

Welcome to issue number 16.

I was saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Minney on 30th October last year. I met her twice over the past few years and on one visit managed to write down some of her early memories. I have put these together in an article called 'Round by Wills Mother's' (see page 15).

I am indebted to Agnes and Diane for their contributions. I was also going to include a lengthy article from Paul Pettit but I have kept this over for a future issue.

Romeo Minney seems to be a man of mystery and hopefully we will be able to fill the gaps for Spence and others.

Agnes continues to unearth more about the USA line of Minney and has discovered the existence of a USA Minney Family Newsletter. I hope she can find a copy.

I was hoping this issue to have some exciting news about a piece of extinct moorland in Yorkshire but I am still waiting for replies.

I think that is about it. Don't forget to send in anything at all on Minney, particularly news cuttings and snippets of information. I am especially interested in anything you may recall about your line of Minney before World War Two, either family legend, gossip or whatever. It does not matter if it is just a short piece as I am sure other readers would be very interested.

Regards

Barrie Minney

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Certificates

From Joan Robinson

Death of Samuel Minney, age 56 years, an out pensioner of Chelsea Hospital from the Bucks Militia, on 3rd December 1843 at the Stockport Infirmary. Cause of death:- Abscess in perineo, Extravasation of urine.

This is the Samuel mentioned in the Bucks Militia in the January 95 issue.

From David Minney

Birth of William, son of William & Martha Minie (formerly Watts) on 7th July 1883 at 17 Alma (?) Street, Far Cotton, Hardingstone, Northants. Father's occupation given as ostler. Interestingly the informant and mother, Martha gives her address as 4 Chapel Place, Kettering Road, Northampton. The birth was registered on 15th September 1883.

Birth of Henry Samuel, son of William & Martha Minnie (formerly Watts) on 14th January 1886 at 26 Chapel Place, Northampton. Father's occupation given as general labourer.

Birth of Edward Charles, son of William & Martha Minney (formerly Watts) on 9th October 1889 at 26 Chapel Place, Northampton. Father's occupation given as brewer's labourer.

Birth of Alfred Herbert, son of Harry Samuel & Harriet Minney (formerly Skillman) on 21st February 1920 at 111 Great Russell street, Northampton. Father's occupation given as Brewers motor lorry driver, ex-army.

David has requested that any relation/descendents of the above William Minney and Edward Charles Minney contact him. William & Edward were the brothers of his grandfather Henry Samuel Minney. David can be contacted on 01788 562840 (home) or 0181 9636555 (office).

Companies House Records

One of the benefits of the Internet is that is possible to legally search some computer databases for lists of names. One such database is Companies House whose records are 'public domain'. Out of curiosity I searched for current directors with the surname of Minney with the following surprising result:

Name	Post Town	Region
Allan Minney	Liverpool L26	

Andrea Louise Minney, Mrs	Kettering	
Angela Minney, Ms	London	SW11
Brian Minney	Yeovil	BA22
Clifford Minney	Bedford	MK43
Clifford John Minney	Bedford	MK41
Constance Minney	Manchester	M38
Cynthia Minney	Wellingborough	NN9
Dennis George Minney	Southall	UB2
Frederick James Minney	Portsmouth	PO6
Graeme Alan Minney	Chesham	HP5
Jackie Minney, Mrs	Beckenham	BR3
Jaqueline Ann Minney	Beckenham	BR3
James Minney	158 Japan	
Jennifer Patricia Minney	Yeovil	BA22
John Harry Minney	Kettering	NN14
Leslie Minney	Dunstable	LU6
Margaret Ellen Minney, Mrs	Wellingborough	
Marianne Teresa Minney	Chesham	HP5
Marilyn Minney	Liverpool	L26
Mary Minney, Mrs	Bedford	MK41
Michelle Minney, Mrs	Manchester	M29
Monika Brigitts Minney, Mrs	Southall	UB2
Norah Mary Minney	Royston	SG8
Paul Allan Minney	Wirral	L61
Peter Minney	Manchester	M29
Peter Thomas Minney	Chelmsford	CM2
Philip Frank Minney	Evesham	WR11
Safia Laila Minney	Japan	158
Susan Frances Minney	Swansea	SS7
Susan Louise Minney	Benfleet	SS7
Terry Minney	Wallington	
Trevor Philip Minney	Benfleet	SS7
Vivienne Patricia Minney, Mrs	Bedford	MK43
Willem Johannes Jacobus Minnie	Tadworth	KT20

I was quite surprised to find so many entries. I did not search further on the directorships to find details of companies and addresses due to cost but this information is freely available. Unfortunately, older records are not available on computer. And if you are wondering, no I do not have a modem yet, I used the one in the office!

Herbert Minney's family

Pam Garner has sent the following;

At the moment I am trying to finish gathering information about my grandfather Herbert's family. I feel the best way to do this is through the magazine. Although my sister Cathy Reading wrote about Herbert's seven brothers in 1990, as did Margaret Minney, a lot of this information has yet to be officially confirmed. I thought maybe some of our newer members may also belong to "our" line and would know what happened to the brothers.

George Minney born 1842, Little Staughton, Beds married Charlotte Allen, born 23rd July 1836, Newton Bromswold, Northants on 27th June 1865 at Little Staughton. They had eight sons but no daughters. I have listed the eight below and their proven details;

Arthur William Allen/Minney

Born 1864 to Charlotte Allen, a single woman. He came to Melbourne on the ship 'Oruba' (also listed on the passenger ship is Albert Minney). He was married as William Arthur Minney to Margaret Wallen in Melbourne in 1906. He died in Melbourne in 1907. There were no children.

Fred Minney

Born 1866.

Francis Minney

Born 1867. Died Little Staughton 16th January 1939 and buried at St Nicholas churchyard. At time of death lived in Kimbolton Road.

Henry Minney

Born 1869.

Ernest Minney

Born 1871. Married who? Had three children (not sure of order); Richard Stanford born circa 1910 in South Africa and died 1982 Melbourne. Olive (Finlay?) and Aileen (Howard). Ernest is believed to have died in New Zealand. I am currently working on this line.

Albert Minney

Born 1873. Listed on ship with Arthur. However, in St Nicholas churchyard is the inscription; "In loving memory of Charlotte, the beloved wife of George Minney of Great Staughton, who died 13th April 1903, aged 67 years. Also, Albert their son, who died in Central Africa through the effects of gelatine fumes during an exploring expedition, June 8th 1903, aged 31 years."

Herbert Minney

Born 1877. Came to Melbourne, Australia in 1898 aboard "Australasia". Married Jessie Boyd in Melbourne 1901. They are my paternal grandparents and I have got all necessary information for this line.

Alec Minney

Born 1879. Married Florrie May Brown 1905 Beds. They had five daughters, followed by four sons.

Have any readers anything more positive to add, or better still, are any members descendants of these brothers (especially Fred, Francis or Henry)?

One of the brothers was rumoured to have joined the Canadian Mounted Police, but replies from the CMP are negative for Minney or any spelling like it.

I can add very little to the above, the index has the following information;

Fred Minney, baptised 1st July 1866. Appears in 1871 & 1881 census for Little Staughton, aged 4 &

14 years. In 1871 he is in the household of his Uncle Henry and Aunt Hannah Minney. The 1881 entry has his occupation as butcher.

Francis Minney, baptised 22nd June 1867 and appears in the 1871 census only, aged 4yrs and a scholar. I also have a Somerset House entry that puts his address as 6 Preston Drove, Bedford at the time of his death in 1939. He died at St Peters Hospital, Bedford leaving a widow, Mary Ann Minney.

Henry Minney, very little I'm afraid. Just the date of the registration of birth in the March quarter 1869 for the St Neots area. To date he does not appear in any census return.

Albert Minney, appears in the 1881 census, aged 8.

Ernest Minney, appears in both the 1871 & 1881 census, aged 2 months and 10 years. Interestingly his birth appears twice in the GRO; in the March quarter 1871 for St Neots he is shown as Ernest Minnie and Ernest Minney.

Extracts from Somerset House

During the last few years Sarah Minney has been extracting all the Minney entries from Somerset House for Wills and Letters of Administration . Here are a few entries;

Thomas Minney

30th August 1858. Letters of Administration (with the will annexed) of the personal estate and effects of Thomas Minney, late of Witton, Huntingdonshire, Yeoman deceased who died 15th July 1858 at Witton, were granted at Peterborough to George Minney of Northampton, shoemaker, the grandson and one of the universal legatees named in the said will. Effects under £200.

Henry Minney

6th June 1867. The will of Henry Minney the elder, late of Little Staughton in the county of Bedford, Farmer deceased who died 29th March 1867 at Little Staughton, was proved at Northampton by the oaths of Henry Minney of Little Staughton, farmer, the son and Thomas Green of Bushmead in the parish of Eaton Socon, farmer, two of the executors. Effects under £1,500.

Mary Minney

7th September 1870. Letters of Administration of the personal estate of Mary Minney, late of Kempston Green End in the county of Bedford, widow deceased, who died 23rd August 1870 at Kempston Green End were granted at Northampton to Sarah Minney of Kempston Green End, spinster the daughter and one of the next of kin she having been first sworn. Effects under £200.

Elizabeth Minney

1st April 1871. The will of Elizabeth Minney, late of Olney, widow who died 1st November 1870

proved at Oxford by James Bass of Olney, Draper and Thomas Whitmee the younger of Stagsden, Farmer, the nephew, executors. Effects under £300.

Joseph Minney

3rd March 1875. The will of Joseph Minney, late of Castle Street, Edgeley in Cheadle Buckley, Chester, Pork Butcher who died 9th January 1875 at Edgeley was proved at Chester by Sarah Minney of 58 Castle Street, widow the relict, the sole executrix. Effects under £200.

John Minney

21st January 1876. Administration of the effects of John Minney late of Little Staughton, Bedford, Shoemaker, who died 12th March 1860 at Little Staughton was granted at Northampton to Mehetabel Trench (wife of Samuel Trench, Shoemaker) (formerly Minney widow) of 16 Kettering Road in the town of Northampton, the relict. Effects under £50.

Does anyone know why a widow, who remarried should need to seek letters of administration sixteen years after he died for a value of less than £50?

John Minney

19th October 1877. Administration (with the will) of the effects of John Minney late of 29 Brompton Crescent in the county of Middlesex, Esquire who died 22nd September 1877 at 29 Brompton Crescent, was granted at the Principal Registry to Louise Anne Minney of 29 Brompton Crescent, spinster the daughter, the Residuary Legatee substituted. Effects under £14,000.

This John Minney obviously had money. He appears in several Post Office directories of the time as a 'gentleman' or 'esquire'. The address is also in a fashionable area. Sarah has obtained a copy of the will for a future newsletter. I have yet to discover which line of Minney this is.

Harry Minney

27th February 1879. Administration (with the will) of the Personal Estate of Harry Minney, late of 4 Disraeli Road, Putney in Surrey, who died 1st February 1879 at 11 Maxwell Road, Fulham, was granted at the Principal Registry to Frederick Harry Minney of 13 Redburn Street, Chelsea, Gentleman, the son, one of the Universal Legatees. Personal estate under £800.

to be continued.

Daniel Minney of USA

Agnes has certainly been busy researching her Minney line. Below is just some of her results. The first piece comes from a document described as the 'Genealogy of Daniel Martin'. I have no idea how old it is, nor who wrote it, and a later letter from LaRita Neeley questions the accuracy. 'The Genealogy of Daniel Martin' was obtained through a genealogical library; Hoenstine Rental Library, Pennsylvania.

'Daniel Martin was born on April 26th, 1799, the first child of Andrew Martin and Martha Minney Martin. His birthplace was in southern Bedford County, Pennsylvania, either in Southampton or Bethel Townships. He was evidently named after his grandfather Daniel Minney.

'...the deed shown below is simply signed Andrew Martin and it is apparent that this is the father of Daniel, for he was giving the deed to John Minney, whom is known to have been a brother of Martha Minney Martin.

"Bedford County, Book G page 277 - Deed of Andrew Martin to John Minney of Southampton Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, for £90 15s, paid by said John Minney, conveys to the said John Minney, land and improvements in Southampton Township, formerly Colerain Township, between the forks of Bazzel Browning branch of the Sugar Camp, also adjoining the Green Ridge.....Deed dated December 26th, 1805 and 30th year of American Independence."

In regard to the family of Martha Minney, we have some record, Martha Minney is supposed to have been born in New Jersey in 1775 and her mother's maiden name to have been Reeder. Book G Page 24, April 26th 1776, John Minney of Bethel Township sold land to Jonathan Barley. A will filed May 7th, 1795, Peter Minney of Bethel Township; to my brother, Daniel Minney's children, he leaves his estate. Children named are Matthew, Phoebe, John, Daniel and Rachel. Inventory shows that Daniel Minney, (father of three children), died in 1785, and that the estate was to be held until all children were of age, which was apparently in 1795 when the will was filed. (From the reading of the will, it is apparent that Daniel Minney, who died in 1785, had a son Daniel Jnr).¹

"Book 35 Page 2, January 22nd 1798. John Minney, a minor child of Daniel Minney deceased, and above the age of fourteen years, came to court and chose John Fisher as his guardian.

"September Court 1800. Before James Martin and John Dickey, Judges, there came John Fawney and Mary Minney Fawney, administrators of the estate of Daniel Minney, now deceased.

From these records, I take it that Martha Minney had a brother, John, and a sister Mary, all children of the Daniel Martin (*error?*)² who apparently died in 1798. The John Minney mentioned, moved to Ohio after his marriage to Eva Barnhart. A grandson, Tom Minney and his two children, Lester Minney and Mrs Fred Clumy, live at Port Washington, Ohio.

I have tried to find if John Minney, Peter Minney, or the two Daniel Minneys had any service in the revolution from Bedford County. Very likely, the John Minney who gave deed in 1776 was the father of Peter and Daniel Minney Sr. The Pennsylvania Archives at Harrisburg have the Minney family indexed under the surname Mooney of which family there were several residing in Bedford County in those days. As the original records are not available it is impossible to separate the name.'

Agnes has found another Minney researcher; LaRita M Neeley, from Kansas, she has written to Agnes in response to the above:-

" Where did you get the sheet on Daniel Martin? Several things are incorrect. I don't know who did it or when.

"...as for John Minney buying land in 1776, Bedford County that's wrong. I tried to get that record and there is no such thing. I have the deed of Andrew Martin selling land to John Minney, brother of his wife and John Minney selling on the same land.

"On the will of Peter Minney, where the children are mentioned the child is Marthew (Martha) not Matthew. In the 1790 census there is Mary Minney, widow of Daniel. I think living with her is Peter Minney. I think she is the one who married John Tawney, sometimes Fawney.

¹I found this paragraph very difficult to follow.

²I was beginning to get confused here, this should be Daniel Minney?

"In the tax records of New Jersey, it says he has 100 acres and then 80 acres, but I have been unable to find when he bought it or when he sold it."

LaRita also mentions in her letter a Minney Family Newsletter that she has had sent to her - definitely not me. I wonder where I can get one from?

LaRita also sent a family record sheet showing some information on the children of Daniel and Mary Minney, Martha, Phebe, John, Daniel and Rachel.

About two days later Agnes sent copies of these original documents¹. I have annotated them as follows;

The will of Peter Minney, dated 7th May 1795

"...I, Peter Minney of Bethel Township, Yeoman, being very sick and weak of body, yet of sound understanding and memory...first I give to my brother Daniel's children, my nephews and nieces, namely Matthew (or Marthew) Minney, Phebe Minney, John Minney, Daniel Minney and Rachel Minney, all my worldly estate to be equally divided until they come of age....."

Signed Peter Minney, his mark.

Indenture of John Minney, dated 9th April 1805 (Minney to Bailey)

"...between John Minney of Bethel Township, Bedford County and Jonathan Bailey that John Minney in consideration of the sum of \$125 to him ...hath sold to Jonathan Bailey all that tract of land that I live on timbered ridge in the Township...provided that the said John Minney pays or causes to pay unto Jonathan Baily... the full sum of \$125 on or before 1st April next.....(there then follows a page and a half of legal terms stating that in default Jonathan Baily can take the property back).

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of John Minney.

"...John Minney, the grantor, came personally before me, Justice of the Peace and acknowledge the foregoing instrument in writing to be his act and deed requesting it may be recorded as such.

John Stillwell, recorded and compared with the original 12th June 1805.

Obituary of Ron Minney

Sent by Margaret Goodwin

¹Documents supplied by Gillian K Leach, Pioneer Historical Society, Bedford County, Bedford, Pennsylvania.

Minney Ron, passed away suddenly but peacefully at South Wing Hospital on August 20, 1994 aged 69 years. Beloved husband of Jean, loving and adored father of Glenis and son in law, Pete. Devoted granddad of Sally, Julia and Christopher and dear brother of Maurice. Formerly of Cotton End, will be sadly missed by all the family and many friends. Funeral service has already taken place this passed week. Donations in Ron's memory for Bedford Hospital Trust (Godber Ward Equipment) may be sent to Arnolds Funeral Service, Roff Avenue, Bedford.

From Bedfordshire On Sunday, 28th August 1994.

Two Minney Lines Of Yardley Hastings

From Diane Harriman

In common with several other Minney researchers I have two Minney lines. One is quite straight forward, the other still needs a bit sorting out.

My first Minney line begins with my 7x great grandfather, Thomas Minney, date of birth and date of marriage to an Elizabeth unknown. Thomas and Elizabeth had seven known children, including my 6x great grandfather, Thomas Minney. Thomas the younger was baptised at Yardley Hastings on 25th February 1716. Thomas the elder was buried at Yardley Hastings on 9th June 1721.

Thomas Minney the younger was married twice, firstly to a Mary and secondly to an Elizabeth (both marriages have eluded me to date). Thomas and Mary had five known children including my 5x great grandfather, Jeffery Minney. Thomas was buried at Yardley Hastings on 19th July 1778.

Jeffery was baptised at Yardley Hastings on the 10th April 1748. He married a Mary (surname and date of marriage unknown) prior to 1769. This couple had ten children, including my 4x great grandmother Charlotte Minney who was baptised at Yardley Hastings on 5th June 1781. Jeffery was buried at Yardley Hastings on the 10th January 1814.

Charlotte Minney complicated things by marrying William Minney, an agricultural labourer, on the 13th April 1802 at Yardley Hastings. They had ten children, including my 3x great grandfather, Thomas Minney who was baptised on 23rd October 1806. Charlotte gave her occupation as laundress in the 1841 census. At this time she was living in Yardley Hastings on the west side of the brook. By the advent of the 1851 census her occupation was given as lacemaker/pauper. She died on the 24th April 1855.

Her husband's line is not quite so straight forward. In fact his parentage is quite a puzzle. On the one hand he may have been the son of Henry and Elizabeth Minney (nee Fisher) who were married at Olney, Bucks on the 13th April 1775. If so he was baptised on the 28th October 1776 at Yardley Hastings. On the other hand he may have been the son of John and Elizabeth Minney. In this case he would have been baptised on the 9th February 1783 at Yardley Hastings. Unfortunately I can find no evidence to prove his parentage either way. On William's death certificate his date of death is given

as 8th February 1852 and his age as 76 years. This fits in with the Henry and Elizabeth baptism. However, as he named his first son John and had no son named Henry. William may have been the son of John and Elizabeth. I would be very grateful if anyone could shed some light on this one for me. It is proving very difficult to unravel.¹

At any rate William and Charlotte's son, my 3x great grandfather, Thomas Minney married Deborah Bedford at Yardley Hastings on 23rd October 1806. The couple had three sons, including my 2x great grandfather, Ebenezer Minney. Ebenezer was born on the 19th July 1828. Thomas, an agricultural labourer, was 20 when he married Deborah who was aged 33 years. She had had two illegitimate daughters by the time they had married. Thomas was buried on the 21st December 1889, aged 83 years.

Great great grandfather Ebenezer Minney married Jane Underwood on 7th August 1849 after banns, at Yardley Hastings. Jane's brother James Underwood was transported to Australia for life in 1841, together with Deborah Bedford's nephew, Joseph Bedford and one other man. This was for the murder of the Marquis of Northampton's gamekeeper.

Ebenezer and Jane had six known children, including; "great aunt Deb" the village dressmaker, who was born in 1850, "Uncle Al" who was born in 1866, and my great grandmother Sarah Ann Minney, who was born on 17th February 1858 at Yardley Hastings.

Here lieth another dead-end as I seem to have lost track of Ebenezer and Jane. Family legend has it that Ebenezer was the manager of a brickworks in Wellingborough. This may be true although when he moved from Yardley Hastings to Wellingborough I have yet to discover. In 1858 and 1861 he gave his occupation as brickmaker, however this was in Yardley Hastings .

On Sarah's marriage in 1878 he gave his occupation as boiler cleaner. Neither he nor Jane show up on the 1881 census for Northamptonshire and his death has yet to be located. Perhaps he moved to another county. The family do not think so as his grandson, Thomas Morrisroe insisted that Ebenezer and Jane lived out the last years of their lives in Wellingborough.

Their daughter, the above mentioned Sarah Ann Minney, was the last in my Minney line. By the time of her marriage on 17th February 1878 she had left Yardley Hastings and was a Wellingborough resident. Sarah's husband William Goss, gave his occupation as railway fireman when he married. Presumably he had moved from his native Riseley in Bedfordshire to obtain promotion with the railways. Sarah and William had seven children, four sons and three daughters. This included my grandmother, Mabel Annie Goss who was born on 28th June 1885 in Wellingborough.

Some time in the late 1880s William was offered promotion to engine driver if he would move to Hasland in Derbyshire. All went well for the family for several years. The only tragedy being the stunted growth and illness of their youngest daughter Daisy due to an inoculation gone wrong.

Suddenly catastrophe struck the family. On the evening of 30th September 1895, William Goss was walking his dog along the railway lines as was his normal practice. On this particular occasion there was a thick fog. The family began to worry when his little dog came home without his master. Their worst fears were realised when William's workmates brought his body home on a door. Apparently in the fog he thought he was stepping out of the path of a passenger

train whilst in reality he stepped into its path.

¹The July 1992 newsletter carried an extensive article on the William Minneys of Yardley Hastings. Essential reading for anyone whose line descends the same as Diane's. Although I have no copies left of that issue I still have a copy on the computer and can print out the relevant article.

The family was devastated. All the children were of or below school age. When Sarah Ann looked for the savings she knew William had, she found nothing. She later discovered he had sown them into the lining of a coat she had given away but was unable to retrieve the money. As Sarah had no relatives in Derbyshire and she had to vacate the railway house the family were practically destitute. "Uncle Al" Minney, her youngest brother, a bespoke tailor based in Wellingborough or Kettering, came to their rescue. He paid their fares back to Wellingborough and helped Sarah find a house in Mill Road to rent. The two youngest children being placed in a railman's orphanage until Sarah found her feet.

In 1901 Sarah Ann Goss (nee Minney) married James Morrisroe, railway engine driver. One child, Thomas Morrisroe was born of the marriage in 1902. "Uncle Tom" lived in the Mill Road house Sarah had first occupied in 1895 until his death in 1985 when it was sold out of the family. Sarah Ann died at Wellingborough on 27th November 1934. Her death marked the end of my Minney lines.

From the Minney Index;

Ebenezer and Jane are mentioned in the 1871 census taken on 2nd April at Yardley Hastings. Five of their children are with them; James Thomas age 15, Sarah A. age 13, Ebenezer J. age 9, Nathan age 7 and Albert H. age 4. Ebenezer's parent's Thomas and Deborah are also present. The eldest daughter, Deborah born 1850 and missing from this census entry, was married the previous year. There is no occupation given for Ebenezer although I expect the original document will have more information. From then until their deaths there is no further mention; Jane's death was registered in the September quarter 1900 at Wellingborough, aged 72. Ebenezer died on 24th May 1912, aged 83 years. His occupation is given as a retired coal shed employee. Arthur William Minney, a bootmaker is his executor, probate dated 10th June 1912. Effects total £189 12s.

I noticed that Ebenezer's residence at the time of his death was 30 Dryden Street, Kettering which was the residence of his son Albert Henry Minney when he died on 28th December 1948.

Top photo opposite is of "Uncle Al" Minney circa 1930

Bottom photo left to right;

Deborah Rainbow (nee Minney), Sarah Ann Morrisroe (nee Minney), Ethel Morrisroe and Brian Morrisroe circa 1935. Photo was taken at Yardley Hastings

Round By Will's Mother's

(or some early memories of Margaret Minney)

Some time ago I had a long chat with Margaret and took notes of our conversation. I sent her the following article which she promised to correct and return. Sadly, she never had time and so I apologise for any unintentional errors. The title of this piece came from Margaret's first words to me (her second words were 'you don't look like a Minney!') when I took the wrong turning on the way to Vicarage Farm and was late arriving, hence I must have come "round by Will's mother's"! Margaret lived at Vicarage Farm, Waresley, Cambridgeshire.

The villages of Waresley, Tetworth and Eltisley were given as a wedding present by the Earl of Faversham to his daughter, Lady Caroline upon her marriage to Colonel Dunkham. Waresley was owned by the Dunkhams up to 1933.

The Dunkham family had rented some land from Pembroke College and sublet this to my father, Alex who had previously farmed at Great Staughton. Alex was educated at Bedford Modern School. The first year was rent free because of the large number of dock weeds that had to be pulled by hand. It took almost three years to clear them all.

Vicarage farm was originally 200 acres but is now a 12 acre meadow. The farmhouse itself dates from around 1600 and has exposed beams from ships timbers that are so hard you could not knock a nail in. In the beginning the farm was mixed with cattle, sheep, pigs, hens, shire horses and corn. After the First World War the majority of the farm was turned over to poultry whereas before the war the few chickens we had were left to wander around the farm and left to their own devices. If we ever wanted eggs I would walk round the farm and collect them from wherever they had been laid.

My father employed about seven or eight labourers, a stockman, a horsekeeper, an under horsekeeper, yardman and lad (the shoe cleaner). He would often say , "Without these hands (referring to his men) I would have nothing." He looked after the welfare of his workforce.

In the farmhouse we also had two maids/washer women. They would walk in each day from the village of Gamlingay (a couple of miles) to start work at 6am. We used to have a big range in the kitchen and I remember that one of their tasks was to crimp the edging of all the pillowcases by hand with a hot iron. Can you imagine that!

Our water supply came from a fifty foot deep well outside and every day two men would pump water from the well into a 400 gallon tank in the attic. We used a lot of water.

The shire horses were kept to pull the farm cart. It had "Minney" written on the side. We only kept mares and they could be kept working right up to foaling, which was easy as the foals would just fall out. I remember my father being upset when he had to dock the foals' tails at nine weeks of age. We had two lots of harness, one for everyday village use and the other for when we went outside the village, particularly when we collected coal from Gamlingay. Then the shires would have their best brasses and their manes would be plaited.

One of my jobs was to castrate pigs at six or seven weeks and cut off lambs' tails. Cutting off lambs'

tails was the only way of knowing how many lambs you had. The tails would be skinned and then fried; they tasted delicious.

"Harvest home" was a time when all the villagers would be employed at Vicarage Farm. There would be two barrels of beer and as a little girl I can remember pouring the beer from a jug into a cow's horn for the men to drink. They would be brought up to the house in relays using four carts. I remember that all the men had moustaches. The work was piece work and when it was over the women

would walk six miles into St Neots to buy essential items such as shoes for the children. They only did this trip once a year. It seems to me that the summers were hotter then. We would take tea under an elm tree with jam scones, the tea would be brought in a tin can, it was the best tasting tea ever.

Our farm labourers had a poor diet, out in the field they had cheese, raw onion and bread, washed down with cold tea. Their diet was supplemented with beer.

The men would cut hay in the morning (the dew made the job easier) and then bind it by hand, a long tiring job. My father bought a hay-binder from Canada and was the first farmer in the area to have one. At first the men boycotted it because they feared for their jobs, one or two even threatened to wreck it until they saw how efficient it was and it would make their work easier. It was soon hired out to neighbouring farms. The machine itself had a complicated Heath Robinson type knot arrangement and had over 100 grease nipples that needed regular attention.

We used to baste our own hams three weeks before Xmas and three weeks after in a mixture of beer and treacle. The hams would then be sent to St Neots for smoking. One year later the ham would be ready to eat.

At Xmas there was a village party for all the children. There would be a large tree with a present on it for every child. Dorothy, my sister was once given a long doll with eyes that opened and closed but she was never allowed to play with it. As children our clothes were made from tweed specially ordered and sent from Scotland. Our shoes were hand made in London.

Alex, my father was a strong man. Once when he was in the local pub he bet that no man could pull him out. He braced himself in the doorway and straightened his legs to take the strain. Up to ten men tried and failed.

I was the only one who could ride a horse with my father and I used to ride with him at the local fox hunt but gave this up when we could no longer afford it.

One of my jobs was to milk the cows and supply the village every day. I once had a kicking cow which I had to strap up to milk. One day I was disturbed by visitors and the cow kicked over the milk. I had to go to another farm to buy the milk to supply the village. Funny how you never forget these things.

The Dunkham family re-built the local church (it was struck twice by lightning) and as a privilege sat in the front pew. The Minney family would sit in the pew behind, we had to pay £7 a year to do so. Every one in the village had to attend the 10am Sunday service including the poor farm labourer whose only day off it was. He had better things to do than clean his boots and go to church.

We were expected to curtsy when a member of the Dunkham family went passed in the street. Once I refused to and fully expected my mother to tell me off but all she said was, "My daughter curtsies for no-one".

Shortly before my father died he received a large tax demand. This was the first time that farm profits were taxed this way. It was an idea of Stafford Cripps, the Chancellor at the time. My father worried over this and I am sure it hastened his death. Both my parents, Alex and Florrie are buried at Waresley churchyard.

My recipe for a long life is a glass of scotch and water at bedtime; it keeps the arteries open!

Margaret also knew quite a bit about the Orlebar family, originally from Hinwick Hall who she claimed moved to nearby Tetworth Hall. Elizabeth Orlibeer wed Thomas Minney in 1760 at Yardley Hastings and are probably direct ancestors of Margaret.

More on Romeo

Spence informs me that there was at least one further child of Romeo Minney's first marriage to Sarah Mason in 1845 (see January 95 newsletter). Mary Elizabeth Minney was born on 3rd March 1852 at 6 Priest Street, Higher Hillgate, Stockport. Her birth appears in the GRO March 1852 for Stockport. Her possible marriage also appears in the December 1870 quarter for Stockport (ref 8a 39).

Spence suspects that there were more children from this first marriage (between 1845 and 1861). I have had a look at all the Stockport entries and although there were a number of Minney families in the area at the time I feel that the following three births should be looked at; William registered March 1847 quarter, William Thomas registered June 1852 and William registered September 1856.

In the March issue of Spence's Minney Insight he has listed several census returns;

1861 Salford, Todmorden

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Romeo Minney	Head	37	Cordwainer	Clifton Reynes
Mary Minney	Wife	31		Stockport
Samuel Minney	Son	11	App Cord.	Stockport

This census entry is 3 months before Romeo married Mary. And where is his daughter, Mary Elizabeth aged 9? It would be interesting to find Romeo on a 1851 census.

1881 1 Lewis Street, Todmorden

Samuel Minney	Head	34	Shoemaker	Ashton
Martha Minney	Wife	31		Hebden Bridge
Sarah Minney	Daughter	3		Todmorden
Joseph Minney	Son	4m		Todmorden

1891 Friths Mill

Samuel J Minney	Head	42	Cotton Weaver	Ashton
Martha Ann Minney	Wife	42		Hebden Bridge
Sarah Minney	Daughter	13	Cotton Spinner	Todmorden
Joseph Minney	Son	10	Scholar	Todmorden
Rose Anna Minney	Daughter	5	Scholar	Todmorden
Mary Minney	Daughter	2		Todmorden

1901 161 Knowlwood Road, Todmorden

Samuel Minney	Head	53		Ashton Town
Martha Minney	Wife	52		Eastwood
Joseph Minney	Son	20		Todmorden
Roseanna Minney	Daughter	15		Todmorden

The daughter Mary had since died.

Samuel James Minney died at Todmorden on 3rd September 1909, Mary Elizabeth died in Canada about 1923.

Joan Robinson has also sent these two 1841 census entries. Remember that ages over 15 year were rounded down to the nearest 5 years, eg; 39 years would be recorded as 35 years.

1841 Wellington Street, Stockport

Name	Age	Occupation	Born in this county
Samuel Minney	50	Independent ¹	No
Romeo Minney	15	Cotton Winder	No
Mary Minney	25	Cotton Winder	No
Elizabeth Minney	20	Card Hand	No
Hannah Minney	20	Card Hand	No
Julia Minney	15	Card Hand	No

1841 Tatton Street, Stockport

Samuel Minney	25	Engineer	Yes
Sarah Minney	25		Yes
Mary Minney	1		Yes

And finally, Juliet Minney's marriage supplied by Joan;

On 8th August 1886 at St Marks Church, Bredbury, Chester between John Bramwell, 22 years, bachelor, a spinner, son of Robert Bramwell and Juliet Minney, 24 years, spinster of Portwood, daughter of Romeo Minney, shoemaker. Marriage was after banns and witness's were James and Martha Pollitt.

¹Of independent means, probably because he was in receipt of a pension.

Great Barford Parish Register Entries

I have put these together using four separate sources; the parish register transcripts at Bedford Record Office, the IGI (both 1988 & 1993), microfiches of latter parish registers (which were of appalling quality, they were copies of already worn microfilm. They should have filmed the original records) and a large family tree of Great Barford. I believe the latter was probably drawn in the late 1970s using the original registers before they were deposited at the record office. Some local knowledge was used in putting it together. For instance, George Minney son of Thomas & Elizabeth does not have a baptism entry but there is a corresponding one for a John Minney on 9th July 1837. The tree entry has this as George. Upon checking this entry on the microfiche I noticed that someone had written 'George' under the name John. The handwriting was fairly modern. Later census entries suggest that he was indeed George.

The following list is self explanatory. Abbreviations used are: h = husband, w = wife, s = son, d = daughter, m = male and f = female.

Samuel		Minny	h	Mary	Clark	marr	3
	1	1771					
John		Minney	s	Samuel	Mary	bapt	28
	7	1771					
Elizabeth		Minney	d	Samuel	Mary	bapt	18
	4	1773					
Mary		Minney	d	Samuel	Mary	bapt	19
	3	1775					
Samuel		Minney	s	Samuel	Mary	bapt	19
	1	1777					
William		Minney	s	Samuel	Mary	bapt	27
	12	1778					
Sarah		Minney	d	Samuel	Mary	bapt	11
	2	1781					
Thomas		Minney	s	Samuel	Mary	bapt	20
	3	1783					
Mary		Minney	w	Samuel		burd	20
	3	1783					
Thomas		Minney	s	Samuel	Mary	burd	3
	8	1783					
Elizabeth		Minney	w		John	Rabbit	
	marr	5	1	1797			
John		Minney	h	Martha	Freshwater	marr	25
	10	1797					
Thomas		Minney	s	John	Martha	bapt	6
	5	1798					
William		Minney	s	John	Martha	bapt	2
	2	1800					
Elizabeth		Minney	d	John	Martha	bapt	29
	11	1801					
John		Minney	s	John	Martha	bapt	20
	2	1804					
John		Minney	s	John	Martha	burd	22
	2	1804					
Sarah		Minney	d	John	Martha	bapt	23
	2	1806					
Samuel		Minney	s	John	Martha	bapt	17
	4	1808					
Sarah		Minney	w		Thomas	Thody	
	marr	17	11	1809			

Mary		Minney	w			John		Hardwicke	marr
	11	5	1810						
John		Minney	s	John	Martha			bapt	30
	9	1810							
John		Minney	s	John	Martha			burd	2
	7	1811							
Martha		Minney	d	John	Martha			bapt	5
	2	1812							
George		Minney	s	John	Martha			bapt	7
	5	1813							
Mary		Minney	d	John	Martha			burd	12
	3	1816							
George		Minney	m						burd
	12	3	1816						
Mary		Minney	f						burd
	12	3	1816						
Ann		Minney	d	John	Martha			bapt	16
	2	1817							
Thomas		Minney	h	Elizabeth	Wiles			marr	24
	10	1817							
William		Minney	s	Thomas	Elizabeth			bapt	30
	5	1819							
Ann		Minney	d	John	Martha			bapt	20
	9	1819							
John		Minney	s	Thomas	Elizabeth			bapt	1
	7	1821							
Samuel		Minney	m	age 78					burd
	11	1821	John		Minney	m	age 2		13
		burd	4	5	1823				
Ann		Minny	d	Thomas	Elizabeth			bapt	25
	12	1823							
Sarah		Minney	w			James		Balls	
	marr	23	12	1824					
Sarah		Minny	d	Thomas	Elizabeth			bapt	25
	12	1825							
John		Minney	s	Thomas	Elizabeth			bapt	28
	12	1828							
Elizabeth		Minney	w			John		Alburn	
	marr	12	10	1830					
Martha		Minney	w			Jon.		Sims	
	marr	3	10	1831					
William		Minney	m	age 34				burd	17
	6	1833	John		Minney	m	age 60		
		burd	8	8	1833				
Ann		Minney	f	age 19				burd	27
	6	1835							
Mary		Minney	d	Thomas	Elizabeth	Wiles		age 3	bapt
	9	7	1837						
John		Minney	s	Thomas	Elizabeth			bapt	9
	7	1837							
Emma		Minney	d	Thomas	Elizabeth	Wiles		age 5	bapt
	9	7	1837						
Samuel		Minney	h	Sophia	Murphin			marr	2
	10	1837							
Mary		Minney	d	Thomas	Elizabeth			bapt	9
	7	1838							
Emma		Minney	f	age 10				burd	13
	7	1841							
George		Minney	h	Betsey	Shanley			marr	11
	8	1845							
Martha		Minney	d	George	Elizabeth			bapt	27
	11	1845							
Martha		Minney	f	age 1				burd	18

Ann	6	1847	Minney	w			William Sharpe	marr	11
William	10	1847	Minney	s	George	Betsey		bapt	25
Unknown	12	1847	Minney	u					bapt
Elizabeth	7	1853	Minney	f	age 53			burd	14
William	8	1854	Minney	m			Minney	s	John
William	10	1856	Minney	s	John	Ann	4	9	1854
Thomas	Henry Augustus	12	Minnie	s		Mary			
Emma	bapt	10	1856	d	John	Ann			bapt
Sarah	9	1858	Minney	w			James		Foster
Emma	marr	27	9	1858	d	John	Ann		bapt
Sarah	9	1858	Minney	d	George	Elizabeth			bapt
Sarah	10	1858	Minney	f	age 1				burd
Martha	10	1858	Minney	d	George	Elizabeth	Minney	w	20
John	James	6	5	1860	George	Elizabeth	5	1859	age 3
George	Elizabeth	5	1860	s	George	Elizabeth	6	5	George
Eliza	3	1861	Minney	h	Hannah	Barnett			bapt
Charles	5	1861	Minney	d	Ann				marr
Joseph	7	1864	Minney	s	John	Ann			bapt
Sarah	7	1864	Minney	s	George	Anna			bapt
Charlotte	10	1864	Minney	d	George	Elizabeth			bapt
Sarah	6	1866	Minney	d	John	Ann			bapt
Elizabeth	6	1866	Minney	d	John	Ann			bapt
Martha	9	1867	Minnie	d	George	Elizabeth			bapt
Herbert	9	1868	Minney	w	age 20		John Richard Pitts		marr
Elizabeth	4	1872	Minney	s	John	Ann	6	1870	Ann
Thomas	8	1873	Minney	f	age 48		Minney	m	age 68
George	6	1876	Minney	m	age 56		1	3	1875
Sarah	8	1876	Minney	f	age 16				burd
Maud	7	1878	Minney	d	George	Anna			bapt

Margaret	5	1880								
	Ethel	Minney	d	George	Anna				bapt	16
Sarah	5	1880								
	Ann	Minney	f	age 8					burd	10
Elizabeth	11	1880								
		Minney	w	age 18		Walter	Bailey		marr	4
John	8	1884								
		Minney	m	age 58					burd	1
Thomas	10	1884								
	Joseph	Minney	h	Mary Ann	Kimpton				age 23	marr
Arthur	31	5	1887							
	Joseph	Minney	s	Joseph	Mary Ann				age 2	bapt
Unknown	9	6	1889							
		Minney	s	Harry	Elizabeth				bapt	12
Isaiah	9	1889								
		Minney	m	age 2					burd	18
Martha	9	1889								
	Emma T.	Minney	d	Harry	Elizabeth				bapt	29
Sophia	2	1890								
		Minney	f	age 75					burd	19
George	5	1890								
	Albert	Minney	s	Joseph	Mary Ann				bapt	28
Hannah	8	1891								
		Minney	f	age 53					burd	10
John	9	1892								
	Henry	Minney	s	Joseph Thomas	Mary Ann				bapt	11
Charlotte	1	1893								
	Elizabeth	Minney	w	age 27		Moses Fred.	Watts		marr	11
Herbert	4	1893								
		Minney	h	Rose	Freeman				age 22	marr
Sarah	1	1893								
		Minney	f						burd	
Florence	10	1893								
	Ann	Minney	d	Joseph	Mary Ann				bapt	1
David	24	1896								
		Minney	h	Jane	Robinson				age 26	marr
Margaret	5	1897								
	Ethel	Minney	w	age 19		Joseph	Lee		marr	24
Benjamin	6	1897								
	Walter	Minney	s	Joseph	Mary Ann				bapt	6
Emily	5	1898								
	Elizabeth	Minney	d	Joseph	Mary Ann				bapt	29
Ernest	10	1899								
	Edwin	Minney	s	Herbert	Rose				bapt	29
Timothy	7	1900								
		Minney	s	Joseph Thomas	Mary Ann				bapt	29
George	10	1901								
		Minney	m	age 64					burd	10
Nora	26	1902								
		Minney	d	David	Jane				age 4	bapt
Percy	1	1902								
	Herbert	Minney	s	Herbert	Rose				bapt	26
William	26	1902								
		Minney	s	David	Jane				age 2	bapt
Maud	17	1902								
	M.B.	Minney	w	age 21		Frederick Chas			Muncey	marr
Samuel	5	1904								
		Minney	s	Joseph Thomas	Mary Ann				bapt	22
Hilda	12	1904								
	Evelyn	Minney	d	Herbert	Rose				bapt	18
May	8	1906								
		Minney	d	David	Jane				bapt	5

Jane		Minney	f	age 45				burd	18
	5	1909	Hannah		Beatrice	Minney	d	Joseph Thomas	
	Mary Ann		bapt	26	9	1909			
Victor	David	Minney	m						burd
	22	8	1911						

From the index I have recently printed out all references to Great Barford and this includes census entries and duplicated entries from elsewhere which are useful for cross checking. It is about twenty pages long and the entries include occupations, source and notes. Ideal bedtime reading. Drop me a line if you want a copy.

