannah Minney in YH.

A couple of other entries may be him;
mentioned in a trade directory as a carrier in YH 1910 but name is Jabez Edward M. In Recollections of a Yardly Bwoy, there is mention of a field owned by Jabez.

He died June quarter 1945 at Brixworth. Might be an idea to see if he left a will? Or name mention in the obits?

Hope this helps!

Best wishes
Barrie



Japanese Internment Camps

To: ok@bookwright.com

Hi
I have just found your webpage. I am researching members of the Minney family (sometimes spelt Minny) who were residents of Shanghai and interned in Weihsien Internment Camp. Do you have any Minney/Minny names in your database?
Best wishes
Barrie Minney

.....

Reply

There are seven persons with surname Minny listed in the Weihsien camp records.

They are Cyril Ezekiel age 46 (in 1945), who worked for Jardine Matheson in Tientsin before the war, his wife Leah age 33, his sons Anthony Raymond born in camp and Edward age 10, his daughters June age 6 and Mozelle Hazel age 11, and probably his mother Mozelle Gatton age 65.

I seem to remember my half-sister Angela (Betty) Lambert was a pal of Hazel's in the camp.

Sincerely,
Desmond.

.....

Hi Desmond

Thank you so much for this information. I am in contact with the descendants of this family (now in Australia). I research all instances of Minney and it has led me to some wonderful people as well as expanding my historical knowledge.

Do you live in China (sorry if that's a dumb question)? I'm a fairly regular visitor to mainland China but have yet to visit Shanghai and surrounding area.

.....

No, I live in Vancouver British Columbia Canada. But I keep in contact with some people in China. One of my books is being translated in Tientsin (now Tianjin). Do you know that if you go to Weifang (was Weihsien) in Shandong Province and head for the large middle school there, previously the Japanese internment camp, you will find a wall inscribed with the names of all those who were incarcerated there. I have little doubt that the Minny family are so remembered.

Regards Desmond.

Also found these fascinating and informative websites on Weihsien

<http://www.chinaexpat.com/blog/ernie/2009/09/06/weihsien-compound-prison-camp-expats.html>

Everything's such a nuisance: supermarket lines, slow traffic, nothing good to watch. You know what would help a lot? A few years in an internment camp. Not one of those horrific ones from history we see so much of in movies, or the ones today that we hear so little of. Those dehumanize, if not kill, all but the strongest spirits.

The Japanese ran such camps. But in 1942, they rounded up enemy nationals in northern China and sent them to a different kind of camp, in Shandong's Weifang. Although under guard and reduced to mean circumstances, the prisoners were not brutalized. They were simply left to their own devices to make what they could of their drastically reduced options. Some two thousand captives, from all parts and all professions, had no choice but to build a functioning community without a handbook. They were forced to re-evaluate everything they thought they knew about themselves and the way life worked, and to treasure civilization, even with its many discontents.

By late February, 1943, Russians, Brits and Yanks, teachers, preachers and executives had all gotten word they were to be transported to a Civilian Internment Center, that they could bring eating utensils, a trunk, and whatever else they could carry by hand. Grim rumor made up for what the letter left out.

Marching from their embassies to the train station, optimists with golf club sets and heirlooms offered the biggest spectacle to the Chinese crowds lining the streets, rounded up by soldiers to witness the foreigners' humiliation. Had they known the relatively stable environment awaiting the 'degraded' enemy nationals, many in the crowd would doubtless have offered to trade places.

When they got to the camp, a former Presbyterian mission, many of the interns had seen worse accommodations, especially among the missionaries. It was the type of depressing institutional structure so common to north China - big gate, six-foot walls, western roofs, even a few trees. But housing is all about what goes on in the empty space. And nothing was going unless the prisoners did it, including excrement down the non-flush toilets. It took days before a few of the bravest slopped out the latrines and started a bucket collection for flushing.

One cold-water hand pump had to do for the entire city block compound, to clog up the works. And after a few days of soup, the Japanese left their captives to cook for themselves. This was no frat-house affair of who's turn to pop the mac n' cheese into the microwave; wood to chop, fires and cauldrons to tend, and bread to bake soon sorted mice from men in the new social order.

Per choice, all plunged into chore-time, anything to distract from the despair of a world suddenly shrunk to two hundred square yards of curtailed drudgery. The best workers and problem-solvers quickly rose to the top of this desperate pecking order, and tapped new reserves every day. Plugging leaks in the squalid bachelors' basement dorm, washing and drying clothes with any regularity or effect, mundane comforts like staying clean, dry, and fed became the objects of much effort.

For those who didn't sicken, the physical results were salutary. Overfed executives found their jowls disappearing, while sallow academics grew hale and hearty. Interestingly, the biggest threats to camp peace came from the women. One of the few brawls started in the single women's dorm, over the female missionaries' devotion to vocal late-night praying and dawn light hymn-singing.

In spite of human nature, or more accurately because of it, routine eventually replaced chaos, as this new micropolis of Dutch, Parsee, Cubans, Indians, Italians and a dozen other nationalities all adapted to the barbed wire, guard towers, and day-to-day struggle against privation. They set up a modest clinic, and managed to finagle medicine otherwise denied by their captors. There were even weekend baseball games in fine weather, and weekend choral singing and skits for entertainment. One guard, a former Tokyo conservatory student, would sneak in to the one room whose occupant had managed to haul along a phonograph and some Mozart records. He offered baby formula as the price of admission.

Food, always food topmost in the prisoners' thoughts, especially as Japan's attrition grew severe, and even the fly-blown meat-scraps rationed out became insufficient to flavor a cauldron of soup. The inevitable black market grew silently and flourished, brave and desperate Chinese farmers from surrounding villages supplying

the forbidden goods. A Catholic priest dug a hole under a wall, at which he would kneel to pray, while farmers on the other side would push through eggs and other precious foodstuff. Eventually, his ruse was uncovered. He got a month in solitary confinement, a vacation for the former Trappist monk. The culpable farmers were summarily executed. They and other Chinese heroes, the ones who smuggled news in, or helped escapees hide, have little to commemorate them other than former inmate Mary Previte's speech at the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the camp.

That liberation came from the sky on August 17th, 1945, a massive bomber that attracted the whole camp's attention, inducing pandemonium as it belched a long stream of parachutes out the hatch. A young major and his paratroopers marched into the camp, meeting little resistance, and receiving the warden's sword and gun without protest. But for the liberated, as for so many other survivors of WWII, there was no normal life to return to, much as they had dreamed of it. Only a fraction stayed on in China, and it would be close to fifty years before so many foreigners, and so diverse, once again called the Middle Kingdom home.

From <http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/RonBridge/indexFrame.htm>

Minnie Moselle M	Mrs	British	29.11.79	F	Unemployed	39/3
Minnie Cyril Ezekiel		British	14.11.98	M	Company Employee	39/2
Minnie Lillian Leah	Mrs	British	28.02.12	F	Housewife	39/2
Minnie Hazel Moselle	Miss	British	20.09.33	F	Child	39/3
Minnie Edward R		British	07.06.35	M	Child	39/2
Minnie June F	Miss	British	21.05.39	F	Child	39/3
Minnie A R		British	00.01.44	M	Child	39/2

This page shows which block the Minnys stayed in;

<http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/RonBridge/indexFrame.htm>

This website is for a group of Weih sien researchers;

<http://lists.topica.com/lists/weih sien/?cid=324>