



# *Parish News*

## *Minety*

### Cotteswold Naturalists' Club

This club had a pleasant meeting at Minety on Tuesday last, and employed the day in a profitable and pleasant manner, in inspecting the geological and botanical peculiarities of the district. The cuttings of the railway afforded some interesting objects of research to the curious geologist, and the remains of Malmesbury Abbey gave delight to others deep in historical lore. At the dinner table, in the evening, an invitation from Earl Ducie to members of the club and their friends to visit Tortworth was read, and it was resolved to accept it, each member limiting his invitation to one friend.

Cheltenham Chronicle 18 July 1854

### Solitary Snipe

A few days ago, Capt W T K Perry Keene, of the Royal Gloucestershire Militia, shot on his estate at Minety, a beautiful specimen of the "Solitary Snipe".

Kendal Mercury 20 October 1855

## “A Sporting Occurrence”

A sporting occurrence has caused a good deal of talk throughout Gloucestershire during the last few days, and been the subject of much curious speculation. As the marvelous story runs, it chanced that, “once upon a time,” not a hundred years ago, the Lord Gifford held a hunting party, hard by the ancient town of Malmesbury; and, wishing to show sport to the good men and true of the Vale of White Horse, he sent forward his hunters to Minety, whither himself drove in his dog cart, which in addition, contained also his groom and a choice haunch of venison. Leaving this well-furnished vehicle in the care of his man, his lordship anon mounted his steed, and rode merrily on to the covert, gaily picturing himself the pleasures which were to reward his day’s devotion to his favourite amusement.

Now, it so chanced that the master of Rendcomb Park had a wish to see my lord’s hunting that morn, and, accompanied by a lady, also made Minety their starting point. Arriving here in due course, they left their “trap,” which just accommodated the pair, behind them, and trotted off to the Meet, where the gallants were now all assembled, impatient and ready for the field.

The first chase over, the master of Rendcomb and his lady, with two gentlemen, returned again to Minety, the whole party being then bound to the same destination. Being anxious to reach home as quickly as possible, and their own conveyance not sufficient for the accommodation of four passengers, they insisted upon appropriating to their use the dog-cart, venison and all, towards Rendcomb!

Mean time, its noble owner having started a fresh fox, made a brilliant run in the direction of Cirencester, near which place he closed his day’s sport; and was leisurely pursuing his way back towards Minety, intending there to exchange his hunter for his dog-cart, when – presto ! – his dog-cart was driven past him at a galloping pace, with its freight of 4 friends and the haunch of venison!

His lordship pulled up not a little surprised, but away went his vehicle regardless of the greeting vouchsafed by its astonished proprietor, who was fain to continue his journey to unravel the mystery.

Arriving at Minety the whole was explained, but not altogether to his lordship’s entire satisfaction. On the contrary, displeased with his servant in allowing “his friends” to appropriate so unceremoniously his personal property, he at once dismissed him his service, referring him to the gentleman whose orders he had last obeyed for his future employment and character. A reference which, being made in due course, brought a communication of a equivocal nature from the friend of the master of Rendcomb, which was considered by its noble receiver as “rather cool,” even for Christmas.

Deliberations and consultations followed; the telegraph was put into request, and the management of the matter was confided to the wisdom and discretion of an officer well versed in codes of honour. The affront, becoming known, was at once taken up by the gentlemen of the county, who, at the next meet at Swindon, a few days ago, made it manifest to Lord Gifford the offence which had been committed was one of a public character, and demanded a public reparation, seeing that no gentleman had a right to exchange a dog-cart, carrying four, for a drag which held two, without its owner’s permission and accordingly the offenders were prohibited admission to the breakfast given on the occasion of the meet.

These, and other suchlike “strong measures,” which it would prolong our story too much to relate, have resulted in apologies from two out of three delinquents, but, down to “our latest advices” from the hunt, the third had not made the expected amende.

Cheltenham Looker-On 10 January 1857

## Presentation to Parish Clerk

A very gratifying scene took place in the National Schoolroom at Minety, on the evening of Easter Tuesday. A handsome electro-plated teapot and cream jug, which had been purchased by the joint subscriptions of 32 persons, were presented to Maurice Edmunds Miles, the parish clerk, as a testimonial of approbation and regard, after a service of 30 years in that office.

The Vicar of the parish, the Rev Canon Tuson, invited the subscribers to drink tea in the schoolroom; and about 40 persons assembled. After tea, the Vicar presented the testimonial in the name of himself and the other subscribers, bearing witness to the care and attention with which, in every respect, the duties of parish clerk had been discharged during his Incumbency of fourteen years.

Captain Perry-Keene, having known Maurice Miles all his life, also addressed him in terms of cordial congratulation and approval. After the gift had been presented the receiver of it returned his thanks to the Vicar and all his other friends in a few words of kind and grateful feeling.

The teapot bore the inscription: "Presented to Maurice Edmunds Miles, after 30 years' faithful service as Parish Clerk of Minety. Easter, 1857."

Wiltshire Independent 23 April 1857

## Fatal Accident

On Friday night, a man named Tidmarsh, carrier between Cirencester and Minety, was returning home to the latter place, when near the Minety-lane Bridge, part of the harness became disarranged or broken, and while readjusting it the horse knocked him down, and the wheels of the cart passed over his body. He sustained such injuries that on the following night he died. He was about 60 years, and has left a large family.

Gloucester Journal 13 November 1858

## Railway Accident

An accident, which might have been attended with most fearful results, happened at the Minety station, on the Great Western Railway, on Monday evening last. It appears that some little time after the up goods train had been despatched from Gloucester on the afternoon in question a through coke train was sent to follow it as far as Swindon.

The goods train arrived in safety at the Minety station, where it was making its last stoppage previous to its arrival at Swindon, the weather at the time being unusually foggy which rendered it almost impossible to distinguish the customary signals at any distance.

Whether the goods train had been detained longer than usual on the road, or whether the coke train had gained upon it faster than it was intended we have been unable to learn, but just upon the goods train leaving the Minety station it was run into by the coke train.

The driver of the coke train had succeeded in considerably checking the speed of his engine but the collision was sufficiently great to destroy the break van of the goods train, and three of the trucks, one of which contained a number of beasts, four of which were so seriously injured that it was found necessary to slaughter them.

Some of the trucks, by the violence of the collision were thrown off their own line of rails on to the down line, and the telegraph wires crossing the line at the point of the accident were broken down and severed, and all telegraphic communication was thereby stopped.

Fortunately, the down express had passed through the station just previously to the accident; had it passed through at, or immediately after the time of the accident the loss of life and destruction of property must have been fearful.

The officers of the company were very prompt in clearing the line and in adopting precautionary measures against further accident.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 10 January 1859

### The Braydon House Estate

We understand the Braydon House Estate, has been disposed of by Mr Hibberd, to a gallant major in the army.

Wiltshire Independent 5 April 1860

### Providential Escape

A few days since, some men were engaged in felling a large oak tree, on the estate of Capt. Perry Keene, of Minety House, when, just as the tree was falling, David Telling, one of the men, unluckily got in the way, and it seemed as if he must have been instantaneously crushed to death. By a most strange and fortuitous circumstance, however, the limbs and branches bore up the burden of the tree, leaving a space of about eighteen inches just where the man fell, and thus saved his life.

When the other men approached the spot, the tree was lying across Telling's body, and he could not move from his perilous position, but beyond some bruises and a good fright no injury had been sustained.

It was fortunate that Capt. Perry Keene was present at the time. By his judicious management in securing the tree while some portions were being sawn through and removed, Telling was at length extricated.

Wiltshire Independent 9 May 1861

### Inn Licences

The license of the Old Red Lion Inn, Minety, which had been withheld, was now renewed, but the Bench cautioned Mr Godwin, the landlord, to conduct the house better in future.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 10 October 1864

The license of the Old Inn, Minety, was transferred from Mr James Morton to Mr Joseph Hiscocks, late of Street Farm, Minety.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 10 October 1864

### Accident at the Station

The gate policeman at the level crossing at the Minety Station was killed by the mail train running over him last Wednesday night. He was in his house – he should have been at his post – when the train was heard approaching, and running out to show his light as a signal he was knocked down and killed, his wife finding him a corpse, after the train had passed.

It is a singular coincidence that the same engine, driven by the same man, killed a person at Stonehouse only a night or two before.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal 21 December 1867

OPC Note: No newspaper record of an inquest or the name of the deceased has been found.

### Extraordinary Longevity

An old woman, by the name of Ann Bird, died last week at Minety at the advanced age of 101. Had she lived till the 18<sup>th</sup> of May next, she would have completed her 102<sup>nd</sup> year. Almost up to the time of her decease, the old lady was a hearty feeder, lively and active, and was possessed of all her faculties. Very few birds, we take it, live to attain such an age as that of Ann Bird.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 2 January 1868

#### Fatal Accident at Minety Station

On Sunday morning, as the first goods train on the branch line between Gloucester and Swindon was leaving the above station, James Dicks, assistant guard, attempted to jump on the engine, when his foot slipped and he fell, the whole of the train passing over his thighs. He was removed to Swindon by the same train, where he died on the following morning.

Western Daily Press 14 February 1871

OPC Note: No newspaper record of an inquest has been found.

#### Accident at Cirencester

On Saturday, as Mrs Hiscock, of Minety, was being driven through Cirencester, her trap came into violent collision with a dray. She was thrown to the pavement, and narrowly missed falling through a large window into a china shop. Her injuries were upon the side of the head, but, happily, not severe.

Western Daily Press 17 August 1872

#### Runaway Horse

Last Saturday a carriage horse, worth £100, belonging to Mr Powell, MP, took fright at Minety station. It appeared that a slight accident happened to the pole of the carriage, and the horse was unhitched, when a train passed the horse, which took fright, and ran five miles without doing any mischief. On coming to Charlton gate the animal broke it down, and took the Malmesbury road. When found he was standing upright, jammed between a telegraph post and a wall, and was quite dead.

Western Daily Press 29 November 1872

### Fall from a Railway Train

On Monday, a child travelling from Brimscombe to Swindon fell out of the carriage door between Purton and Minety stations when the train was going at full speed. As the train did not stop until arriving at Minety, the parents had to come on to that place in a distressed state of mind. A telegram there awaited them to the effect that the child had been picked up, badly injured, and conveyed to the inn at Minety Station.

Western Gazette 17 October 1873

### Inn Licence

A hold-over of the Old Red Lion Inn, Minety, was granted from Thomas Habgood to Mr E Kimber.

Western Daily Press 3 September 1875

### Inn Licence

A transfer was granted for the transfer of the licence of the Old Inn, Minety, from G Wilkins to Richard Poole.

Western Daily Press 7 November 1884

### Information Wanted

Wanted, information of Frank Phillips, son of William and Hannah Phillips; last heard of ten years ago; then a drummer boy in the Dragoon Guards, in the Curragh, Ireland. Should this find him, or any kind friend, will he be kind enough to send his address to Edward Messenger, near the Station, Minety, near Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

Reynolds Newspaper 10 March 1889

### A Singular Legacy Case

At the County Court on Thursday, before his Honour Judge Jones, John Brown, of Geelong, Victoria, Australia, petitioned for the payment out of court of £124, being a legacy of £100 with interest thereon due to him under the will of his uncle, John Packer Brown, late of Minety, farmer, who died on February 28<sup>th</sup> 1876. The petitioner was born in Australia, but was brought up by the testator and his wife till he was 17, when he returned to Australia, and was lost sight of for a long time, and it was not till his mother came to England in 1886 that they knew this legacy had been left. Adjourned for two months, for affidavit from petitioner to be obtained, when an order will be granted, all costs to come out of the fund.

Gloucester Citizen 17 May 1889

### Saline Springs (1803)

Rudge also observes vol. 1 page 238 – under Minety. “In this parish is found a kind of fibrous talcy substance, called by some silver mica, by others a fibrous plaster stone. It lies nine or ten feet below the surface. Here is a good purgative spring, formerly much recommended, but now little regarded.”

OPC Note: From “The History of Gloucestershire, 1803” by T Rudge

Gloucester Journal 11 May 1889