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Another six months has flown passed and as always I get delayed in sending the newsletter out on time. By the time you read this I will (hopefully) have had my printer sorted out. Those of you who own a computer will know about the upgrade to Windows 3.1 software (witness the improved fonts). However this particular piece of software has caused havoc with my printer - refusing to accept instructions, printing in the wrong place, etc. Its not perfect now but at least I can get the newsletter out.

The article on the William Minneys of Yardley Hastings will be of interest to those descended from those various Williams. I am indebted to the work of Jane Aaron and Linda Waite.

As you can see the vaunted first Minney to the USA turned out to be a red herring but proved to be a useful exercise for me. Next issue I hope to have an article on either the Minneys of Abingdon or Hereford. The former were boat people and both families first appeared in their respective towns at around the same time - 1700.

Thank you also to the person who sent extracts from "Miscellanea Genealogica Et Heraldica" on Mennell. I was unable to find these references in my bibliography of this publication. This September I shall be holidaying in North Yorkshire and will be visiting the castle remains at Whorlton. It is a nice thought that back in the mists of time we may have some connection with the name de Meynell!

I end with the usual plea - if you have anything of interest please send it. Without any articles there can be no newsletter.

Regards

Barrie Minney  
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England  
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## New Members

County Archivist, Northampton Record Office  
The Librarian, Soc Of Australian Genealogists, Sydney, Australia  
Mrs Dorothy Hone, 12 Park Road, Hertford, SG13 7LF  
Mrs Barbara Snodgrass, 433 South Ward, Ottumwa, Iowa, 52501, USA

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### The de Meynell family of Whorlton

This article was submitted by Joan Hartley, a member of the Cleveland Family History Society and the author of *The Story of Whorlton Old Church*.

"Whorlton is the old name for Swainby, Northallerton, North Yorkshire.

It is understood that the Meynells acquired lands in this part of Yorkshire after the Norman Conquest, and in the early part of Henry 1st's reign (1100-1135) Robert de Meynell gained Whorlton by marrying Gertrude, daughter of Robert Fossard. Their descendants seem to have settled in several areas around Whorlton - in the Yarm area, at Kilverton near Thirsk, Hilton and Stainton near the Tees and at Malton in the Ryedale district. The King owned all the land but as a reward for faithful services gave most of the country to 'tenants of the crown' to hold as 'knights' fees', which chiefly meant an obligation to provide one fully equipped knight to serve in the royal army for 40 days each year. In some cases lands were held because of special services, and the Meynells were soldiers, and served in Parliament. The second Nicholas de Meynell held land of the Archbishop of Canterbury by serving the Archbishop as pantler or butler at his enthronement.

The castle at Whorlton was probably built by the de Meynells on the site of an earlier motte and bailey structure, and this stands on an elevation in the original village of Whorlton, overlooking the vale of Cleveland. Only a small part of the castle survives, but the imposing gatehouse built in the 13th century still stands, and has, over the gateway arch the shields of Meynell, Darcy and Gray, with the shield of Meynell impaling Darcy above these (the last Meynell married a Darcy). The Meynells of Whorlton are chiefly documented as a lawless baronial family, no doubt like most of their neighbouring barons, but they add colour to that period in our history at Whorlton.

Quotes; "Nicholas de Meynell, the turbulent Lord of Whorlton, owed the King 12 years fines for his lands at Carlton."

In 1281 Nicholas de Meynell (and others) took 66 deer. They cut off the heads of 9 and stuck them on stakes to shew their contempt for the Earl of Lancaster's gamekeepers....Meynell was fined 10 marks."

"In 1293 Nicholas de Meynell II (1273-1322) of Whorlton escaped punishment (capital) for murdering William Mowbray, his wife and two children by burning down their house at Easby by pleading that he was a clerk, he had probably taken Holy orders to protect himself from the consequences of his crime.<sup>1</sup>

This Nicholas seems to have been the most notorious, and his greatest offence was to woo and bring back to his castle at Whorlton, Lucia de Thweng, the wife of William de Latimer of Danby. He never married her and their son Nicholas was known as Nicholas de Meynell (1305-1342), Nothus (bastard). All we know about him was that he entertained Edward II at Whorlton

when he (the King) was on a deer hunting holiday. He married Alice, a de Ros of Helmsley, and they had one child, Elizabeth. She married Philip Darcy and the Darcys became Lords of Whorlton and the name of de Meynell of Whorlton disappeared.

Meynells were landowners in Yarm until earlier this century. There is a Meynell Hall near Great Broughton, North Yorks.

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<sup>1</sup>Additional information from Carol McLee, Cleveland Family History Society.

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### Another Early London Marriage

In January's newsletter I referred to two transcripts of the marriage register of St George Hanover Square by The Harleian Society. I have tracked down the other two transcripts with the following result;

Volume 3 1810 - 1823

29th October 1814 - John Minney, bac of Kew, Surrey wed Eliza Jones Levi, spinster of this parish.

Volume 4 1824 - 1837

6th October 1829 - Henry Hudson wed Mary Minell

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### Beds Parish Poor Law Papers 1622 - 1834<sup>1</sup>

The Poor Law was administered by the parish and authorised them to levy a rate on the parishioners. The collection of this 'Poor Rate' was carried out by the Overseer. He was also responsible for handing out relief to the poor of his parish. Up to 1834 most parishes looked after their own poor, after this date parishes were compelled to form 'Unions' and to house the poor in institutions known as workhouses.

Generally poor relief was not given to outsiders unless they possessed a settlement certificate. Normally the qualification for a certificate was either by birth, apprenticeship, or a years service in the parish. A person would be examined to see if they qualified for that parishes relief. If a person failed the examination by a justice he and his family could be ordered back to their assumed parish of origin. It is not difficult to see that a family could be shunted around from parish to parish with no roof over their heads and no relief.

The surviving certificates have been indexed and there are three entries for Minney.

<u>Yr</u>	<u>Minney</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Doc Type</u>	<u>Other Parish</u>
1773	Wm,Ann,Sar.	Cardington	Rem.Fr.	Flamstead, Herts
1808	Thos. Roxton	Exam.	None	
1821	Jn,Eliz+2 ch	Cardington	Rem.To.	Eaton Socon

This is a transcript of the examination certificate of Thomas Minney at Roxton in 1808. Bedfordshire. The Examination of Thomas Minney as to the place of his last legal settlement. This Examination on his oath saith that he was born at Staplow in the parish of Eaton Socon in the county of Bedford where his father Spenser Minney did belong. That after living in various services sometimes by the year and other times for less than a year he let himself to Mr Thomas Blott of Wyton in the county of Huntingdon - a farmer, for one year from Michaelmas one thousand and eight hundred and three which year he served and received a years wages. He has since lived in several services but not for a year in any one place but at Kimbolton Statute Sessions he let himself to Mr Joseph Nichols of Eyeworth in the county of Cambridge - farmer, for one year

from Michaelmas last where he remained until Wednesday last when he was taken up as being the father of a bastard begotten on the body of Sarah Bull to whom he was married on Friday last (yesterday) -

The mark of X Thomas Minney

Taken, signed and sworn this 26th day of November 1808 before me, Richard Reynolds, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Bedford.

I will include the other two certificates in future newsletters.

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<sup>1</sup>Occasional Paper No.2. An Index. Published by Beds Family History Society. ISBN 1 870 608 20 8

Thomas Minny - not the first emigrant to USA

In the last newsletter I mentioned that Agnes Hullman had found a possible early emigrant to the USA. The following entry appeared in Peter Coldham-Wilson's book "Servants To Foreign Plantations";

April 1671 - Thomas Minny bound to Thomas Martin for four years in New England etc. The origin of this entry was to be found in a collection of manuscripts called 'Rough Apprentice Book' held at the Bristol Record Office. I wrote to the archivist and was supplied with a copy of the original entry. However, the archivist pointed out that the surname was possibly mis-transcribed and should be Winny. He supplied a number of examples to prove this.

In the circumstances I thought I should ask Peter Coldham-Wilson's advice. He is something of an expert on emigration lists to the USA and is the author of several books on this subject. Sadly, he confirmed the archivist's view that it should be Thomas Winny and not Minny. A disappointment but at least no one embarked on a wild goose chase only to be told the truth years later. The search continues for the first Minney to settle in the USA.

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#### Bedfordshire Nonconformist Registers

I have been carrying out some reciprocal research for Lynn Wright of Luton. In return Lynn has been looking for Minney references at Luton library. The following is just some of the work that she has sent;

#### Harrold Congregational Church - Baptisms 1812-1836

11th Nov 1832 William son of James and Ann Minney born 12th July 1831

11th Nov 1832 Thomas son of William and Mary Minney born 28th Feb 1832

11th Nov 1832 Ephriam son of Charles and Mary Minney born 18th Oct 1832

#### Methodist Baptisms Dunstable Circuits (Wesleyan Circuit 1912-1938)

2nd Apr 1922 Joyce Gertrude dau of Percy Fred. and Lucy Winifred Minney of 16 Alfred Street born 2nd Apr 1922 (dates double checked)

#### Methodist Baptisms Luton Circuits (Wesleyan Circuit 1839-1864)

15th Sep 1858 Sarah Ann dau of John and Eliza Minney of Flamstead born 16th Jun 1858

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USA Snippets from Agnes Hullman

Agnes has been busy jotting down the following Minneys found at her local library;

1st Presb. Church Marriage Records Pennsylvania

10.1.1746 Kath Minny and John Roberts (may be Jan or Oct)

German Reformed Church PA Series 2 Vol 1

1777 Gotfried Minney wed Frances Barness

Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution War 1777-1778

Minny - negro. Pilot, Navy E.

1790 PA Baker Penn Census Index

Godfrey Miney - 1 white male 16yrs+, 2 white males under 10yrs, 5 white females inc head of family

1800 Census Pennsylvania

Miny John, ref NOH 67A  
1810 Census Virginia  
Minnie ?an (probably Daniel), Monongolia County  
1820 Census Virginia  
Minney Nancy, SVA Co  
Minni Cathy, FKM Co  
Minnie Jacob, Bath Co  
1830 Census New Jersey, Warren County  
Nancy Minney  
The Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut by Fred G Mather  
George Sears wed Marie Antoinette Minnell in 1845

Passenger and Immigration Lists - Vol 3 by William Filby  
J. Minney - NA (1851) San Fransisco, California  
Old War Pensions 1815-1926 Vol 2 transcribed by Virgil D White  
Private James Minney (1851)  
Old War invalids application R16510, Mexican War Service  
1860 Census Virginia  
Minnie Jacob, Monongolia County  
1908 Directory New York City NY  
Minnie Mary O. (wid. John D), 1843 Madison Ave  
Minnel Mary (wid. Anthony), 343 E78th

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The Marriages of the William Minneys of Yardley Hastings  
Jane Aaron has produced a magnificent family tree based on the extraction of all the Minney/Minnell entries of Yardley Hastings. However there appears to be some confusion over the three William Minney marriages in the late 18th Century. Jane has the William son of Henry and Elizabeth bapt 28th Oct 1776 marrying Ann Bettle on 19th June 1799. This apparently clashes with some family trees in my possession.  
To try and solve this query I asked for all the information that Jane held plus the references held by Linda Waite. Once I had these I realised that the only way to solve this was to go to Northampton Record Office armed with various photocopies and a questionnaire.  
When I returned home it took another two days to analyse the results.  
These are all the 'William' entries;  
Baptisms (1690-1820)  
William son of William and Anne Minnel 19th May 1719  
William son of William and Anne Minnel 8th Mar 1723/4  
William son of Thomas and Mary Minnel 21st Apr 1745  
William son of Henry and Sarah Minnell 4th Sep 1749

William son of John and Elizabeth Minney 16th Oct 1769  
William son of Jeffery and Mary Minney 29th Nov 1772  
William son of Henry and Elizabeth Miney 28th Oct 1776  
William son of John and Elizabeth Miney 21st Dec 1778  
William son of John and Elizabeth Minney 9th Feb 1783  
William son of William and Sarah Miney 23rd Sep 1787  
William son of William and Ann Minney 26th July 1801  
William son of William and Alice Minney 13th Dec 1807  
William son of William and Charlotte Minney 15th Nov 1812  
Burials (1713-1852)  
William Minnel 18th May 1721

William Minney, labr 31st Mar 1764  
William son of John and Elizabeth Miney 12th Apr 1770  
William Minney 3rd Jan 1771  
William Minney 22nd Dec 1779  
William Minney 70yrs 27th Nov 1817  
William son of John and Jane Minney 5mths 23rd Jun 1822  
William husband of Charlotte Minney 56yrs 27th July 1836  
William Minney 14mths 31st May 1841  
William Minney 69yrs 11th July 1841  
William Minney 14yrs 11th Jun 1845  
William Minney 47yrs 14th Dec 1848  
William Minney 76yrs 12th Feb 1852  
Marriages (1690-1837)  
William Minell and Ann Drage 18th July 1718  
William Minney and Eliz. Underwood 15th Oct 1750 btp<sup>1</sup>  
William Miney and Alice Coe btp after banns, 14th Oct 1794, witnesses- Wm Walker and  
Robt Whitney  
William Minney of the parish of Olney and Ann Bettle of this parish, by licence, 19th June  
1799, witnesses Wm Walker and John Biddey

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<sup>1</sup>btp = both of this parish



William Minney and Charlotte Minney btp, by licence, 13th Apr 1802, witnesses Jos Berrill and Benj Underwood

William Minney, bac and Elizabeth Bedford btp, after banns, 17th May 1807, witnesses- Robt Lawrence and Robt Whitney

William Minney and Audrey Davis btp, after banns, 29th Oct 1821, witnesses Ann Minney for James Minney and William Brown.

William Minney of Castle Ashby and Mary Allen of this parish, after banns, 22nd May 1825, witnesses- Valentine Minney and William Brown

William Minney and Sarah Brown btp, after banns, 21st Oct 1828, witnesses John Minney and Ann Brown.

Banns (1754-1821)

William Minney and Alice Coe 14/9,21/9,28/9 1794

William Minney and Elizabeth Bedford 19/9,26/9,3/10 1802

William Minney and Audrey Davis of Whiston in this county 14/10,21/10,28/10 1821

Census Return - Yardley Hastings 6th June 1841

Ages are rounded down to nearest 5 years except for children under 15, eg if 24yrs old would be recorded as 20yrs.

William Minney Ag Lab, 65yrs. Ann Minney 65 yrs. Joseph Minney 25yrs Hannah 25yrs Eliz.3yrs. Joseph 1yr.

William Minney Ag Lab 30yrs. Sarah Minney 30yrs. Ann 12yrs. Elizabeth 10yrs. Mary 5yrs. Alice 1yr.

William Minney Ag Lab, 65yrs.

William Minney Ag Lab, 40yrs. Harday (Audrey) Minney 40yrs. William Ag Lab, 15yrs.

Mary 14yrs. Elizabeth 11yrs. Jabez 8yrs. Ephraim 5yrs. Harday (Audrey) 3yrs. Eliza 4mnths.

Charlotte Minney Lacemaker, 60yrs. Jeffery 20yrs. Joseph 15yrs. William 25yrs. Mary 30yrs.

George 9yrs. Elizabeth 5yrs.

Census Return - Yardley Hastings 30th Mar 1851

Ages are as given to the enumerator.

Charlotte Minney, widow, pauper late lacemaker 69yrs. William Minney son, road lab, born YH, 39yrs. Mary Minney, lacemaker, born Clifton 43yrs. Elizabeth Minney, lacemaker, grand daughter, 15yrs.

William Minney, pauper (Ag Lab) born YH, 76yrs. Ann Minney, lacemaker, born YH, 77yrs.

Joseph Minney 33yrs, son, AG Lab, 33yrs. Susan Minney, lacemaker, daughter in law, 33yrs.

Elizabeth Minney, grand daughter, 12yrs. Joseph Minney grandson, Ag Lab, 10yrs. Peter

Minney grandson, scholar, 8yrs. John Minney grandson, scholar, 5yrs. Mary Ann Minney,

grand daughter, 2yrs. William Minney, grandson, under one month.

William Minney, Ag Lab, born YH, 43yrs. Sarah Minney, lacemaker, born Wollaston, 44yrs.

Mary Minney, daughter, lacemaker, 15yrs. Alice Minney, daughter, lacemaker, 10yrs.

William Waite, son in law, Ag Lab, 22yrs. Elizabeth Waite (?) daughter, lacemaker, 20yrs.

Census Return - Castle Ashby 30th Mar 1851

William Minney, born YH, Ag Lab, 50yrs. Mary Minney, lacemaker, born YH, 50yrs. Ann

Minney, lacemaker, born CA, 22yrs. Elizabeth Minney, lacemaker, born CA, 15yrs. Jabez

Minney, born CA, 10yrs.

From the parish register of Olney, Bucks (transcript)

Marriage- Henry Minney of Yardley Hastings and Elizabeth Fisher wed on 13th April 1775.

Baptism- Harry son of Henry and Elizabeth Minny on 10th Nov 1775.

As far as I am aware this family moved back to Yardley Hastings for the rest of their baptisms.

Militia List of 1777 for Yardley Hastings

William Minney, labourer.

Militia lists defined able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 (although I have seen references to an upper age limit of 45 years) who were liable to perform local defence duties. I attempted to 'marry up' the various baptisms, marriages and burials but soon gave this up as I would have been tempted to guess some of the Williams' lineage to make them fit. The surrounding parish registers have yet to be searched so until then I will leave the matching up for another day.

Jane has supplied the following as to why she believes that William son of Henry and Elizabeth married Ann Bettle;

"The reasons for my conclusions about the two Williams are:-

a) Elizabeth Fisher is mentioned as being from Olney. Ann Bettle's William is described "of Olney".

b) Charlotte's William died in 1836. By looking at the burials of the other Williams, Ann's William must have been buried in 1852. According to the church register Ann's William was 76 years old when he died. This would mean he was born in 1776 which is the year Henry and Elizabeth's William was baptised.

c) William and Charlotte called their first child John (after William's father?).

d) William and Ann called their first child Elizabeth (after William's mother?).

All these reasons are rather tenuous. The ages in the church registers were often quite wrong and the first child could have been named after any one."

I would be interested to hear anyone else's view on these William marriages or suggestions on how to take this research further

#### Return of Licensed Premises - Bedfordshire

The following extracts from the licensed premises returns are to be found at Bedford Record Office. I am not sure how good the coverage is of Bedfordshire and there is the added problem that the names are not indexed. The later return of 1903 gives more information on the premises.

NB; In the 19th century some private houses sold either beer, or beer and cider. Public Houses generally sold spirits and fortified wines although some of these had 'beer only' licences.

Return of licensed premises May 1876

Public, Beer Houses and Grocers with Outdoor Licences

Cardington

Exeter Arms. Occupier Benjamin Minney, owner William J North of Bedford. Public House Little Staughton

No Pub Sign/Name. Occupier Spencer Minney, owner T H Murfin of Gt Staughton. Beer House on premises only.

No Pub Sign/Name. Occupier Edward Wildman, owner John Minney of Little Staughton. Beer House on premises.

Return of licensed premises Michaelmas 1891

Little Staughton

The Crown PH. Occupier Eliza Minney, owner William H Murfin of Gt Staughton. On and Off licence tied to Wm Murfin. Rental £9 per annum, rateable value £7 12s6d. No convictions or endorsements.

Comparing this return with that of 1876 I noticed that the premises in Little Staughton then owned by John Minney was now called The Carpenters Arms and owned by W H Murfin. The Exeter Arms of Cardington was now occupied by George Richardson

## Return of licensed premises 1903

### Gt Barford

The Crown. Occupier David Minney, owner Wells & Winch of Biggleswade. Fully licensed premises. Rental £16 5s, rateable value £13 12s. Tied premises.

State of repair= fair, fairly clean, apparently insanitary. Premises situated at the bridge. Has one front door, 3 back and foot path to back door. Distance from nearest public house is 80 yards.<sup>1</sup>

### Turvey

Three Fishes. Occupier Harry Minney, lessee Jarvis & Co of Bedford, owner H Higgins of Liverpool. Fully licensed premises. Licence granted for 6 days. Rental £24, rateable value £19 14s. Tied premises.

State of repair= fair and clean, apparently sanitary. Situated at the bridge. Has one front door, 2 back doors, side and front gate. Distance from nearest public house is 300 yards.

The Three Fishes is still there today and gets a mention in my good pub guide as 'rough and ready'!

If anyone has any pictures of these public houses I would be pleased to put them in the next newsletter.

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### Gt Barford Land Tax Returns

Land Tax returns were made annually from 1692 although usually only later lists survive from 1780 to 1832 as these were used to indicate those owners entitled to vote.<sup>2</sup>

For Great Barford I found two returns on the open shelves at Bedford Record Office; 1783 and 1832. There were no Minneys mentioned in 1783 but in 1832 I found the following; No3. Proprietor John Minny, occupier Thomas Minny. Premises consist of house and land. Assessment 7s 9d.

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### Ordnance Survey Landranger Index

This index is of all the place names that appear on this 1¼" to 1 mile map series for the British Isles.

Place	County	Grid Ref	Feature Code	Sheet Number
Meynell Hall	N.Yorks	NZ5606	X 93	
Meynell Langley		Derby	SK2830 X	119,128
Minnie Farm	Staffs	SJ7948	X 118	
Minnigaff	D&G	NX4166	T 83	
Minnigall Lane	D&G	NX5381	W 77	
Minni Loch	Shetland	HU4459	W 2,3	
Minni of Aith	Shetland	HU5143	X 4	
The Minnis	Kent	TR2743	X 179	
Minniwick	D&G	NX3777	X 77	
Minnybae	Strath	NS2306	X 70,76	
Minny E'Hill	D&G	NS7904	H 78	
Minnygap	D&G	NY0496	X 78	
Minnygryle	D&G	NX7188	X 77	

Feature Code= H is Hill or mountain, T is a town or village, W is a water feature.

D&G stands for Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland.

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<sup>1</sup>Drawing from "The Heritage of Great Barford" published by the Great Barford Parish Council 1976

<sup>2</sup>The Family Historians's Enquire Within

The Descendants of Daniel Minney (USA)- Continued

(23) Sylvester David Minney son of (10) Jonathan S Minney

"Ves" Minney was born 15th Feb 1855 in Calhoun County, Virginia. In 1865, his parents, Jonathan and Rebecca bought 52 acres of land on Snake Root Run near Stumptown, Calhoun County. Ves grew to manhood on this small farm. Before his marriage Ves taught a subscription school but after his marriage he farmed full time. On 31st December 1879 Ves married Anetta Rogers. She was born and raised on Crooked Fork of Steer Creek, Gilmer County on what is known today as "The Earn Boggs Place". Ves and his family lived for several years at "The Tom Frame Farm" on Cub Fork of Crooked Fork. One of their children Oe told her son that she was born (1887) on that farm. Sometime after they moved to a farm on Steer Creek between Stumptown and Shock.

They moved from there to the Ellsworth Perkins farm on the ridge at the head of Laurel Fork of Steer Creek in 1893. The family remained there until 1900, when they bought 58 acres of land on Laurel Fork of Steer Creek from C.N. and Ella Snodgrass.

Ves suffered an injury from a thorn to his left ear lobe which never healed, tradition says that this wound turned cancerous and he died 12th February 1910. He was buried by his request on a point near the Rosedale Baptist Church - "so that he could always hear the church bell ring".

Others were buried near him and land for a cemetery was donated by T.V Shock thus beginning the Rosedale Baptist Cemetery. The trustees of the church at that time demanded that all graves be kept in the same row, burying people by "first to die" rather than by family group.

When Anetta died on 21st December 1934 the cemetery fence was moved so that she could be buried beside her husband. Both Ves and Anetta were members of the Crooked Fork Baptist Church.

Ves and Anetta had nine children all of whom raised their own families in Gilmer County;

Ira b.5th Jan 1881 d.14th Jan 1955

Ezra b.7th May 1882 d.8th Nov 1956

Joe Cephas b.2nd Apr 1884 d.10th Oct 1959

Winnie b.8th Mar 1886 d.28th Jul 1961

Oe b.20th Apr 1887 d.23rd Nov 1973

Ava b.2nd Apr 1889 d.9th Jun 1923

Oye "Bud" b.25th Nov 1890 d.6th Sep 1973

Vessie b.13th Oct 1892

Vernetta b.21st Sep 1896 d.23rd Mar 1932.

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The National Roll of the Great War 1914-18

This publication was printed by the National Publishing Company shortly after the First World War. Only 14 volumes were produced before the company went into liquidation in 1922. The method of obtaining the information is not known and some of the entries were inaccurate. Also, only about 1 in 20 men are mentioned. The location of these volumes is sometimes hard to find. The home address is given and Regiment or Battalion number.<sup>1</sup>

Luckily there are volumes for Luton (number 5) and Bedford & Northampton (number 12). A copy of volume 5 is held by a Trevor Mann of North Harrow, Middx and a copy of volume 12 is held at Bedford Library. Both sources have supplied the following extracts;

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<sup>1</sup>World War 1 Army Ancestry by Norman Holding

Volume 5 - Luton

Minney, O., Private, Northamptonshire Regiment

He was serving in the Army when war was declared, and was shortly afterwards sent to France, where he was in action in the Retreat from Mons and other important battles. He was later drafted to Salonika and then to Egypt, where he saw much active service. He took part in General Allenby's Advance through Palestine, and among other engagements fought in the Battles of Jaffa and Haifa. He was transferred to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and discharged on completion of service in March 1919. He holds the Mons Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals.

Address-High Street, Woburn Sands. Number 2069

Minney, W.T., Pte, Volunteer Training Corps

Unfit for active service he joined the second Luton Volunteer Battalion in February 1918, and after training was engaged on important duties at various stations on the East Coast, and later in guarding munitions factories and railway communications. He did good and useful work, and he was demobilised in January 1919.

Address-Brickhill, Chaul End Lane, Caddington. Number 2070

Volume 12 - Bedford & Northampton

Minnell, G.A.W., Sergeant, Machine Gun Corps

He volunteered in November 1915, in the 13th Manchester Regiment, and six months later was sent to Salonika and served on the Dorian Front until invalided home with malaria in March 1917. In June 1917 he was drafted to France, where he played a conspicuous part in numerous important engagements and was gassed. After the Armistice he rendered valuable services until demobilised in April 1919, holding the General Service and Victory Medals.

Address-14 Church Cottage, Newport Pagnell, Bucks. Number Z3573

Minney, S.J., Sergeant, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

He joined in May 1917 and two months later was drafted to the Western Front, where he engaged in fierce fighting in various sectors. He took a prominent part in the Battles of Arras, Ypres, Cambrai and the Somme, and in the Allied Advance. After the Armistice he proceeded into Germany with the Army of Occupation, and served at Cologne until demobilised in November 1919, holding the General Service and Victory Medals.

Address-44, Muswell Road, Bedford. Number Z3574

The Art of Walter W Russell, ARA<sup>1</sup>

*In 1920 Walter Russell ARA exhibited the famous **Mr Minney** portrait and became responsible for the only Minney to appear at the Tate Gallery (the painting is still in their collection).*

*This article, from a contemporary arts review is not at all flattering towards the sitter. It remains, however, the only in-depth review I have found. Interestingly, the identity of **Mr Minney** was a mystery even then.*

"...With a sterling reputation long established among his fellow-painters, Mr Russell's election in 1920 to the associateship of the Royal Academy seemed but a belated official recognition of an artist whose modernity of outlook was concerned always with artistic vitality, whether this was derived from principles that had appealed to him most persuasively in the practise of Whistler and the French Impressionists, or of Constable, or in any other masterly influences through which he had developed his individuality.

In the exhibitions of the New English Art Club, of which he has been a member since 1895, his development had long been watched with interest, but only in 1920 did the public that flocks to Burlington House for its summer feast of pictures suddenly become aware of a new painter of individual vision when confronted with the portrait of an elderly, bald-headed man of great bulk emphasised by a white waistcoat; **Mr Minney**.

The name was quickly in everybody's mouth, and always with a chuckle of amusement. I remember at the private view being asked laughingly many times, "Have you seen **Mr Minney**, by Russell the new Associate?"

People began wondering who and what Mr Minney was. Surely, it was thought, he must be "somebody in particular," somebody one ought to know, or at least know about, or he would hardly bulk so prominently in a place of honour in Gallery No.III.

**Mr Minney** was in fact, what in the 'eighties would have been called "the picture of the year". And so the popular fancy, which had eluded the fine artistic accomplishment of a long series of beautiful and interesting pictures by the modest painter, was attracted impishly by this bald man who dominated the Royal Academy of 1920 with his white waistcoated "ventrirotundity" - to borrow Max Beerbohm's word.

Yet there was nothing comic about the picture - a brilliant piece of portraiture which now hangs worthily in the Tate Gallery. Nor, when "Max" describes Hokusai's drawing of Ho-Tei, the monstrously fat Japanese god of increase, does he wish us to imagine anything comic about that picture; but, distinguishing between true fatness and mere stoutness, he calls Prince Bismark to witness, that no man can be trusted "in statecraft until he can show a stomach." If this be so, the Mr Minney's career should certainly have been a splendid success.

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<sup>1</sup>The Art of Walter W Russell by Malcolm C Salaman, extract taken from "Studio" LXXX111 1922 p86

Look, then at Mr Russell's picture<sup>1</sup> and let the painter's psychological insight suggest some clue to the causes of Mr Minney ending his life as an artists model rather than a Cabinet Minister. He had seen life, one has been told; he had trodden the stage, not very much in the limelight perhaps; he had gone through with things - yet, as Mr Russell shows so understandingly and with a fine sympathy, Mr Minney's personal outlook retained a certain dignity which might be called philosophic, or it might be the mere expansive geniality of bulk, the cheery tolerance of the fat man - but perhaps, that flabby hand feebly holding the unfolded umbrella suggests that though he may have gone through with things he never got a grip of them....."

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William Minney of Underbool

This article was sent by Glenda Minney of Underbool, Victoria, Australia.

William Minney was born in Great Barford, Bedfordshire on 19th April 1899, the only son of David and Jane Minney (Robinson nee Peet). David owned The Crown, a 17th Century Inn now owned by The National Trust<sup>2</sup>. He had two sisters, Nora and May, also a half brother, Thomas. May (Mrs Ern Jones) still resides in Great Barford.

Bill, as he was known put up his age to join the British Army during the First World War, becoming a Number One Lewis Gunner. He was wounded in France.

Bill Minney arrived in Underbool, North West Victoria, Australia in February 1923 and worked for Henry Robinson (Bert), a half brother, until he applied for and obtained his own block of 640 acres through the RSL Closer Settlement Board at Linga South two miles from his half brothers.

He married Violet Kilpatrick in February 1926 at Underbool, the first wedding conducted in the newly constructed Methodist Church. This was built of local limestone and is still in use today.

They had three children, Douglas (Kyalite, NSW), Joan (Mrs Ken Gloster, Bendigo) and Ivor (Underbool).

In 1937, Bill and his brother-in-law, Norman Kilpatrick sold their horse teams and bought jointly a Lanz Bulldog Tractor which worked until 1963. This is an heirloom on the farm today.

During the early forties another block was purchased. This was nearer the township of Underbool and the house was shifted there. The block that Ivor resides on today was purchased in 1947, the limestone home built in 1925 has been modernised and added to since Ivor married Glenda Oliver of Natimuk, Victoria in 1959. Bill and Violet then retired to Swan Hill.

In 1952 a further four blocks were purchased from Bert Robinson and his son , Len. 1956 saw 4000 acres purchased at Kyalite, New South Wales, Douglas and his wife Norma have resided there since. This was worked in partnership with the Underbool land until 1978 when the partnership was dissolved.

The property at Underbool has been added to over the years and is now 9300 acres worked in partnership by Ivor and his two sons, John and Ross.

It usually produces 1200 to 1300 tonnes of wheat, 400 tonnes of barley, plus smaller amounts of ryecorn, lupins, peas and vetch. The livestock consists of approx 3000 sheep and 170 cattle.

John, his wife Stephani, and their daughter Louise live in the Underbool township, daughters: Helen, a primary school teacher and Leanne (Mrs Les Jordan), an accounting technician, live

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<sup>1</sup>See front cover of Newsletter number six, July 1990. I can supply a photocopy of the painting upon request.

<sup>2</sup>Can anyone confirm this?



in Mildura. Ross, the youngest lives at home on the farm.

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Snippet

Seen in Kellys Directory of 1894;

**"Jabez Minney, Shoemaker of Yardley Hastings."**

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Tom Minney

Tom Minney, husband of member Edith sadly died last year. Edith has sent the press cutting below for inclusion in the newsletter. The article appeared in the Bedford Herald & Post on 2nd January 1992.

## Seen In

This edition sees a distinctly American flavour. All cuttings have been supplied by Agnes Hulman. I could do with some more - and where are the Northamptonshire Minneys?

