

Welcome to another newsletter. Time does fly. I must apologise for the lateness of this issue but this was due to a tight time schedule in renovations to the house, thankfully the worst is now over.

As you will see from the 'Contents' listing we now have contact with the previously unknown branch of Minneys in the USA - a most exciting discovery!

Again I had just enough copy for this issue and have left some items over to the next one in order to keep an interesting balance. My plea is to those Minneys or relatives of Minneys who read this newsletter and who are not subscribers, to let me have items of interest, no matter how small or trivial - it all makes for a good read. Short essays on your own family similar to Grace Minney's or more detailed like Sarah Minney's are ideal. Please put pen to paper - whatever you send I will eventually publish (provided it's legal !).

A special thanks to Jane Aaron who has just sent a parcel of information following her searches at Northants Record Office. Some of these articles will appear in the next newsletter. And thanks to all of you who have sent articles, items for the index (which is being slowly computerised), snippets and news cuttings etc. I will use it all!

And finally, please remember your subs at the end of the year - £3 to UK members and £5.50 (sterling please) to overseas members. The special arrangement for Australian members will still apply - please contact Diane Harriman as before.

Regards

Barrie Minney

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NEW MEMBERS

Jane AARON, Hakewill House, Church Lane, Dingley, Nr Market Harborough, Leicester

Doris BLAKE, 34 Cook Street, North Ryde, NSW 2113, Australia

Susan SIMMONS, 14 Wentworth Drive, Mildenhall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Dot (Hannah) BERRIDGE, 2 Brook Lane, Great Barford, Bedfordshire

Barbara FLETCHER, 57 Newark Rd, Skye, Rochdale, Lancs

Agnes Minney HULLMAN, 2215 Overlook Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44106, USA

Ann MINNEY, 92 High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire

NEWS UPDATE

Rubeigh Minney (see Jan 90)

I have discovered in a book titled "Who Was Who in The Theatre" that Rubeigh was born in Calcutta on 29th Aug 1895 and educated at Kings College, London.

Joseph Thomas Minney (see Jan 91)

From Dot Berridge, daughter - " I was twelve at the time of father dying. I remember him saying "Oh my head, I'm a dead 'un". I went with my brother to fetch the Doctor but he told us to bring him on a horse and cart. We tried several times, in the end he (the doctor) came to our house but father had died by tea time.

From Doris Blake, grand daughter - "...After his accident I do remember some men, one with a magnifying glass, going over the horse, they were in the stable standing around the horse and one in particular being rather impatient with me, telling me to go away; what strange things a child remembers, - I didn't like that man at all."

John Thomas Minney/Menney (see Jan 91)

From Spence Minney - An entry in Records Office indicates that a Thomas Minney died at Newcastle in April 1839 aged 39 yrs.

Peter Harriman & family (see Minney emigrants to Australia, Jan 91)

From Diane Harriman - "My father, Peter Harriman has no connection to the Minneys, my line comes from my mother Audrey Harriman. We migrated to NSW in 1956."

ERRATUM

On page 17 of January 1991 newsletter the parish for the burials of Ann and John Minney on 9th March 1716 should read St Nicholas not St Helens, Abingdon - apologies.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POETRY

To the best of my knowledge the Northamptonshire poet, John Clare (1793-1864) is not related to any Minney but he is essential reading if you want to get a feel of village life in Northamptonshire (Helpstone) in the early part of the 19th century. He was also something of a family historian as these lines from "The Cottager" show;

.....In an old corner cupboard by the wall
His books are laid - tho good in number small
His Bible first in place - from worth and age
Whose grandsires name adorns the title page
And blank leaves once now filled with kindred claims
Display a worlds epitome of names
Parents and children and grandchildren - all
Memorys affections in the list recall.....

Extract from "The Cottager" taken from 'Selected Poems and Prose of John Clare' edited by Eric Robinson and Geoffrey Summerfield, Oxford University Press, 1979, ISBN 019 281232 7

THE MINNEY LINE IN THE USA

As you know my 'find' of 1990 was the discovery of the "Mr Minney" portrait in The Tate. The find for 1991 must be the large number of Minneys in America who are descended from a line of Minneys that emigrated as early as the 18th century if not the 17th century - and they are keen family historians.

Several of us were aware of some Minneys in USA because of the adverts placed by Mr Bethel in the GRD but we were all disappointed by his lack of response. Earlier this year I came across about a third of the USA telephone directories on microfiche. I had a quick look and found over 70 Minneys listed across the States. I selected half a dozen of the 'best' addresses (ie those without abbreviations) and sent off letters with IRCs enclosed. Two were returned 'not known'. With no response after three months I had all but given up when one evening I received a phone call from Agnes Minney Hullman of Cleveland, Ohio. One of my letters had been received by a Milton Minney of Houston who in turn forwarded it to his mother in the Virgin Is before it reached Agnes who was known to be interested in this sort of thing.

In a few days I received a parcel of information from Agnes (see her letter later in 'Letters from America') plus a 50 page printout from her cousin Donald Norman giving details on approx. 280 Minneys traceable to a Daniel Minney of New Jersey circa 1780. The 'book' is called "The Descendants of Daniel Minney" by Don Norman. I intend to publish extracts in each future newsletter starting with this one.

THE DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL MINNEY

(The individual numbering system used by Donald enables the reader to follow the line of descent without having to refer to charts)

1. Daniel Minney

The first traceable ancestor of the Minney line appears in the tax records of Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey from 1778 to 1785, along with his brother, Peter Minney. There is no information on his wife, except that her name was Mary Reeder. Daniel next appears in the 1789 tax records of Bethel Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. (in 1850, Bedford County was split to form Bedford and Fulton Counties, with Bethel Township presently located in Fulton County.) Peter Minney appears in the 1789 Bethel Township tax records. The "Widow Minney" appears in the Bethel Township tax records from 1791 to 1797, leading to the conclusion that Daniel died in 1790. By 1798, Mary had married Joseph Fawney, and he became the administrator of Daniel Minney's estate. Peter Minney's will is recorded in the 1795 Bedford County, Pennsylvania records leaving his estate to his brother Daniel's children.

Children of Daniel and Mary (Reeder) Minney;

(2.) Martha b. 1775. (3.) Phebe (4.) John b.c. 1783

(5.) Daniel II b.1784 m. Phebe Maison (6.) Rachel

(Numbers in brackets refer to lineage numbering system not number of siblings)

5. Daniel Minney II 1.Daniel Minney

Daniel Minney II, a son of Daniel and Mary (Reeder) Minney, was born in 1784, probably in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The "Widow Minney" (Mary, Daniel II's mother) appeared on the Bethel Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania tax records from 1791 to 1797. Daniel married Phebe Maison. Phoebe was born in Pennsylvania about 1780. Traces of the family have not been found until Daniel II appears on the Whitely Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania tax records in 1818. Daniel Minney appears regularly in the Greene County records from 1818 until 1832, Daniel and Phebe sold 209 acres of land in three different parcels. There is a confusing entry in the Greene County tax records for 1832, and Daniel appears no more. On June 20, 1833, Daniel bought 110 acres of land in Monongalia County VA, on Booths Creek. Monongalia County court house burned in 1850 and no records earlier than 1851 are available. Daniel and Phebe appear in the July 17, 1850 Doddridge County, VA (WV) census. Daniel's age is 66 and his birthplace New Jersey, and Phebe is listed as 70 and born in Pennsylvania.

Children of Daniel II and Phebe (Maison) Minney;

7. Jacob b1805. mNov 8 1832. d1875
wife - Mary Walls
8. Sarah Jane b1805 never married
9. Eliza m.July 1 1835
husband - David Austin
10. Jonathan S. b.Aug 1814 m.April 20 1832 d.Aug 1891
wife - Rebecca Ann Walls
11. Margaret m. Aug 10 1840
husband - John Austin
12. Daniel b.1815
wife - Mary
13. Mary E.
14. Rachel m.Dec 23 1853
husband - Abraham Cunningham

(Correct me if I am wrong but I believe VA is Virginia and WV is West Virginia.)

Bibliography

Allen, Connie, "The Descendents of Sylvester David Minney" 1977

Minney, Fern, "The Family Album of the Minney, Dobbins, Shock and related families."

"History of Calhoun County WV 1989" pp.100,135,136

The Glenville Democrat , Jan 10 1991, Feb 28 1991, Mar 28 1991.

Does anyone know of the whereabouts of Connie Allen's book on Sylvester David Minney likewise with Fern Minney's Family Album ?

to be continued.....

SOME PROFESSIONAL MINNEYS

Seen in.....

INSTITUTE OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEER SESSIONAL YEAR BOOK 1990/1

Minney, Arthur Joseph C.Eng. 130 St Peters Ave, Kettering, Northants

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BUILDING 1988/9

Minney, Peter Thomas. Ladywell Cott. Ladywell Lane, Sandon, Chelmsford, Essex.

REGISTER OF ARCHITECTS 1989

Minney, Cornelius Brendon. 5 Church Lane, Bishopstone, Swansea, West Glamorgan.

RIBA 1990 - DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

Minney, Cornelius Brendon. As above.

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS 1990/91

Minney, Leslie ACA. Minney & Co, 59 Union St, Dunstable, Beds.

DVR ARTHUR J. MINNEY 174331 RFA

The following headlines are taken from The Times of Friday, May 4, 1917;

BRITISH TROOPSHIP TORPEDOED

MEDITERRANEAN LOSS

19 OFFICERS AND 260 MEN MISSING.

"The Secretary of the Admiralty makes the following announcement:-

" The British transport Arcadian, with troops on board, was torpedoed by an enemy submarine in the Eastern Mediterranean on April 15, and sank in five minutes.

19 Officers, 214 Other ranks, 10 Naval ratings, 34 Crew, 2 Civilians are missing and presumed drowned. All the next of kin have been informed."

The article then describes the Arcadian, a well known cruising yacht of 9000 tons built in 1899.

One of the casualties was Arthur Joseph Minney born 1887 the eldest son of Joseph and Mary Minney (see last newsletter for article on Joseph Minney). Arthur married Norah Boon

of Great Barford, Beds. They had two children Arthur Ben Ian (known as Ben) and Doris Norah (now Doris Blake). Arthur was a lay preacher in the village of Great Barford and wanted to become a vet after the war. He joined the Royal Field Artillery in 1914 and, according to one of his medals did service with the Royal Veterinary Corp.

The following is a report sent from the Red Cross on Drvr. Arthur J. Minney 174331 R.F.A, Missing, believed drowned, April 15th, 1917 in the Arcadian;

Dear Madam,

I am truly sorry to have to tell you that as a result of all enquiries we have made as to the fate of the men reported missing after the loss of the " Arcadian" on April 15th 1917, we have succeeded in obtaining only very little information. We are sending you an account of the sinking of the ship which has been given recently to one of our staff in Egypt, by a surviving Officer, and which we think will interest you :-

"The whole thing was over so quickly that one can only record one's own doings - there was hardly any time to notice anyone else's. We had just had a practise boat parade and had been dismissed only a short time when there was a thud, an explosion in the fore part of the ship, and we almost immediately had a heavy list to port; it was then 6.15pm. Everyone had a lifebelt either on or with him, and each walked away to his allotted boat. I saw no panic whatever though the ship had rolled over to a very uncomfortable angle - I could easily step from the deck into the small boat which was already lowered and comfortable full. As happened in almost every case (owing to the speed and sudden listing of the ship) our boat was smashed to bits at once ere we could push away and most of us went down for some distance. On coming to the surface again, the ship was seen to be making its final dive and many of us were sucked under again. The second rising to the surface showed a great blank space covered with soot, debris and crowds of men clinging to wreckage or swimming about. It was almost impossible to recognise anyone. I saw quite a number of poor fellows who had evidently been killed very quickly, either by being hit by wreckage, or the sudden impact in falling into the water but saw no one I could recognise. The water was quite warm and the evening beautifully fine but as time wore on it became intensely cold, as one bobbed about half in and half out of the water. I happened to be nearly six hours in the water, but many were more fortunate.

As the boat sank in four and a half minutes (time stated by our escort) from the moment we were hit, and the whole circumstances were so alarming and sudden, I think the absence of any panic, at any rate so far as I saw, was greatly to the credit of the men, and I was amazed that the loss of life was not greater. I should judge that the vast majority of the deaths took place instantly - the sea was so calm that it was fairly easy to catch wreckage or rafts once the ship was out of the way - even for non- swimmers with lifebelts on."

As the names of all the survivors are known to the War Office, we fear that we must again tell you that there can be little or no doubt that those who are reported "Missing, believed drowned" lost their lives, and we desire to offer our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Dvr. Minney.

Yours faithfully

for the Earl of Lucan

Report dated 5th March 1918.

I contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and they sent the following reply ;

"Driver Arthur Joseph Minney, 174331, serving with details, Royal Field Artillery, drowned at sea, died 15th April 1917. Sadly he has no known grave, therefore he is commemorated by name on The Chatby Memorial, Alexandria, Egypt.

Chatby War Memorial Cemetery is one of a group of cemeteries on the east side of the town. It contains the graves of more than 2,100 British Officers and men who fell in the Great War. At the east end of it is a stone building, to the walls of which are fixed panels containing the names of 982 Officers and men who have no other grave than the sea."

Many thanks to Ben & Grace Minney and Doris Blake for this article on their father.

Opposite - Will of Arthur Minney and (over) Official Notification of his death

*" In the event of my Death I give the whole of my property an effects to my wife Mrs N
Minney Bedford Road. Gt Barford, Sandy, Bedfordshire."*

Arthur Minney

private 38159p(?)

a v c

April 25 1916

R.F.A No 174331

MINNEYS AT HUNTINGDON RECORD OFFICE

Rhoda Mayes has researched some of the parish registers held at Huntingdon Record Office with the following results ;

ST NEOTS

Marriages

John Minney wed Elizabeth Warren ?1812

No entries for period 1813 - 1851

Baptisms

No entries for period 1721 - 1812

Lucy dau of John & Elizabeth Minney bpt on 15th Dec 1816 - father's occupation - bricklayer

Burials

John Ishmael Minney, age 9 mnths bur 3rd Feb 1816

Elizabeth Minney of Eaton Socon, age 30 yrs bur 21st Mar 1821

SWINESHEAD

Marriages 1790 - 1858

Joseph Minney, bach. of Ravensden, a shepherd, wed Hannah Islip on 18th Feb 1818

Baptisms

George son of Joseph and Hannah Minney bpt on 14th June 1818

John son of Joseph and Hannah Minney bpt on 1st Aug 1819

Burials

John Minney, infant bur on 8th Aug 1819

Henry Minney, infant bur on 2nd Sept 1821

No entries in transcript 1548 - 1812

The following transcripts were searched with a negative result ;

Tetworth 1604 - 1812, Gt Staughton 1540 - 1837, Carington 1604 - 1851,

Gt Catworth 1678 - 1852, Tilbrook 1573 - 1812.

"MR. MINNEY" FOR THE TATE GALLERY

The following extract appeared in "The Times", Wednesday, July 7, 1920 ;

'Recent gifts to the Tate Gallery made through the National Art Collections Fund include the portrait "Mr. Minney", by W.W. Russell, R.A., lately purchased by a member of the fund and presented through it to the nation, and also a water colour drawing, "Saintes," by Clarkson Stanfield, presented by Mr. J. Kerr-Lawson.'

ANCESTRY OF SARAH MINNEY

As promised in January's newsletter here is the Minney descent of Sarah Minney

Spencer Minney

Born/Baptised - Possibly the Spencer Cunningham Minney bpt in 1761 at Yardley Hastings. The only known facts about him are his marriage to Ann Malling on 12th October 1785 Eaton Socon, Hunts and his death/burial September 1805, also at Eaton Socon.

Ann Minney, his wife buried 21st Aug 1810 at Eaton Socon.

Children - Joseph & Henry (yet to be proved)

Evidence - Joseph Minney, born approx. 1795 gives place of birth as Eaton Socon and his son George named one of his children Spencer.

Joseph Minney

Born/Baptised approx 1795 Eaton Socon.

Married Hannah Islip on 16th Feb 1818 at Swineshead, Beds.

Died between 1861 and 1871 (possibly 4th quarter 1866 aged 74)

Occupations - Shepherd, farmer, jobber & cattle dealer

Children - George bpt 1818, Elizabeth bpt 1825, Mary bpt 1826, Ann bpt 1826,
and Joseph bpt 1830.

Hannah Minney bpt 14th Oct 1792 at Swineshead and died between 1851 & 1861.

George Minney

Baptised 14th June 1818 Swineshead.

Married Rebecca Loxley, date unknown.

Died Aug 1890 at Colmworth, Beds.

Occupation - Ag lab

Children - Jacob bpt 1841 (?), Ann bpt 1843, John bpt 1846, Hannah bpt 1848, Spencer bpt 1851, Joseph bpt 1853, Lucy bpt 1855, George bpt 1858, Eliza bpt 1860, Rose bpt 1863 and Rebecca bpt 1865.

His wife Rebecca was born/baptised in approx 1823 and died between 1871 & 1881

Jacob Minney

Baptised 20th Dec 1846 at Colmworth, Beds.

Married Mary Pennyburg on 16th June 1879 at Christchurch, Forest Hill, Kent.

Died on date unknown but believed to be in 1890's following an accident.

Occupations - Hawker, Mason, Ag lab

Children - Florence Mary b 1880, Sidney b 1885 died 1936, Millicent Clara b 1882 died 1964, Gertrude Elizabeth b 1887, Emily Ethel b 1884 and Frederick Pennyburg b 1889.

His wife Mary was baptised on 5th June 1850 at Hertford, St Andrew and died in the last quarter of 1936 at Wellingborough, Northants, aged 87.

Frederick Pennyburg Minney

Born 12th December 1889 at Woodford, Northants.

Married Daisy May Clayson Fennell in the 4th quarter 1908 at Wellingborough.

Died 27th July 1966 at 69 Oak Grove, Poynton, Cheshire aged 77.

Occupation - Tailor

Children - Sidney Frederick George b 1909 d 1987, Sylvia b 1908, Eileen Elizabeth b1915, Gregory b1913, John b 1925, Geraldine b1921 d 1988.

His wife Daisy was born 1st August 1889 and died on 31st October 1973 at Flat 4, Bridle Court, Bridle Road, Woodford, Cheshire, aged 84.

Sidney Frederick George Minney

Born 15th July 1909 at Wellingborough, Northants.

Married Bertha Pilkington on 28th September 1946 at St Georges Church, Poynton, Cheshire.

Died on 20th November 1987 at 1 St Wilfreds Court, Carbridge, Northumberland.

Occupation - Salesman, Sub-postmaster.

Children - Robert Andrew b 1949 (adopted) and Susan Mary b 1952 (adopted).

His wife Bertha was born 27th February 1920 at Middleton, Manchester.

Robert Andrew Minney married Sarah Katrina Harding (nee Baylis) on 19th March 1982 at Richmond, Surrey.

MARY MINY

I have received the following extract from a Coroner's Report/Bill from fellow G.O.O.N member, Paul Cruxton Bsc. MRPharms ;

"I have recently been fortunate enough to obtain a copy of "Coroners' Bills 1752 -1796" published by the Wiltshire Record Society in 1981 and covering North and South Wiltshire, Corsham and Woottam Bassett Bills. I have come across the following entry which you may find of interest ;

Book ref - 1902 page 124, Date - 9th Jan 1794, Place of Inquest - Bradford On Avon North Wiltshire, Distance travelled by Coroner - 13 miles, Coroner's Bill - £1 9s 9d.

ENTRY

Elizabeth Sudry, aged under 3 : being ill and relaxed in her bowels, had received some improper correction the day before her death from Mary MINY, whose care she was under : it appearing that nothing but the kindest treatment had ever been used towards her by Mary before, she was acquitted of the least intention of causing or hastening the death.

Paul Cruxton's comment - "Mary probably gave the child the wrong dose of medicine or even the wrong medicine."

Paul is researching 'Cruxton' and would appreciate any references found.

BEN AND GRACE MINNEY & FAMILY

The following article has been sent by Grace Minney ;

Joseph Thomas Minney married Mary Ann Kimpton, they had 10 children, the eldest of which was my husband's father Arthur Joseph born in 1887. My husband, Arthur Ben Ian, known by all the family as Ben can remember his grandmother riding about Gt Barford on a three wheel trike wearing a man's cap!

Hannah Beatrice, known to all as Aunt Dot, is the only surviving daughter of Joseph and Mary Minney.

Arthur Joseph was posted " Missing, presumed drowned " in 1917 (*see article this issue*). Arthur had married Norah Boon of Gt Barford and they had two children, Doris Norah born 1914 and Arthur Ben Ian born 1916. They were born at Old Town Cottages, Green End Lane, Gt Barford. These cottages were at one time called Workhouse Row for some obscure reason and another time Willowby Cottages. Now sadly no more !

Grandad and Grannie Minney lived one end of the row and Grannie Boon at the other with all the other Minneys in between.

After Ben's father was killed his mother remarried in 1920 and became Norah Porter, her husband Harry ran The Fox and Hounds public house at Riseley and the family moved there.

Ben went to school in Riseley and later Bedford. On leaving school he intended training to become a chef and worked for a short time in an hotel in Bedford but that was not a success. In those days starting at the bottom was very menial, one of his jobs was to take 6 greyhounds for a long walk each day, one day he decided to go into Woolworths and as you can imagine caused havoc!

His next job was in Perks Stores in Bedford, by now the family had left The Fox and Hounds and moved to Rushden, Northants and surrounding districts, his mother was always on the move. His next job was at John Whites Impregnable Boot Co in Rushden where he stayed until 1939 when he volunteered for the army as a dispatch rider, being motor bike mad at the time !

He joined the Royal Army Service Corps and after 3 weeks was posted to Palestine. He spent the next 5 years serving in the Middle East with the 7th Armoured Division "The Desert Rats" including the seige of Tobruk. Went on through to Italy from where he returned to England in 1944. He was posted to 587 Command Mixed Transport Coy RASC at Ferney Hall, Onibury, Craven Arms, Shropshire where we met. I was serving with the WRAC and was then Grace Alldridge. We were married in Sep 1945 in London at St Marys, Kennington in the Church Hall, the Church having been badly bombed.

Ben worked at Leystalls Engineering Works after his discharge from the army and when they closed he went to Courages (brewers) at Tower Bridge as a mechanical engineer till his retirement in 1980. We moved to Tonbridge in 1981.

Our daughter Margaret Ann was born in 1946 and son David John in 1950. David went to school at John Ruskin St School, Walworth, then onto West Square School, Lambeth and later The Beaufoy School, Lambeth. At 11 he joined the St John Ambulance Brigade and joined their band, at 18 he became the bandmaster and is still of the Southwark Corp of Drums SJAB. He was made a Serving Brother of The Order of St John in 1981. On leaving school he went to work for the Mitcham Building Society and is now a branch manager of Southdown Building Society. He married Jacqueline Charlton on 17th Oct 1970. They have two children - Caroline and Ian. Caroline was a Drum Major of the band for several years and now her brother Ian has taken over, they have played in many interesting places, including the Royal Tournament and the forecourt of Buckingham Palace.

Since writing this article David Minney has been promoted to Officer (Brother) of The Order Of St John, sanctioned by The Queen, and an announcement of this honour was due to appear in the London Gazette. See back page for a copy of this award.

The row of cottages referred to were also known as "Minney Row". I have been sent a news photo of the cottages (Doris Blake) and a drawing (Brenda Peet). Hannah Berridge (Aunt Dot of above) has given some details of the inhabitants. If anyone else has some memories of these cottages or on the Minneys of Gt Barford in general (ie the market -gardeners) can they drop me a line for inclusion in a future article.

On the back of the Jan 91 newsletter there is a press cutting on the death of Nora Porter formerly Minney nee Boon.

Spence Minney has sent the following information from a Malcolm Minney who resides on the south coast of NSW Australia;

" My paternal grandfather was George Minney and with his elder brother John, shared a master bricklayers trade. They built many houses in Payneham and North Adelaide, but my grandfather had a large family to look after. He applied for and got the job to establish and maintain the Adelaide Oval, and as you can understand his trade as a bricklayer stood him in good stead for taking levels etc, and once the Oval was established he then built the cricket pitch and stayed on as greenkeeper and custodian of the Oval. Through the years he was lent to other councils to establish ovals and cricket pitches for them but stayed at the Adelaide Oval until his retirement and died at his eldest daughters, Maude, by his first marriage, at age 97 (1948) approx."

Listening to a cricket commentary by Geoff Boycott recently he referred to it as the best oval he had played on anywhere. Quite a statement by the great Yorkshire and England opener.

LETTERS FROM AMERICA

From Agnes Hullman

May 3 1991

" It is strange how I got your letter, the man you sent your letter to, Milton Minney of Houston, Texas is a nephew, he must be around 40 yrs old now, he was in an auto accident when he was 18 yrs and has never written me a letter. I keep in touch with him on holidays by phone. His mother lives in the Virgin Islands, she sent me your letter. Most of my family are interested in our history, but I am the one that gathers the information and passes it around. Donald Norman has been a great help - has a computer and puts together the material. He had been working on this long before I was.

For years I have been interested in the history of England in the 1600's. I have a feeling for the period of Cromwell.

The Minneys in my immediate family are Baptists, I converted to Christian Science about 10 years ago, before that I was not a strong Baptist.

In the past five years I bought a small farm connecting to the farm my grandfather (Sylvester David Minney) owned. Then his farm came up for sale and my eldest son bought it. These are very small farms - very grown up - have not been farmed for years. I am about 6 hours away from these farms by car.

I have three sons that live about one hour away from me so we go down often.

It is very primitive - no electricity and we have a spring, the same one my grandfather used. We have a mobile home on the spot he had a house on. The cellar is still there. I never knew my grandfather, he passed on before I was born. I was about 4yrs when my grandmother died. I was born in 1929 on my grandfather's farm, I was the 7th child and I have a younger brother. We lived in the house with grandmother Minney. It was a very difficult situation, America was in a severe depression, I could write a book on it "My humble beginings". When I go back to that farm I feel close to my ancestors and want to know more about them.

I am now 62 years of age have a good position and health. I am divorced, I have 3 sons and 4 grandchildren. My sons and grandchildren all go back to the farms.

My mother was Minnie Barton, she married my Dad and she was then Minnie Minney! When I was born I was named Minnie Agnes Minney, I was called little Minney - that was too much, I dropped the first Minnie and went by Agnes. Then when I married I kept my maiden name as my middle name. "

I have had a look at the " Descendants of Daniel Minney " and believe that the farm Agnes is referring to is 58 acres at Laurel Fork, Steer Creek, between Stumptown and Shock, Calhoun County, West Virginia (previously Virginia)

From Mrs Kaaren Perry

June 3 1991

208 Tanya Dr. Rockwall. Texas 75087

My great grandmother was a Minney - Clara Emma Minney born in 1873 in Missouri, an orphan by 1880. Our oldest direct ancestor is Daniel Minney b. ca. 1755 d 1790 in Bedford County, Pa., married Mary Reeder. He had a brother Peter. at this time we don't know who our original ancestor was or where he originated from. Recently I found a Peter and George Minney living in Berks Co., Pa., in 1752 - one of which is "probably" the father of our Daniel and Peter. As you stated in your letter there are not a lot of these Minney's and the American Minneys all seemed to want to keep a very low profile, so it is extremely hard tracing them. It has taken 5 years just to get back to 1752!

Our family seems to be full of teachers, writers and farmers, nothing as juicy as convicts or ghosts (although some of our West Virginia branch believe in ghosts).

Currently, I am gathering information on our Minneys for a book - and it would be great to link up with your branch of the family for an English section (what became of those who stayed in England versus those who emigrated). "

Hopefully Kaaren will join our newsletter and perhaps we can combine forces on her book (that will be fourth so far on American Minneys).

MINNEY REUNIONS

AUSTRALIA

From Spence Minney

On 19th October 1991, the descendants of Joseph and Ada Minney will be holding their 3rd reunion at the Showground at Young, NSW. Any one who wishes to attend they are most welcome, and typically. it will be a most informal arrangement. Take an extra pullover, just in case.

And while on the subject of reunions, I suggested to Cathy Reading that all of us Down-Under Minneys hold a gathering while you still have us "not too young" to advise and guide you. I suggest Swan Hill, seems fairly central.

AMERICA

From Agnes Hullman

On 4th August 1991 there is to be a Minney reunion arranged/held by a Betty Minney of Morgan Town, West Virginia.

I have written to Betty Minney prior to the reunion date. A report on both reunions would be of interest to the newsletter readers. Any one interested in the Australian get together should contact Spence at 20 Wentworth St, Dubbo, NSW phone (068) 825895.

MINNEY TO McINNEY

In the last newsletter Spence mentioned the strange case whereby a family of Minney had changed their name to McInney. Although we have yet to discover why, Spence has sent the following information;

My information came from a George Minney and his wife who visited me a few years ago. They were from the Sydney suburb of Silverwater, both George and his wife were deaf and dumb and used pencil/paper and the assistance of their elder boy to communicate. George informed me that he had relatives living in the Bankstown area (suburb of Sydney) but they did not get on, and that they had changed their name to McInney. My telephone call to a McInney at Bankstown revealed that he was a son of Reg McInney, and yes they did change their name and he put me onto his father who now resides at Burradoo, NSW.

George was searching for a Joseph Minney and he was to send me further info which he never did. At the time I wrote to Cathy Reading as he could be a Beds Minney, I do not know if Cathy managed to get any further. George has never been in touch since his visit and he no longer has a telephone listing in the Silverwater area (would be of no use if his son has left

home). George's origins are from the Edgware area, England, if that is of any help.

SEEN IN

This edition's "Seen In" takes on an Australian look, courtesy of Spence.

"I could not let the "milkman" (*see July 90 'seen in'*) have it all to himself. I enclose an extract from the local paper of my son receiving his "Cricketer of the Year" award for the 1989-90 season, together with other snippings. The extract of John Minney is from an Adelaide Newspaper, Aaron Minney is my great nephew, David, Kevin and Michael are my sons.

Ann and John Minney

John Thomas Minney/Menney

Joseph Thomas Minney

Rubeigh