

## **Mintun J. Vance Son of William and Rachel Vance © William A. Vance 2011**

Mintun J. Vance was born 9 April 1816 in Fayette County, Pennsylvania [1, 2]. His parents were William Vance Sr. and Rachel Mintun (also Minthorne and Minton). It is reasonably certain that Mintun was named after his grandfather John Minton (b. ca 1752; d. 1826), a veteran (1775-1781) of the Revolutionary War [3, 4]. Minton's father William was most likely born in eastern Pennsylvania, perhaps Chester County, in 1779 [5]. His mother Rachel was likely born in or near Morristown, New Jersey on 27 Jan 1784 [6]. His parents were married in Uniontown, Fayette County, PA on 6 October 1800 [7]. Mintun was the tenth of seventeen children that survived to adulthood.

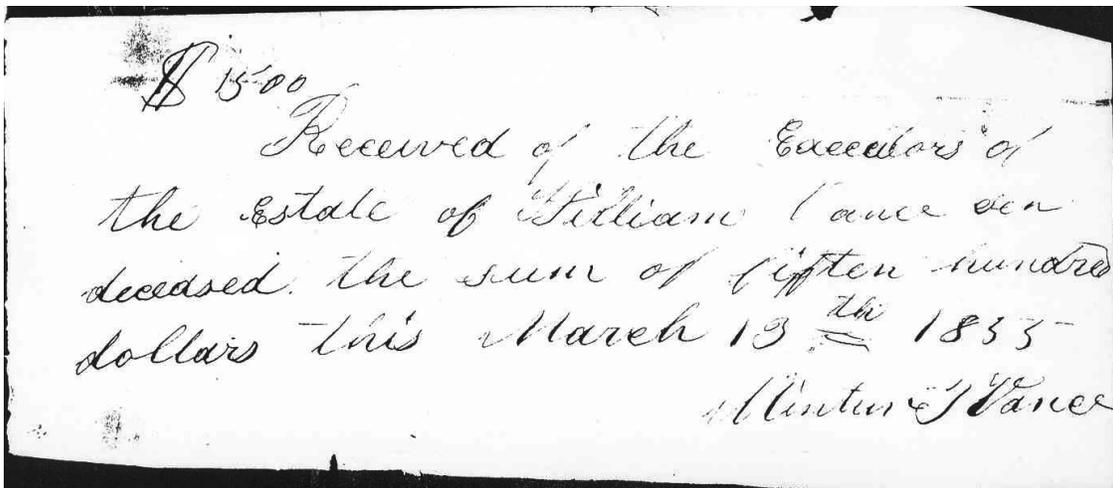
Mintun Vance was born into a family of farmers in Georges Township in Fayette County. His father purchased farms in Georges and Union Townships in 1813, 1817, 1824 and 1832 totaling about 353 acres [8]. Some of this land may have contained iron ore and/or coal that was fairly prevalent in Fayette County. As a child, Mintun likely attended the Great Bethel Baptist Church in Uniontown and later the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church near Smithville in Georges Township. The Baptist faith was a significant part of his father's family life [9].

At the age of 21, Mintun's father moved all but four members of his family and their children to Highland County, Ohio in October of 1837 [10]. Religious differences with one of the ministers (Reverend Brownfield) at the Great Bethel Baptist Church, and the death of William's brother Davis Vance in March of 1837 in Highland County, may have prompted this move. Within eight months after resettling in Highland County, Mintun met and married 21 year-old Matilda Tener (also seen as Teanor, Tenor) of Liberty Township. They were married on 13 Jun 1838 by Hezekiah Johnson, a minister of the Gospel [11, 12], usually Methodist-Episcopalian. Matilda was the daughter of Adam Tener (b. ca 1770) and Frances Wilson, both of Maryland [13]. The Tener family had settled early in Baltimore County, Maryland and Matilda's grandfather John (b. 1725; d. 1806) and grandmother Margaret (b. 1731) are buried in the Tener/Hooper Cemetery in Taylorsville, MD [14]. Matilda's mother Frances is buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Liberty Township, Highland County, OH [15]. Her father Adam likely died shortly after 1840. It is also likely that Adam is also buried in Pleasant Hill, but his headstone, if there was one, was not transcribed by the McBrides when they published the first edition of their book in 1954 on the cemetery inscriptions of Highland County, OH. The basis for this is that Frances' headstone read "wife of Adam," inferring he was also buried nearby.

In the Census of 1840 for White Oak Township, Highland County, OH, Mintun and Matilda were noted as "involved in agriculture," i.e., they were farming, but we don't

know on whose land. They have one child under five who was Rachel Ellen Vance, born about 1840. In the Census of 1850, Mintun, Matilda and children were living in Newmarket Township, Highland County, Ohio. They were living next door to, or on Mintun's father's farm as they were listed just above William Sr. and his wife Rachel Vance in the census. Mintun's occupation was that of a farmer. They had seven children, adding Rebecca A., Louisa A., Matilda Frances, Margaret, Hannah, and John M(intun) Vance.

In the summer of 1853, Matilda's mother Frances Tener died on her 28-acre farm in Highland County. The heirs of "Fanny" (Frances) estate were witnesses of and signatories to the deed of sale transferring this farm to Franklin McKamey for the sum of \$400 [16]. There were nine Tener heirs named in the deed, along with their spouses. The significance of this deed is that it clearly identified Matilda as Fanny Tener's daughter and Mintun Vance as Matilda's husband. A transcription of the deed appears in the appendix. Of interest is that Fanny Tener purchased this farm from her two sons, Abraham and Isaac, on 17 Apr 1844 [17]. Fanny had paid personal property taxes from 1841 to 1849 in Liberty Township, Highland County [18]. Adam last paid personal property tax for 1840 in Liberty Township [18]. It is about 1840 that we think something happened to Adam, although he did appear in the Census of 1840, but not as head of the household.

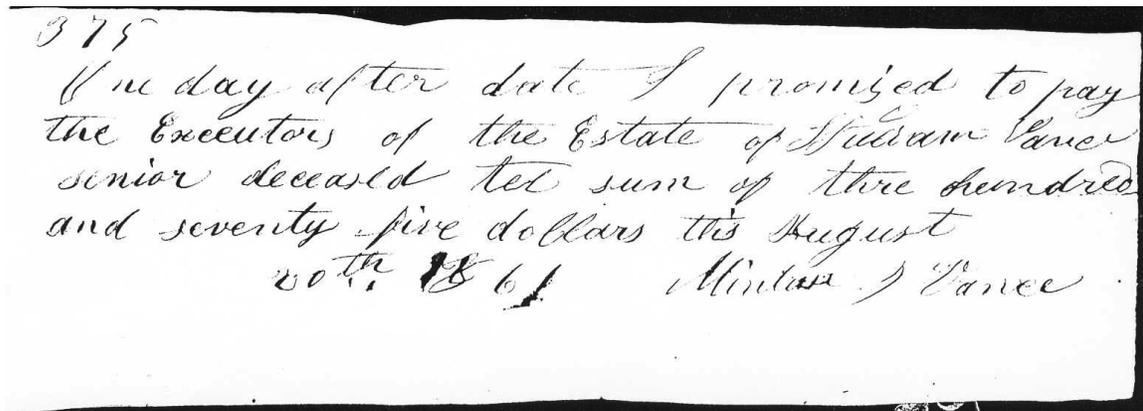


\$1500  
Received of the Executors of  
the estate of William Vance Sen.  
deceased. the sum of fifteen hundred  
dollars this March 13<sup>th</sup> 1853  
Mintun J. Vance

"\$1,500 Received of the Executors of the estate of William Vance Sen. deceased the sum of fifteen hundred dollars this March 13<sup>th</sup> 1853, Mintun J. Vance" (Copied from the estate file box of William Vance at the Hillsboro County Courthouse in Highland Co, OH, Sep. 2007.)

On 20 Nov 1854, Mintun's father William Vance Sr. died of old age on his farm in Newmarket Township, Highland County, OH [19]. William Sr. (b. 1779) was in his 76<sup>th</sup> year and was survived by his wife and many children and grandchildren. In his last will

and testament, William Sr. appointed his son Mintun Vance as co-executor of his estate along with Mintun's brothers Jacob, William F., and Brownfield Vance [20, 21]. In his will, William Sr. bequeathed \$1,500 to his son Mintun. Mintun received his legacy on 13 Mar 1855 (see receipt from the estate of William Vance Sr.). Only his brother Brownfield Vance was bequeathed one of the farms owned by William Sr., all others heirs received cash and/ or household items. On 20 Aug 1861, Mintun borrowed \$375 from his father's estate.



375  
One day after date I promised to pay  
the Executors of the Estate of William Vance  
senior deceased the sum of three hundred  
and seventy five dollars this August  
20th 1861 Mintun J. Vance

"375 One day after date I promised to pay the Executors of the Estate of William Vance senior deceased the sum of thre[e] hundred and seventy five dollars this August 20<sup>th</sup> 1861 . . . Mintun J. Vance" (Copied from the estate file box of William Vance at the Hillsboro County Courthouse in Highland Co, OH, Sep. 2007.)

An entry on the balance sheets of the estate of William Vance Sr. filed by Jacob Vance, executor, in probate court on 6 Dec 1873 confirm this amount plus the accrued interest for 12 yrs and 4 months to be \$278.13 [22]. It is unknown if Mintun repaid this money (he was living in Kansas at this time), or the debt was paid by the excess balances of the estate after his mother died on 1 May 1873. According to William Sr.'s will, any residues of the estate were to be prorated among the heirs identified in the will.

In the Census of 1860, Mintun, Matilda and eleven of their twelve children were living in Liberty Township, Highland County, OH. The five new children were Margaret (Mary), Sarah (Lida) E., Lucinda, Thomas Henry, and Elizabeth. The oldest daughter, Rachel Ellen, had married Joseph T. Henderson a year earlier [11] and was living with her husband and new daughter in Concord Township, Highland County. The 1860 Census is the only complete listing of Mintun and Matilda's family. An oddity is that Census of 1860 for Joseph and Rachel Henderson show a Hanny Dance, female age 13, living in their household. Rachel did have a sister named Hannah age 13, listed in the Census as "Harriet" living with her parents in 1860 in Liberty Township. It is possible Hannah was helping her sister on the day the Census was enumerated in Concord Township.

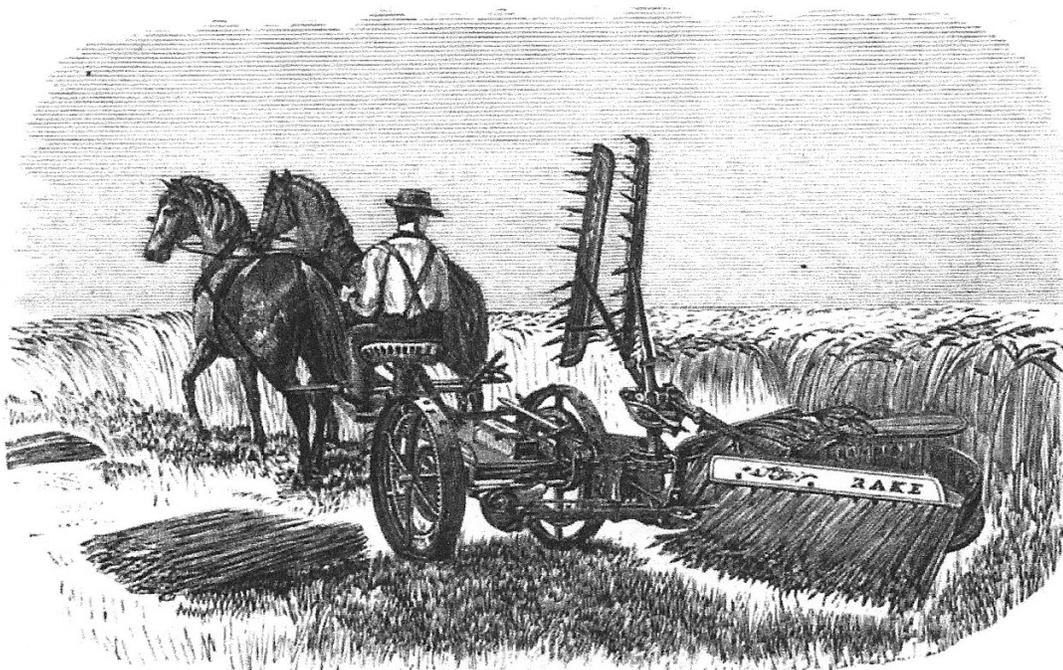
On 18 Aug 1862, Mintun and Matilda sold 11 acres and 40 poles in Highland County (township not specified) to George P. Osburn for \$150 [23]. On 2 Feb 1863, Mintun and Matilda sold 75 acres and 19 poles in Highland County (township not specified) to Lewis McKibbin and his heirs for \$2, 400 [24]. Shortly after selling his farms, Mintun moved his family to Illinois where he farmed for five years [1]. It is important to note that the war between the states began in 1861 and ended in 1865. Two battles were waged in the easternmost part of the state. No battles had been waged in Illinois, but the election of Abraham Lincoln of Illinois in 1861 precipitated the secession of the southern states from the Union. We do not know if the Civil War had any influence on Mintun's decision to relocate his family further west.

In 1863, transportation would most likely have been by wagon if one had a large family, household goods and perhaps some farming equipment to transport. The National Road did connect Columbus, OH with Vandalia, IL, but by the 1860s, the railroad was the major mode of transportation. The family basically crossed the width Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to find a new home. Mintun was reported to have been a farmer while in Illinois [1]. We do not know why Mintun chose Illinois or if he knew people there before he and his family moved. Some of the Pennsylvania Hatfields had moved to McDonough County, Illinois. Mintun's older sister Rebecca had married Samuel Hatfield when the Vances lived in Fayette County. In 1860, there were 11 Hatfields and 20 Vances born in Pennsylvania living in Illinois. By 1870, there were 20 Hatfields (12 in McDonough County) and 31 Vances born in Pennsylvania living in Illinois. In 1870, there were also 68 Vances born in Ohio living in Illinois. None of these were readily recognizable as being related to Mintun.

In 1868, Mintun and family up-rooted again and moved to Baxter Springs in Cherokee County, Kansas, located in the extreme southeast corner of the state. This was a very interesting move in that Cherokee County and adjacent Bourbon County to the north were part of the Cherokee Neutral Lands formed in 1835 from the Osage Neutral Lands that had been established in 1825. In principle, these lands were not to be occupied by either white men or native Americans. In 1866, fearing the imminent intrusion and occupation by whites, the Cherokees sold these lands to the U.S. Government, which in turn transferred them to Kansas. In 1867, a large portion of the territory was sold to the Missouri River, Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad Company. There were armed skirmishes between illegal settlers ("squatters") and the railroad company over the anticipated sale of its newly acquired land. In 1869, while Mintun was in Baxter Springs, Cherokee County, U.S. troops were sent into the region to restore peace between the railroad and settlers. Troubles continued until 1872, when the Neutral Lands were formally opened to white settlement and the railroad started selling its land to the settlers. The troops were withdrawn in 1873.

Baxter Springs, KS was named after A. Baxter, one of the first settlers in the area in 1858. Two other settlers took claims adjacent to and expanded the claim of Baxter. The importance of this location was that it was at the end of one of the major Texas cattle drives (the Sedalia & Baxter Springs Trail). The 80-acre townsite was laid out in 1866. The springs that were found there were thought to have medicinal qualities and eventually became a tourist attraction. Baxter Springs would become part of the movement of cattle by railroad to the packing houses of Kansas City and St. Louis. Four major cattle drives flourished from about 1865 to 1888, with the peak around 1885. The drives basically ended after two terrible winters in 1885/86 and 1886/87 when many cattle died on the open range. And, by this time the railroads had extended their lines making the drives much shorter, essentially cutting off Baxter Springs from its source of revenue. During these years, life in town was pretty exciting, especially after the cowboys had been paid for the long drive north. Gun fights were common. Bars and brothels were busy. There was a population explosion in the latter part of the 1800s. In 1860, the population of Cherokee County was 1,501, by 1870 it was 11,038, in 1880 it was 21,907. By comparison, Cherokee County had a population of 22,605 in 2000. The mid- to late 1800s were the days of the “wild and wooly West.”

The first official record we found for Mintun Vance in Baxter Springs was in the County’s General Index of business and land transactions. On 13 Jul 1869, Mintun borrowed against “one Champion combined reaper and mowing machine and two sorrel mares, one eight years old, one 3 years old [25].”



**No. 192.—CHAMPION COMBINED MOWER AND REAPER.**

In 1879, The American Agriculturist for the year 1879 offered this machine for sale at \$150 [26]. We did not research the note itself to see how much he borrowed. It is not known whether Mintun brought this machine with him from Illinois or purchased it in Kansas. It is likely the family brought the horses with them, perhaps they helped pull a wagon.

Mintun and Matilda appeared in the Census of 1870 for Spring Valley Township, Cherokee County with seven of their children. Rachel, Rebecca A., John M. and Elizabeth were not listed. As mentioned above, Rachel married in Highland County, OH and remained behind. Rebecca was 21 when the family left Ohio for Illinois and may have married in Illinois. A search of the marriage records for Illinois showed a Rebecca Ann Vance marrying a Stephen Anderson on 30 Jan 1868 in Clark County. The Census of 1880 for Edgar County, IL showed that this Rebecca was not likely Mintun's daughter. The mortality index for the Census of 1870 shows that John M. Vance died of consumption (tuberculosis) in April of 1870 [27]. It is not known what happened to Elizabeth. The stark reality for Mintun was that he had six daughters and one son aged 14 to help him farm in Kansas. The Census of 1870 shows Mintun's occupation as farming with the value of the land as \$2,000 and personal items as \$750. There is no recorded transaction showing Mintun owned land in 1870, the assumption is he may have been renting a farm.

In December of 1871, Mintun and Matilda's daughter Matilda Frances Vance married Benjamin F. Mitchell. One month later, Louisa Vance married John Harkrader. In February 1872, their daughter Hannah Vance married George Walker. In June of 1873, daughter Lucinda Vance married Francis Marion Nation. Four daughters were married in less than a year-and-half. What we know about these families follows in the remaining chapters.

The rapid growth of many of the mid-western states prompted the federal government to subsidize mid-decade state censuses, including Kansas. The 1875 Kansas State Census with an agricultural schedule dated March 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring Valley Township, Cherokee County lists Mintun, Matilda, and Thomas Vance. Mintun and Thomas are listed as farming and Matilda as housekeeping. They are shown as having come to Kansas from Illinois. Their farm consisted of 160 acres with a value of \$800 and they possessed farm implements and machinery valued at \$100. The family had 30 acres of corn, 25 acres of oats, ¼ acre of Irish potatoes and 15 acres of flax under cultivation. They had four horses, three mules, seven cattle and three swine, all valued at \$200. They had one dog, a half-acre orchard and two stands of bees. Nothing was listed pertaining to their home. It was likely to have been a log home and would have to have accommodated a fairly large family. Who would have built it?



Baxter Springs, Kansas 1880s. Bank is far left, towards the end of the street.

1875 was a sad year for the Vance family as their mother Matilda passed away [1]. A very competent researcher [28] and author of two books on cemetery inscriptions in Cherokee County was unable to locate the burial place of Matilda. She could have been buried at the Baptist Church or on the farm. In either case, there is no headstone today to identify her resting place.

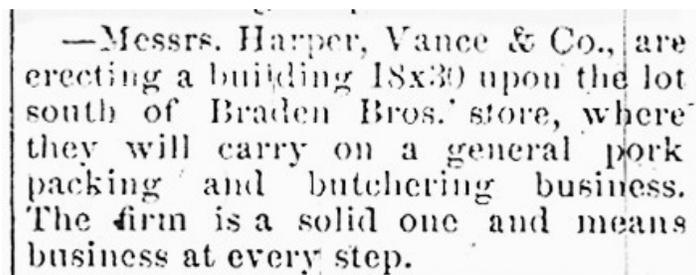
On 6 Jan 1876, Mintun's daughter Sarah E. Vance (known as "Lida") married William Walker [29]. Only Mintun and Matilda's daughter Mary, age 25, had not married by this time. Their son Thomas was 20 and rapidly reaching manhood.

On 25 October 1876, Mintun remarried to Mrs. Polly (Mary) Tanner [1, 30]. A search of the 1860 federal Census for Illinois found Mary living in Moultrie County and married to Timothy Tanner. A search of the Indiana Marriage records for 1811-1959 disclosed that Mary's maiden name was Fortner and that she had married Timothy Tanner in Bowling Green, Clay County, Indiana on 22 May 1852 [31]. By 1860, Timothy and Mary had four children and were living on a farm owned by Daniel Tipton [32]. A family tree posted on the Internet disclosed Timothy and Mary had eight children by

1868. An exhaustive search of the 1870 Censuses for Illinois (where all the children were born) and Kansas did not turn up Timothy and Mary Tanner. In the 1875 Census for Kansas, Mary was found living in Baxter Springs City with six of her children (William D., George R., Laura E., Nora B., James M., and Francis) and a one-year old boy named U. Allen [33, 34]. It seems likely that Timothy may have died between 1870 and 1875. By 1880, five of Mary's children were living in Garden Township (adjacent to and east of Spring Valley Township) in Cherokee County [35]. Mary's son George was farming and was the head of the household at the age of 21. By 1880, both Mintun's daughter Mary and his son Thomas had left home. In 1880, Mintun was 64 and his wife Mary was 47. Mintun's nearest family member was his daughter Lida Walker who had moved to the city of Oswego in Labette County [36], adjacent to and west of Cherokee County.

In 1878, Mintun and Mary hit a bump in the road and Mintun filed a petition for divorce [37]. This was apparently reconciled as they purchased a 160-acre farm on 28 Sep 1880. The farm was located in Section 32 of Spring Valley Township 34 Range 24, being about 4 miles east of the town of Baxter Springs. The property was sold by the Trustees of Iowa State College to M. J. Vance for \$850 [38]. It is possible that this was the farm Mintun had rented when he first came to Baxter Springs as the land was owned in absentia. The property was originally granted by the U.S. Government (which bought it from the Cherokees) to the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Rail Road on 2 Nov 1870. The MR,FS&GRR then sold it to Julius Reed on 19 Jul 1875. Julius Reed sold it to the Trustees of Iowa College on 15 Sep 1876 [39] who then sold it to M. J. Vance four years later. It would appear that Julius A. Reed and the Trustees of Iowa College were investors (land speculators) and not farmers. This would make Mintun one of the first white farmers to own this land in Cherokee County and his date of arrival in 1868 would make him an early pioneer in Baxter Springs Kansas.

In 1882, Mintun became involved in the butchering business. A newspaper article was carried in the Baxter Springs News about the Harper, Vance & Co butcher shop on 7 Dec 1882 [39]:



—Messrs. Harper, Vance & Co., are erecting a building 18x30 upon the lot south of Braden Bros.' store, where they will carry on a general pork packing and butchering business. The firm is a solid one and means business at every step.

And again on 18 Jan 1883 [40]:

—Harper, Vance & Co. have been trimming painting and sprucing up about their shop this week and she looks as neat as, and if anything, a little neater than a speckled purp. They are chock full of git-up-and-git enterprise.

However, an advertisement in the same paper on the same day in January of 1883 [40] described the Palace Meat Market as only being owned by Harper Bros. & Co. Perhaps Mintun had second thoughts about his involvement in this company, or did not want his name in the press so he became part of the anonymous “company.” It is interesting to note that his son-in-law George Walker was working with his father William Walker as a butcher in Baxter Springs in 1870 [39?]. George had married Hannah Vance in 1872. One might think that George may have introduced Mintun to the butchering business, but George and Hannah had removed from Baxter Springs before 1875 [42].

**PALACE  
MEAT  
MARKET**

**HARPER BROS. & CO.,**  
Having completely remodeled and refurnished their  
meat market, ANNOUNCE that they are sell-  
ing the best meat in the market at  
**THE LOWEST PRICES.**

**CALL AND SEE THEM AND CONVINC YOURSELF!**

**BOLOGNAS, PUDDINGS,  
AND EVERYTHING TO BE FOUND IN A FIRST  
CLASS BUTCHER SHOP!**

**COME AND SEE!**  
We don't charge anything for LOOKING!  
**HARPER BROS. & CO.,**  
WITH E. WILLIAMS and J. W. DUNHAM at the Block.

Mintun Vance's name was conspicuously absent from this advertisement in 1883

On 8 Jan 1883, Mintun and Mary sold their farm to C.J. Clifton [43]. The 160 acres sold for \$2,600, but there was an 1880 mortgage in favor of C.H. Nutt due 1 Oct 1885. Presumably, Mintun would have paid this off from the proceeds of the sale. The farm was obviously a good investment for him.



Fourth of July 1883 in Baxter Springs, KS, the bank is in the center of the background

Mintun and Mary are next found in the 1885 Kansas State Census for the City of Oswego in Labette County [44]. Mintun is described as a farmer, but it is more likely a he was a retired farmer. It is quite reasonable that Mintun and Mary would have moved to Oswego by 1885 since this is where Mintun's daughter Lida (Sarah) Walker had been living with her husband William Walker [35] and their daughter Myrtle Pearl (b. 1876). 1885 is the last we see of Mintun J. Vance; no obituaries, burial records or cemetery inscriptions have been located after this time. This seems unusual in light of Mintun living with his wife Mary and close to his daughter Lida in a fairly large town in Kansas. In 1885, Mintun was 69 years old. There are no state or federal census records for Kansas in 1890 and Mintun was not listed in the state census for 1895. It is likely that Mintun died in Kansas sometime after 1885.

Mintun J. Vance left behind only one son, Thomas Henry Vance. Thomas moved to Colorado shortly before 1880 and was a pioneer in the community of Ridgway, CO [45]. We do not know if Mintun ever heard from Thomas after 1880. We do know that in 1885, Mintun's daughter Matilda "Frances" Mitchell and her family lived in Ouray, CO at the same time as Thomas and his young wife Mary "Frances". It seems that after Matilda died in 1875, her daughters married and started their own families. By 1882, only four of the family's ten daughters were living and the only surviving son had moved to Colorado. What little we know of Mintun and Matilda's children is written in the chapters that follow.

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