

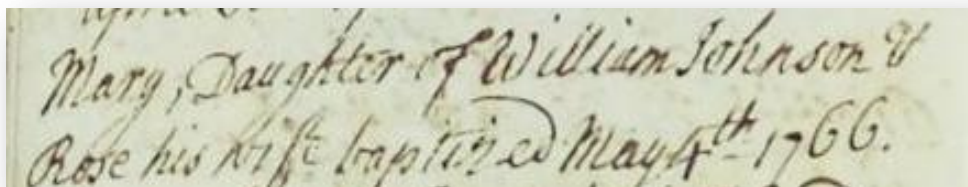
Edward Minter and Mary Johnson



Great Horkesley parish church, location for the baptism of Edward Minter

From the Essex village of Great Horkesley Edward Minter was the family patriarch who migrated to the nearby village of Boxted following his marriage and it is here where a number of his descendants were still to be found in the mid twentieth century. Whilst there is but the basic documentary evidence for his early life, namely in the form of the parish registers which document the birth, marriage and deaths of him and his children, for the last two decades his life a comparative wealth of information survives for this Essex farmer, in particular from newspaper archives who variously record a man who was compelled to face magistrates when he was reluctant to support his daughter when she found herself in hard times, a man forced to help settle his son's debts when he was declared bankrupt and as an old man record him as the victim of burglary by a ruthless housebreaker: they record how he voted and information survives right down to the crops he grew on his farm: as such, when used in conjunction with his own will, that of his father in law and court documents a substantial amount of information can be gleaned about an individual who lived so long ago in the past and which far exceeds that of many of his contemporaries as well as many of his descendants.

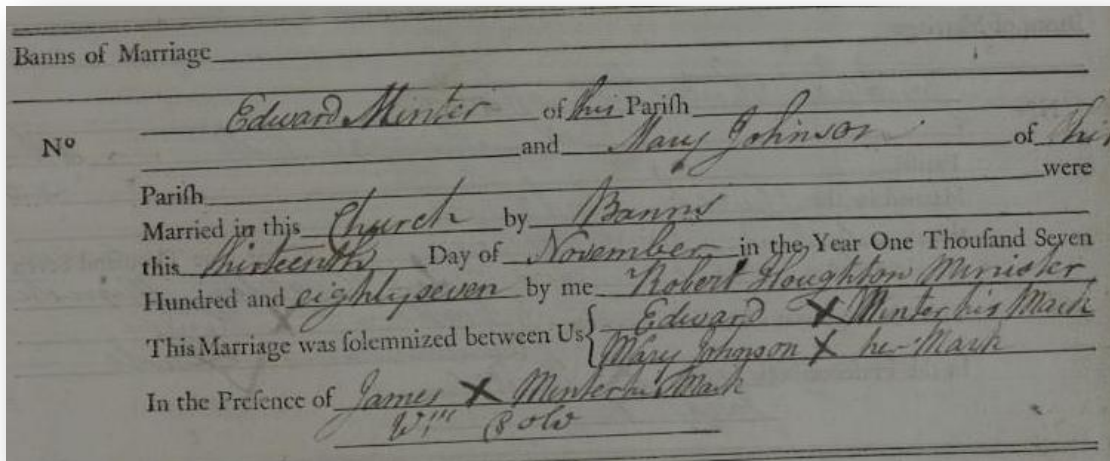
Baptised in Great Horkesley on 29th September 1765, the third child of Edward Minter and Susannah Hawkins, Edward appears to have grown up there with a total of seven siblings although, of these, at least three appear to have died as young children whilst the two brothers who survived childhood – namely James and Thomas - remained in the village to rear families there. Edward relocated as a young man from Great Horkesley to Boxted most likely at the time of his marriage to local girl Mary Johnson in the village on November 13 1787.



Baptism of Mary Johnson from the Great Horkesley register

Mary was the daughter of Boxted farmer William Johnson and Rose Wilby, and had, in common with her husband, been brought up in Great Horkesley, parish records showing her being baptised here on May 4th 1766. The family, indeed, had lived there since at least 1721 when Matthew Johnson, Mary's grandfather, had married Mary Clark. Mary Johnson had two known siblings, Sarah and Ann, and her father William, furthermore, appears in land tax records for Boxted in 1798 showing he possessed freehold land in the village by this time.

In due course Edward Minter was the father to nine children, all christened in Boxted, namely Mary - who was baptised in 1788, followed by Sarah in 1790, William (1792), John (1794), Hannah (1797), Susannah (1799), James (1801), Thomas (1806), and, finally, Elizabeth in 1808. Such a large family, which, whilst not uncommon for the age, was ultimately to cause him a great financial burden once they reached adulthood in ways he was unlikely to have anticipated. Curiously the baptisms for both Mary and Sarah, the eldest of the children, record the parents as "James and Mary Minter" rather than "Edward and Mary" although this is most likely a parsons error as both the wills of William Johnson and Edward himself record these daughters as being his children, with the dates



Boxted marriage Register for Edward Minter and Mary Johnson

and places of their births gleaned from later census records providing supporting evidence.

Whether Edward was already in business as a farmer on his move to Boxted is unclear although a substantial amount of his freehold land was inherited from his father in law when he died in 1814: William Johnson's will categorically states: "I give and devise unto my son in law Edward Minter the husband of my daughter Mary and his heirs all that freehold messuage wherein I now dwell with the freehold barns, stables and outhouses and freehold lands, meadows and pastures...situated in Boxted aforesaid now in any occupation of my assigns and which I purchased of Robert Whiley". Edward's children also benefited from their grandfather's inheritance with Mary, Sarah, John and Thomas all receiving £100 and William 3 acres of land upon their reaching the age of 21 with the residue of his personal estate being equally shared between the rest of the children and his two now bereaved son in laws.

PAUPERISM—SINGULAR DECISION.—A man of the name of Minter, of the parish of Boxted, in Essex, was summoned to shew cause why he suffered his daughter and her family to become chargeable to the parish. It had been arranged on a former hearing, that a party should be mutually appointed to visit Mr. Minter's farm and property, and report on its value; and that report was now read, shewing that the farm extended to 18 acres, worth 30l. a year rent; and the value of the premises, &c. was at least 900l. This report, however, was not permitted to be put in as evidence, and the case occasioned a great deal of discussion.—Mr. Smythies contending that before the Magistrates could make any order on Minter, it was incumbent on them to prove, that after Minter had duly provided for the maintenance of his own family and establishment, there was an overplus to support the family of another. The chairman, Mr. Corsellis, drew a strong parallel between the case of Minter, worth 900l. and that of a man possessed of a donkey, the latter of whom could not be relieved by the parish, while he had the donkey or any thing else that he could call his own. If the premises of Mr. Smythies were correct, then were the decisions of this bench founded in error for the last twenty years. The chairman added, that it was a perversion—a shameful perversion—of the poor laws, to maintain that a man possessed of so much property, or any property, could come upon the parish for relief. Mr. Smythies in reply, stated that this was not the case of a man refusing to maintain his own family, but the family of another, for the support of whom special provision had been made—it was quite a different branch of the law: besides which, it was impossible for the parish to shew, that Minter derived a greater income from the produce of his farm than was barely sufficient for the maintenance of his own establishment. In short, the Bench could not make any order on Minter. Several parishioners who were present stated, that the expense already incurred by this family amounted to 60l. and a current allowance was paid out of the poor's rate of 9s. a week. They were quite willing to meet Minter half way in the support of his daughter and four grandchildren; but they thought that for a man possessed of so much property, it was too much to take away from the portion allotted for the poor by law. The Bench unanimously directed an order for 9s. 9d. a week to be made on Minter for the maintenance of his daughter and her family; and if the legality of their decision were doubted, an appeal lay at the Sessions.

Report from the Hampshire Advertiser, 21 April 1832 detailing Edward's case

Whilst the inheritance aided the Minter family in their financial security the England following William Johnson's death was one of national economic hardship. The following year saw the arrival of troops returning from the Napoleonic wars in search of work and a subsequent soaring in the price of corn. The implementation of new labour saving devices in agriculture such as the threshing machine saw the rapid development in rural discontent among labourers who depended upon the land as their source of employment culminating in the Swing Riots of 1830. It was against this backdrop that agricultural labourer James Taylor, the wife of Edward's daughter Hannah died, leaving Edward in a dispute with the authorities which lasted a year.

Edward first appears in the provincial press in March 1832 when he is to be found facing magistrates at the Moot Hall at Colchester castle as a result of his daughter Hannah finding herself in dire financial straits following the death of her husband leaving her with four children to bring up and having no source of income. Whilst she had been born in Boxted and the village and was entitled to a subsistence from the poor rates of this parish of which upwards of £60 had already been paid to her by this time it was found that Edward was a man who owned property and was a comparatively wealthy individual who should be expected to contribute himself to support his own family. However, the government of Earl Grey was looking to garner the support of the landowning classes who had to contribute to the poor law funds themselves which ultimately led to the poor law amendment act of 1834 which in principal decreed that the able bodied poor should be made to find "relief" in

the dreaded workhouse, the stigma of the Victorian age, conditions of which were deliberately made so unsavoury to enter it was seen as a last resort. The initial hearing, at which Edward was present, headed by Sir George Henry Smyth and the reverend William Milton Thurlock, found that "the said Hannah Taylor is poor and unable to work so as to maintain and support herself and her said four children" and that the "said Edward Minter being a person of sufficient ability to maintain and provide for his daughter". Consequently an order was made upon him to contribute 9s 6d a week to the upkeep of his family with the opportunity of appeal.

Appeal Edward did: In court Edward's defence hinged upon his claiming he was just able to make ends meet without having to finance his daughter and four children – who were, in his own words "another man's" with one newspaper stating he had no fewer than 42 children and grandchildren by this time. The prosecution responded with their findings that his farm had been visited by assessors who found it to be composed of 18 acres with a

rental value £30 per annum which would cost at a very conservative estimate £900 to purchase. Further peculiars of Edward's farm are provided on its eventual sale after his death describing it as "a valuable freehold farm, containing a...comfortable farm house, capital barn, stable, cow house (and) sheds" comprising "good mixed soil corn, turnip and meadow land".

The spokesman for the parish, however, found it a "perversion – a shameful perversion of the poor laws – that a man possessed of so much personal property could come upon the parish for relief". The case was one without precedent and it was found impossible to prove whether his farm was profitable enough for Edward to be expected to fully support his daughter and children. Eventually after a number of sittings at the Moot Hall at Colchester castle attended by a number of the parishioners of Boxted who were intrigued by the case the court met him halfway and he was later ordered by the court to pay them 6 shillings and sixpence a week. Hannah eventually was to marry her second husband Henry Cook in Colchester on 23 March 1834, saving any further continuation of the case.

At the advanced age of 77 following the death of his wife Edward had the misfortune to be targeted by the ruthless local housebreaker John Appleby and during a seven hour examination at the local magistrates court he is found describing how on the night of February 7th 1842 he was awoken at 1 am by a noise and upon going downstairs discovered the front door open but found the house empty but on further investigation noted several items had been burgled including A bottle of rum, one of gin, three bottles of wine, a black coat, two razors, a powder flask, a knife and a handkerchief; it was ascertained that entry to his farmhouse had been secured through the pantry window which was found smashed, with several cupboard doors broken open from where the goods were taken. It appears Edward was fortuitous indeed as Appleby proceeded to the nearby village of Langham on the second of April 1842 in partnership with one Thomas Ladbrook in a local cause celebre where the pair broke into his farm of one Benjamin Turner - in common with Edward an elderly local farmer - their faces blackened and demanded 'money or blood' and proceeded to rob him of a purse containing sixty sovereigns, another with twenty shillings and an impressive list of food and clothing: they remained at his property for over an hour drinking his wine in an evening of abject terror. He attempted to raise an alarm by shouting murder out of his window but to no avail, being apprehended by the robbers: his servant James Smith was fortunate to escape with his life. Both these burglaries appear to have been premeditated, with both Edward Minter and Benjamin Turner being elderly widowed farmers with but a single servant lodging with them and they had little to offer in the way of resistance.

The pair were apprehended separately soon after with evidence against them rapidly increasing; Appleby appeared at a hearing charged with both crimes: Edward was able to identify his razors, knife and powder flask which were found in a box owned by Appleby whilst his coat was proven to have been pawned by him at the local pawnbrokers. For their crimes Ladbrook was sentenced to ten years transportation for his part in the Langham burglary whilst Appleby was transported for life: both were deported the following year, the former to Tasmania aboard the Bangalore and the latter to Norfolk Island aboard the Maitland with Norfolk Island being the remote outpost in the Pacific Ocean the destination for the most serious offenders where conditions were harsher still for the prisoners than that of their Australian and Tasmanian counterparts and were regarded by many as a fate worse than death. Yet Appleby seemingly became the model prisoner as eleven and a half years into his sentence he was reprieved and released by the authorities in 1854 with a pardon to return to his homeland. Had these aggravated offences been committed a generation earlier before the reform of the draconian Georgian legal system the statutory punishment may have resulted in public execution by hanging

Edward had further domestic troubles to attend to two years in the future when next his son was declared bankrupt: the landlord of the Castle Inn, Colchester, William Minter (not to be confused with the Colchester publican William Minter from Thorpe le Soken, landlord of the notorious Clarendon arms who lost his license for allowing prostitution on his premises) was a man of many talents, being both builder, dealer and chapman in addition to his victualling duties. William had offered and was accepted in 1839 his services as the constructor of the new Colchester Hythe bridge although it is later recorded "shoddy workmanship" contributed to the bridge's subsequent collapse. William had witnessed many changes in the town during the course of his tenancy of the Castle which had begun certainly as early as the mid 1820s when he is first listed in local directories and continued for the following three decades,

Burglary at Boxted.

John Appleby was then charged with having committed a burglary in the house of Mr. Edward Minter, a farmer, at Boxted.

Prosecutor stated that about one o'clock in the morning of the 7th of February last he heard a noise in his house; after a little while he got up, and went down stairs. He found the front door open, but saw nobody in the house. He then went about the house, and found that somebody had entered by breaking the pantry window; he also found that several cupboard doors were broken open, and missed a bottle of rum, a bottle of gin, three bottles of wine, a light great coat, a black coat, two razors, a powder flask, a small knife, a handkerchief, and other articles.

Sergeant Simons produced a great coat which had been pawned by Mary Ann Elmore, and also the razors, knife, and powder flask, which he found in Appleby's box, and which were identified by prosecutor.

Mary Ann Elmore admitted that on the 11th of April she pawned the great coat.

Mr. Tarrant, a pawnbroker, stated that Appleby had pawned a coat at his shop; it was in a handkerchief, which had been identified by prosecutor. He also believed the prisoner pawned the black coat.

Prisoner, in defence, said he bought the articles of a man in London.

He was also fully committed for trial on this charge. The examination occupied nearly seven hours.

Report of Edward's burglary by John Appleby from the Essex Standard 22 April 1842



Edward's daughter Elizabeth Minter, later Seaborn

not least of which saw the coming of the railway. A victim to a succession of burglaries during his tenure William prosecuted at least three, including a confectioner who pleaded on his hands and knees “in a flood of tears” to the magistrates for mercy but found himself transported for seven years and his ostler of 23 years, John Brown, at a later date to hang himself from his bedpost using his silk handkerchief.

Proceedings against William commenced on October 7th 1844 and, perhaps somewhat ironically after his father’s reluctance to contribute to his sibling Hannah’s poor rates a decade earlier found himself perhaps somewhat fortunate to be saved from ruin by Edward’s interception and that of one of his brother in laws John Elmer, who, from the available evidence available from the *London Gazette*, appear to have put up for auction over four acres of land, still known in subsequent decades as “Minter’s five acres” together with a house respectively and, as a result, William was able to continue his tenancy at the Castle being still listed as the landlord there as late as 1852 and he died in Colchester provident asylum, a forerunner to today’s home for the elderly, in 1865

The 1841 census of Boxted had revealed a population of 856 yet in the 1847 General Election there were but 27 voters according to the *Essex Standard* who went to the polls, of whom Edward was one due to his ownership of freehold property the statutory voting qualification for the time. There was no secret ballot in the United Kingdom until 1872 and, as such, it can be seen from the local press that in this election Edward voted for John Gurdon Rebow the Whig candidate who, whilst unsuccessful on this occasion was in the future to become Colchester’s MP on two separate occasions.

Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf-and-Dumb
			Males	Females			
Edward Minter	Head	Married	86		Farmer	Box	
Elizabeth Selton	Servant			27	General Servant	Andleigh Essex	

1851 Census entry for Edward Minter

By 1851 Edward is to be found living alone at his farm with just a domestic servant to attend to him and even in the final months of his life he was to be plagued by his troublesome relatives. When one of his numerous grandsons Amos Minter stole a peck of potatoes from a local farm the following year claiming economic hardship had driven him to it and subsequently absconded to London he was apprehended by the authorities when returning to Boxted to visit friends several months later: Amos’s father John and Edward himself were asked to pay bail for him to secure a speedy trial so as not to lose his new job in the capital. It was to no avail; Amos was sentenced to three months hard labour at her majesty Queen Victoria’s pleasure by Colchester magistrates in July 1853.

VALUABLE SMALL FREEHOLD FARM.
Land-Tax Returned.
AT BOXTED, NEAR COLCHESTER,
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
Mr. J. G. Fenn & Mr. Edward Smith
(Who are jointly engaged in this Sale).
On THURSDAY, June 15th, 1854, at the Cups Hotel, Colchester, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, by direction of the Executors of the late Mr. EDWARD MINTER, in Two Lots.

LOT 1.
A VERY compact small FREEHOLD FARM, situated within the parish of Boxted, a short distance from the Cross Public-house, containing 12a. 3a. 38r. (more or less) of good mixed-soil Corn, Turnip, and Meadow LAND; with a comfortable Farm-house, capital barn, stable, cow-house, sheds, &c.; not in the occupation of the said Executors.

LOT 2. An Enclosure of excellent mixed-soil Corn and Turnip LAND, a short distance from Lot 1, and containing 1a. 3a. 37r. This Lot is also Freehold.

Immediate possession may be had on completion of the purchase.

Full Particulars and Conditions of Sale, with Plans of the Estate, may be had of Messrs. SMYTHES and GOODY, Solicitors, Colchester; and of the Auctioneer, Andleigh Hall, and at his Office High Street, Colchester, on Saturdays only.

GROWING CROPS,
AT BOXTED, NEAR COLCHESTER,
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
Mr. J. G. Fenn & Mr. Edward Smith
(Who are jointly engaged in this Sale).
By direction of the Executors of Mr. EDWARD MINTER, on THURSDAY, June 15th, 1854, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon (being immediately after the Sale of the Farm), in the following Lots:—

LOT 1—0 3 13 of good BAILEY, with the Straw and Chaff;
“ 2—3 3 7 of good WHEAT, “ “
“ 3—3 2 34 of good PEAS, “ “
“ 4—2 1 0 of good OATS, “ “
“ 5—3 3 8 of good GRASS, in Three Inclosures, to mow once and feed till Michaelmas next.

A deposit of £25 per Cent. to be paid to the Auctioneer immediately after the Sale; the remainder to be paid before cutting, which expense, with the cutting and harvesting, is to be borne by the Purchasers.

Five months later, on Boxing Day Edward Minter died at the age of 88 and was buried in Boxted on January 2nd, 1854. He was survived by six of his children, namely Mary, Sarah, William, John, Hannah, and Elizabeth. Perhaps surprisingly for this age all six lived to see their seventieth birthday with three of these living past their eightieth birthday. Edward’s will, proved on 26th January directed that John received 2 acres of land together with £19 and 19 shillings; William and Thomas both received £10 with a further £10 apiece to their and the surviving children of Susannah. The remainder of his legacy was divided among his remaining children.

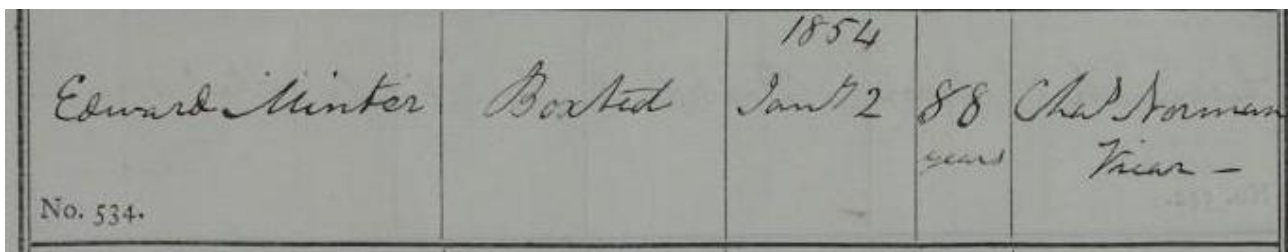
Perhaps in his final years Edward felt a sense of remorse in the way he had treated his daughter Hannah. If her second husband Henry Cook is to be equated with the man of the same name, age and abode as Hannah’s husband, which appears likely, she was again widowed in 1842 after he collapsed and died in a Colchester pub. It was to be eight years before she married her third and final husband John Smith and special provision was made in his will and he decreed that “if at any time my said daughter Hannah should be in affliction or want and my said executors or administrations should deem it desirable to pay her any sums of money...they shall have full power from time to time to do such payments not to exceed altogether the sum of thirty pounds”.

On Feb 3 1854 the “live and dead farming stock, household furniture and effects comprising a useful cart mare, 3 milch cows; a young sow; 2 small stacks of hay; also tumbrels, plough, harrows, rolls, harness, tools, (etc) with a general assortment of household furniture and indoor effects” were sold at auction as directed by Edward in his will with the sale of his farm and crops taking place separately at the Cups Hotel, Colchester on June 15th by the auctioneers J.G. Fenn and Edward Smith.

Posterity owes a great deal to Edward’s contemporaries in the press who helped to record the life of a man dead these one hundred and sixty years to assist in our knowledge of his life and times today..

Newspaper advertisement advertising the auction for Edward's farm

As such it remains a certainty that more is likely to be revealed about this man and his family who lived in an age long distant from our own over a century and a half after his death.



Burial register for Edward Minter

Children of Edward Minter and Mary Johnson

NAME	BORN	OCCUPATION	MARRIED	DIED
Mary Minter	bp September 28 1788, Boxted, Essex Essex		i James Bruce 28 January 1804 Boxted, Essex ii Obadiah White 8 February 1836 St Martin's Church, Colchester, Essex	18 August 1860 Colchester, Essex
Sarah Minter	3 July 1790 Boxted, Essex		John Elmer 8 April 1810 Boxted, Essex	Quarter 1 1868 Lexden Registration District, Essex
William Minter	30 September 1792 Boxted, Essex	Publican, Builder and Carpenter	i Hannah Barker 18 February 1820 Great Horkesley, Essex ii Harriett Manning 21 July 1856 St Pancras parish Church , London	October 1865 Colchester Provident Asylum, Colchester, Essex
John Minter	bp 26 October 1794 Boxted, Essex	Farmer	i Anne Unknown ii Deborah Naylor nee Shephard 5 October 1850 Boxted, Essex	13 August 1864 Boxted, Essex
Hannah Minter	bp 12 March 1797 Boxted, Essex	Wife of Agricultural Labourer	i James Taylor 22 December 1815 Boxted, Essex ii Henry Cook 23 March 1834 St Martin's Church, Colchester, Essex iii Thomas Smith 25 December 1850 St Martin's Church, Colchester, Essex	Quarter 2 1880 Lexden Registration District, Essex
Susannah Minter	bp 19 May 1799 Boxted, Essex		Thomas Webb 14 June 1816 Langham, Essex	Quarter 2 1882 Lexden Registration District, Essex
James Minter	bp 16 August 1801 Boxted, Essex			bd 26 January 1813 Boxted, Essex
Thomas Minter	bp 15 November 1806 Boxted, Essex	Agricultural Labourer	i Elizabeth Downs 28 August 1828 Boxted, Essex ii Mary Ann Surry 9 Feb 1832 Boxted, Essex	bd 6 April 1845 Boxted, Essex
Elizabeth Minter	22 August 1807 Boxted, Essex		William Seabourn 21 November 1826 Boxted, Essex	21 August 1892 Great Bromley, Essex

Copy Order by Colchester magistrates 1832

County of } The Order of Sir George Keary Smyth Baronet and
Essex } The Reverend William Milton Sherlock two of His
Majestys Justices of the peace acting in and for the
said County one whereof is of the quorum made at a Petty
Sessions held at Colchester Castle in the said County the thirty
first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight
hundred and thirty two upon an application to us the
Justices aforesaid at the said Petty Sessions by the Churchwarden
and Overseers of the poor of the parish of Boxted in the County
of Essex to have an order made on Edward Minter of
Boxted aforesaid Farmer for him to maintain his daughter
Hannah Taylor widow and her four infant Children namely
James - Robert - William and John Taylor and who is
poor and unable to work so as to maintain and support
herself and her said four children and chargeable to the said
parish of Boxted he the said Edward Minter being a person
of sufficient ability to maintain and provide for his said
Daughter and her said four children And the said Edward
Minter having been duly summoned to appear before us the
Justices aforesaid at the Petty Sessions held at Colchester
Castle ^{aforesaid} on the third day of March now instant to the end and
in order that we might examine into the cause and
circumstances of the Premises but when and where he the
said Edward Minter did not shew any sufficient cause why
such order should not be made and we having heard the
parties so complaining and duly considered the circumstances
of the said Complaint as well as the want of any adequate
defence on the part of the said Edward Minter do adjudge
and determine that the said Hannah Taylor is poor and
unable to work so as to maintain and support herself and her
said four Children and is actually chargeable to the said parish of
Boxted And we do further adjudge that the said Edward Minter

is a person of sufficient ability to maintain and provide for
his said daughter and her said four children We therefore
do Order that the said Edward Minter shall and do forthwith
upon notice of this our order pay or cause to be paid to the
Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor of the said parish
of Boxstead for the time being or to some or one of them -
weekly and every week from this present time the sum of -
Nine shillings and six pence for and towards the sustentation
relief maintenance and support of the said Hannah Taylor
and her said four children for and during so long time
as the said Hannah Taylor and her said four children -
shall be chargeable to the said parish of Boxstead or until
the said Edward Minter shall be legally directed to the -
contrary Given under our hands and seals at Colchester
Castle aforesaid the day and year first above written.

G. R. Smyth (L)

W. M. Hurlock (L)

Will of Edward Minter

This is the last Will and Testament of
me Edward Minter of Boxted in the County of Essex
Farmer First I nominate constitute and appoint Thomas
Whitaker of Boxted aforesaid Farmer and Isaac Page of
West Bergholt in the said County Farmer Executors of this my Will I give
and devise unto my son John Minter All that allotment or parcel of
Land containing two acres and a half more or less situate in Boxted -
aforesaid and formerly parcel of Boxted Heath and now in my own -
occupation To hold to my said son John Minter his heirs and assigns
for ever Also I give and devise unto the said Thomas Whitaker and
Isaac Page and their heirs All and every the Freehold Messuages Lands
Tenements and Hereditaments of which I shall die seized or entitled to
Upon trust that they or the survivor of them his heirs executors or -
administrators do and shall as soon as conveniently may be after my
decease and at such time or times as they in their discretion shall deem
most desirable absolutely sell and dispose of the same either together or
in parcels and by public auction or private contract for the best price -
that can reasonably be obtained for the same with full liberty to buy -
in the said Lands and Hereditaments at any public sale or to cancel
any Contract and to re-sell the lot or lots without being liable for any
deficiency arising thereby Also I direct the said Thomas Whitaker and
Isaac Page or the survivor of them his heirs executors or administrators
in like manner to sell and dispose of All and every the Copyhold -
or customary Lands Tenements and Hereditaments of which I shall
die seized or entitled to And I declare that the receipt and receipts of
the said Thomas Whitaker and Isaac Page or the survivor of them -
his heirs executors or administrators shall be a good and sufficient
discharge or good and sufficient discharges to the purchaser or purchasers
of my said freehold and copyhold Lands Tenements and Hereditaments
who shall not after payment of their respective purchase monies and -

Taking such receipt or receipts be obliged to see to the application thereof -
nor be answerable for the misapplication or non-application of the-
same or any part thereof Also I direct my said Executors at-
such time as they shall think most desirable to sell and dispose
of All my household furniture farming live and dead stock -
Goods Chattels and effects And as to the monies to arise from the
Sales of my aforesaid real and personal estate And from all the rest
and residue of my Personal Estate and Effects whatsoever and whosoever
after payment thereof of my just debts funeral and testamentary -
expences I dispose thereof as follows. I give and bequeath to my son
William Minter the sum of Ten pounds and to his Daughter Maria
Minter the sum of Thirty pounds - I give and bequeath to my said-
son John Minter the sum of Nineteen pounds Nineteen shillings - I-
give and bequeath unto each of the five children of my late Daughter -
Susan Webb living at my decease the sum of Ten pounds - I give and
bequeath unto my Daughter in Law formerly the Wife and afterwards-
the Widow of my son Thomas Minter the sum of Ten pounds - And I
give and bequeath unto each of the four children of my said late son
Thomas Minter who shall be living at my decease the sum of Ten -
pounds all which Legacies I direct shall be paid as soon as conveniently
may be after my decease And as to the residue of the said Monies-
I direct the same shall be divided into four equal parts and be-
disposed of as follows namely - To my daughter Sarah Elmer I -
give and bequeath one fourth part for her own use and benefit -
absolutely To my daughter Elizabeth Seaborn I give and bequeath -
another fourth part thereof for her own use and benefit absolutely To my
daughter Mary White I give and bequeath another fourth part for her
sole use and benefit absolutely And as to the remaining fourth part or
share I direct my said Executors to place the same out at interest in their
names upon Government or good real Security and to pay the interest -

and dividends into the proper hands of my daughter Hannah Smith for and during her natural life whose receipt alone shall be a sufficient discharge for the same and the said Interest and Dividends shall not be liable to the debts controul or engagements of her present or any future husband And upon the decease of my said daughter I give and bequeath the principal money unto and equally between her children share and share alike Provided nevertheless that if at any time my said daughter Hannah should be in affliction or want and my said Executors or the survivor of them his executors or administrators should deem it desirable to pay her any sum or sums of money out of the said fourth part they shall have full power from time to time to do so such payments not to exceed altogether the sum of Thirty pounds. And I authorize and empower my Executors for the time being when any Legacy under this my Will has vested in any infant to place the same out at Interest upon Government or good real Security and to pay or apply the Interest and Dividends for the benefit of such Infant notwithstanding minority with full liberty also for my said Executors in their discretion to advance all or any part of the principal money for the support education or advancement in life of any such Infant notwithstanding minority. And hereby revoking all former Wills I declare this to be my last Will and Testament. ~~In witness~~ whereof I the said Edward Minter, the Testator, have hereunto set my hand this twenty third day of July - one thousand eight hundred and fifty three -

Signed, published and declared by the said Edward Minter the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as Witnesses -

The mark of
Edward Minter

H. G. G. G. John Colchester
Henry G. G.