

Welcome to another newsletter.

This one has a fair mix of articles which I hope are of interest to everyone.

I have a small confession to make - earlier this year I was 'playing' with the computer program that holds records of your subs and lost the lot! Luckily I had some form of back-up but I may have missed out one or two people who have paid me but the record shows otherwise. Having said that I do know that one or two subs are outstanding and as this newsletter is run on a very tight budget please forward same as soon as possible.

I am beginning to run out of suitable pictures for the front of the newsletter, so if you have anything I would appreciate a copy (a photocopy of a black and white photo is very acceptable).

The indexing of the 1881 census is beginning to appear and this is a very exciting project for one-namers. Sarah has already provided a print out of part of the Northants result. I will be visiting my local family history society in the autumn to carry on from Cornwall (county results are now being regularly released). Once all the results are in they will give a fascinating snapshot of the Minney name in 1881. Also, I hope to be able to find my elusive gt gt grandfather Matthew Goodenough Handford.

You will see that I had quite a good result at the India Record Office and it has whetted my appetite to know more about the British in India, I have already been carrying out some extensive reading on the history of the American Colonies thanks to the Minney name appearing in their early records.

Regards

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New Member

Joan Robinson, Altnaharra, Lodge Lane, Clifton, Preston, Lancs PR4 0YA

Joan has traced her line to Clifton Reynes and I have been able to provide her with a print-out of all the Clifton Reynes entries in the index. Strangely enough I received Joan's letter the day I returned from Aylesbury Record Office looking at the Clifton Reynes parish register.

Joan's ancestry is shared by Spence and by the time I have sent this newsletter out they should be in touch.

Joan also mentioned that she contacted a John Minney of Barnoldswick who said that he originated from Wellingborough and moved north as a child. He added that someone had shown him their family tree and it included the name Pennyburg (see newsletter July 91) and he believed they were of German origin.

The Minneys' in Abingdon, Berkshire

Some of you will have seen in the IGI reference to the baptisms of Ann and Jone Minny, children of William & Elizabeth on 3rd March 1716 at the church of St Nicholas, Abingdon.

This entry is one of those rare occurrences - A Minn(e)y recorded outside of Northamptonshire prior to 1750.

Paul Pettit checked the parish register entries and found the corresponding burials for the children plus a marriage;

William Minney wed Mary Fisher 10th October 1703 at St Helens, Abingdon
Ann and Jon, twins of William and Elizabeth Minney bapt 3rd March 1716 at St
Nicholas
Ann and John, twins of William Minney buried 9th March 1716 at St Nicholas

Note:- Abingdon had only two churches at this time, St Helens and St Nicholas.

The St Helen parish register has been indexed (of a fashion) and slips are kept at Oxford library. Whilst visiting Oxford I took the opportunity of recording any Minney entries. As there were far

more than I expected and the indexing was abbreviated I contacted the archivist for St Helens, Mrs Mienneke Cox. She very kindly expanded upon the entries and I have listed them as follows;

Marriages

William Minney, Ostler wed Mary Fisher on 10th October 1703, both of Abingdon

Sara Miney wed Edward Holt on 18th October 1736

Baptisms

William Minney on 27th August 1682

Elizabeth dau of William & Elizabeth Minway (sic) on 13th December 1689

Elizabeth dau of William, a boatman & Elizabeth Minney on 19th September 1704

Richard son of William, a barge-man & Elizabeth Minney on 28th November 1710

Ann dau of William, a barge-man & Elizabeth Minney on 18th October 1713

William son of William, a barge-man & Elizabeth Minney on 16th December 1714

Burials

Richard son of William, a barge-man & Elizabeth Minney on 27th July 1711

Ann dau of William & Elizabeth Minney on 9th February 1714

Elizabeth wife of William Minney, barge-man on 28th August 1739

? wife of William on 13th August 1758

William, from Christ's Hospital (almshouses) on 28th December 1762

Entries were searched up to 1750 in the index with several small gaps and up to 1750 for marriages/baptisms and 1812 for burials in the actual register. Also, no further searches have been made of the St Nicholas register. There are in addition some non-conformist registers but these are believed to be patchy.

I will try one day to search both actual church registers as I feel that there may be more Minney entries but missed due to strange spellings.

The barge and boatman descriptions interested me but the majority of information relating to barge-men on the Thames commences late 18thc when canal navigation expanded.

Early boatmen were believed to have been navvies who were recruited to build the canals. They did not live aboard the boats until the 19thc. None of the canals in this area are older than 1750.

Abingdon is an old market town situated on the banks of the river Thames. It was formerly in the county of Berkshire but in 1974 it became part of Oxfordshire. St Nicholas Church was built in the 12thc for the use of lay servants from Abingdon Abbey. St Helens Church was built in the 13thc and has been added to. It is unusual in that it is wider than it is long. Behind the church are the almshouses some of which were built in the 15thc. These older almshouses (known as the Long Alley Almshouses) were administered by Christ's Hospital (see the burial entry for William Minney above). They can still be visited today. See picture opposite.

The baptism of Rubeigh Minney and other Indian entries

Earlier this year I visited the India Record Office (British Library) on the off chance of finding Rubeigh Minney's baptism.

Some of the registers are indexed and by some fluke I found his baptism immediately. I should explain that the indexes are in areas so I had no idea where to start looking (for example Bengal or Madras).

What I did not expect to find was that his was an adult baptism. The first book I picked up was for 1883 - 1923 and for some reason I started from the back and could not believe that I had found it so easily. To any one who has visited the India Record Office you can understand how lucky I felt, it really is a large record office with masses of shelving with very little reference to family history and these indexes were on a bookcase in the corner!

Why was his an adult baptism? Answer = he was getting married. I found that entry as well. It was

not difficult to order the microfilm and I extracted the following details:

Rubyn James Minney son of Joseph Rubyn and Esther Minney baptised on 8th Jan 1918 (born 29th August 1895) at the Holy Trinity Church, Allahabad, Bengal.

Rubyn James Minney age 22yrs, bachelor, a journalist of Calcutta, father Joseph Rubyn Minney wed Edith Annie Muriel Fox age 19yrs, spinster, no occupation, also of Calcutta, father Sydney Bello(?) Fox - by licence at St Pauls Cathedral, Calcutta on 21st Jan 1918.

Witnesses: Samuel Peter Lawton, Wheeler(?) Dryden, Edith Marion, Elizabeth Lawton. These names are for either two, three or four witnesses, it was not easy to decipher this part of the register entry.

It is interesting to note that Rubyn changed his first name to Rubiegh later on in his career. I wonder why? I decided to check some of the other indexes and came up with the following entries:

Bengal Burial Index

1918 to 1939

Kathleen Minnie age 4 months 19 days, daughter of Mr S Minnie was buried on 11th May 1923. Cause of death - pneumonia. Mr S Minney's occupation is given as a bridge inspector for either the MR Railway or OI S Railway, and is from Chandansi. I assume the burial took place there.

Name Card Index

A marriage from the Outstations Register

Elizabeth Minney, a widow, wed William Vincent, a widower and a private in HM 14th Foot, on 4th November 1813 at Berhampore, Bengal.

I checked the burial index for the years 1800 - 1819 to see if Elizabeth Minney's husband's burial appeared there but without success.

A marriage from the Madras, Vepery Records

Anne Minnie, age 19, daughter of Samuel Minnie, to William Francis Parkes, Corporal HM 102nd Royal Madras Fus. on 3rd June 1861.

Her address is given as Poonamallee Road, his is given as Vepery.

Madras Baptism Index

1840 - 1861

John Henry Miney, son of John and Claudine Miney of St Thomas's Mount baptised on 30th May 1856 (born 23rd March 1855) at St Thomas's Mount of Scaunderabad(?), Madras.

Father's occupation given as a Gunner B. Troop Horse Artillery.

I also found a reference to a Minnie marriage at Lucknow, reference N/11 Vol 7, page 285. I had little time left and was unable to order the register. I have all the full references for the above in case anyone wants them. I did not have time to go through all the indexes but I feel a search of the East India Company Records may be of use.

Certificates

From Joan Robinson

Marriage between Robert Morriss, bachelor of full age, a warper, from Denton and Hannah Minney, a spinster of full age, from Denton, daughter of Samuel Minney, a pensioner on 6th July 1845 at Manchester, Lancs. She signed her name with a cross. There were two witnesses, Samuel Minney who signed his name and Elizabeth Minney who used a cross.

From David Minney

Marriage between William Minie, 20yrs, bachelor, a groom, from Far Cotton, father Valentine Minie, a groom also, and Martha Watts, 22yrs, a spinster, a servant of Far Cotton on 25th September 1882 at Hardingstone, Northants. William signed with a cross. Two witnesses, George Watts and Lydia Minie.

Chatby Memorial, Alexandria

The father of Doris Blake and Ben Minney, Arthur J Minney was drowned when his troopship was torpedoed in 1917 somewhere in the Mediterranean. The incident is more fully covered in the July 91 newsletter. It was only whilst researching this article that I discovered that there was a memorial to Arthur at the Chatby Cemetery, Egypt.

Doris has made a trip there and this is her report:

"Our trip to Egypt was very fruitful, although quite nerve racking in parts, soldiers and guns seem to be everywhere. We were met at Cairo by a host and taken to the Belair Hotel on the outskirts of Cairo, from there we were taken on a tour of the Pyramids, through the very poor parts of the city.

The following morning we flew to Alexandria, a very comfortable flight and clean aeroplane. On arrival we had some difficulty in making ourselves understood by the taxi drivers, but by making the sign of the cross and their pronunciation of the Chatby as SHATBY we finally made it. There are so many cemeteries in the Shatby area that it is difficult to find the one you want, and being a Moslem Holy Day everything was closed.

Eventually we found an English speaking gentleman in the first cemetery we came to and he guided us to the second one. That was also locked up but my husband and I climbed over a brick wall, which isn't funny when one is in their seventies. In this cemetery there were I suppose about nine hundred graves, my husband walked down one side and I the other, reading the names on every one. Eventually after two hours we gave up and made our way back to the brick wall, very disappointed, when lo and behold over the top the wall appeared two heads, and in a Scottish accent one said, "Can we help you?".

Never have I been so thankful, and the miracle was that one of them, Scott Cummings, was the Supervisor of Commonwealth War Graves Commission and had books of records under his arm, but we were in the wrong cemetery. Mr Cummings very kindly took us in his car to the right one and at long last he took us to the memorial with my father's name on it. We did take photos of the memorial and also of the record concerning my father from the record book, unfortunately they have not processed well, and as Mr Cummings asked us to let him know if they did not come out we have written to him and we are awaiting a reply and hopefully some photos."

Doris has enclosed the record details and surprisingly the torpedoed ship is named as the Cameronia and not the Arcadian. The date of the sinking is the same. I checked the original newspaper report and it stated that the Arcadian was built in 1899 and was originally called Ortona, no mention of a further change of name.

Extract from record re Dvr. Arthur J Minney 174331 RFA

"The hired Transport 'Cameronia' was torpedoed and sunk on the 15th April 1917, 150 miles east from Malta. She was carrying reinforcements for Mesopotamia, and 127 of the soldiers on board are named on the memorial.

"H T Cameronia 15th April 1917"

All of whom had no other grave than the sea. 'He discovered deep things out of the darkness and bringeth out to the light the shadow of death.'

To the Glory of God and in reverent memory of these 247 Officers and Men of the British Empire buried at sea in the Eastern Mediterranean and of these 735 who lost their lives through enemy action in the following vessels;

Persia 31.4.1917

Aragon 30.4.1917

Chatby War Memorial, Alexandria. Egypt.

Doris has also sent the following article on the Chatby Memorial.

"Chatby War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria, is one of a group of cemeteries on the East side of town. It contains the graves of more than 2,100 British officers and men who fell in the Great War, and the register containing their names has been published.

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 grave other than the sea; and this register relates particularly to these panels, which constitute the Chatby Memorial.

From 1915 to 1918 a greater danger beset the transports and Hospital Ships which covered the sea routes to and from Egypt. The enemy submarines were active in these waters as in others; and the Allied Navies and the Auxiliary Patrol could not completely safeguard these routes, or save every life from a torpedoed vessel. The unburied dead from six vessels, torpedoed or mined in the Eastern Mediterranean, are named on this memorial, and they are 737 in number."

"We do wonder why my mother was never informed that the memorial was in Egypt."

Following Doris's information that Arthur had been on the Cameronia and not the Arcadian I obtained a copy of the Times report of the sinking. Here is the extract from the Times, Saturday May 19th 1917.

LOSS OF BRITISH TROOPSHIP

TORPEDOED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

140 PERSONS MISSING

The Secretary of the Admiralty makes the following announcement:-

The British transport Cameronia, with troops on board, was torpedoed by an enemy submarine in the Eastern Mediterranean, on April 15.

1 Military Officer, 128 Other ranks, 2 Officers of crew, 9 Men of crew are missing and presumed drowned. All the next of kin have now been informed.¹

A SURVIVORS STORY

ORDERLY JUMPING FROM SHIP TO SHIP

(from a special correspondent)

¹Not true! The telegram to Arthur's widow informing her of his death is dated November 1917

Chief Carpenter Gibb, of the *Cameronia* describing the torpedoing of the vessel, said that every life that could be saved was saved. The liner had been engaged for some time as a transport ship. She left on Friday, April 13th¹, having on board a crew of 250 and troops. The latter comprised men from England, Scotland and Ireland, but were largely made up of men from a regiment identified with the Midlands.

The ship was 'plugged' -to use a nautical term- on Sunday evening. Carpenter Gibb had just finished tea, and was filling his pipe when the ship was struck. The actual time was 20 minutes past 5. The sea was calm and the weather fine. Excellent discipline prevailed, the crew going immediately to their boat stations.

"I knew from the tremendous concussion," said Carpenter Gibb, "That the ship was doomed. There was a great rush of soldiers on decks, and I had much difficulty getting to my boat station. The first boat, containing its full complement of soldiers, was smartly launched, but unfortunately it got smashed and many lives were lost. There was a good deal of confusion at first, but quickly, military discipline ruled and perfect calmness prevailed. The officers and men were drawn up on the decks, and under the superintendence of the crew, were placed in lifeboats.

"Forty minutes elapsed from the 'plugging' of the vessel till she went under. The launching of the lifeboats was carried out expeditiously. At the time it was reported that the lives of 98 soldiers and 11 crew were lost. Afterwards it was reported that the total loss was 218, including members of the crew. This large number of casualties was undoubtedly due to casualties caused by the torpedo striking the vessel where it did.

"In order to accelerate the removal of the soldiers the destroyers came alongside the liner on starboard and port sides one at a time. Immediately a destroyer got into position -and it was done just like a train coming into a station- the soldiers were told to jump aboard. The orders were that they must stop when told to do so. This prevented the overloading of the many ships and the chances of the men being lost in jumping from one vessel to the other. On board the destroyers the military were stowed away in every available place, and the warships were soon carrying more than their fair loads but wireless messages were dispatched and assistance came from a destroyer and a mine-sweeper. Many men were picked up out of the water who had been clinging to rafts and other supports and they were succoured by the Jack Tars, who provided them with whatever articles of clothing they could spare."

An officer of one of the destroyers remarked to one of the *Cameronia* officers as he came on board the warship, "You have left your ship." "No," the other replied, "The ship has left us." A minute or two later the *Cameronia* went down. The last man to leave her was her commander, Captain D W Bone, the author of "The Brass-Bounder."

The destroyers kept near the wreck until the following morning when they made for port.

¹An unfortunate date.

Peter Minney

Agnes has had a reply from the Historical Society of Delaware regarding the Minney name in New Jersey. They supplied an entry from a document called 'Bible Records' by the Daughters of the American Revolution¹. It appears to be a Will listing showing the name of the deceased and the recipients of the legacy. There is one entry for Minney;

Peter Minney of Bethel Township. May 7th 1795 (date of death?). Legatees are his brother Daniel Minney's children - Phebe, Matthew, John, Daniel and Rachel. Executors are Thomas Moore and Joseph Warford.

If we assume that this Minney line went to the American Colonies before Independence it may be worthwhile checking the records at Kew. One of my guidebooks states that there are many records relating to the colonies held there.

Billy Minnie - Wild Boer²

On April 7th this year BBC2 television ran a series of programs looking at the different cultures in South Africa and how the forthcoming free elections would affect them.

Billy is of Boer descent and very proud of it. He originated from Richards Bay, Natal. His wife's name is Pat.

Description from Radio Times;

"Billy Minnie is a staunch member of the extreme right-wing Afrikaner Resistance Movement and is preparing for Civil War. He is also the leader of a squatter camp for destitute whites who claim they have lost their jobs to black workers.....Billy Minnie hates the idea of elections, but loves the idea of battle."

Sarah Minney sent a review from one of the daily broadsheets³, extract as follows;

"...the Wild Boer was Billy Minnie, the King of the Camp, who loses his authority as the months pass. At first he appears to be a convincing genial, a character from a fairy tale, with his Titian beard and curly pipe. a toddler permanently astride his shoulders.

¹I would be fascinated to know more about this group. What a wonderful title.

²Wild Boer was the sub-title for this series called 'Beloved Country'. It was produced by Christopher Terrill.

³Article by Ginny Dougary

"He reads his children bedtime stories by candlelight, about the early frontier days of his people - the white folk carving out their territory out of black folk's land. "Since I was kid," Billy says later, "It was hammered into me, hammered into me, that this is my land." It is these childhood stories that are embraced in the hate-filled rhetoric of Eugene Terrablanche.

Later on still, when the reclusive Billy has removed his sociable wife, Pat, and the children from the camp they have grown to love to a solitary tent on a lonely seashore, you begin to understand that a man's distrust of his fellow man may lie deeper than the colour of his skin."

More entries from Flamstead

Dorothy Hone has found two Minney marriages in the Flamstead parish registers. She believes that they are probably the children of Richard and Mary.

William Minney wed Ann Grissell, both of this parish, on 6th February 1819. William signed with a X, Ann Grissell signed. The witnesses were James Dunham and Catharine Grissel.

Henry Chalkley wed Mary Minney, both of this parish, on 6th May 1819.

Henry signed with a X (Dorothy states that the entry shows it as Henry Minney's mark!) and Mary signed. Witnesses were John Groom and Mary Chalkley.

Dorothy also noted the entries for Henry and Mary Chalkleys' children which I can supply if interested.

Update

Spence writes from Australia:

"Perusing the last issue of the newsletter, there are some interesting entries and particularly the Census returns for 1851, Olney & London (FONS);

Yardley Road, Olney

Joseph and Mary Ann Minney (nee Clifton) emigrated to Australia in 1851. With them came Joseph's brother Jeffery and his wife Catherine (nee Clifton) and making up the party, their nephew Isaac Minney. They settled in South Australia.

Joseph wed Mary Ann Clifton at Olney on 14th October 1844.

Jeffery wed Catherine Clifton at Olney on 13th October 1845.

16 Pickering Street, Finsbury

"Samuel and Sarah Minney makes one raise the eyebrows a little.

"While researching my maternal line I initially had a Samuel and Sarah Minney as the parents of my maternal grandmother, Elizabeth. It was later that I discovered that grandmother's full name was Mary Elizabeth Minney.

"Anyway, Elizabeth Minney was born at Stockport, Cheshire on 18th April 1847 to Samuel and Sarah Minney (who I believe was also a Gutteridge). Both came from Buckinghamshire. My great-grandfather, Romeo, was born at Clifton Reynes, Bucks."

A quick look at the index gives two Samuel and Sarah Minney couples as follows;

Samuel Minney wed Sarah Gutteridge on 28th December 1834 at Olney

Samuel Minney wed Sarah Freeman on 18th August 1845 at Olney.

I suspect that the latter couple are responsible for the 1851 Finsbury entry. They are back in Olney by 13th December 1857 for the baptism of their daughter Julia Freeman Minney. This may explain the missing child, Elizabeth from this census entry as she belonged to the first Samuel and Sarah.

Parish Map

Overleaf I have drawn up a map of the parishes on the Bucks, Beds and Northants border which may assist in working out migration patterns or where a missing entry might be.

Minnee name in Holland

Jane Meylink-Green has sent this report;

"I have been to The Hague again to the Rijksaechief. They suggested that I should look up the name Minnee in the Index of The Walloon Churches. This is a large index by family name and I indeed found plenty of Minnees, also Mine, Minne, Minet, Miny and various other variations. The earliest date recorded on the 'fiche' was 1619. Most Dutch church records go back to about then.

"The Walloon churches were first formed in the mid 16thc and were of course French speaking protestant church communities. Families recorded in the index were therefore French speaking protestants. It is clear that the Minnee family was a Hugenot family.

"Since the Huguenots also poured into Germany and Switzerland, it would be interesting to know if the name survives there.

"There is a German Index in The Hague, also a Belgian one, but both are according to towns making it a time consuming business to trace a family."

Jane has supplied photocopies of the earliest entries in the index from a microfiche headed "Minnee". I have produced the list of names and events to the best of my ability but I would refer anyone to Jane if they wish to know anything further.

Johannes son of Johannes van der Minne and Catherine van Monsou(?) baptised
4th September 1686

Abraham son of Johannes van der Minne and Catherine Monsou baptised 23rd
Jan 1689

Notice of intended marriage between Rachel Minne and Constain de Groot(?) on
18th June 1690

Notice of intended marriage between Elizabeth Minne and Michael de Roy on
15th April 1691

Johannes Samuel son of Johannes van der Minne and Catherine van Monsou
bapt on 24th Aug 1692

Adriaan son of Cornelis Minee and Helen Rotteveel on 8th July 1693

Arend(?) child of Richard(?) Minne and Sophia Kronenburg bapt on 12th Sep
1693

Susanna dau of Martinns Minne and Johanna van Bospart bapt on 27th Dec 1693

Jannelji(?) child of Jan Minne and Sara Reiniessid bapt on 13th Jun 1694

Joris(?) child of Cornelis Minee and Helen Rotteveel bapt on 19th Jan 1695

Joris child of Cornelis Minne and Helen Totteveel bapt on 25th Mar 1696

Notice of intended marriage between Gillis Minne and Cornelia Block on 28th
April 1697

Jane has also sent details on Minnee families found in records relating to the 2nd World War. These will feature in a future newsletter.

Gunner Minney -

In July 1993 I asked "Where is Gunner Minney?". A question made on behalf of the secretary of the Biggleswade British Legion.

I contacted the secretary, Wendy Smith to see if her local news coverage had come up with a result, alas no. However she did supply further background information.

The original request had come from the Kingsbridge British Legion in Devon...."I am seeking a Mr Minney, one time R.A. (T.A.) involved in air raid in our area. The T.A. Unit was primarily formed from the staff of a brewery in your area or Bedford."

On the front page of the Kingsbridge, Salcombe & South Hams Gazette dated March 12 1993 there was an extensive article concerning the 50th anniversary of the worst damage Salcombe suffered during 2nd World War and culminating in a special service of remembrance in the parish church on September 12th....."The highest number of casualties occurred on September 8th 1942. Six people were officially listed as dead but Mr Murch (chairman Salcombe Museum Society) is trying to find burial certificates for four others who died. The raid was carried out in the Church St area."

The newspaper article mentions that there are discrepancies between the memorial record as against the burial list...."In another instance, the daughter of a Royal Artillery company sergeant-major at Bolt Head was killed, but may not have been buried in the town."

"Mr Murch will be collecting as much information as he can about the town's wartime casualties and passing it on to the Rev Paul Abram who will be arranging the remembrance service in September."

From 'Salcombe's Wartime Casualties'

"The second raid to cause casualties was on 8 September 1942 when bombs fell in the Church St area, demolishing three houses on the southern side of the street, by and below the arch, and severely damaging houses opposite, and in Buckley. The Church and houses in The Island were also damaged."

The War Memorial records the following name (amongst others):

K W J Minney, daughter of Gunner Minney stationed at R.A. Bolt Head.

I decided that the easiest way forward was to find out the full name of Gunner Minney and so I sent off for the death certificate of the daughter K W J Minney.

I was surprised to discover that K W J was a boy- full name Kenneth William John Minney who died at South Hams cottage hospital, Kingsbridge on 9th September 1942. He was 11 months old. Cause of death - 'due to war operations.'

The father's name is Charles William Minney, Gunner in the Royal Artillery, of 6 Church Street, Salcombe.

¹© David F Murch 1993

The index shows one possible match (I have to say that my coverage of births at this period of time is not exhaustive) - Charles William Minney born 22nd March 1920, son of Benjamin Walter and Nellie Minney of Great Barford, Beds. So if there is anyone out there who reading this knows of Charles William or other members of this family then please drop me a line so that we can solve this mystery (and perhaps correct the Salcombe war records).

When I contacted Wendy Smith she had a surprise for me, her mother's maiden name was Minney. She says that she has little information on her mother's family but hopes the following is of interest;

"My grandfather was Harry Thomas Minney date of birth unsure, but possibly 1860. There were four other children, Percy, Fred, Phoebe and one more. I believe he originated from Cotton End, Bedford and had some connection with a building company - Wharton and Goodship?

"He worked in Bedford, for a grocery shop I assume, as he drove a horse and buggy delivering goods. He then moved to Biggleswade where he worked in the Swan Hotel/the coal yard, and finally at the brewery, Wells & Winch as it was then, driving the horse drawn drays. He died possibly in 1928.

My grandmother was born Elizabeth Lawton date of birth unsure again but around 1880. There were three other children, Winifred, Albert and one more. She died aged 59 years in 1939. During her life she had five girls, one died at birth, one as a young baby. The three surviving into adulthood were Ellen Maud Minney born around 1900 (now deceased), Doris Phoebe Minney born 1904 and Elsie May Minney born 1906 (my mother). My mother was born in Queen St, Bedford and as she is the youngest it is feasible that all the children could have been born there."

I have the listings from the Bedford Directory¹ up to 1912 (they go up to the 1930s). A quick glance at the directory gives additional addresses to the birthplace of Queen Street.

Harry Thomas Minney first appears in the 1903 directory at 15 Ampthill St, ditto 1904. In 1905 he is at 7 St Johns Place, ditto 1906. In 1908 he is at 26 Newnham St, ditto 1910, 1911 and 1912.

I also looked for his birth entry in the General Register Office records and he appears in the March quarter 1879 at Bedford district. His marriage was also registered in the Bedford district in the March quarter 1902, ref 3b566. Once I have the 1881 census results for Beds I will be able to take his line back further (either that or I purchase his birth certificate, or better still Wendy can and send me a copy!).

¹Bedford Reference Library

Era Wayne Minney, Gilmer County, West Virginia

This article is taken from "History of Calhoun County, West Virginia" supplied by Agnes Hullman

Era Wayne Minney was born August 19th, 1887 at Snake Root, Gilmer County, West Virginia, the eighth of ten children (two boys and eight girls), to Jeremiah Jacob and Elizabeth Vannoy Minney. The family lived on a farm on Rush Run, in Calhoun County, West Virginia.

At the age of eleven, upon the death of his father from scarlet fever, Wayne was the only boy at home since the older brother, Blaine, went away to work. A year later, at the age of twelve, two older sisters also died from scarlet fever, leaving Wayne the responsibility of doing the farm chores and keeping the family together. Wayne was able to attend very little public school. Hardly tall enough to reach the plow drawn by a team of horses, Wayne planted and harvested the field to supply food for the family and animals.

As a youngster, he was never permitted in the kitchen to work, his mother would say, "Boy, your place is outside." Growing up, Wayne's love was for horses and he worked and trained them with great skill. Many times he was asked to bring the doctor or midwife to different homes because a "lady would be getting a baby" and friends and neighbours knew they could depend on Wayne to complete the journey safely and quickly.

He attended the Rush Run Baptist Church and talked about attending the revival meetings, either walking or riding his horse through all kinds of weather. After church on Sundays, the family and others would gather at the Minney home on Rush Run for a sing. Sometimes the home was so full that there was hardly any room left for anyone. Everyone joined together singing church songs, making joyful noise unto the Lord.

Wayne worked as a logger both in Gilmer and in the surrounding counties, mainly the Cranberry River area. He liked to tell stories of the time that he and other workers were moving logs in extremely cold weather and how their clothes, eyelids and hair froze. Logging in those days was a risky job for very little pay, usually only for sleeping room and meals.

Wayne was the only child left at home to help his mother when he was drafted into the Army during World War 1. After the war, Wayne moved to Morgantown, West Virginia, and sought employment as a carpenter. On October 14, 1920 Wayne married Mary Francis Glover, the daughter of the Rev and Mrs P L Glover.

Wayne and Mary had six children :- Frances Eva, Okera Janet, Irene May, Ellsworth Martin, Robert Franklin and Wayne Burdette.

Wayne retired with twenty years of service from the Monongalia County Board of Education. He lived to celebrate his 90th birthday with a very special party of family and friends. Uncle Wayne, as he was known, was dearly loved and respected. He died October 26, 1977.

¹This piece submitted by Betty J Minney and published 1989

Clifton Reynes

The majority of these entries from the parish register of Clifton Rynes, Bucks were supplied by Paul Pettit and appeared in one of Sarah Minney's newsletters. I recently visited Bucks County Record Office to add the burials and some additional entries.

Rel = relationship (eg; h-husband, d-daughter, w-wife, m-male, iw-intended wife, s-son) to next two names. Male = first and surname of male marrying a female Minney. Event = mar-married, bpt-baptism, bur-burial, bann-banns. Date is month, day and year.

First	Surname	Rel	Male	Surname	Event	Date
Samuel	Minney	h		Martha		Harrison mar 08/19/1759
William	Minny	s		Samuel		Martha bpt02/10/1760
Mary	Minney	d		Samuel		Martha bpt03/17/1761
John	Minney	¹ h		Elizabeth		Attawel mar 10/31/1763
John	Minney	s		Samuel		Martha bpt07/08/1764
Thomas	Minney	s		Samuel		Martha bpt06/01/1766
Charlotte	Minney	d		Samuel		Martha bpt10/13/1768
Thomas	Minny	s		Samuel		Martha bur03/11/1771
Thomas	Minney	s		Samuel		Martha bur03/11/1771
Elizabeth	Minney	d		Samuel		Martha bpt06/26/1771
Charlotte	Minney	d		Samuel		Martha bur02/12/1773
Charlotte	Minny	d		Samuel		Martha bur02/19/1773
Elizabeth	Minny	d		Samuel		Martha bur02/23/1773
Thomas	Minney	s		Samuel		Martha bpt09/12/1774
Mary	Minney ²	w	John	Cockins		mar 10/11/1780
William ³	Minney	h		Elizabeth		Kent mar 12/25/1783
Mary	Minney	d		William		Elizabeth bpt05/02/1784
Thomas	Minney	m				bur01/17/1786
John ⁴	Minney	h		Mary Swain	mar	04/17/1786

¹Record states he is from Yardley Hastings

²Record states "Mary is of this parish"

³Record states "William is of this parish"

⁴Record states "John is of this parish"

Samuel	Minney	m					bur05/03/1786
Martha	Minney	d	William	Elizabeth			bpt06/01/1786
Thomas	Minney	s	John Mary		bpt		10/21/1787
Thomas	Minney	m					bur11/18/1787
William	Minney	s	William	Elizabeth			bpt12/07/1788
John	Minney	s	John Mary		bpt		07/12/1789
Elizabeth	Minney	d	William	Elizabeth			bpt07/28/1790
Thomas	Minney	s	William	Elizabeth			bpt07/10/1791
Steven ¹	Minney	s	John Mary		bpt		11/06/1791
Thomas	Minny	s	William	Elizabeth			bur06/12/1792
Thomas	Minney	s	William	Elizabeth			bur06/12/1792
James	Minney	s	John Mary		bpt		11/24/1793
Ann	Minney	d	William	Elizabeth			bpt08/31/1794
Stephen	Minney	s	Mary ²				bur04/28/1801
Martha	Minney	d	Martha ³				bpt06/19/1808
Mary	Minney	iw			Frances	Clare ⁴	bann
							11/01/1809
Mary	Minney	w			Frances	Clare	mar
							01/03/1811
Elizabeth	Minney ⁵	iw			Joseph	Stanley	bann
							08/01/1811
Ann ⁶	Minney	d	Elizabeth				bpt06/07/1812
Samuel	Minney	s	Martha				bpt11/07/1814
Joseph ⁷	Minney	s	Elizabeth				bpt08/28/1815
Sarah	Minney	d	William	Hannah			bpt08/25/1816
Elizabeth	Minney	d	Samuel	Elizabeth			bpt03/02/1817
Ann	Minney	d	William	Hannah			bpt12/25/1818
Hannah	Minney	d	Samuel	Elizabeth			bpt03/14/1819
Sarah ⁸	Minney	d	Elizabeth				bpt02/06/1820
Martha	Minney	d	William	Hannah			bpt03/11/1821
Esther	Minney	d	Samuel	Elizabeth			bpt06/11/1821
Eleanor ⁹	Minney	d	Elizabeth				bpt07/21/1822
Rebecca	Minney	d	William	Hannah			bpt05/18/1823
Romeo	Minney	s	Samuel	Elizabeth			bpt09/22/1823
Mary	Minney	d	William	Hannah			bpt07/03/1825
Juliet	Minney	d	Samuel	Elizabeth			bpt09/25/1825
Thomas	Minney	s	William	Hannah			bpt10/21/1827
Selina	Minney	d	Samuel	Elizabeth			bpt07/27/1828

¹First name spelt as 'Steveich'

²Entry classes her as "widow"

³Entry classes her as "spinster"

⁴Record states "he is a widower from Houghton, Kent"

⁵No trace of a wedding but appear to have had four children after this date who were baptised 'Minney'

⁶Reputed father Joseph Stanley

⁷Reputed father Joseph Hanley(?)

⁸Reputed father Joseph Stanley

⁹Reputed father Joseph Stanley

Joseph	Minney	s	William	Hannah			bpt05/02/1830
Sarah	Minney	d	William	Hannah			bpt06/30/1832
Mary	Minney	w			William	Minney	mar
	10/07/1832						
William	Minney	h	Mary Ann	Minney			mar
	10/07/1832						

Seen In

Abingdon, 5, 6
Allahabad, 8
Barnoldswick, 5
Bedford, 21
Bethel, 15
Biggleswade, 20, 21
Calcutta, 8
Chandansi, 8
Chatby, 9, 10, 11
Clifton Reynes, 5, 17, 23
Cotton End, 21
Denton, 9
Far Cotton, 9
Finsbury, 17
Flamstead, 16
Gilmer County, 22
Great Barford, 21
Hardingstone, 9
Lucknow, 9
Madras, 7, 8
Manchester, 9
Natal, 15
Olney, 16, 17
Salcombe, 20, 21

Scaunderabad(?), 8

Stockport, 17

Vepery, 8