

Welcome to yet another 'new look' newsletter. As you can see I have raided the bank and purchased a computer. For the technically minded it is a Viglen Genie PC 80286 model with 1mb of ram fitted with a 40mb hard disc. It has two drives; 3.5" 1.44mb and 5.25" 1.2mb. The printer is a Citizen Swift 24 pin dot matrix. This newsletter is being produced on the 'Write' word processor accessory that is included in 'Windows 3' software. It is very basic and does not include a spell checker, so I apologise for any errors in advance.

You have probably noticed that the newsletter has acquired an ISSN number. It was a surprize to discover that a newsletter with a limited circulation such as this one is embraced under the 1911 Copyright Act. This requires a copy of each edition to be placed with the British Library. The advantage is that our publication is listed in the British National Bibliography. This appears in weekly parts and is widely disseminated in public libraries throughout the world. Already copies upon request have been sent to the Library of Congress, Washington DC and The Bodleian Library. Incidentally ISSN stands for International Standard Serial Number.

There are some interesting articles in this issue and I think it's a good read. Due to lack of space I have left some pieces over for July's edition, these include articles on Arthur Minney who drowned in the Great War, Non-conformist extracts for Bedfordshire, and more on the Meynells in Yorks. However there is not enough for a full issue so keep them coming. Those of you in Northants must see the occasional Minney in the local press - cut them out and send them in!

With regard to the MINNEY INDEX I am currently looking at a computer program called Pedigree which can be adapted for a one name study. Hopefully the computerised index will be well on its way by July. It will certainly make life a lot easier and will assist in research. It might be an idea to print extracts in future Newsletter editions.

If you have not already done so can you please forward your subscription of £3.00.

Regards

Barrie MINNEY
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Kaye LOIZOU. 'Little Acorns' Bull Close, Bozeat, Northampton.

Eileen HIGGINS. 'Rattys Retreat' 15 Hinwick Road, Wollaston, Northants.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr A.W. BARTRAM 5 Clarendon Road, Norwich, Norfolk

Ben and Grace MINNEY 24 Greentrees Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent

David MINNEY 12 Aragon Road, Morden, Surrey

MINNEY EMIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA

The following list has been compiled by Spence MINNEY ;

1818..John Thomas MINNEY a 15yr old convict transported to
NSW

1844..Francis MINNEY settled in Victoria

1851..Jeffrey MINNEY settled...?

1851..Joseph MINNEY settled in South Australia

1851..Isaac MINNEY settled in South Australia

1854..William MINNEY settled in New South Wales, 16 yrs old

c1898.Herbert MINNEY settled in Victoria

1912..Joseph MINNEY settled in New South Wales

1923..William MINNEY settled in Victoria

Later arrivals include;

George MINNEY, Peter HARRIMAN and family, Marion PRICE and family and the McINNEY family who changed to the latter from MINNEY after arriving!

Now that must be worth checking out. Why would someone change their name from MINNEY to the similar sounding McINNEY, why not SMITH or BROWN? Any volunteers down under?

INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX (IGI)

In the previous newsletter editions I have referred to the IGI without explaining what it is and what it can do as a research aid. So here goes. It is an index on microfiche widely available at record offices, large libraries and some family history societies. It has been compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). It contains many millions of baptisms and marriages but no burials. The most recent dates are around 1885 but the majority of entries are much earlier. Not all parish or non-conformist registers are included and not all entries in a particular register are covered. Some counties are better represented than others, Bedfordshire is well covered as opposed to Northants which has comparatively few entries. Many entries are taken from transcriptions and the best advice is to **check the original source**. Another problem encountered is one of phonetics, some entries of surnames are grouped under similar sounding surnames. However as these were mostly compiled by American researchers it can lead to some strange bedfellows.

For a one-namer it is invaluable, simply by going from county to county and checking the years of entries, it is possible to get an idea of the origins of a name (provided it is not too common). It can also point to areas of possible research.

It is also possible to discover if someone else is researching the same surname by checking the batch number (a reference found at the end of each entry). I was able to find member Mr Leonard JOYCE this way because he had submitted a large number of baptisms from the Yardley Hastings parish register for inclusion. The batch number given indicated that the information was not compiled by a member of the Latter Day Saints. It was then just a matter of contacting the LDS for Mr JOYCE's address.

JOHN THOMAS MINNEY (MENNEY)

A TRANSPORTED CONVICT

In Spence's list of MINNEY emigrants to Australia there appears one John Thomas MINNEY a 15 year old convict transported to New South Wales in 1818. Diane HARRIMAN has sent the following census entry ;

1828 CENSUS FOR NSW

MINNEY Thomas aged 25, free by servitude, transported on the ship BATAVIA in 1818 for seven years, working (in 1828) as a groom to Charles SMITH at George Street, Sydney.

Diane writes, " I have been to the archives and done some research on the MINNEY convict. Unfortunately there is some confusion over the spelling of his surname although all the details relate to the fellow transported on the BATAVIA in 1818. The shipping list for the BATAVIA is handwritten but it looks like he may have been listed as MENNEY when the ship docked."

CONVICT INDENT FOR BATAVIA

'John Thomas MENNEY tried at Surrey Quarter Sessions on the 21st of July 1817. Sentenced to 7 years transportation. Native place, London. Occupation, errand boy. Age 13 yrs. Height 4' 53/4". Complexion, pale. Hair, brown. Eyes, blue.'

"Perhaps they thought he said MENNEY when he got here or maybe the clerk wrote an 'e' instead of 'i'. He may not have been sentenced under MINNEY. I also did a bit of research on the BATAVIA. The BATAVIA sailed from Plymouth on the 1st of November 1817. It sailed via London, Madeira and Bombay. It was owned by Buckle and Co. Although built in Devon in 1802 it was registered as a merchantman in London. It weighed 566 tons, had 10 guns and a crew of 48 men. The master was William B Lamb. On board were 220 male prisoners, a detachment of the 34th and 46th Regiment, 16 tons of coal, 1 cow and 1 calf. There were no deaths on the voyage."

Sarah MINNEY has been to the Surrey Record Office and sent a photocopy of the calendar of the Quarter Session Records for 21st July 1817, it reads as follows ;

' A Kalendar of the Prisoners In Custody of the Keeper of His Majesty's Gaol, In and for the County of Surrey, And The House Of Correction At Newington for the General Quarter Session of the Peace Of Our Sovereign Lord the King, to be holden (by adjournment) at Newington in and for the said county, on Monday the 21st of July 1817. - Thomas Lett the younger Esq. Sherriff '

2. JOHN THOMAS MENNEY & 3. EDWARD HALL;-

"Committed the 25th of April 1817 by R.J.CHAMBERS esq. charged on the oaths of William TOMLINSON and others, with feloniously stealing at Newington four pairs of shoes, his property"

Sentenced to be transported for 7years and 7days to run from the 25th.

Sarah states that in another register MENNEY & HALL were described as 'labrs for GS.LAN'. They pleaded not guilty at the trial. HALL was transported for life.

Many thanks to Spence, Diane and Sarah for this interesting article. The question is, was he a MINNEY or a MENNEY? I would like to think that he was a MINNEY and this is a fairly logical conclusion. Probably the spelling of MENNEY stayed with him from the moment he was charged to the indent list on the BATAVIA. Are there any descendents? Does he appear in any other Australian census returns?

(Extract from Quarter Session Records published with thanks to Surrey Record Office. They have stated that copyright status is unclear . Ref Surrey Record Office QS 2/6.)

EXTRACTS FROM A MINNEY FAMILY BIBLE

I recently visited Brenda PEET and her daughter Kaye LOIZOU at Brenda's home in Sandy, Beds.

Brenda had in her possession a family Bible given to her grandfather Joseph Thomas MINNEY of Great Barford (see later article on his death). The Bible was in a frail condition and had been used by her ancestors as a writing pad! I have copied the names and dates from the book and have kept to the original spellings;

Joseph MINEY born 24 March 1864

Charlotte Elizabeth MINEY born April 19 186?

Sarah Ann MINNEY born June 11 1872

Walter Charles MINNEY born ?January 1875

Margrate Ethel MINNEY born September 4 1877

Maud Mary Barnett MINNEY born March 31 1880

Ather Joseph Minney KIMPTON born January 7 1887

George Albert MINNEY born February 28 1890

John Henry MINNEY born September 12 1891

Flurance Ann MINNEY born July the 4 1893

Benjamen Walter MINNEY born August the 23 1896

Emily Elesebeth MINNEY born the 9 January 1898

Timothy MINNEY born the 21 May 1900

Rose Jane MINNEY born the 2 November 1901

Samuel MINNEY born the 9 September 1903

Hannah Beatries MINNEY born August 11 1909

The inscription inside the Bible read as follows ;

" Given to Joseph Thomas Minney as an invaluable treasure with prayers that by

the grace of God through faith in Christ the Reader may joyfully discover therein the words of eternal life"

Gt Barford

September 29 1864

Joseph Humbley

MORE ON MINNELL, MENNEL & MEYNELL

In the last edition you will recall that I spent a long time explaining why I believed that MINNEY is derived from MINNELL which in turn is, I believe, a variant spelling of MENNELL/MEYNELL. I referred to a marriage in the IGI for Yorkshire for the surname MYNNELL ;

"MYNNELL Catherine wed Robert BRASS 6th November 1607 Northallerton, Yorks."

I decide to take another look at the IGI for Yorks to try and find examples where MINNELL , MENNELL and MEYNELL had been used in the same family. These then are some of the extracts;

IGI YORKS (1988 EDITION)

MINNELL Catherine dau of George and Catherine bpt 7th May 1830 Northallerton

MENIL Catherine dau of George and Catherine bpt 4th May 1832 Northallerton

MENNELL Jane dau of George and Catherine bpt 26th Jan 1823 Northallerton

MENNELL Mary Anne dau of George and Catherine bpt 2nd Nov 1828 Northallerton

MEYNELL Elizabeth dau George and Catherine bpt 30th Oct 1835 Northallerton

MEYNELL Hannah dau of George and Catherine bpt 23rd April 1837 Northallerton

MEYNELL Francis wed Jane SAYER 16th Dec 1793 Brompton by Northallerton

MINNEL Margaret dau of Francis and Jane Sayer bpt 29th Nov 1805 Brompton

MENNELL Francis son of Francis and Jane Sayer bpt 27th Dec 1819 Kingston Upon Hull

MENEL Margaret dau of Francis and Jane Sayer bpt 7th April 1836 Northotterington

MINNELL Elizabeth dau of Maria bpt 22nd September 1839 York All Saints

MINILL William wed Philis ROBINSON 7th July 1702 Northallerton (Baptisms for this couple are spelt MENIL & MENNILL)

This is not an exhaustive list of the examples but in comparison with the large number of MENNELL/MEYNELL entries it is very small. With the examples of MYNNELL/MENNELL in the last edition I am quite happy to accept that MINNEY is derived from MENNELL/MEYNELL. Why one member of this family ended up in Northants and why over the years it became MINNEY we shall probably never know.

MEYNELL BRITISH TELECOM ENTRIES

One of the criteria for joining the Guild of One Name Studies is extracting all UK telephone entries for the surname. I carried out this exercise with other possible variants in the January 1990 edition. It is useful to be able to see the spread of a surname, its possible origin and current population. In the first exercise I did not include MEYNELL. I have now searched all the telephone directories for the UK with the following results ;

MEYNELL = 257 entries giving a projected population of 951. Mostly based in Teeside and Derby.

MINNEY = 218 entries giving a projected population of 807. Mostly based in Northants/Beds/Bucks

MENNELL = 203 entries giving a projected population of 752. Mostly based in Yorkshire/Teeside

One of the most striking facts is the relatively close totals for each surname. I would have expected a far higher ratio for MEYNELL/MENNELL to MINNEY than 2 to 1 if my theory is right that MINNEY is an offshoot from around 400 years ago. The answer could be that the number of

MENNELLS/MEYNELLS in existence in the 16th century was very small. Either that or their numbers must have been very prone to plagues and pestilance!

ALICE MINNYE

Probably one of the earliest MINNEY entries to be found outside Northants is the following ;

LINCOLNSHIRE IGI

'MINNYE Alice wed BATE Richard on 28th May 1621 at Whaplode, Lincs'

There are no other entries for MINNEY at this time. There were however a number of MENNILLS and MENILLS. There are only a few MENNELLS in Lincs today.

If anyone has access to a Mormon Family History Centre could they volunteer to order the microfilm of Whaplode parish register (if one is available) to check the above entry and look for any others? This could be the Alice MINNEY who was baptised at Long Buckby, Northants on 15th June 1600. How did she get to Whaplode? There is a marriage of an Alice MINNEY in Long Buckby on 27th August 1636 to a William TOMSOM (see July 1990 edition).

ANN MINNEY

Peter HALLOWS has written in with the following request ;

"My interest in the MINNEY name springs from a gt-gt grandmother whose maiden name was Ann MINNEY. She married a James BETTEL and they lived in Hendon in North London. The only

reference to her until recently was on the registration of the birth of my gt-grandmother in London, and I had no idea where Ann MINNEY came from nor any other details. However, I obtained recently information from the 1851 census for Hendon which indicates that she was born at Yardley in Northamptonshire around 1804."

"I gather from the MINNEY newsletter that others have been engaged in researching the MINNEY name around Yardley Hastings. I wonder if it would be possible for you to pass on my information to them to try and establish Ann MINNEY's background and possibly some tenuous relationship."

I have had a look on the MINNEY Index and have come up with one possible candidate ;

'MINNEY Ann daughter of Ann baptised 9th June 1805 at Yardley Hastings'

This information was sent in by Leonard JOYCE. However I do not know if it was taken from the parish register of the local church or the Independent Chapel. Your other problem is of course the lack of a father in this entry. There is the following marriage which may help;

'MINNEY William wed Ann BETTLE on 19th June 1799 Yardley Hastings'

I do have a note of two useful baptisms ;

'MINNEY Elizabeth dau of William and Ann bapt 19th Dec 1799 Yardley Hastings'

'MINNEY William son of William and Ann bapt 26th July 1801 Yardley Hastings'

I do not have any records of burials for this time in Yardley Hastings. Are there any volunteers to visit the record office at Delapre` Abbey and check the parish registers for the possible burial of William? It may also be worthwhile having a look at the Overseers of the Poors records in the Parish Chest. Always a good read. I would be interested in any information therein. Please note that the record office is moving to new and larger premises at Mere Way, Northampton. Unfortunately this means that the record office will be shut from March 28th to June 3rd.

THE MINNES OF MICHIGAN

Whilst browsing through the digest section of the September 1990 edition of the Family History News and Digest (ISSN 0309-8559) I saw the above headline which caught my eye. It was under the heading of United States and referred to a Claude Leduc MINNE, a Canadian soldier stationed in SE London during WW1. The full article was in the NW Kent FHS of Mar 1990. Out of curiosity I sent away for the journal. I was amply rewarded for the article also refers to a family of MINNIES who settled in Port Huron, USA. I contacted the writer Raymond DAY and he has given his permission to reproduce the following article;

'During wartime, many servicemen from North America were stationed in Britain and some married local girls. I am descended from such an alliance. My grandfather Claude Leduc MINNE (sometimes written MINNIE MINENE and MINI) while serving with the Canadian Forestry Corps in Catford during the Great War of 1914-18, married my grandmother Lillian McNEILL at St Saviour's Catholic Church, Lewisham, in August 1918. On the marriage certificate under rank or profession was "844982 Private Canadian Forestry Corps (machinist)" and his residence was "Canadian Forestry Corps, Mechanical Branch, Catford". Father's name was Louis Napoleon MINNE (deceased).

'My mother was born a year later and Claude unexpectedly died from pneumonia while in America on 18th January 1923. Before I began any research, I held certificates for the above marriage and Claude's death as well as a Great War service medal inscribed "844982 A-SGT.C.L.MINNE W.O.R".

'As my mother was only three when her father died, little was known of Claude MINNE or his family and my grandmother had thrown out letters and address books that may have contained entries of Claude's family.

'The other clue I had to begin my research was that despite being a Canadian soldier, Claude was an American because my mother had to register as a U.S. citizen at the outbreak of WW2.

I wrote to the Canadian High Commission in London to see if they held any service records of the Forestry Corps. They replied that all service records were destroyed in 1968 but suggested I should write to the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa. I wrote and after waiting nearly six months for a reply received a large package containing Claude's statement of service, which gave his date and place of birth, 26th May 1876 at Port Huron, Michigan, USA, and the date and place of enlistment, 16th May 1916 at Sarnia, Ont.. He was honourably discharged in London on 28th August 1919 with the rank of Sergeant. There were also his attestation paper and enlistment papers which gave his height, girth, eye, and hair colour. They also enclosed a list of where he was stationed throughout the war from his arrival in England on the S.S. Lapland on 20th April 1917 until his discharge. Claude's birthplace and his town of enlistment are separated by the River St. Clair on the Canadian/U.S. border and I can imagine Claude boarding the ferry to cross the blue St. Clair River into Canada to enlist.

I wrote to the Registrar of Births and Deaths in Port Huron for a copy of Claude's birth certificate. After a week or so I received the certificate along with the address of the St.Clair County Family History Group. After writing to this group, I received by return, pages of photostats relating to the MINNE family. One of the documents was a copy of a page taken from the *History of St. Clair County*, which had an entry for Louis N. MINNE, Claude's father, and another for his grandfather, **Joseph P. MINNIE, who happened to be one of the earliest settlers in Port Huron;**

Louis N Minnie, City Clerk, is a son of Joseph P and Adelaide Minnie, who were among the earliest settlers of Port Huron. He was born in this city October 4, 1843. Grew up and received his education here. When fourteen years of age, entered dry goods store, and remained there about five years. Then went South and during the last two years of the war served in the ordnance department at Knoxville, Tenn. Then returned here and entered dry goods trade again. On account of his ill health he gave that up and entered the employ of the Great Western on Ferry, Saginaw, and remained there for eight years. In April 1881 was elected City Clerk, and in April 1882 was re-elected again in April 1883 to same office. He has also held the office of Collector of the Second Ward. Mr Minnie was united in marriage to Miss Helen Mai Jones, a native of Ann Arbor, May 23, 1871. They have four children - Claude Leduc, James E, Richard Jones and Louis T.

There follows an account of the life of Joseph P MINNIE, born April 21, 1807, died March 10, 1865. The book appears to have been printed about 1885, since it does not include the terrible death of Louis Napoleon MINNIE that occurred July 3, 1886.)

The St Clair County Family History Group sent a long newspaper article that described Louis Napoleon's fatal firework accident. The horrific accident happened at the firework display for the National holiday 1886. Mr MINNIE had set fire to the great 'Washington' set-piece when the wind caused the firing to go wrong and there was an explosion setting off the whole set-piece at once. Mr MINNIE was hit by several rockets, and horribly burnt. The report also gives a biographical sketch of Mr MINNIE's life.

LETTER FROM SARAH MINNEY

"I suppose you could say it was all my husband's fault really....."

You see when we first set up home together he suggested that since he had a hobby or two I really ought to have one too and so I looked around for something I could do in my spare time. It was a couple of months later that whilst talking to a colleague about his family history that I realized that I didn't know anything about my own family history, and from what he said it all seemed quite easy. I borrowed a book from my colleague and away I went.

After a couple of years and getting stuck in places on my own line I decided to have a go at the MINNEY line. Several phone calls to my in-laws later I had got a small, but quite good tree together.

The first name on it was Frederick Pennyburg MINNEY. What a wonderful name !! Frederick was my husband's grandfather and hailed from Northamptonshire. A family story said that his middle name was derived from his mother's maiden name. I obtained Frederick's marriage certificate and discovered that his father was Jacob MINNEY, a hawker by trade. Further research revealed that Jacob's wife was Mary nee` PENNYBURG and that she came from Hertford. A search of the St Catherine's House indices did not reveal her birth so I checked the parish registers for Hertford. According to the parish register she was Mary PINNEBERG. The earliest PINNEBERG that I can find in Hertford is Albert Frederick Louis PINNEBERG who was at one time landlord of the Woolpack pub in Hertford (the pub is still there although the building looks too modern to be the one owned by Frederick). Unfortunately he died in 1830, too early for census returns, so I am unable to find out where he came from, but with a name like that he must have been a German or perhaps from the Alsace region in France.

Jacob MINNEY was baptised in 1846 in Colmworth in Bedfordshire, one of a large family to George MINNEY and Rebecca (nee` LOXLEY).

George MINNEY was baptised on 14th June 1818 at his mother's parish of Swineshead, not far from Colmworth. His parents were Joseph MINNEY and Hannah (nee` ISLIP). George grew up to be an Ag.Lab. (*agriculteral labourer*) -surprise, surprise!!!!!!

This is where the going gets tough..... Joseph MINNEY (according to the census returns) was born in approx. 1795 at Eaton Socon. There was only one couple called MINNEY in that area at that time and they were Spencer MINNEY who married Ann MALLING in 1794 at Eaton Socon. However there is no trace of a baptism of a son to them in 1795 and as yet no trace of a baptism of a Joseph MINNEY. They were both buried at Eaton Socon by 1810, and we don't see Joseph until he married Hannah ISLIP in 1818 at Swineshead (four months before the baptism of their son George). One thing in favour of assuming Joseph's parentage is that his son George named one of his sons Spencer, not a common name and one of his daughters Ann.

Of all George and Rebecca's children (eleven in all) the only one we know about is Jacob, so if anyone out there can tack themselves onto this lot, let me know!!!!!!

(Sarah has also sent a lot of information on her MINNEY line which I will include in the next newsletter)

MEYNELLS OF NORTHALLERTON

(SOME EARLY REFERENCES)

I recently joined Cleveland Family History Society in the hope of finding out more on the name MEYNELL and its variants. I have had several letters from Carol McLEE (part of the editorial team) and other members of the society. This is an extract from her first letter;

" I have jotted down some references to the name MYNNELL - the most common variant in these parts being MEYNELL. All these are early references, and places mentioned are all within a 20 mile radius of Northallerton. References are taken from '*A History of Yarm*' by John Wardell"

MEYNELL- Internments in Church and yard of Yarm Friary

Hugh de Meynell, Lord of Hilton died after 1260.

Alice his wife.

Rbt de Meynell their son died before 1283.

John de Meynell his son died before 1316.

Sybil his wife.

Nicholas de Meynell their son died after 1361.

Cecily his wife.

John de Meynell their son died before 1417

Isabel his wife buried in St Katherine's Chapel

Robt de Meynell, John's younger brother and successor died about 1444

Mary wife of Nicholas de Meynell buried in St Katherine's Chapel.

The Meynells of Hilton are direct ancestors of the Meynells of N. Kilvington who aquired Yarm Friarage in 1770 and the Manor of Yarm in 1813. Land granted to the friars was witnessed about 1277 by John de Meynell of Middleton (this is probably Middleton upon Leven close to Yarm).

The Meynells of Yarm was a well-to-do recusant family. Interesting that John Mayes (educated at Donay, n-e France-English Catholic college to train for priesthood) born at Yarm 1670 died Oct 1742, married Mary dau of Roger Meynell of N. Kilvington died Yarm 1745 aged 59, had a daughter Cecily. She was born in Yarm 1722 and married James Fermor, a member of a recusant family in **Northants** (parish unknown). Died without issue in 1770. Early 1700-1800s Meynell papers contain land records and much family information. All Meynell properties were converted into settled estates in 1871 as tenants for life and the last one was Lucy Mary Meynell who died Feb. 1954.

RECUSANCY RECORDS

April 1611 Thos Mennell esq of N.Kilvington and Mary his wife. They have 5 children above 9 yrs old which ' have bene forth of their parish (Thornton-Le-Street) a yere

----- 1613 Above presented again at Richmond

----- 1614 Presented at Helmsley with Francis and Christopher their sons both under 9 and an infant dau, all of N.Kilvington.

----- 1626 Thomas Mennell fined £200 for harbouring 4 recusants.

----- 1674 Thirsk presentation of Roger Meynell of N.Kilvington and Mary his wife.

Committed to gaol in 1679 for refusing to take oaths.

Plus other later mentions

RECUSANTS - AN EXPLANATION

A Recusant was one who refused to comply with the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England. It was most commonly used of Roman Catholics and Nonconformists and other Protestant dissenters. In Elizabethan times fines were imposed by the Churchwardens for failure to attend Church on Sundays and Holy Days. In 1581 the offence became indictable and much more stringent fines were imposed by the Sherrifs. The details of such fines were recorded in the Pipe Rolls. Failure to pay the fines led to seizure of the Recusant's goods and much of his land. From 1592, the information was recorded in the *Rotuli Recusantium* on a county by county basis. The Rolls give the name of the Recusant, rent, description of land, date of seizure, payments or arrears of payments etc. These records which cover approximately a century are in PRO Chancery Lane, Classes E.376 to 379.

Quote taken from '*The Family Historian's Enquire Within*' by FC Markwell & Pauline Saul.

(Interesting to note that the MINNEYS of Yardley Hastings were strong Nonconformists)

WESTON FAVELL (NORTHANTS) 1881 CENSUS ENTRY

MINNEY William	Head M	34yrs	Ag.Lab	Born	Yardley Hastings
MINNEY Ann R	Wife M	26yrs	"	Weston Favell	"
MINNEY Arthur	Son	6yrs	Scholar (imbecile)	"	"
MINNEY Thomas	Son	4yrs	"	"	"
MINNEY William	Son	1yr	"	"	"

"I wonder what happened to poor Arthur, locked away in an institution in later life I suppose. "(*census details supplied by Diane Harriman*)

LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Sarah Minney sent in the details (from a directory) of the only known Minney in South Africa (also see page 11 of July 90 newsletter). I wrote to him and this is his reply;

Dave and Pam MINNEY

PO BOX 610 WELKOM

9460 RSA

July 1990

"Thanks very much for your interesting letter. I think you are right when you say I may be the only Minney in South Africa. I have often looked in telephone directories only to find Minnie, Minny and Minne. I think these 'Minnies' come from Europe (Holland or Flanders).

As for me I was born in Exmouth, Devon and I came out to work in Africa in 1974. I have moved around quite a bit, starting as a geologist for De Bers Diamond mines in South West Africa. I have subsequently concentrated on gold mining.

I am not the first Minney in South Africa as I had a distant relative who fought in the Anglo Boer war in the Staffordshire Regiment. He returned to Britain safely and we still have a letter written by him from the 'front' in 1901.

My late father was Lewis Gregory Minney and he came from Wellingborough in Northamptonshire. By all accounts my Minney background would seem to be based around Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire. I have an uncle who I have never met who lives near Liverpool, his name is Vivienne

Minney. My father started investigating the family history and since his death two and half years ago a distant cousin (*Sarah Minney?*) has continued the research. I do not have her address but you could possibly contact her via my sister, Mary Rowe who lives in Harpenden. The last I heard was that they had found some graves in the Midlands with dates of about 1770!

I would be very interested to know the origins of the name Minney and also whether you think we are related.

I have married a South African, Pam (nee` Van den Heearn) and have two sons, Clyde and Christopher.

Thank you for your interest."

Pam and Dave Minney

(I have replied to Dave hopefully to hear more about his Boer War relative and perhaps to find out a little bit more on the other Minnie, Minny and Minne families in S.A. Dave's letter took nearly four months to get here so there may be more for the next newsletter.)

RESEARCH INTO MR MINNEY OF LONDON

I have received the following letter from the Society for Theatre Research, c/o The Theatre Museum, 1e Tavistock Street, London WC2E 7PA in connection with the portrait of 'Mr Minney of London' who was rumoured to have once been on the stage (see July 1990 edition);

"Thank you for your letter. The committee of the STR was most interested in the picture and we made various attempts to locate the sitter in reference works on stage performers, such as Wearing's 'London Theatre Record' for the 1890's.

Alas we have drawn a blank, and if you find any more information we will be happy to investigate further. Part of the problem is that we are dealing here with a man of mature but unspecified age whose stage career might have been either recent or decades ago. He could have been a juvenile phenomenon, a chorus boy, a circus rider, a romantic lead long before 1920, or he might have played heavy fathers or sung comic songs much more recently. He may have had a stage name, too, or had a career in the provinces in an under-documented location.

If you can pick up any further clues from the press coverage of the picture please pass them on. For example, any indication of whether Mr Minney was a 'straight' actor or a music hall artiste would be useful. So far the response to the picture is the only source we have; it is possible that if it aroused a lot of public interest Mr Minney was interviewed, photographed or written up in a chatty way for some non-specialist journal, there used to be much more interest in the Academy than there is now.

Have you tried 'Punch', for instance? Or the 'Tatler'? Or the 'London Illustrated News'?"

Yours sincerely

Frances Dann

Jt Hon Sec.

(Anyone looking for entries under the ' Tate' should also look under the 'National Gallery').

SOME PARISH REGISTER ENTRIES FOR ST NICHOLAS, ABINGDON

William Minney wed Mary Fisher at St Nicholas, Abingdon, Berks on 10th October 1703

Ann and Jon. twins of William Minney and his wife bapt 3rd March 1716, St Nicholas

Ann and John twins of William Minney buried at St Helens 9th March 1716, " "

Information kindly supplied by Paul Pettit.

These are amongst the earliest recordings of the name Minney outside Northants. There is another parish for Abingdon called St Helen, unfortunately the original register is not held at Berks record office. There is a copy of the entries for baptisms, weddings and burials 1538 to 1836 at the Bodleian Library and possibly another at the Society of Genealogists. I would be grateful for a volunteer to check the latter two locations. It seems odd that there is a gap of 13 years between wedding and baptisms. Non-conformist records for Abingdon for 1723 to 1837 are at the Public Record Office and may be worth a look.

(Information on St Helen and non-conformist registers from 'Phillimore's Atlas & Index of Parish Registers')

THE DEATH OF JOSEPH MINNEY

On page seven there are extracts from the Bible originally given to Joseph Thomas Minney born 24th March 1864 at Great Barford, Beds, the eldest son of George and Hannah Minney. He married Mary Ann Kimpton , and they had ten children. He died on 12th September 1921 in Gt Barford. Brenda Peet is his granddaughter. Family legend has it that not all was right about his death. The official cause was 'accidental death' after being thrown from his horse. However there was a suspicion that he was struck by a stone thrown by a youth at the crossroads.

Edith Minney has obtained the following copy of the County Coroner's report from the Bedfordshire Times ;

GREAT BARFORD

DEATH OF MR. J.T. MINNEY

The Deputy County Coroner (Mr G J M Whyley) conducted an inquest on Tuesday at the "Golden Cross" on Joseph Thomas Minney, 58, Market Gardener, who fell from his horse during the afternoon of the previous day and died later in the evening.

Dr. Richard Coates said he saw deceased at his house soon after the accident. He found a wound at the back of his head which was not of a serious nature and there was no fracture of the skull. The wound was about half an inch long and had bled slightly. He dressed the wound and got deceased to bed. He was sent for again at about 8 o'clock and found deceased dead. In his opinion, deceased had concussion of the brain and died of heart failure.

Mrs Minney identified the deceased as her late husband who on coming home the previous afternoon about 4 o'clock went and fed the horse and drew some water. She found him in the barn and told him to come in and have his dinner. He went in and sat on the couch and complained of his head. She bathed his head which was bleeding slightly. He told her "they" had helped him on the horse and then had thrown a stone and the horse kicked up and threw him over its head. He said "they have been having a game with me".

Archibald Tatman, a labourer, said he saw deceased at crossroads trying to sell a horse. He trotted it up and down the road once or twice. The prospective purchaser bid him two prices but did not come to terms and they drove off. Mr Minney asked witness to give him a leg up on the horse to go home. He did so and before deceased had gone a few yards the pony skewed round and Mr Minney appeared to slide off. Witness thought he fell on his

feet and then backwards on his head. Witness picked him up and set him on his feet. He said he was all right and walked off leading the pony. There were four others beside witness who were looking on. No one threw anything at the pony or startled it.

Walter R Page also gave evidence.

The jury found that deceased died from injuries caused by being accidently thrown from a pony.

SEEN IN

