

It appears that each newsletter commences with an apology from me for it's lateness- well here is another one. I really must allow more time to put them together. I note that Spence in his recent "Insight" allows up to three months to complete.

I start with good intentions, I deliberate over the right mix of articles, agonize over those I have left out for one reason or another (if this applies to anyones' article, please forgive me, I will publish everything sooner or later). Then comes the typing, the corrections, the typesetting and finally, the printing of a master copy for photocopying. The printing and photocopying alone take several evenings and then I have to staple them up after sorting in order over 500 sheets of paper. And then comes the worst part - licking all those stamps - yuk!

I am running out of pictures to include in articles(definate lack of pictures this issue). Ideally, newspaper prints or black & white pictures (not colour as these do not copy very well) would be very welcome. So please have a look at your scrap book or old suitcase in the loft full of old momentos. I know you have got them if your family is anything like mine - hoarders of yellowing school reports and old newspaper cuttings.

Well, that 's it for this issue, it is hard to believe that we are now into the fifth year of this newsletter. Next issue I hope to have done some research on Buckinghamshire and at the India Record Office. Jane Mëylink Green has provided details of a Minnee family from Holland during the 2nd World War and Doris Blake has sent a report on her visit to Egypt to see her father's memorial. Also, I have drawn up a map showing the parishes on the Beds, Bucks and Northants border which I have left out of this issue due to lack of space. Hopefully this map will make sense of some of the parish register entries. And at last I hope to be able to include the long awaited piece on Abingdon.

PS. Don't forget the subscription, £3 UK and Europe, £5.50 overseas.

Regards

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New Member

David Minney, 24 Shuttleworth Road, Clifton Upon Dunsmore, Rugby, Warwicks.

I have been helping David on his line of Minney from Yardley Hastings. David has sent copies of numerous certificates and his 'tree' and I will be putting these in a future newsletter.

Sir Hugh Meyni

Over the last couple of years the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies Family History journal¹ has been featuring a Roll of Arms described as "The Names of the Noblemen & Gentlemen in eache shire of Englaund wich were in the feild in the tyme of King Henry the third & King Edward the Firste".²

The introduction to this Roll of Arms is worth repeating as follows³;

This bound paper manuscript collection of named and tricked shields presents an interesting version of the "Parliamentary" roll of arms. There are a number of different versions which record principal persons supposed to have been summoned to Parliament as Knights of the Shire when required for council. The listings which appear to be based on a strictly contemporary source were written in blazon.⁴ The several versions, copies and editions are described by Sir Anthony Wagner in "A Catalogue of English Medieval Rolls of Arms 1950" and by James H Greenstreet in "The Genealogist, vol v, pp 14-18.

The version we have here is somewhat out of order and probably stems from the school of Robert Cooke, supposedly the son of a tanner who entered St John's College, Cambridge in 1553 (M.A., 1561). After some private employment in noble households, Cooke was appointed Rose Pursuivant Extraordinary on the 25th January 1562 and Chester Herald four days later, rising to Clarenceux King of Arms five years later becoming one of the most wealthy and active heralds of all times.

The book is presently bound in rubbed calf, size 8½ins x 12½ins. Illustrations and text appear on 70 leaves of paper.

Edited versions of this roll have previously appeared as "Parliamentary Writs" (1827), vol.i, pp.410-20, by Francis Palgrave; as "A Roll of Arms, of the Reign of Edward the Second" (1829) by Nicholas Harris Nicholas; as "The Parliamentary Roll of Arms" by Oswald Barron in The Genealogist (New Series) vol.xi (1885), pp108-16, 174-82, 238-44; vol.xii, 59-62, 133-6, 206, 211, 268-82; as "Philipot Roll" by James Greenstreet in the Antiquarian Magazine, (1882), vol.i, pp.38-40. The index of knights begins with a translation of the name and description of their arms. The original entry of name and description of arms is then given on the next line. Following this there is a small 'who's who' type entry.

Below is a description of one Sir Hugh Menyll⁵;

MENYLL, Sr Hugh: Vairy Argent and Sable, a label Gules, p.95

(MEYNI, Sire Huge Meyni: verre de argent e de sable e vn label de goul, 619).

Held lands in counties Cambridge, York, Leicester, Derby, Stafford and Warwick. Summoned to serve against Scots 1296. Pardon re Gaveston 1313. Knight of the Shire for Derbyshire 1324.

Summoned to Great Council at Westminster 1324. Writ for his inquisition 12th August 1333.

The change from Mennell/Minnell to Minney is well documented in the parish registers of Long Buckby and Yardley Hastings, Northants from 17th to early 18thc but this is the first occasion that I have seen this type of transcription change outside of these parishes.

I wrote to Cecil Humphrey-Smith asking if he could perhaps explain this entry further. He very

¹Commencing vol 15, number 22, new series number 98. January 1990

²Henry was born 1207 and died 1272. Edward was born 1239 and died 1307.

³Author is Cecil R. Humphrey-Smith, FSA

⁴Blazon = heraldic shield, coat of arms, to describe or paint arms heraldically.

⁵Family History journal vol.16, No.134. New Series No.110 January 1993, page 250

kindly sent some extracts from the four volume book "Knights of Edward 1" by the Rev C Moor (1931) which refer to several knights with the name Meynill.

He believes that "Sire Huge Meyni" may be an early transcription error from one version of the Parliamentary Roll and that this may have been enshrined in print though the original does not have this rendering. He also added that he believed that Minney is derived from the Irish surname of O'Maonaigh hence Meaney and Mooney.

Well, I am not convinced on this theory. For a start, I have yet to discover any cross-over from Meaney/Mooney to Minney and would be surprised to do so. I would accept that the very few Miney entries that I have discovered in Liverpool and Ireland probably did derive from O'Maonaigh (the current pronunciation of O'Maonaigh is Oh-Marn-ee).

And as to the theory that Menyll/Meyni is a transcription error - isn't this how some variations of surnames came about?

I have managed to gather various pieces (mostly family trees) on the early Meynells and if any one would like some copies then let me know.

The Minneys of Hereford 1675 to 1800

Some time ago I mentioned that I was planning to do an article on the Minney entries found in the IGI. Eighteen months ago I visited the record office at Hereford and began searching the parish registers for Hereford. It soon became apparent that there were a large number of Minney entries that would take more than a day to sort out.

Reluctantly I have had to use the services of a professional. It is possible that some Minney variants have been missed as he certainly needed guidance in some elementary areas on this type of research. I have listed the entries in date order below with a brief description of the codes that I have used, plus a list of the records searched.

The parish register for Peterchurch is, apparently still with the incumbent and needs to be researched. I stopped at the year 1800 due to lack of finance!

It is anybody's guess where this line of Minneys have come from. The source of the entry is the parish register/ Bishops transcript unless stated.

First	Surname	Event	Rel.	Male_rel	Fem_rel	Date	Place	Source
William	Menney	bpt	s	John	Jane	06/11/1668	Peterchurch	IGI88
Elizabeth	Menney	bpt	d	John	Jane	12/07/1670	Peterchurch	IGI88
John	Monnoe	bur	m			01/19/1675	Hereford St Owen	
Philip	Meney	bpt	s	John	Jane	01/12/1679	Peterchurch	
Hannah	Money	bpt	d	John	Jane	07/05/1680	Peterchurch	
Anne	Meney	bur	d	John		08/02/1681	Peterchurch	
James	Money	bpt	s	John	Jane	07/08/1683	Peterchurch	
Henry	Meney	bpt	s	John	Jane	11/01/1685	Peterchurch	
William	Meney	bur	s	John	Jane	05/10/1692	Peterchurch	
Francis	Monny	bpt	s	Francis	Anne	11/20/1696	Hereford St Owen	
Mary	Minny	bpt	d	Francis	Mary	04/13/1701	Hereford St Owen	
William	Menney	bpt	s	James	Jane	02/18/1706	Hereford St Owen	IGI88
Robert	Meny	bpt	s	Francis	Mary	09/01/1706	Hereford St Owen	
William	Menney	bpt	s	James	Anne	02/18/1707	Hereford St Owen	
Hannah	Meney	bpt	d	James	Anne	01/06/1710	Hereford St Owen	
Hannah	Meney	bur	d	James		01/14/1710	Hereford St Owen	
James	Menney	bpt	s	James	Anne	04/17/1712	Hereford St Owen	IGI88
James	Menney	bpt	s	James	Anne	04/19/1712	Hereford St Owen	
Barnabas	Minoy	bur	m			08/31/1717	Hereford St Nicholas	
Francis	Menney	bur	m			07/01/1718	Hereford St Owen	
William	Minney	mar	h		Margaret	04/04/1727	Hereford St Peter	
Margaret	Minney	bur	w	William		01/19/1728	Hereford St Owen	
William	Minney	mar	h		Sarah	11/03/1728	Hereford St Peter	
Anne	Minney	bpt	d	William	Sarah	01/29/1730	Hereford St Owen	IGI88
Anne	Minney	bpt	d	William	Sarah	01/29/1731	Hereford St Owen	
Sarah	Minney	bpt	d	William	Sarah	12/27/1732	Hereford St Owen	IGI88
Sarah	Minney	bpt	d	William	Sarah	12/27/1732	Hereford St Owen	
Anne	Minney	bpt	d	William	Sarah	02/17/1734	Hereford St Owen	IGI88
Anne	Minney	bpt	d	William	Sarah	02/19/1735	Hereford St Owen	
Jane	Minney	bpt	d	William	Sarah	04/28/1736	Hereford St Owen	IGI88
Jane	Minney	bpt	d	William	Sarah	04/28/1736	Hereford St Owen	
Jane	Minney	bur	d	William		07/26/1736	Hereford St Owen	
Elizabeth	Minney	bpt	d	William	Sarah	07/17/1737	Hereford St Owen	IGI88
Elizabeth	Minney	bpt	d	William	Sarah	07/17/1737	Hereford St Owen	
James	Minney	bpt	s	William	Mary	09/16/1738	Hereford St Owen	IGI88
James	Minney	bpt	s	William	Mary	09/16/1738	Hereford St Owen	

James	Minney	bur	s	William		12/17/1738	Hereford St Owen
William	Minney	bpt	s	William	Sarah	07/03/1740	Hereford St Owen IGI88
William	Minney	bpt	s	William	Sarah	07/03/1740	Hereford St Owen
Thomas	Minney	bpt	s	William	Sarah	11/08/1742	Hereford St Owen IGI88
Thomas	Minney	bpt	s	William	Sarah	11/09/1742	Hereford St Owen
Sarah	Minney	ndx	d	William		01/01/1743	Hereford
HEREF_BIOG							
John	Minney	bpt	s	William	Sarah	10/29/1745	Hereford St Owen IGI88
John	Minney	bpt	s	William	Sarah	10/29/1745	Hereford St Owen
Anne	Minney	bur	w	James		12/04/1748	Hereford St Owen
James	Minney	mar	h		Anne	08/20/1749	Hereford St Nicholas IGI88
James	Minney	mar	h		Anne	08/20/1749	Hereford St Nicholas
Thomas	Minney	mar	h		Elizabeth	07/30/1764	Hereford St Peter IGI88
Thomas	Minney	mar	h		Elizabeth	07/30/1764	Hereford St Peter
William	Minney	mar	h		Rebecca	06/15/1766	Hereford St Peter IGI88
William	Minney	mar	h		Rebecca	06/15/1766	Hereford St Peter
Mary	Minney	bpt	d	William	Rebecca	08/28/1768	Almeley
William	Minney	bur	m			09/27/1768	Hereford St Owen
Elizabeth	Minney	bpt	d	Thomas	Elizabeth	11/15/1772	Hereford St Owen IGI88
Elizabeth	Minney	bpt	d	Thomas	Elizabeth	11/15/1772	Hereford St Owen
Elizabeth	Minney	bur	d	Thomas		10/08/1773	Hereford St Owen
William	Minney	bpt	s		Ann	01/16/1774	Hereford St Peter
Sarah	Minney	bur	f			05/05/1774	Hereford St Owen
Ann	Minney	mar	w			07/14/1777	Hereford St Peter IGI88
Ann	Minney	mar	w			07/14/1777	Hereford St Peter
Ann	Minney	bur	wd			08/06/1777	Hereford St Owen
James	Minney	ndx	m			11/21/1777	Hereford
HEREF_BIOG							
Thomas	Minney	bur	m			07/17/1796	Hereford St Owen
Ann	Minney	bur	f			10/01/1799	Hereford St Owen

Source - Place	Record	Type	Date From	Date To
Almeley All	BT Film	25.03.1750	31.12.1800	
Hereford St Nicholas	All PR Film	25.03.1700	31.12.1782	
Hereford St Nicholas	Bpt & Burials	PR Film	01.01.1783	31.12.1800
Hereford St Nicholas	Mar	PR Film	01.01.1754	31.12.1812
Hereford St Owen	All	BT Film	25.03.1674	25.03.1726
Hereford St Owen	All	PR Film	25.03.1726	31.03.1731
Hereford St Owen	All	BT Film	25.03.1701	25.03.1712
Hereford St Owen	All	PR Film	25.03.1712	25.03.1725
Hereford St Owen	Bpt Bur	PR Film	25.03.1726	25.03.1760
Hereford St Owen	All	BT Film	25.03.1760	25.03.1770
Hereford St Owen	Bpt Bur	PR Film	25.03.1770	31.12.1779
Hereford St Owen	All	BT Film	01.01.1780	31.12.1800
Hereford St Peter	All	PR Film	25.03.1699	25.03.1754
Hereford St Peter	Bpt Bur	PR Film	01.01.1755	31.12.1790
Hereford St Peter	All	BT Film	01.01.1791	31.12.1800
Hereford St Peter	Mar	PR Film	01.01.1754	31.12.1800
Peterchurch	All	BT Film*	25.03.1660	25.03.1700
Diocesan Wills Index			1688	1830

*The Peterchurch BTs were badly torn and difficult to read for 1679/80

Hereford parish registers not checked;

All Saints 1669 - ?, whereabouts unknown, Holy Trinity 1885 - 1947, St James 1870 - 1920, St John Baptist 1687 - ? whereabouts unknown and St Martin 1559 - 1957.

List of abbreviations used

bpt = baptism

BT = Bishops transcript (of the parish register)

bur = buried

d = daughter

f = female

Film = Microfilm, I have the references if required

h = husband

HEREF_BIOG = Biographical index held at Hereford Record Office

IGI 88 = refers to 1988 version

m = male

mar = marriage

ndx = index

s = son

w = wife

wd = widow

James Minney - Servitor

Coningsby Hospital, Hereford.

Admitted 21st November 1777

James appears in the Hereford biographical index with the above reference. His birthplace is given as St Owens and although no age is given I believe he is the son of James and Ann Menney baptised 17th or 19th April 1712.

The Coningsby Hospital at Hereford has been preserved as a museum and whilst in Hereford we paid a visit. The hospital is laid out very much as it would have appeared in the 17th and 18thc. A lot of the records have been lost but I did manage to obtain a guide book and have quoted the following extracts;

It (Coningsby Hospital) is remote in time, situated as it is on a site which was a former hostelry and Chapel of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem, and adjoining it that of an ancient monastery which formerly belonged to the Order of Black Friars. Its founder was Sir Thomas Coningsby, who in about 1614 was inspired to furnish a refuge for worn out soldiers and servants "to the honour of God for His protection. As also for his preservation against malice."

There were twelve tenements and one additional in the former gatehouse range.

Sir Thomas lived at a time of religious bigotry and fanaticism. All the more remarkable therefore that a local gentleman should indulge in the luxury of philanthropy and anticipate the welfare state by three centuries. There was considerable poverty at this time aggravated by the Enclosures¹.

The deed creating the hospital gave the details of the organisation;

"There shall be eleven poore ould servitors that have been souldiers, marriners, or serving men,...six of the servitors to be ould souldiers of three

¹A practise of enclosing open and common land by wealthy land owners, mostly to the detriment of the rural poor who lost grazing and other rights. Empowered by Acts of Parliament. Process lasted for several centuries from 16th to 19thc.

yeares' service in the warrs.....the other five to be ould Serving men of seaven yeares service in one family"

The servitors received 2/6d¹ (12½p) a week payable Mondays. They wore a uniform of a fustian² suit of ginger colour, a hat with a border of white and red, a soldier like jerkyn with half sleeves and square skirts down half the thigh, Moncado or Spanish cap, a soldier-like sword with a belt to wear "as he goeth abroad". In addition "a seemely gowne likewise of redd cloth reaching downe to the ankle lined likewise with redd baies".

There were strict behaviour guidelines, failure to comply meant expulsion.

There are some who believe that Nell Gwynn, born in Hereford, 1650, having known Coningsby Hospital and its inmates persuaded Charles II to found a similar hospital in Chelsea and to create the famous Chelsea Pensioners. This is a delightful legend and is perhaps not beyond the bounds of possibility.

We had a wonderful guided tour (look out for the dead monk in the floor!) by the curator, who was a mine of information. I can recommend a visit if you ever travel to Hereford.

Some Bedford Village Churchyards
Memorial Headstones

Cardington

War Memorial - 1914 to 1918 F Minney

Frank Alfred Minney died 28th April 1960 age 65

Hilda May Minney died 14th July 1976 age 84

also daughter Daphne Lillian Minney 25th March 1936 age 15 years 9 months

Harry Minney died 16th June 1961 age 80

May Minney died 23rd April 1966 age 83

Joseph Minney died 21st January 1952 age 70

also Rose Patience Minney died 24th May 1971 age 93

Cople

William Herbert Minney died 12th Dec 1899, age 30 years. Son of Benjamin and Luisa Minney

Also William Herbert Minney son of above drowned at Cople Feb 16th 1900 age 7³

Great Barford⁴

Dorothy Kathleen Minney died 12th December 1951 age 51

George Albert Minney died 23rd February 1966 age 75

Maud Mary Barnett Muncey (formerly Minney) died 1st May 1965 aged 84

Joseph Thomas Minney died 12th September 1921 aged 57

Mary Ann Minney died 16th May 1933 aged 66

Samuel Minney died 1st March 1983 aged 79

Sandy

Amy Gertrude Minney died 26th March 1927 age 54

and Walter Charles Minney died 23rd February 1931 age 56

Census Return for Olney, Bucks 1851

Dorothy Hone has supplied these entries from Olney;

¹This is about a third of the wage an agricultural labourer would have received- source Lionel Munby's "How much is that worth?"

²Fustian - twilled cotton cloth

³See Minney Newsletter January 1990

⁴I did have the details of a David Minney buried at Great Barford but appear to have mislaid them. I would be grateful if anyone from Great Barford could pass them on to me.

Dag Lane

George Minney age 19, an unmarried shoemaker, born Olney, lodging at the house of Sarah Morgan
Yardley Road

Joseph Minney age 28, farm labr, born Yardley Hastings

Mary Ann Minney, his wife age 30, lacemaker, born Olney

Naomi Minney, daughter age 3, born Olney

William Minney, age 1, born Olney

Also living in this household is sister-in-law Sarah Clifton, age 16, unmarried, lacemaker born
Olney. A clue to the maiden name of Mary Ann?

High Street

Charles Minney age 37, Ag labr, born Yardley Hastings

Catherine Minney, his wife age 26, lacemaker, born Ravenstone, Bucks

What is of interest is that both Joseph and Charles were born Yardley Hastings.

26 Chapel Place, Northampton 1891

Whilst on the subject of census returns, David Minney has sent the entry for the above address;

William Minney age 28, labr, born Yardley, Northants

Martha Minney, his wife age 28, born Rothersthorpe, Northants

William, son age 7, a scholar, born Northampton

Henry, son age 5, a scholar, born Northampton

Charles, son age 1, born Northampton.

Henry is David's grandfather.

Bedfordshire Jury Lists

There was a time when to serve on a jury you had to have some form of property qualification. In
1825 that qualification was restricted to men aged between 21 and 60, who owned property worth at
least £10 per year, or leased property worth at least £20 per year, or rented property worth at least
£30. These lists of jurors are to be found in Quarter Session Records. The Bedford jury list from this
period has further qualifications of living in a house containing not less than 15 windows or assessed
by the poor rate at a value above £20 per annum.

This list of Bedford jurors appears in the Beds Historical Record Society publication volume iv
'Selection from Jury Lists' by Rev J E Brown.

Colmworth 1830

Minney, Joseph, a farmer. Qualified by poor rate

Also stated that Joseph was an overseer.

Little Staughton 1830

Minney, Henry, a farmer. Qualified by poor rate

Also stated that Henry was an overseer.

Bedfordshire Marriage Licence Allegations¹

Marriage licences were given to the parties being married but the allegation, a statement by the
parties to their intention of getting married, was kept by the Diocesan registry along with bonds and
sureties.

The list of Bedford Allegations contain two entries of interest to us;

5th December 1824

James Easton Ginner, taylor of Aspley Guise, a bachelor to Mary Minnel, of the same parish.

Wedding to take place at the same parish.

12th October 1859

Thomas Minney, Little Staughton, a bachelor to Hannah Hawkins, Keysoe, a spinster. Wedding to

¹Bedford Public Library, Local Studies Section

take place at Keysoe. Both parties are minors, not known if consent obtained.

Australian English Ancestors

This article appeared in Spence's Minney Family Insight¹ of September 1993.

To give a brief background on our English ancestors.

Joseph Minney was born at Todmorden, Yorkshire, and Ada Pearson was born at Stockport, Cheshire. They were married at Manchester, Lancashire in 1911. They had a small farm in Yorkshire but not being farm orientated people, were unable to make it a financial success. Joe was unable to get the same returns at 'Market Day' that Ada could, and the story goes that Joe was putting money in a

sock and hiding it up the chimney. I doubt that the money would have amounted to much, as they could not have been on the farm for more than twelve months. They were on the high seas aboard the SS Themistocles headed for Australia when the Titanic sank in April 1912. They only married in January the previous year.

I have no knowledge as to why they left England, I have been given two doubtful reasons. One being that grandfather Pearson gave them £40 and told them to go (it is my belief that Isaac Pearson was by that time, deceased). Another reason was that Joseph believed he would make his fortune here. I do know that Australia was their second choice of settlement. America, (maybe Canada) being their first. From my point of view, the second choice was the best.

It has not been established when they actually arrived here, but their first employment was around Blacktown in NSW. Then they were at a property at Wallabaddah near Tamworth, but by January 1913 they were at Young, some 400 miles south west, when their first child was born.

What induced them to travel to Young? Surely not gold as has been suggested, as the gold had petered out by that time. Did they know someone at Young whom they met on the boat? If so was it the Meaghers? Whatever reason, it must have been a big decision to undertake such a journey. How did they travel? Train would appear logical, and then what route? Via Sydney, or out through 'The West' (I must check the train timetables for 1912). A journey of around three to four days, and probably in the summer.

What an introduction to the Australian climate, to leave England in winter, arrive here in late autumn, then what would be a mild winter, through the windy spring and then to summer.

Thomas Minney of Witton, Huntingdonshire

In the last newsletter I listed the 1851 census return for this village showing two separate entries for Minney. One was Thomas aged 64 and a widower living on his own, his place of birth was not available. I have made an enquiry with the Huntingdon Record Office and they inform me that Thomas lived at 10 Huntingdon Road and his place of birth was given as Stoughton Moor, Bedfordshire.

According to my Ordnance Survey map Staughton Moor is a small hamlet between Little Staughton and St Neots. Also the boundary puts Staughton Moor clearly in Huntingdonshire. It may well pay dividends to check some of the parish registers for this area of Huntingdonshire such as Great Staughton and Hail Weston.

Update on Possible Minney Variants

It is almost four years since I listed some of the variant surnames that I sometimes look at when researching Minney. Most have no connection with Minney and are not included in the index. The list has grown slightly and since the number of readers has grown I thought it would be a good time to re-introduce them.

Up until the 18thc the letters 'e' and 'i' were often interchangeable and in some parish registers entries

¹Available from Spence Minney, 20 Wentworth Street, Dubbo NSW 2830 Australia

before 1800 the letter 'e' was sometimes written as 'o' with a loop at the top. This may help to explain my choice of variants which may appear strange. If it looks as though I have missed some out then let me know.

McMinnie

Variants include McMinnis, McMinnies. Derived from McMinn which in turn is derived from Menzies (pronounced Mingies). McMinnis hail from Ayrshire, Galloway and Dumfriesshire. This area of Scotland is closest to Northern Ireland and there are a number of McMinnis in NI today. See Mennie.

Meaney

Variants include Meeny and Moony. Anglicised version of the Irish surname O'Maonaigh.

Mennell

See Meynell.

Mennie

A variant of Menzie. Claimed to be descended from De Meyners, a Norman knight who settled in Aberdeenshire. Original pronunciation Mingies.

Meynell

Variants include Maynell, Mennell, Minnell, Menel and Mannell. (French variants Menil and Mesnil).

1. Topographical name for someone living not in the main village but in the country. Middle English spelling - Meinil and Mesnil.

There are several minor French places with this name. In England the name was used in particular to denote a fortified manor occupied by a landlord. The surname may also have been an occupational name for someone who was employed in such a manor.

2. From a Norman female personal name composed of *Magin* = strength, might and *Hild* = battle.

This entry (from the Oxford Dictionary of Surnames) suggests that the name should be widespread if not more common than it is. Most entries today are derived from two landed gentry families in Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

Minall

Pronounced Mine-all, includes variants Minal, Minale and Mineal. Originates from Mildenhall, Wilts. Not connected to Minnell.

Minay

Pronounced Mine-ay. Believed to originate from London early 19thc. Small in number, one family in Isle of Man, other in Northwest England.

Minell

Pronounced Minn-ell. Members of this family still closely related and possibly a variant of Minnell. Mostly in Portsmouth area.

Minet

Huguenot diminutive of the surname Minn and Minna.

Miney

Pronounce Mine-ee. Believed to originate in County Cavan, Eire. Possibly from surname O'Maonaigh. See Meaney. Small in number, some in North-West, London and Isle of Man. A common mis-spelling of Minney.

Mingay

Originates from Norfolk. A Breton name *Men* = stone and *Ki* = dog. From time after William the Conqueror.

Minim

An early version of Minnell peculiar to Brackley, Northants in the late 1600s. Did not persist.

Minn(e)

Pronounced Minn even with the 'e'. A pet name from medieval times (Minna), variants include Mynn. Minnett and Minnitt.

Minnee

Found in Holland, believed to be from Protestants fleeing France in 17thc. May also explain Minnie found in South Africa.

Minnell

See Meynell and Minney.

Minnery

From the French surname Mignot. First appears in 1201. Quite rare, mainly situated in Egremont, Cumbria. I find my surname often spelt this way, particularly on junk mail, probably something to do with modern keyboard layouts.

Minney

A variant derived from Mennell/Minnell found in parish registers of Long Buckby and Yardley Hastings, Northants occurring from 1600 to 1700 before finalising on Minney. One theory for the change from Mennell to Minney is that in Old French the stress was on the last syllable; Menn-ELL. When the surname became anglicised the stress moved to the first syllable; MENN-ell, at this point the surname became more English in pronunciation; MENNel. Since this would have made little sense and the 'll' is a weak sound easily lost, the alternative Minney grew up. The loss of the 'll' is more easily understood if the name holder moved, was illiterate, misheard by a clergyman who did not understand the dialect etc.

Minnich

German for monk.

Minnie

As a South African surname derived as a nickname for Minnar from Mesnard (from Old French for inhabitant of a small house). Sometimes spelt as Minny.

Once a popular female firstname. Also a common mis-spelling of Minney.

Minny

A common mis-spelling of Miney, Minney and Minnie. See these entries.

Money

Old French for Moneie (a coiner).

FONS Result

Earlier this year I received a circular from Family Origin Name Survey (FONS for short) of The Strines, Leek, Staffs ST13 8UL offering a fairly unique service. They were constructing a massive 'surname' database from various sources. For a fee I could register 'Minney' and when they came

across a reference this would be sent. For additional references I would need to submit more funds.

As they were indexing records that I had not researched I sent off my fee and waited.

This month I received the initial result - I was pleasantly surprised, not only was the information new to me but it was laid out in a clear manner quoting the correct PRO references (all five came from 1851 census returns for London).

40 Goswell Street, Finsbury

Robert Minnie, unmarried age 15 a journeyman hairdresser born Chelsea, Middx

He appears in the family home of George Williams, a master hairdresser.

16 Pickering Street, Finsbury

Samuel Minney, head, married, age 36, a groom, born Clifton, Bucks

Sarah Minney, wife, age 29, born Olney, Bucks

Abraham Minney, lodger, unmarried, age 32, labourer born Northamptonshire

2 Pleasant Row, St Pancras

Elizabeth Minnie, Inmate(?) age 41, widow, born Lynn, Norfolk

Jon Minnie, son, age 8, scholar, born St Pancras Workhouse

These two appear in the family home of Mary Cronen.

Northend, Hampstead

Mary Minnie, visitor, widow age 55 domestic servant, born Frompton, Harford (sic)

Mary was a visitor at the family home of Elizabeth Peacock. I assume that Harford should be Hertford, I have no idea where Frompton is. Anyone know?

7 Three King Court

Joana Minny, married, age 40, born County Galway, Ireland

Conny Minny, son, age 10, born County Galway, Ireland.

These two were at the home of Catherine Dillon.

The Genealogical Magazine Of New Jersey

Agnes Hullman has made enquiries with the Historical Society of Princeton, New Jersey regarding entries for the Minney surname prior to 1775. This is their reply;

"We were able to locate three individuals with the surname Minney before 1775. Located in *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, vols. 48-49, we found mention of a Daniel Minney who lived in Lebanon Township, New Jersey between the years 1778-1780 in volume 48, page 133r. We also found mention of a Peter Minney who also lived in Lebanon Township between the same years in volume 48, page 137r. Finally, we found mention of a James Minney in the index, but unfortunately, we are missing volume 50 which would have given us the information on where he lived."

Agnes has managed to track down volumes 48 and 50 and sent the relevant extracts. In addition she has also obtained volume 53 which has a further mention of Daniel.

New Jersey Ratables, 1778-1780¹

Hunterdon County, Lebanon Township, May 1778 and February 1780

These tax lists refer to two separate years listings. There appears to be a great fluctuation of assets owned which is put down to the war years (American War of Independence).

May 1778 = Daniel Minney, 100 acres; 4 horses, 8 horned cattle, 5 hogs,

May 1778 = Peter Minney, a single man who works for hire.

February 1780 = Daniel Minney, 80 acres; 3 horses, 7 horned cattle, nil hogs.

February 1780 = James Minny, Negro householder, 1 hog.

February 1780 = Peter Minney, a single man who works for hire.

Grandin Fulling Mill Book 1774-1785²

¹From Volumes 48 & 50, 1973 and 1975 respectively

²From volume 53, 1977

The book from which the names were taken is one of the holdings of Hunterdon County Historical Society at Flemington. John and Phillip Grandin were in Hunterdon County, New Jersey in 1758, or before, when they bought 1000 acres of land on the south branch of the Raritan river. Their fulling mill was just below what is now Hamden in Clinton Township.

Fulling is the process of making cloth off the loom smoother and compact. To do this the cloth is pounded and compressed with water, in the Grandins time by heavy wooden hammers.

The book contains details of accounts and the job orders of the mill's customers but only the latter section has been abstracted. Spelling variants of names have been grouped into a span of dates followed by the number of entries. There has been no external verification that these groupings represent one person or one family.

Minney/Minny, Daniel, 1775 to October 14, 1781, four entries.

Needless to say, Agnes is attempting to get someone to have a look at this book for any additional information on Daniel.

Snippets

From Agnes Hulman;

From Websters New International Dictionary 2nd Edition - Minie ball, Minie Rifle, after inventor Capt. C E Minie of France.

From Diane Harriman;

More books on Northants towns and villages :-

Rev J H Marlow - The History of Bozeat Village 1936.

Ernie Bryan - Wollaston Remembered.

David Hall - Wollaston, Portrait of a Village.

Joyce and Maurice Palmer - A History of Wellingborough.

Diane also mentions that on her father's side (the Minneys' are on her mother's side) she has a line of ancestors who resided at Padstow in Cornwall. They were mostly connected with the coastguard service and she was therefore very interested in the Minney connection with Padstow. I can recommend to Diane (if she hasn't already got it) Cornwall by Claude Berry, a Padstow man.

From Ivor and Glenda Minney;

Who apart from having a good harvest down-under have a new grandson, William John Minney born 3rd October. Congratulations to you and the proud parents, John and Stephani. Glad to see the traditional Minney Christian names surviving.

Also congratulations to Margaret and Ralph Goodwin who have become grandparents on 25th September to James Ryan.

And yet more congratulations, this time to Eileen Higgins who was Mayor of Wellingborough 1992 - 1993.

Seen In

Almeley, 8
Ampthill, 23
Aspley Guise, 13
Blacktown, 14
Brackley, 17
Cardington, 11
Chelsea, 10, 18
Clifton, 18
Clinton, 20
Colmworth, 13
Cople, 11, 23
County Galway, 19
Finsbury, 18
Frompton, 19
Great Barford, 11
Great Staughton, 15
Hail Weston, 15
Hamden, 20
Hereford, 7, 8, 9, 10
Hunterdon County, 20
Keysoe, 14
Lebanon Township, 19, 20
Little Staughton, 13, 14, 15
Lynn, 19
Manchester, 14
Olney, 12, 19
Peterchurch, 7, 9
Ravenstone, 12
Rothersthorpe, 12
Sandy, 11
St Pancras, 19
Stockport, 14
Stoughton Moor, Staughton Moor, 15
Tamworth, 14
Todmorden, 14
Wallabaddah, 14
Witton, 15
Yardley Hastings, 5, 6, 12, 17
Young, 14