

I know that this issue is going to be late, even as I type this it will be a couple of weeks before it is all printed up, stapled and sent out. This year I have lost the access to a good photo-copier. So instead I am scanning any pictures in (the front cover picture was originally less than 2sq") and then printing off from a laser printer at work. This is taking some time. My other excuses include sitting in the sun, finishing off the decorating and sitting in the sun again (but definitely not watching the cricket!).

If you had been watching BBC TV's 'Jonathan Creek' series earlier this year you will have noticed in the credits one Anthony Minney, presumably the same Tony Minnie who was credited in 'Ivanhoe' last year.

I hope the article on Thomas Minny, USA emigrant will result in some feedback from the sources I have quoted.

Anyway, as late as it is I hope you enjoy the read.

Regards

Barrie Minney

2 Stanley Cottages, Sheffield Park, Near UCKFIELD East Sussex TN22 3QG

Phone 01825 723051

# New Member

Lynn H Webb of 17 Neale Avenue, Kettering, Northants.

Lynn's Minney connection is through the wedding of George Wills to Liza Minney of Yardley Hastings circa 1840. Unfortunately, I can find no trace of Liza in the index. If anyone has a Liza Minney in their family tree can they let me or Lynn know.

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## Mিনny Moon

From "Cornish Place Name Elements" by O J Padel<sup>1</sup> comes the following field place-name entry; Minny Moon. The author believes it is a corruption of Myn and Mon, two old Cornish words.

I have made enquiries with the archivist at Cornwall Record Office and they have supplied the following information;

"Minny Moon is believed to be in the parish of Crowan. No trace could be found of Minny Moon but Mining Moon is to be found in the tithe apportionment map of 1840 for the Carsize area of Crowan.

"The land was owned by the Duke of Leeds<sup>2</sup> for which we hold a collection. The entry from the tithe map<sup>3</sup> is as follows;

Owner - The Duke of Leeds, Occupier - William Thomas

Plan Reference Number 390 A part of long Mining Moon, Arable      Quantity - 0 1 24 (acres?)

Plan Reference Number 402 Destroyed by mining      Quantity - 3 0 3 (acres?)

Plan Reference Number 403 Higher Mining Moon, Arable      Quantity - 2 1  
5 (acres?)

A copy of a 1890 Ordnance Survey map was enclosed but with strict instructions not to be copied (the place name Minny or Mining Moon does not appear on the map). However, I can tell you that on a modern OS map for Lands End, Landranger 203, it is an area between Leedstown and Fraddon, south of the B3302, map reference 599 345.

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<sup>1</sup>Published by the English Place Name Society

<sup>2</sup>Archive Catalogue Ref; GO, RH, AD66, AD216/5

<sup>3</sup>CRO ref; TA/42:CR18 / TM/42:MB12

# Northampton Gamekeepers

In a recent issue of the Northants Family History Society journal 'Footprints' they included a microfiche showing indexes to Meeting Houses and Gamekeepers (strange bedfellows!). From the Quarter Session records there are two entries of interest to us, both for the same person.

## Gamekeepers Index 1711 - 1932 (volume III)<sup>1</sup>

Daniel Minnel of Evenly 1801 Ref QS 293 102 3

Daniel Minnel of Evenly 1804 Ref QS 293 137 3

The parish of Evenly is adjacent to that of Brackley and is on the border of Oxfordshire. Brackley was the home of a line of Minnells from around 1681 to 1750<sup>2</sup> and possibly later. Here the name Minnel is often spelt as Minin(g). It is possible that Minnel was derived from Minin at least in Brackley.

Evenly is only 6 miles from Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire which has that peculiar single IGI entry for the marriage between Ann Myny (or Myng) and Thos Wilson in 1742. Probably worth a look at the original parish register.

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## Minney Moor

Remember Lady Diane Miller, believed to be the owner of Minney Moor, Conisbrough? I have managed to find her living in Zimbabwe. I wrote and this is her reply;

"Your letter was at my bank for collection - sorry for the late reply. The Minney Moor may have been owned by my father but not since he died in 1948. Consequently I cannot help you in any way. My regrets, and I wish you luck in your further enquiries."

Diane Miller - 12th April 97

This information does not tally with that given to Linda Waite by a resident of Conisbrough. So its back to square one and without knowing the name of the owner of Minney Moor it is going to be almost impossible to trace the origin of its name. I hope Linda has more success with the local authority.

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<sup>1</sup>Record Office ref. Box X6757/8 Misc QS 293.

<sup>2</sup>See Minney Newsletter July 93

# The Suicide of Charlotte Minney

The late Margaret Minney said that her grandmother, Charlotte died of a broken heart because all of her children bar one had left these shores. Recently, Pam Garner sent in the death certificate for Charlotte;

Charlotte Minney died 13th April 1903, Great Staughton, Hunts, a female aged 67 years, the widow of George Minney, farmer. Cause of death given as suicide during temporary insanity. Certificate received from G R Wade, Coroner. Inquest held 13th April.

At first I was confused over the date of death being the same as the date of inquest. The answer to this became clear when I read the newspaper report. This was supplied by Rhoda Mayes from the Huntingdon Record Office. For the first time ever I have used some editorial control by removing the graphic description of her injuries and the finding of the weapons. The report is from the St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News dated Saturday, April 18th 1903.

## Great Staughton

### Very Sad Case of Suicide

Mr C R Wade-Gery, Coroner, held an inquest at the "Red Lion" on Easter Monday evening on the body of Mrs Charlotte Minney, widow of Mr George Minney, aged 67.

A thirteen man jury<sup>1</sup> plus Ps Pope and Pc Hall in attendance. The jury viewed the body in residence which is next to the "Red Lion".

Mr Alec Minney, son of deceased deposed that he lived with his mother. Mrs Lee who acted as a sort of nurse to his mother, lived with them. His mother got up every day and walked in the garden but did not go out in the street. On Friday night witness went to bed about ten minutes before his mother and Mrs Lee (about 8.45) who slept in the same bed. He woke several times during the night but heard nothing. His room joined their's. About 3.50 am he heard a noise downstairs and ran downstairs at once finding his mother in the kitchen. She was bleeding and injured a good deal. No one else was there. She only had her nightdress on. She was standing up and he was just in time to catch her. He called to Mrs Lee to bring a light and laid his mother on the couch. He sent at once to St Neots for a doctor, and also for Pc Hall. Dr Bowe arrived about 6.00. Witness remained with his mother all the time. He asked her several times if she knew what she had done, and she said 'Yes' once but gave no reason. She was conscious. She lived to about ten minutes to eight Monday morning. Neither he or Mrs Lee had the least suspicion that she was likely to do anything of this kind. He did not notice anything different about her the previous evening. The billhook produced was their's.

Eliza Lee, widow of Hail Weston, said she had lived with Mrs Minney five weeks. She got up every day and dressed herself. She was quite sensible. Sometimes she worried a little about domestic affairs, but never gave witness the

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<sup>1</sup>full names are listed in the report

least idea that she was likely to injure herself. Mrs Minney was sound asleep when witness went to sleep about 11pm on Friday. Witness did not wake any more until Mr Alec Minney called to her to get a light about 3.50. Witness did not know she had any trouble more than usual about domestic affairs. No one else was in the house or on the premises.

Dr Bowe deposed that he had attended deceased since 8th March. She was weak, with mental depression. She was always quiet, but worried because she thought she would not get better. He had no idea she was likely to injure herself, or that she required watching. When he arrived on Saturday morning he found her lying on a couch in a pulseless condition from a loss of blood. The injuries were serious from the bleeding. She had lost a great deal of blood. The injuries on top of her head could have been caused by the billhook. *I have deleted here the descriptions of the injuries.* When he saw her on Saturday morning he considered there was no hope of recovery.

Pc Hall said he was at Hail Weston when the sad affair occurred. On arriving he found Mr Alec Minney supporting his mother. He assisted in placing her on the couch and rendered First Aid. *I have deleted here graphic references to the finding of a razor in the back kitchen and a billhook in the yard.*

At about 4pm on Saturday he heard her remark to her sons<sup>1</sup> "I am a wicked woman."

The coroner said they had heard the evidence concerning the unfortunate occurrence, and he thought they would be of the opinion that she was entirely answerable for her injuries. The doctor said she was in a state of mental depression, but he did not think it likely to take a homicidal form.

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst temporally insane."

The sad event caused a most painful shock in the neighbourhood for Mrs Minney (who was a Miss Allen) was very well known, and the deepest sympathy is felt for her family.

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## The Times Entries (Continued)

### 12th February 1935 - New Novels

Distant Drums By **R J Minney** (Chapman & Hall, 7s 6d)

Nicholas Perrybooth, the central figure of the story, begins his life as a London clerk. His sweetheart jilts him at the instigation of her mother; he drifts to India, where gradually he becomes conscious of

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<sup>1</sup>typographical error, should only be one son present

his own strength. He is no sentimentalist; he can battle with the toughest in the commercial arena. But unread and uneducated he has somehow grasped the truth that no man can securely build his own fortunes on the suffering of others: all who work for him have shared his burden and shall therefore share his profits. His methods provoke the indignant remonstrance of his competitors: "damned fool - messing things up for us - raising the entire level."

After 40 years of struggle and success Nicholas's fortune flies away; but his life work, for what it was worth, remains; the good deed does not die. Judy, who jilted Nicholas, in her own way too "follows the gleam." After a short and unhappy married life she is left a widow: she finds happiness as a Salvation Army worker in India. Only when she and Nicholas are alike old, grey and broken do they meet again. Yet both are content. A pendant to the life story of Nicholas is a description of the Eurasian world of Calcutta; to that of Judy a description of the aborigines among whom she works. Both descriptions are admirable.

### **31st August 1935 - Wills and Bequests**

**Minney Mr Arthur William** of Finedon, Northants, retired shoe manufacturer (net £24,454) Gross value £28,911

### **25th March 1939 - Law Report March 24**

High Court of Justice, Kings Bench Division

Mayo Composite Aircraft: £3,000 damages in libel action

Short Brothers (Rochester and Bedford) Ltd and others v **Minney** and others

Before Justice Lawrence and a special jury

*A Precis*

The jury returned a verdict in favour of the plaintiffs, awarding them damages totalling £3,000 in the action for libel against **Mr Rubeigh James Minney** of Tudor Street, E C Daily News Limited and Sunday Referee Publishing Company Limited, the editor, printers and publishers respectively of the *Sunday Referee*.

The plaintiffs complained that in the issue of the *Sunday Referee* of March 6, 1938 an article appeared headed "Pickaback Plane May Be Scrapped. It cost £100,000." The article contained, among others, the following passage:-

Britain's £100,000 pickaback aeroplane Mercury (the upper machine) which took four years of inventive genius to develop and which only last Thursday made its successful debut at Rochester, may be scrapped. It will never be allowed to carry passengers. The machine embodies one of the most brilliant discoveries in aviation. But in the opinion of many experts it is already out of date....It will only be used for occasional flights. An entirely new pair of pickaback aeroplanes will have to be built before the practical value of the principle can be judged.

### **11th January 1940 - Mr Humbert Wolfe**

**Mr R J Minney** writes: -

Few can have had so wide a circle of friends and acquaintance as gathered round Humbert Wolfe. His brilliant versatility won him a prominent place in the worlds of administration (which was his work), of poetry, of literature, and the stage, and his amazing fluency in French provided him with a counterpart to all these spheres across the Channel. He had the gift of friendship. There was in his judgements a wisdom, in his wit a charm, that robbed his criticism of all bitterness and partisanship.

He was able at all times to express in a spontaneous phrase an apt, a brilliant commentary on events and people. To talk with him was to be inspired and informed, and then to be reduced to helpless laughter. Not one of our poets has been more stirred to expression by the present conflict than he was. His death is a loss not only to literature but to hundreds who had the happiness of knowing him.

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## Correspondence on Harriet Minney

In May 96 Sarah Minney received the following request for information from Hazel Basford of 1 Edge End Road, Broadstairs, Kent;

"My husband's grandmother was born Sarah Minney Gibson, her mother was Harriet Minney (c 1859 - 1887) who married Charles Gibson. We believe that Sarah was born in Olney, Bucks in 1886. Her mother Harriet apparently died in childbirth, presumably with her next child. I am not sure if the child survived although I have been told that Sarah had a sister called Clara who later married Fred Wighton. Charles Gibson married again and lived for some years in Denton, Northants. I have tried looking for the birth certificate of Harriet Minney at St Catherines House without success"

I wrote and told Hazel of three possible Harriet entries appearing in St Catherines House indexes;

Harriet birth reg Sept quarter 1856 at Bedford  
Harriet marr regd Dec quarter 1883 at Hardingstone  
Harriett marr regd Mar quarter 1885 at Hendon.

In June Hazel replied with the following certificates;

Birth of Harriet on 7th September 1856 daughter of Thomas, a farm labourer and Hannah (nee Goodwin) at Cople, Beds.

Marriage between Charles Henry Gibson and Harriet Minney on 25th November 1883 at the Baptist Chapel, Denton. Both aged 21 years and are bachelor and spinster. He is a farm labourer. She is the daughter of Joseph Minney (deceased) a shoemaker. Both of the parish of Denton. Witness William Minney and Sarah Gibson.

"Could you please check your index to see if you have any likely births in c 1861/2 which look as if they could possibly be Harriet? Alternatively I suppose you might already have Joseph the shoemaker, deceased by 1883, on a tree."

I replied with the following;

"There are two possible births for Harriet. One regd Mar quarter 1860 at Islington and the other (most likely yours) is regd in the Jun quarter 1862 at Wellingboro, Northants.

I also checked for census/baptism entries showing a Joseph and Harriet connection. In Yardley Hastings in the 1871 census a Susannah Minney, widow age 43 has two children Thomas age 11 and Harriet age 8. I know that this Susannah was the wife of Joseph. To complicate matters there is in Yardley Hastings at the same time another Joseph and Susannah Minney.

I believe that your possible Joseph and Susannah were wed in Stoke Goldington, Bucks on 5th April 1848 (IGI entry, no trace St Catherines). I will need more information to tie up any loose ends. Hopefully the correct Harriet birth certificate will lead to a 1861 census entry."

There the story ends, I have heard nothing further from Hazel.

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## Mary & Elizabeth Minney

*The following query came from Rose Bounds;*

"My 5x Great Grandparents were Charlotte and William Minney from Yardley Hastings who were married on 13th April 1802 at Yardley Hastings. They had ten children including my ancestor, Mary Minney baptised on 16th October 1816. Mary had an illegitimate daughter Elizabeth in 1836. At Elizabeth's baptism on 7th July 1836 she is stated as being 'base born' and later on her marriage certificate under father's name she has '*illegitimate - mother's name Mary Minney*' written."

"Charlotte and William also had a son William, baptised on 15th November 1812 which can get confusing with Mary Minney's spouse, William Minney. On the 1841 census the William must be Mary's spouse as he is younger than her, although there is no indication given of it being a separate family unit. We know Elizabeth is Mary's child, but we have found no baptism of a George Minney. It also appears Mary Minney was born in Bucks, either Sherrington or Clifton. By 1861 we can see that William & Mary are definitely married but I have not been able to find a marriage for them."

"So the problem is where did William and Mary marry? and when? Was it in Bucks? Was William previously married to have his son George? How come they never had any more children, etc?"

"My line carries on through Elizabeth Minney and her husband Samuel Linnington Richardson, who moved over the border into Bucks to live in Olney."

These are the census entries (supplied by Rose) that are causing the problems;

### **Yardley Hastings - 6th June 1841**

Charlotte Minney	Head	60 years	Lace maker	Born in Northants
Jeffery Minney		20 years	Ag Lab	Born in Northants
Joseph Minney		15 years	Ag Lab	"
William Minney		25 years	Ag Lab	"



Mary Minney	30 years	Not born in Northants
George Minney	9 years	Born in Northants
Elizabeth Minney	5 years	"

### **Yardley Hastings - 30th March 1851**

Charlotte Minney	Head	Widow	69 years	Pauper/lace maker	Born Yardley Hastings
William Minney	Son	Married	39 years	Ag Lab	Born Yardley Hastings
Mary Minney	Daughter	Married	43 years	Lace maker	Born Clifton Bucks
Elizabeth Minney	G/daur	Unm	15 years	Lace maker	Born Yardley Hastings

### **Yardley Hastings - 7th April 1861**

William Minney	Head	Married	48 years	Charcoal Burner	Born Yardley Hastings
Mary Ann Minney	Wife	Married	51 years	Lace Maker	Born Sherrington Bucks

*I replied;*

"Your query certainly kept me occupied for a few hours. I have attached photocopies of articles from earlier newsletters on William & Mary Minney and Clifton Reynes. At first I tried to match your information to the articles but got hopelessly confused; so I went back to the beginning with the marriage of Elizabeth Minney to Samuel L Richardson. The first clue is that Elizabeth states she is the illegitimate daughter of Mary. I then checked the Minney index for the necessary entries;

### **Yardley Hastings - Baptisms**

Mary Minney dau of William and Charlotte on 16th October 1816  
 Elizabeth Minney dau of William and Mary on 17th May 1835 (born 11th Sep 1834)  
 Elizabeth Minney baseborn dau of Mary on 7th July 1836. Mary's occ is lace maker  
 Elizabeth Minney dau of Joseph and Susannah on 20th Oct 1838

### **Yardley Hastings - 1841 Census**

Mary Minney age 20 (up to 24 years) lace maker. Living alone  
 Elizabeth Minney age 3 with parents Joseph and Hannah at home of William and Ann Minney  
 Elizabeth Minney age 5 with parents (?) William and Mary at home of grandmother Charlotte

### **Yardley Hastings - Marriage**

Mary Minney age 29 dau of William wed John Wright, 33 a widower on 27th Oct 1845. Witness William and Mary Minney

### **Yardley Hastings - 1851 Census**

No entry for a Mary of the age we are looking for

The two Elizabeths in 1841 also appear in 1851

### **Castle Ashby - 1851 Census**

William and Mary Minney with dau Elizabeth age 15

"The above can look confusing. I agree that the William Minney who married Mary Ann Minney daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Minney (of Olney) is the son of William and Charlotte as per your 1851 and 1861 census entries but I do not believe they are the parents of Elizabeth. For a start they wed in 1832 at Clifton Reynes several years before Elizabeth was 'base born'. I believe that Mary baptised 1816 dau of William and Charlotte had Elizabeth 'base born' and Elizabeth was then brought up by her grandmother, Charlotte. I believe Mary later marries John Wright.

There are several more questions that need answering;

Can we prove that the 1841 census entry shows Elizabeth with her grandmother and Uncle William and Aunt Mary Minney?

Is the baptism of Elizabeth in 1835 dau of William and Mary the family from Castle Ashby? They have an Elizabeth age 15 with them in the 1851 census. Unfortunately, I do not have the 1841 Castle Ashby census.

Did Mary, the mother of your Elizabeth marry John Wright? I think we need to look at the witness' William and Mary Minney as proof. I think you need to find out what happened to John and Mary Wright.

You may also need to check any Poor Law papers in Yardley Hastings regarding Mary and Elizabeth."

*Reply from Rose*

"I think you are just about spot on. My Mary Minney's brother William did marry Mary Minney in Clifton Reynes in 1832 and they had the one son, George. We have bought the wedding certificate of our Mary Minney when she married John Wright in 1845, and with her were brother and wife William and Mary Minney as witness's. It must be the right one."

"Mary Wright was buried in Yardley Hastings on March 9th 1849 age 32. John Wright married a third time to a Hannah in Olney in December 1850. We (I mean myself and cousin Paul Cassidy) will buy Mary Wright's death certificate at some time as it will be interesting to see what all of his wives died of. He does not have any children by any of his wives."

"Thanks very much for sorting out that problem, I know it has been confusing Paul for about twelve years! You mentioned that you don't have census entries for Castle Ashby so I have included what I have."

### Castle Ashby - 1841 Census

Name	Age	Occupation	Born in this county
William Minney	40	Ag Lab	Y
Mary Minney	40		Y
Susanna Minney	15		Y
Ann Minney	13		Y
Thomas Minney	9		Y
Elizabeth Minney	6		Y
Jabez Minney	1		Y
Mary Minney	20	Nurse	Y

## Easton Maudit - 1841 Census

Martha Minney <sup>1</sup>	65	Y
Alice Minney	65	Y

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## 1881 Census Index Entries

### Yorkshire <sup>2</sup>

Name	Age	Sex	R'ship	Census Place	Occupation	Where Born
Minnal Priscilla	17	F	Serv	Langfield Dom	Not Known	
Minnell Ann	24	F	Wife	York St Lawren+		Thirsk
Minnell Arthur	49	M	Head	Wortley in Bra+	Unempl	Leeds
Minnell James	27	M	Head	York St Lawren+	Labr In I+	Easingwold
Minnell John	27	M	Lodg	Guisbrough	Aglab	Malton
Minnell John H	2	M	Son	York St Lawren+		
Minnell Maria	44	F	Wife	Wortley In Bra+		York
Minnell Mary	55	F	Moth	Kingston Hul Hly+	School Miss	Hull
Minnell Thomas	51	M	BroL	Wortley In Bra+	C Merchant Tr+	Leeds
Minnell William A	25	Hd	Kingston Hul Hly+	Asst Linen+		Hull
Minnie W 24	M	Lodg		Doncaster Sawyer	Melton Beds	

A further check on the Census index on W Minnie shows him to be lodging at 5 Senior Terrace, Doncaster with the family Hinman. This family originated from Lidlington and Marston in Bedfordshire. I am not aware of a place called Melton in Beds so a check of the original entry is needed. The PRO reference is Piece 4692 Folio 94 Page 26.

The librarians for Northants FHS have very kindly searched Lincs, Oxford and Warwickshire for Minney;

### Lincolnshire

No Minney entries

### Oxford

High Street Burford

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<sup>1</sup>Additional information from Rose; Martha was formerly Petit, married Thomas in 1799 and is now a widow.

<sup>2</sup>Supplied by Joan Robinson

Minney Aryelina	64	Wid	Retired	Salford
Minney Florence L	25	Dau	Schoolmiss	Burford
Minney Rosa C	21	Dau	Assistant In+	Burford
Cunningham Harry W F	7	G/Son	Scholar	Burford
Dipper Sarah	13	Servant	G/Servant	Ducklington

## Warwickshire

55 Alma Street Aston

Gardner John	28	Head	Grocer and +	Birmingham
Gardner Annie	33	Wife	Little Staughton, Beds	
Gardner Annie H	3	Dau	Birmingham	
Gardner Spencer H	2mths	Son	Birmingham	
Minney Harriet	20	s/law		Little Staughton

Note: The above entry indicates that Annie Gardner's maiden name is Minney and also that they have named their son Spencer, a good old Minney name.<sup>1</sup>

Note: a '+' at the end of an entry indicates more information can be found in the original census entry.

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## Bredbury, Cheshire

### 1891 Census Entry

Joan Robinson has sent two copies of the original entries for Bredbury as follows;

Address unreadable

Minnie Andrew	Head	24	Coal Miner	Sheffield, Yorks
Minnie Ann	Wife	22	Hat Trimmer	Bredbury
Minnie Ethel	Dau	4mths		Bredbury

None of these appear in St Catherines House records, nor in my index. Andrew is quite an unusual first name for the Minney line. It is probable that Andrew is the son of Joseph below.

### 77 Harrytown

Minnie Joseph	60(?)	Head	General Labr	Bredbury
Minnie Anne	58(?)	Wife	Bredbury	
Minnie Samuel	19(?)	Son	Hat Planker(?)	Sheffield Yorks
Minnie Jane H (or Juliett)	16	Dau	Hat Planker (?)	Sheffield Yorks

<sup>1</sup>See Summer 96 page 6 for a brief history of the name Spencer

I believe Joseph was born in Clifton Reynes and baptised on 2nd May 1830 son of William and Hannah. He appears in the 1851 census for Stockport at the home of his sister Ann. He marries in the Stockport district the following year. I do not have the marriage details. The two children do not appear in the St Catherines House records.

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## Great Barford Charity Lists

Last year I was in correspondence with Sue Fairbrother of 20 Byron Avenue, Winchester, Hants. She had put a request in the Beds Family History Journal for any information regarding gypsies in Gt Barford as her Lee ancestors were often referred to as such. I replied saying that my grandfather William had said many times that his parents (who originated from Great Barford) had been called gypsies. He put this down to the fact that his grandparents often travelled around the countryside as agricultural labourers looking for work and often slept out in tents or other makeshift accommodation. William's father Walter was also a horse dealer as were other members of his family.

Sue had extensive records from visits to Bedford Record Office including charity lists. This is her reply;

"I had already done considerable research, reading Joyce Godber's "History of Bedfordshire" and visiting the record office. Both had some reference to Great Barford being inhabited by "very poor people" and the fact that there was no school until education became compulsory<sup>1</sup>, but had not managed to tie up the loose ends. Neither had I managed to find any substantiating evidence regarding the 'gypsy' story but my mother's cousin who knew my great grandfather Thomas Lee told me that he was the first to be born in a house!

In one of our visits to the record office we came across some charity records. Great Barford benefited from two charities and the record office had books listing the beneficiaries. It seemed that most of the village received something. The total population of the village was about 800.

The first charity was called the Franklin Charity, after the name of the founder and distributed bread with money from the bequest. In principle the amount of bread depended on the family size and at the start of the second book there was a table showing exactly the relationship between family size and number of loaves. It also seems that some years there was only enough for one loaf per family. Some other years the entry was just a total expenditure with no list of names.

The Franklin charity specified in the first book starting in 1849 that bread was to be distributed to "All cottages but not if owning 10 acres, keeping a public house or owning a horse and cart."

The second Franklin book started in 1898 specified scale of donations of loaves;

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<sup>1</sup>In 1880 education up to age of 12 became compulsory. However, in my "The Heritage of Great Barford" the Gt Barford National School was started in the late 1840s/early 1850s. The school was built in the High Street. A few years prior to this a Sunday school had been set up in the church

Widows 2  
 Widowers, orphans single persons 1  
 Families 2&3 1  
 Families 4&5 1½  
 Families 6 2  
 Families 7 2½  
 Families 8 & 9 3½  
 Families 10 plus 4

Widows with families half a loaf beyond the above scale. None to be submitted until they have lived three years in the parish.

The other charity, the Arnold charity stated "This is given in coals to the same as the Franklin Charity. Also forty blankets to those who have been in the parish five years and are not disqualified (as above). All who wish to be place on the list should apply to the vicar or one of the churchwardens."

*These lists kindly supplied by Sue, are in first name order.*

Date	Given Name	Family	Loaf	Coal	Blanket
Dec 1876	Minney (orphans)	2	1		
Nov 1782	Minney Cr.	5	1.5		
1853 to 1900	4 claims	Minney G.	2/6	1/2	
1872/1872	Minney Ge.	4/7	1.5/2.5		
1850 to 1899	29 claims	Minney Geo. <sup>1</sup>	3 to 7	1 to 2	Yes 17 Yes 3
1849 to 1899	6 claims	Minney George	3	1	Yes 4 Yes 1
Nov 1872	Minney Gr.	7	2		
1898/1900	Minney H.	2/3	1		
1894	Minney Harry			Yes	
1885 to 1897	13 claims	Minney Henry <sup>2</sup>		Yes	
Jan 1899	Minney Herb.	2	1		
1894 to 1899	7 claims	Minney Herbert		Yes 5	Yes 2
1877	Minney J. Jun.	4	1½		
Dec 1874	Minney Jhrs		1		
1870 to 1875	5 claims	Minney Jno.	6/9	2/3½	
Dec 1876	Minney John <sup>3</sup>	6	2		
1889 to 1900	7 claims	Minney Jos. <sup>4</sup>	8	2/3½	
1887 to 1899	17 claims	Minney Joseph		yes 14	Yes 3
Feb 1874	Minney Jr	7	2½		
Feb 1854	Minney Ros.	6	1		
1874 to 1875	3 claims	Minney S.	2	1	
1853 to 1870	2 claims	Minney Sam.	2/3	1	
1870 to 1872	4 claims	Minney Saml.	2/4	1/2	

<sup>1</sup>Remark in 1896 'Inst' possibly institution?

<sup>2</sup>Remark in 1896 'is awful'.

<sup>3</sup>Remark in Dec 1876 "One extra"

<sup>4</sup>Remark in Jan 1899 "Extra families"

1849 to 1875	10 claims	Minney Thos.	1/7	1/2		
1876 to 1900	4 claims	Minney Wd.	1	2		
1884 to 1896	4 claims	Minney Widow			Yes	Yes
1884 to 1894	19 claims	Minney Widow of John			Yes	Yes
1885 to 1889	14 claims	Minney Widow of Samuel			Yes	Yes
1867 to 1893	5 claims	Minnie Geo.		1/1½		
1865 to 1893	3 claims	Minnie George <sup>1</sup>	3/7	1		Yes
1893	Minnie Herbert				Yes	
Feb 1867	Minnie Jam.		1			
1865 to 1868	3 claims	Minnie John	6	1½		
1893	2 claims	Minnie Joseph			Yes	Yes
1865 to 1868	2 claims	Minnie Sam.	2	1		
1865 to 1868	3 claims	Minnie Tho.	1	1		
1893	Minnie Widow				Yes	

Due to the sheer number of the entries I have aggregated the totals. I do have the individual claims and will put these on the Minney index and will be able to print these out at a later date.

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## The Peopling of British North America

I have often wondered how the population of the USA evolved and what it must have been like for those early Minney settlers. I have always had a rough idea of the development of the size of the USA from the 17thc Pilgrim Fathers in New England to the founding of the 13 original states and later to the various land acquisitions via treaties with Spain and France but it is the early emigration from Britain that tends to be ignored in history books. However, I have come across a marvellous book titled "The Peopling of British North America. An Introduction" by Bernard Bailyn, a Harvard University Professor. It consists of three lectures on the emigration to North America in the period leading up to independence. The book was published by I B Taurus & Co, London in 1987, ISBN 1 85043 037 3. I picked it up in a remainder book shop so I doubt if it can be ordered but you should be able to get a copy from your local library.

I have selected a few quotes which I thought may be of interest particularly as we know that the earliest USA Minneys were mentioned in Pennsylvania 1746, New Jersey 1770 and shortly after in Virginia.

"Between the end of warfare in the mainland colonies and the disruption of the empire in 1775 (a period of 15 years), over 55,000 Protestant Irish emigrated to America, over 40,000 Scots and over 30,000 Englishmen - a total of approximately 125,000 from the British Isles - in addition to at least 12,000 immigrants from the German States and Switzerland and 84,500 Africans imported to the southern mainland colonies. This is 10% of the entire estimated population of mainland America in 1775. This meant an annual influx of 15,000 which was close to the total population of Boston. With

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<sup>1</sup>Remark in Dec 1893 (two claims that month) "ill"

exception to the slaves the vast majority crowded initially into the ports south of New England."

"In all 9,600 permanent emigrants to the Western Hemisphere were entered on the books between December 1773 and March 1776....analysis shows that the youth of these emigrants went to mainland North America (almost half were under 25, almost a quarter between the ages of 20 and 24); three out of four were male; half were indentured servants<sup>1</sup>;.....just under a third came from London and the six home counties of south-eastern England; almost a quarter of the total from London itself; two fifths of the entire group came from Scotland, and the majority of Scots from the Highlands and the northern and western isles."

"This was no single migration from the British Isles to North America but two at the same time.....One consisted of emigrants from the Thames Valley the other from northern British provinces- there are two distinct patterns; the former designated metropolitan; the other provincial. And these differences profoundly shaped the way these emigrants would enter American life and the impact they would have."

"The metropolitan emigrant tended to be young, single and artisan, usually indentured and settled in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. The provincial emigrant tended to be families who settled in Nova Scotia, New York and North Carolina."

"For a century and a half the peopling of New England had been a gradual process... by 1700 the population reached 100,000. Fifty years later new towns were being settled at six a year...population rose to 500,000. By 1760 the increase was 18 towns a year. Who settled these remote towns? Where did the settlers come from?"

"...has estimated that in the typical English village of the 18thc 3 out of 4 males aged between 15 and 19 had left home and were in service of some kind; 2 out of every 3 children of both sexes left their home parishes to be replaced by children of other parishes.....and around one half of all the people in England were or had been servants....most of whom left their home young to labour in other households or enterprises but remained within half a days walking distance."

"...most dominant factor superimposed on local and regional (British) migration pattern was the great flow of people into London....in the period 1650 - 1750 deaths so far exceeded births in London that only a net immigration of 8,000 a year can account for London's growth and therefore that London was absorbing approx. one-half of the entire natural increase in England's population. One in every six adults in this period had a direct experience of London...all this may seem remote to the peopling of North America but it is essential to understanding it. In its earliest phase the peopling of North America was a spillover of established patterns of mobility in England."

"Similar dispersals took place in other areas...Ireland and the German states particularly."

"...But in the period 1640 - 1699 69% of all of Englands natural increase was drawn off not by London but by emigration to North America and over the whole period from 1695 to 1801 emigration consumed 20% of the natural increase of England."

"London was the most common source of immigrants and much of the movement to London appears was only a stage in the migration to North America."

"..in these later colonial years the numbers were supplemented by convicts from all over Britain; about 50,000."

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<sup>1</sup>Indentured servants' were between the ages of 15 and 21 who entered into an indenture for a term not exceeding 8 years in return for a passage to the plantations in North America.



Bailyn also gives what he call a 'domesday book' overview of the four very distinct areas of North America just prior to independence from Britain.

1) "...New England now populated by a third generation of Puritans...dull and rustic now religious fervour has gone..exhilarating population growth in 17thc due to low death rate which helped to propel anglo-american settlements inland...an homogeneous world derived from a single period of English emigrants 1630 - 1640."

2) "No such homogeneity would have been found in the second area - settlements scattered from the Hudson River south to the Delaware<sup>1</sup>...ethnic diversity of the most extreme kind...in the Hudson Valley there were Dutch, French, Walloons, Palatines and English...15% of population African, almost all slaves...complex religious scene...Pennsylvania's diversity was similar."

3) "...The tobacco country of Virginia and Maryland...two characteristics common with New England; white population derived from England and population number was similar...social, physical and legal condition of these immigrants different to New England...immigration over a longer period from 1607, mostly unmarried male indentured servants...high mortality rate....due to drop in immigration of indentured males sought to replace labour with African slaves with a large increase at this time...few concentrations of settlements and no towns...typical house of an ordinary farmer was a dark drafty, dirt floored, insect-ridden one or two bedroom box made of green wood, it would be abandoned as soon as the few acres of farmland adjoining it were exhausted by ruthless tobacco cultivation...most were a mile or so from the next habitation...the average Virginia farm was from 50 to 500 acres...with only one or two servants or slaves...an active, more or less stable community and beginning to produce ambitious gentry leadership."

4) "Two centres of British habitation south of Virginia form the final area; the older would become North Carolina...in 1700 a cluster of settlements...a ragtag collection of farmers, trappers, petty merchants, Indian traders and desperate fortune hunters...later joined by Marylanders, New Englanders, Barbadians (a few thousand free whites), Huguenots (escaping crowded conditions in Virginia)...South Carolinians centred on the port of Charles Town...southernmost British settlement of just over 7,000..half were black slaves, Indians or white indentured servants...growing cotton, silkworm, flax and rice..semi-tropical conditions...a brutal half-primitive world...savage Indian wars in both North and South Carolina."

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## Thomas Minny

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<sup>1</sup>This area includes the states of Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey

# First Emigrant to New England 1671?

In the July 92 newsletter I mentioned Peter Coldham-Wilson's book 'Servants to Foreign Plantations' (1991) and how a Thomas Winny had been misread as Thomas Minny. The entry stated that Thomas had left Bristol for New England in April 1671. The original record was to be found in the 'Rough Apprentice' book kept at Bristol Record Office. It was the archivist there who discovered the mistake. I had assumed that the error was Coldham-Wilson's but it may be that he has either simply perpetuated the error or that there may be other evidence showing a Thomas Minny emigrating to New England.

I have looked at my original letters and the replies from the archivist and Peter Coldham-Wilson. I have reprinted them below. Also, at the end of this article I have included the original entry with some handwriting examples. The reason for doing this is that I believe more research is needed and that there may be other supporting evidence pointing towards a Thomas Minny emigrating in the 17thc.

Firstly, Coldham-Wilson's book (published by the Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore USA) had an interesting introduction. It stated that in 1654 the Bristol authorities set up a register to record all the names of indentured servants embarking from Bristol for service overseas. This was to prevent the unscrupulous practise of kidnapping 'slaves'. The enrolments were kept in two bound volumes by the council. The first volume ended in March 1662/3 and the second was dated March 1663 to August 1679. There were just over 10,000 recorded entries, most were labourers, husbandmen or tradesmen. Most were from the West Country, West Midlands and Wales, but there were quite a few from London, Cambridge, Lancashire, Scotland, Ireland and France. The author states that every effort has been made to provide an accurate transcription of all the salient information in the registers. There is no certain way of knowing whether the scribes made their original entries by copying from the indentures or by writing down what they heard. The neat and orderly appearance of the registers strongly suggests that they contain a fair copy taken from rough notes<sup>1</sup> thus increasing the chances of faulty recording not unlike the recording of some parish registers.

The registers, called *Servants to Foreign Plantations* were discovered in 1925 after lying dormant for 200 years. Within four years a summarised transcription under the title of *Bristol & America* was published by R Hargreaves-Mawdsley (see R Glover's edition later).

I originally wrote to the Bristol Record office in case there was any further information to be gleaned from the 'Rough Apprentice' records from which the 'Servants to Foreign Plantations' had been compiled. In particular his place of origin.

This is the archivist's reply.

'The entry in the volume 'Servants to Foreign Plantations' is as follows (page is dated April 1671, entry 18th)

"Thomas Minny bound to Thomas Martin for four years in New England in the ship New found Land Merchant"

I also found the entry in the 'Rough Apprentice Book' ref: 04355/2. The text is identical apart from one (possibly vital) discrepancy. I have taken a photocopy of the entry and the two following pages

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<sup>1</sup>Certainly the Thomas Minny entry was made from 'Rough Apprentice' notes.

so you can see what I mean. The servant's name appears to be spelt Winny. I have marked other examples for comparison. Now it could be that this was a) an alternative way of writing M for which we cannot find another example in adjacent entries, or b) it could indeed be a W but written in error and corrected when the fair copy was made or c) finally Winny might be correct and a copying error was made in creating the fair copy. I was, however unable to find a reference to the name Winny in Cottle's Dictionary of Surnames and I think therefore that c) is the least probable suggestion. I am sorry that this search has cast doubt on the entry.'

I sent copies to Peter Coldham-Wilson and he concurred with the archivist. However, I have given this some thought and make my own comments known;

1) the samples sent by the archivist cover April to September and show that there are either two or three different handwriting styles, suggesting more than one scribe. Of course being written in secretary hand they are all similar.

2) the transcription from rough notes to the fair copy was made at the same period of time and presumably the scribes would be aware of any other's idiosyncratic handwriting errors

3) Minny is not a West Country name and may have caused the Bristol based scribe a little difficulty, particularly if copying from an indenture.

I have also included at the end of this article examples of M and W in the secretary hand style. I think you will agree that the jury is out on this one.

All this has prompted me to check other printed sources on emigrants to the USA just in case there are other Minney entries. In Brighton Reference library they have the 'Passenger & Immigration Lists Index' by P W Filby and M K Meyer, 1981 first edition published by Gale Research, Detroit.

In it I found the following entries together with the quoted source and the page number of the source where the entry can be found.

**Minne Barand**, no age given, Philadelphia PA. 1803

Source: R B Strassburger = *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*. Entry on page 125. Published by Pennsylvania German Society 1934, Baltimore Gen. Publishing Co 1964.

**Minny Thomas**, no age given, New England 1663-1679

Source: R S Glover = *Bristol & America - A Record of the First Settlers in the Colonies of New England 1654 to 1685*, Including names with places of origin of more than 10,000 servants who sailed from Bristol to Virginia, Maryland. Entry on page 140. Compiled and published from records of the Corporation of the City of Bristol 1929. Baltimore Gen. Publishing Co 1967.

**Minny Thomas**, no age given, New England 1671

Source: Carl Boyer, 3rd Editor = *Ships Passenger Lists National & New England 1600 to 1825*. Entry on page 167. Published by Newhall, California 1977

**Minny Thomas**, no age given, New England 1671

Source: Michael Tepper Editor = *Passengers to America - A Consolidation of Passenger Lists from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. Entry on page 154. Published by Baltimore Gen. Publishing Co 1977 and 1978.

I now need a USA based researcher (Agnes?) to look at the above quoted sources, check the entry and their quoted source. If they all come back as 'Rough Apprentice Book' or 'Servants to Foreign

Plantations', Bristol City Records then the answer remains the same.

In addition, there are two other reference books worth looking at;

'Original Lists of Emigrants in Bondage from London to the American Colonies 1719-1744' Edited by M & J Kaminkow. This is apparently in the Society of Genealogists library in London; and

'English Adventurers and Virginian Settlers' by Noel Curren-Briggs, published by Phillimore in three volumes.

Finally, the surname Winny is not familiar to me and I wonder if a search on the IGI CDrom would show up any entries either in England or USA. I would appreciate it if someone could check this on their next visit to a family history centre (Joan?).