

The Miner Family

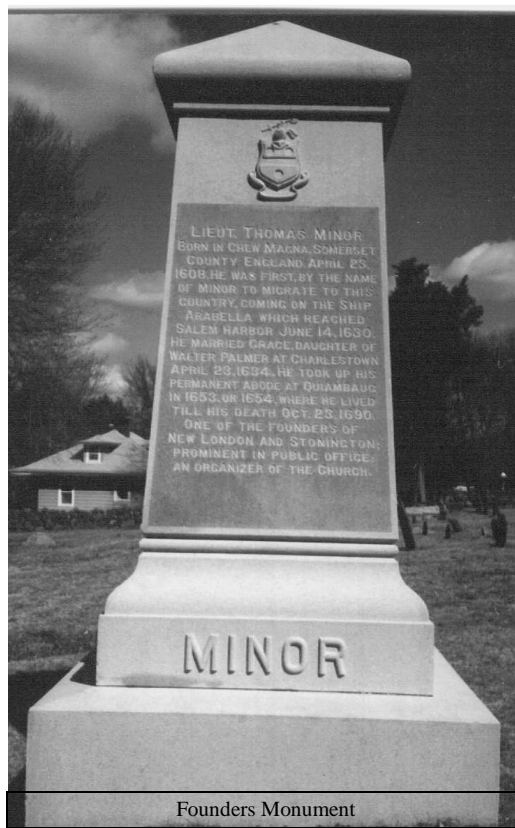
The following contain excerpts from the book “Thomas Minor Descendants” by John A. Miner

In his book, John Miner talked of a Thomas Miner who died in the year 1573. From wills that this Thomas left, it was determined that he had three children who were Clement, Edith and John. The son Clement, who lived until the year 1639, had nine children listed as Joan, John, a second Joan, Mary, Elizabeth, Jane, Edith, Clement and the youngest Thomas who was christened in 1608. This Thomas is the one who came to America in the year 1629 and whose lineage is traced in John Miners book.

Thomas Minor (also found to be spelled as Mynor and Miner), son of Clement, left England, sailing from Gravesend on April 25, 1629 and arrived at Salem, Massachusetts in the middle of July of 1629. He moved on to Charlestown and in 1632 his name was 34th on list of founders of The First Church.

On April 23, 1634 Thomas married Grace Palmer, daughter of Walter Palmer. Their first child, John, was born and baptized in Charlestown in 1635 before their move to Hingham, Massachusetts in 1636. The next four children, Clement, Thomas, **Ephraim** and Joseph were born in Hingham. In 1645 Thomas and his family moved to the colony of New London, Connecticut, joining the Puritans led by John Winthrop Jr. While living in New London, three more children were born to the family, Manassah, who was the first white male child born in New London, Ann and Mary. The family moved once again in 1652 to Pawcatuck, Connecticut. He joined William Chesebrough, Thomas Stanton and Walter Palmer as Founders of that town which is now known as Stonington. The last of the families ten children, Samuel and Hannah were born here.

In 1666, Thomas was given a Colonial grant of 100 acres of land and received another 50 acres in 1667. Grants such as these were given to people who performed distinguished service for their community. During his years in Connecticut, Thomas has served as deputy to the Connecticut General Court, Chief Military Officer of the Mystic Trainband, a



Founders Monument



Wequetequock Cemetery

Lieutenant during King Philip's war, and Magistrate of Justice. Thomas died at the age of 83, on October 23, 1690 and is buried in the Wequetequock Cemetery. His grave is covered with a

"wolfstone" which consists of a large rough cut piece of granite which he had selected from his own field for this purpose. It is inscribed "Here Lyes The body Of Liutenant Thomas Minor Aged 83 Departed 1690." In this same cemetery stands a monument to the four founders of



Thomas Minor's Marker

the town. The side dedicated to Thomas is inscribed "Lieut. Thomas Minor born in Chew Magna, Somerset County England April 23, 1608. He was first by the name of minor to migrate to this country coming on the ship Arabella which reached Salem Harbor June 14, 1630. He married Grace, daughter of Walter Palmer at Charlestown April 23, 1634. He took up his permanent abode at Quiambaug in 1653 or 1654 where he lived till his death Oct. 23, 1690. One of the founders of New London and Stonington. Prominent in public office and organizer of the Church."

Next in our line is Thomas' fourth son **Ephraim Miner** who was baptized in Hingham, MA on May 1, 1642. He married Hannah Avery, daughter of James Avery of New London on June 20, 1666. During his life he had served as a Lieutenant in King Philip's war in 1714 and had also served as a Selectman and also was a Deputy for Stonington to the General Court. Hannah died on August 22, 1721 and Ephraim on May 16, 1724. Both are buried in Taugwonk that is part of North Stonington. Their children, Hannah, **Ephraim**, Thomas, a second Hannah, Rebecca, Deborah, Elizabeth, Samuel, A second Deborah, a third Deborah, and a second Samuel were born in Taugwonk. The first Hannah, first Samuel, first Deborah and second Deborah died as young children.

Ephraim Miner, son of Ephraim comes next in our line. He was born on June 22, 1668 and on May 24, 1694 he married Mary Stevens, daughter of Richard. He had been appointed to Lieutenant of the North Stonington Company in 1707 and in 1715 was promoted to Captain of the 2nd Company. He had also served as Deputy for Stonington to the General Court. Ephraim and Mary had ten children, Ephraim, Thomas, Mary, Henry, Rufus, Bridgett, Simon, Stephen, Hannah and **Samuel**. Ephraim died February 19, 1740 at the age of 71.

Samuel Miner was born on January 1, 1715 and had been married twice. His first wife was Elizabeth Denison, daughter of Joseph Denison and Prudence Miner. They were married on April 29, 1739 and they had two children, Bridget and Elizabeth. After his first wife died in 1742 at the age of 22, Samuel married Esther Gallup on October 22, 1743. She was the daughter of Benadam Gallup and Esther Cobb. Together they had ten children, George, **Thomas**, Amos, Moses, Esther, Adam, Abel, Peleg, Ephraim and Samuel. Samuel died at the age of 58 on July 30, 1773 and his wife Elizabeth on November 9, 1779.

Thomas Miner was born on November 25, 1745. He had been a sailor on a ship out of New London and on his return from a trip to the Gold Coast of Africa in 1764 bought half of the land in the township of Canaan, New Hampshire sight unseen. He married Eleanor Lamb of New London in 1765. Being a sailor, he set sail once again and began thinking about the land he had purchased. He returned to port shortly before the birth of his first child and not long thereafter he and his family were off to the wilderness of New Hampshire to see and settle his land. Thomas wrote to several of his old shipmates and made them an offer of 100 acres of land if they came and settled. Nine of them accepted the offer and came with their families and the town began to grow. Thomas watched his town grow to a population of over 1,500 citizens with three churches and an academy. Thomas was elected to the state legislature for thirty consecutive years. While in Canaan, the couple had seven more children. Their children were **Allen**, Lovisa, Thomas, Elijah, Cynthia, Elisha, Sophia and Amos. Eleanor died on July 17, 1815 and Thomas on July 12, 1827.

Allen Miner, the last of our line of Miners' to be born in Connecticut, was born on September 13, 1766. As a child he was carried into the wilderness of New Hampshire to the town of Canaan, as his parents began a new life. He was sent off to Dartmouth College to receive a higher education and became a doctor. On February 5, 1790 he married Sally Flint who was from St. Armand, Quebec, Canada and in the year 1793 they moved to Fairfax, Vermont, a town south of St. Albans, where he continued his practice. They later moved back to St. Armand. Their first child, Lucy was born in Canaan, NH in 1792. The next two children, Sally (b. 1794) and **Thomas** were born in Fairfax, VT and the remaining children, Maro (b. June 29, 1799), Harlow (b. November 18, 1801), Casper Bohine (b. 1805), and Allen (b. 1809) were born in St. Armand. Dr. Allen Miner died on May 29, 1843.

Thomas Miner was born in Fairfax, Vermont in the year 1796. He was moved with his family to St. Armand and on February 5, 1823 he married Lucy Lee also from St. Armand. They had nine children, Margarette (b. May 18, 1824), Hannah (b. June 22, 1826), Eliza (b. April 28, 1827), Lorinda (b. April 13, 1829), Harlow (b. October 11, 1836), Amity P. (b. September 2, 1838), Seneca (b. August 26, 1841), **George** (b. March 21, 1845), and Andrew (b. July 20, 1847). At some point the family moved to Dunham, Quebec where Thomas died September 28, 1870.

George Miner was born on March 21, 1845. He married Pamela Harris in 1870 and they had a son. This is about all that is mentioned in John A. Miner's book "Thomas Miner Descendants" about a George that was the son of Thomas from St. Armand. The following information was obtained from my own research as well as stories told to me by Reginold Miner, a grandson of George. Our George was also born on March 21, 1845. Our George however, married Pruella Haynes, daughter of Alva Haynes of Berkshire, Vermont. (Pruella Haynes when hand written might appear to be Pamela Harris). On the marriage record George listed his father as Thomas. The actual marriage date was unclear as I had found it listed as the year 1870 in the book and also as April 2, 1869 and again as April 2, of 1868. They were married in Berkshire and are listed in a record book there from 1868 although it was transcribed as 1869 on the document they sent to me. If one looks at their ages on the record, 22 and 18, and check their birth dates, we can determine that they were married on April 2, 1867. There is a child listed on the back of their tombstone, Senica George, who was born on May 7, 1868 and died on September 6, 1868. This would also help to back up the date of 1867.

On the 1870 census of Berkshire, Vermont, George and Pruella were counted as living in the household of Alva Haynes, Pruella's father. They were probably working the farm (dairy) as Alva was over the age of 70 and may have been unable to work the farm himself. A short time later, George bought and ran a small dairy farm in Dunham, Quebec on the road to Dunham Pond that is now known as Ch. Du Lac Selby. It was in the stone farmhouse on this land where the children, **Henderson** (b. November 3, 1870), Myrtie (b. July 24, 1874), Bruce (b. May 24, 1880), and Rufus (b. October 2, 1888) were said to be born. This house was only a few short miles walk from the one room school house where the children attended and a shorter walk to Dunham Pond (now Lac Selby). The land had gentle hills but had many rocks that would have made it poor land for growing hay or silage corn.



In 1880 George purchased the old stage coach stop in Cowansville that was built in 1835 along with its 200 acres of land for \$8500. This was quite a high price for those days but it was a better piece of land. George added a large shed to the back of the house where he kept five horses and also a treadmill saw which was horse powered. He kept a small herd of about 8 cows that gave him a comfortable income.



George did not involve himself with the hard, physical work on the farm but had hired help to do it for him. It is uncertain when George actually moved his family from the home in Dunham to the one in Cowansville.

On February 6, 1887, George, his wife Pruella and daughter Myrtie were baptized. On these records from the Dunham Methodist Church, George listed Thomas Miner and Lucy Lee as his parents. It was not until June 26, 1888 that Henderson, Bruce and Rufus were baptized in the same church. It has been said that on Sunday mornings when the boys were sent off to church in Dunham, they instead walked the other way to Dunham Pond to go fishing. This might be the reason that the boys weren't baptized at the same time as the rest of their family. They may have been fishing that day.

George and his family always dressed well and carried themselves in a way to cause many townspeople to believe they had great wealth and they were sometimes called millionaires. This sort of attention did not bother George.

George was a fine horseman and had always entered his horses and teams in many of the local fairs and competitions. His grandson, Reginald, still has harnesses that were used in the competitions. George kept up the farm until he died on April 7, 1912. When George died, each son was to receive equal shares from the sale of the farm. His son Bruce took a mortgage to pay off his brothers and purchase the entire farm and its equipment. Bruce kept the farm going and passed it on to his son Reginald. This farm that was purchased by George so long ago has remained in the family for well over one hundred years. The house is currently for sale however (1998).



Henderson Harlow Miner was born November 3, 1870. We really aren't sure at this time whether he was born in Quebec or Vermont. His parents were living in Berkshire, Vermont in the beginning of the year at census time however it is possible that they were back in Dunham at the time of his birth. It is only a matter of a few short miles between towns. He was the second child born to the family. His brother before him died in infancy however. Aside from the chores that I'm sure that Henderson had to do as a child, he also worked with his brothers doing odd jobs and clean up work for people around town. One person known as Auntie or Andie Brooks was one of their best customers. I have been told that Henderson and his brothers were remembered in her will. This may be what gave the brothers a better start in life.

On September 27, 1893, Henderson and his first cousin Amelia Bertha Patch crossed the border to Richford, Vermont and were married. It was not long after this that Henderson opened a general store in Dunham. It was on the north side of town on the main street through town across the gravel road from the school. It was a large building with an attached



The Store in Dunham Circa 1895



Henderson & Amelia

living quarters in the rear. There were stables and barns to the back of the property. Henderson sold groceries, clothing, tools, hardware and farm equipment. Shortly after beginning this successful business, they began to have their children, Harlow Edgar (b. Aug. 16, 1895), Arden George (b. March 13, 1897), Wilfred Patch (b. Sept. 27, 1898), Leland Herbert (b. Jan 13, 1900), **Lucy Amelia** (b. Aug. 22, 1901), Roderick Henderson (b. June 25, 1903), Muriel Irene (b. Sept. 21, 1905), and Stanley Everett (b. Aug 26, 1907).

Henderson kept the business successful for many years. As the children became older they would bring friends in after school and give them candy and sandwiches. Henderson was a man of good nature but not as good at business and never charged for these things. In addition to this, he would clothe his children from the store. This sort of thing cut deeply into the profits of the business, and finally caused the demise of the store. In 1917 Henderson sold the store and property he owned and packed up the family possessions. His brother Bruce helped load everything onto the wagon and it was brought to the railroad station. The family piano was brought on the second trip. The family, except for Arden, traveled by train to Hartford, Connecticut where their son Harlow had moved the year before. Arden chose to remain in Dunham. My grandmother had always told me that the family had to pay a head tax to come to the U. S. A. but I have been unable to determine what a head tax was.

The family arrived in Hartford early in the year and Henderson went to work for the A&P Grocery Store. In June of 1917 the two youngest children, Muriel and Stanley became ill with septic diphtheria and toxemia and died within days of each other. Muriel on June 10th and Stanley on June 13th. Henderson continued to work for the A&P and remained in Hartford until about 1927. Henderson moved to Springfield, Massachusetts and tried once again to run a business. He opened a diner in Springfield and had his sons, Leland and Roderick, helping.

Again, his sons took advantage and began to take money from the till and not repaying what they had taken. Before long, Henderson had to close the doors once again.

Henderson had been mentioned in the book "Men Of Today In The Eastern Townships" which was published in 1918 by the Sherbrook Record Company in Quebec. He had already left the area, however. The short paragraph mentions that he had spent some years farming before entering the mercantile business. It goes on to say that he had purchased property from D. Guillet and developed an extensive general store there. He had served as a school commissioner and councilor and in politics he was a Liberal. He was a member of the Methodist church

On March 12, 1930 at the age of 60, Henderson died from a cerebral hemorrhage at the Mercy Hospital in Springfield. This was only a month and a half before his wife died. He is buried at the Spring Grove Cemetery in Hartford.

Lucy Amelia Miner