



Ulysses S. Grant struck this pose in 1864 during the Civil War.—Courtesy National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institute

Study of family records concludes Isaac and Grant were 6th cousins

According to family information passed down to the descendants of Isaac and William Minor, and also according to research done by Kaaren Buffington, Arcata resident and history buff, Isaac Minor and Ulysses S. Grant were sixth cousins and became friends during the 1854 period that Grant

was in charge of Fort Humboldt in Eureka.

In all probability, they did not know that they were related as shown in the following diagram, a record that would make Isaac's three Arcata brothers, Samuel, David and William, also sixth cousins of Grant.

Generation	Descendants Thomas to Isaac		Descendants Thomas to Ulysses S. Grant	
	Isaac	Relationship	Isaac	
1	Thomas	Same Person	Thomas	
2	Clement	Brothers	John	
3	William	1st Cousins	Grace (married U.S. Grant)	
4	Steven	2nd Cousins	Noah Grant	
5	Samuel	3rd Cousins	Noah Grant II	
6	Isaac	4th Cousins	Noah Grant III	
7	Samuel	5th Cousins	Jesse Root Grant	
8	Isaac	6th Cousins	Ulysses S. Grant	

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The four Minor brothers

All contributed to area development

Editor's note: The four Minor brothers, Isaac, Samuel, David and William, all came to Arcata, with the first to arrive in 1853 and the last in 1872. They were all born and raised on the farm operated by their father, Samuel Minor, at a site bordering Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Each of the brothers contributed to the early development of the Arcata-Eureka area.

They were sixth generation descendants of Thomas Minor who, in his very early 20s, left his home in Chew Magna, Somerset County, England, and arrived in Massachusetts in 1629. He was one of four co-founders of Stonington, Connecticut, where he lived out his life after leaving Massachusetts.

Stories on the four Minor brothers follow. The section on Isaac Minor was compiled by Herbert J. Waters, a grandson of Isaac. The accounts on Samuel, David and William were compiled by Gordon M. Minor, a grandson of William.

ISAAC MINOR

Isaac Minor, pioneer California lumberman, embarked on his successful career in Arcata, Humboldt County, in 1853 at the age of 23. He turned his back on the gold fields for the vision of opportunity in the towering redwoods of the North Coast.

He is believed to be the first of the Minor family to adventure westward to California, exemplifying the pioneering spirit of his great-great-great-grandfather, Thomas Minor, founder of Stonington, Conn., and the first of the Minor family to emigrate to the United States from Chew Magna, Somerset County, England.

Before Isaac Minor's death in 1915, he was described as "capitalist, banker, builder and pioneer" who "has wielded perhaps a greater influence in the growth and development of Humboldt County than any other man," by the Davis Commercial Encyclopedia of the Pacific Southwest, published early that same year.

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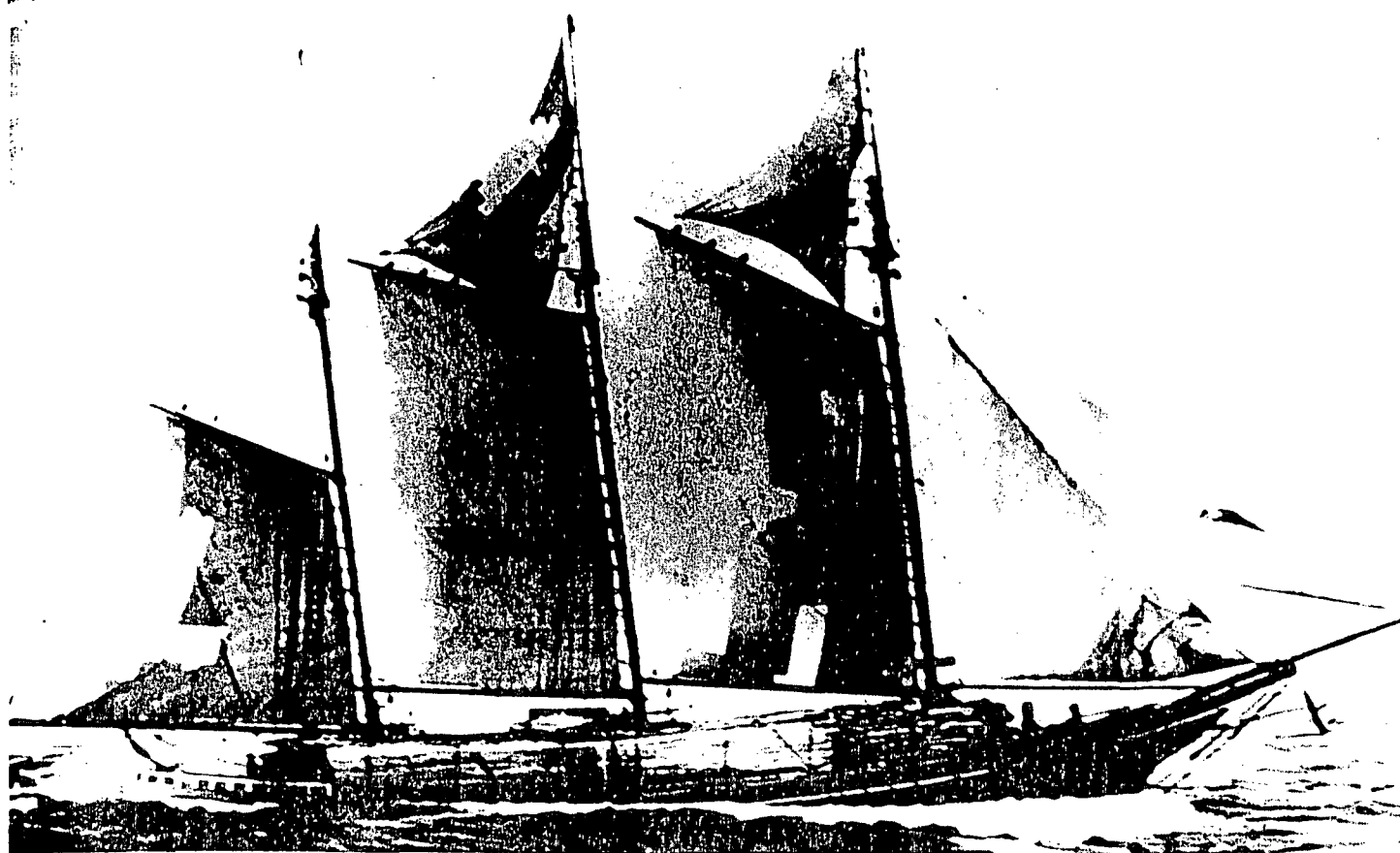
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The schooner Jessie Minor, in a rare old picture, is shown ploughing through the sea under sail and with a full load of lumber. The vessel was built at the Bendixsen Shipyards at Fairhaven in 1883 for Isaac Minor, pioneer Humboldt County lumberman. It was one of four he had built to carry redwood lumber in the Pacific coastal trade. It was christened by Jessie Minor, youngest child of Isaac Minor, when she was nine years old. Later, the schooner took Jessie from Eureka to San Francisco to enter Mills College. And still later, the ship took Miss Minor and several of her friends for a vacation trip to Hawaii, chaperoned by her brother, David. In 1911, the schooner was wrecked when it went aground at the entrance of Nelson's Lagoon in Alaska.

Minors to pay tribute to Isaac

Sixth biennial reunion to focus on leading role in community affairs

A significant chapter in Humboldt County history will come into focus when the sixth Biennial Reunion of the Thomas Minor Society is held from August 16 through 19 at Eureka Inn.

Gordon M. Minor, a resident of Chesler, Calif., who is heading arrangements for the event, explains the reunion "will honor Isaac Minor who arrived in the Eureka-Arcata area in 1853 and played a leading role in the development of the total community. We will also pay tribute to Isaac's three brothers, Samuel, David and William who arrived shortly thereafter and made contributions of their own."

The reunion will mark the 10th anniversary of the society's founding.

The initial "seed" for the development of the Society came about in 1977 when John A. Miner, the founder of the Socie-

ty, and his wife, Peggy, made a trip to Chew Magna, England, the birthplace of Thomas Minor with the thought in mind of bringing a large group of Thomas' descendants to this area at a future date.

Following several months of planning and promotion, a reunion was held in Chew Magna in the fall of 1979 with 77 descendants and family members in attendance. After much discussion, the Thomas Minor Society was formed with most of those present joining as Founding Members.

Today, the Society has grown from that small number to 750 family memberships, hailing from all 50 American states, Canada, England and the European Continent.

The reunions are convened in various locations, for the most part, where de-

scendants of Thomas were prominent. To-date, reunions have been conducted in Chew Magna, England; Stonington, Connecticut; Natchez, Mississippi; Salt Lake City, Utah; again, Chew Magna, and this year the Society will meet in Eureka. This area has been selected due to the successful entrepreneurship of Isaac Minor and the important contributions made by him and his three brothers, Samuel, David and William, all early Arcata pioneers.

The stated purpose of the Society is to "honor the memory of Thomas and his descendants, to collect and preserve genealogical records of the Minor/Miner family, and to foster a spirit of fellowship among its members."

Membership in the Society is open to any person who is interested in its purposes. Descendants of Thomas Minor (1608-1690) and their spouses are particularly welcome. Membership dues are \$10 per year.

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of Thomas Minor through his second son, Lieutenant Clement Minor, 1638-1700, on down through five more generations—William Minor, 1670—; Stephen Minor, 1706-1750; Samuel Minor, 1739-1826; Isaac Minor, 1769-1836, and Samuel Minor, 1800-1878.

Isaac Minor of Arcata was born in Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, on April 8, 1830, the same town where his father was born and is buried. He is the son of Samuel Minor and Louisa (Keller) Minor. His mother was the granddaughter of General Ephraim Douglas, first Burgess of Uniontown, who served with George Washington and sat with him at the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Isaac used to tell his children stories of his great-grandfather fighting Indians, including this anecdote: General Douglas was selected to go west to convey to the Indians that the War of 1812 had come to a close, and their hostilities should cease. However, he was captured by the Indians and held prisoner. He escaped by a ruse with his ice skates—demonstrating skating to the Indians, but going out a little further each day until one day he skated away to safety.

Isaac's mother inherited from her grandfather his "meadow lot situated on Redstone Creek one mile below Uniontown, containing about thirty acres, with the tenements and appurtenances thereto belonging..." according to the will of Ephraim Douglas. The General Douglas home plantation of around 100 acres near Uniontown was bequeathed to his grandson, Ephraim Douglas Keller, but was purchased by Samuel and Louisa Minor from Ephraim Keller in 1845 for \$3,000, when Isaac was 15 years of age.

As a young man, Isaac farmed with his father, but early sought new adventures. Somewhere near the start of 1852, he traveled by boat down the east coast and disembarked at Panama. According to the Davis Encyclopedia account, written in Isaac's lifetime, he "walked 30 miles across the isthmus in one day," and boarded a steamer for San Francisco. "It became disabled en route and the trip required 49 days, during which passengers consumed 65 head of beef from the cargo when provisions ran out," the Davis account says.

An earlier history book, "The History of Humboldt County, California," published by Wallace W. Elliot & Co. of San Francisco in 1881, recounts that Minor's trip from New York to San Francisco required two months and 10 days.

Rolls of the Humboldt County Pioneer

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Isaac Minor, standing at center, is dwarfed by enormous slabs of newly cut granite in his quarry in the hills not far from Blue Lake. He used stone from this quarry for construction of the Isaac Mausoleum at Arcata's Greenwood Cemetery.



Slabs of granite can be seen stacked at the Minor quarry. A group of workers stand on large piece at right.

Old theatre keeps Minor name alive

The Minor Theatre, built in 1914 by Isaac Minor and still in use today, is a building that has kept the Minor name alive through the years in downtown Arcata. This year, 1989, marks the theatre's 75th anniversary.

Some impressions of the theatre's early years can be gleaned from the following portions of an article in the Arcata Union:

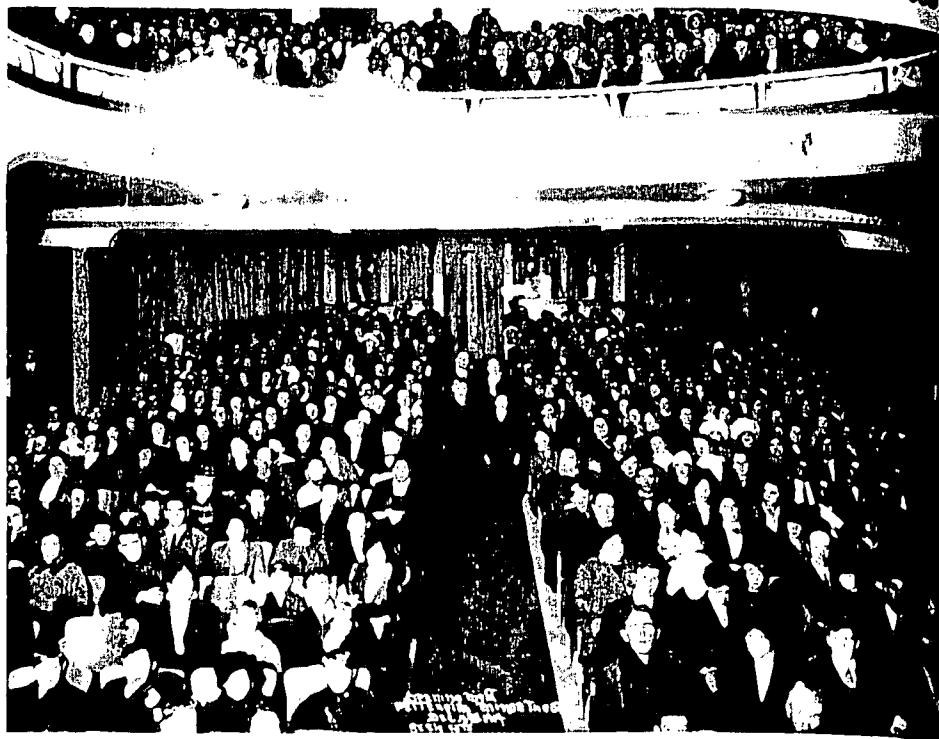
The entrance had four double doors to the lobby with the upper portion of plate glass monogrammed 'P & P' for Pettengill and Pettengill, leasees of the theatre.

The curved partition separating the foyer from the auditorium had the upper part of heavy plate glass. The three entrances to the auditorium were hung with heavy partiers of tan monk's cloth to keep drafts out of the foyer.

The orchestra was well appointed and had room for 12 musicians. The latest type of shaded orchestra lamps were used on the piano and music stands. The stage measured 25 to 43 feet and had an upward slope of three inches to the rear and was large enough to accommodate a large theatrical company or a chorus of at least 75 people. The drop curtain was a pleasing design representing a Humboldt redwood scene and was surrounded by the announcements of a number of Arcata advertisers.

Dressing rooms, five in number, each six by nine feet, were beneath the stage in a waterproof concrete basement and could be entered by the rear of the stage or from the orchestra.

Inside the curve of the balcony were 12 loges with movable chairs. The loges



The opening night audience when the Minor Theatre opened in Arcata in 1914.—See photo courtesy Peter Palmquist

were separated from the rest of the balcony by an enameled railing hung with monk's cloth. The center of the balcony had the largest loge...Seating capacity of the loges was 48 and the balcony 132. There were four boxes on the main floor which were usually reserved in advance when plays and vaudeville were presented. Box seats cost 75 cents, and the entire seating capacity of the house was 524 seats.

The color scheme of the Minor Theatre was tan and blue. Woodwork was hand-rubbed gray with a greenish tinge. The walls were tinted a delicate shade of gray harmonizing well with the other colors.

The management was most proud of its electric system and safety measures, one of the finest in the state. Four hundred lights of different candlepower

created a wiring cost of \$2,800.

In front of the theatre were three street lights of nitrogen type, used for the first time in Arcata. Each light, with 400-candlepower, gave a soft light that could be seen for a couple of blocks in each direction.

Extra safety features of the theatre were nine exits and a projection room that was steel-lined with fire-proofed equipment. This room contained two Moteograph moving picture machines, a stereoptician, and a spotlight for theatrical work. The building was of reinforced concrete. All parts of the building were connected by a telephone system. A fine feature of the theatre was the excellent acoustics. A person standing on the stage and speaking in an ordinary conversational tone could be heard in any part of the house.

Four Isaac brothers played role in area development

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Society, founded in 1870 and reorganized and incorporated in 1881 with Isaac among the Board of Directors, show he arrived in California in March, 1852, and in Humboldt County the following year.

When Isaac Minor reached San Francisco he had barely enough money left to go to Sacramento, nearer the gold country. When he reached Sacramento, the Davis Encyclopedia recounts, he found part of that city flooded, with emergency pay of \$1 per hour being offered to

carry goods to safety in higher sections of the city. Minor worked for 12 hours overnight, and with a grubstake of only \$42 left walking the next day to Mormon Island on the American River, about 75 miles from Sacramento.

He engaged in gold mining there, at nearby Jamestown. During his lifetime, Isaac said his mining met with "tolerable success," but as soon as he accumulated enough savings he started a mercantile establishment for trading with other miners. Soon, he decided he wanted greater opportunity than seemed to

be offered by the small mining village. He sold his store and headed back to San Francisco. His intention was a return trip to Pennsylvania, but he was so impressed by the evidence of sudden wealth and rapid growth in San Francisco that he decided California was the place to stay.

Again he struck out for new country, traveling north to the small hamlet of Eureka, on the Humboldt Bay. He was impressed by the great potential of Humboldt Bay, and saw in it new opportunity for the surrounding area. He

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The Minor Theatre after its opening in 1914. The billboards announce the showing of a movie film on the Golden Spike events marking the completion of the Northwestern Pacific rail line to Eureka. —Courtesy Peter Palmquist

The fine theatre was designed by Ambrose Foster, Eureka architect. The leasees, Mr. and Mrs. Pettengill, managed the Pastime Theater in Eureka. Isaac Minor, builder and owner, had previously built Excelsior Hall in Arcata, used as a Firemen's Hall until it burned down in 1947.

The theatre was dedicated Dec. 3, 1917, after several postponements. Special picture for the evening was *The Chimes*, by Charles Dickens, described as an interesting and exciting photo play in five acts. Special music was furnished by a five-piece orchestra comprised of Willard Wagner (director), piano; Miss Marguerite Baker, Violin; Harlow Reed, clarinet; Ray Horton, cornet; and Gillis Courtright, drums and

traps.

Mr. Minor was cheered to the echo when he got up to speak. According to the report, he dwelled on the "Safety First" features of the house, and humorously stated that "if the whole town should burn down, I could shut myself up in the theatre and feel perfectly safe."

The first play, "Her Own Way," was a notable success as produced by the Normal School Thespians. There wasn't a vacant seat left in the house.

It was the policy of Pettengill & Pettengill to bring the best in featured pictures, vaudeville and stock company productions. There was a selection of concerts, musicals and drama. HH

tained a canoe and rowed across the bay to a pioneer settlement called Uniontown—by coincidence, the same name as the birthplace he had left in the east. Uniontown became Arcata.

When Isaac reached Uniontown and saw the vast redwood stands covering all the surrounding hills, he became convinced this was his land of opportunity. Isaac bought a 25-head team of mules and started conducting a supply pack train from Arcata to Orleans Bar on the Klamath River, to Sawyer's Bar, and as far east as Weaverville.

Isaac told of starting this pack train venture with a load of potatoes bought in

Uniontown (Arcata) for four cents per pound, and sold at the mines for an ounce of gold per one hundred weight. An ounce of gold was then worth \$17.50, and allowing 200 pounds of potatoes to the mule this would make a profit of more than \$600.

In 1855 Isaac married Hannah Caroline Nixon, from Iowa. Their first son, Theodore H. Minor, was born in 1856 while Isaac was still conducting his pack trains to the interior mines. He continued hauling food and supplies until 1858, increasing his pack train herd to 65 head.

He sold out to enter the cattle busi-

The HUMBOLDT HISTORIAN

ness, buying a ranch on the trail between Arcata and Hoopa Valley on Redwood Creek, 25 miles from Arcata. There he raised cattle, started a dairy, engaged in general farming, and kept a "public house" that became the most prosperous in the area, a convenient stopping place for mail and travelers.

But just as he was prospering and expanding there, the following year hostilities between Indians and settlers killed a number of his neighbors, eventually driving him out. He took his family to Arcata for safety, after boarding up the windows and doors the best he could and hiring 12 men to protect his place. In spite of his precautions, the Indian raid continued and eventually his business was burned out completely.

He began life anew in Arcata, and started cutting timber and hauling logs to Eureka. His younger brother, Samuel, had arrived from Uniontown, Pennsylvania and joined him in working in the woods. This was during the Indian Wars, 1862-63 in that area. During 1863, the two of them were cutting down a large redwood tree when Isaac decided to back into Arcata on an errand. While he was gone the Indians attacked, killing Samuel with arrows and scalping him. He was only 28 years old when killed and unmarried.

The tragedy forced Isaac to give up working in the woods for awhile, and next settled on a ranch on the bottomlands about one mile from Arcata. This became a prosperous farm of 140 acres but Isaac was still drawn by the lumber industry.

In 1870 he got his real timbering started by building the Dolly Varden sawmill near Arcata, with his partner N. Falk. It was so successful that by the second year they started a second one, the Jolly Giant Mill. These were later sold and they built a new mill at Warrenton Creek, five miles north, on the Mad River. It became known as the Mad River Mill.

The 1881 Elliot History of Humboldt County says the Mad River Mill had a capacity of 50,000 feet per day, and when the Mad River dam they built created a lumber pond with a capacity of 10 to 15 million feet of logs. While operating the Mad River Mill, Minor and his partner built the Glendale Mill, on the opposite side of Mad River. Isaac Minor prospered in the timber business and continued expanding. During this period he cut practically all of the trees between Eureka and Blue Lake, an area of some 6,000 acres.

With lumber from his own mills,

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The four Minor brothers made mark in Arcata

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started shipbuilding at the old Bendixson Shipyards in Humboldt Bay. He built four lumber schooners for transporting his lumber to the San Francisco Bay area and other points. The four were named the Jessie Minor, Birdie Minor (named for two of his daughters), Hester Buhne and Artille Foaud.

The Jessie Minor was built in 1883, and dedicated by Minor's youngest daughter in front of all her school classmates. It carried the first shipload of redwood lumber to the Hawaiian Islands. When Jessie Minor reached college age, the three-masted schooner was outfitted for her as a personal sailing vessel to carry her into San Francisco Bay to enter Mills College. On her graduation, she took a group of her classmates aboard with her on a trip to Hawaii. The Jessie Minor's longest voyage, 58 days, was to Bristol Bay. It finally was wrecked and sunk off Nelson's Lagoon in Alaska, during a storm in 1911.

In 1889 Isaac Minor gave his last two sawmills to his children and established permanent residence in Arcata. He then began to speculate in lumber and timberlands. He bought 26,000 acres of timberland near Crescent City in Del Norte County, considered one of the finest stands in the world, and sold it to Wis-

Horses team up to haul logs down a skid road in this early scene near Isaac Minor's mill at Glendale, Humboldt County. —Courtesy Harmon Minor

consin interests at considerable profit. He took trips to Tuolumne County and Merced and Madera Counties to inspect sugar pine tracts, buying and reselling five redwood and two sugar pine tracts. It was during this period that he acquired the now famous Mariposa Grove of Sequoias, borrowing nearly \$1 million in San Francisco to make the purchase. He later resold it to an eastern syndicate at a substantial profit. The grove has since been preserved as a national forest adjoining Yosemite National Park.

Isaac Minor built the Warren Creek Railroad, from Arcata to the Minor Granite Quarry in the hills near Warren Creek, not far from Blue Lake, and was planning its extension east to Red Bluff in Tehama County. It was the era of railroads, and he envisioned an eventual east-west rail link between Chicago and Humboldt Bay, the only east-west links ending at San Francisco on the south and Portland, Oregon, on the north.

The mountain of granite he developed into a quarry was acquired in 1898, and had an appraised value of \$1 million. It was from this quarry that he obtained the granite to build the Minor Mausoleum he constructed in Greenwood Cemetery at Arcata, where he and other members of his family are entombed. The mausoleum was built at a cost of \$35,000, with the roof made from four slabs weighing 13 tons each. Isaac furnished the granite for building the first

Humboldt Bay jetties.

Isaac built Excelsior Hall, the first public hall in Arcata; the Minor Theater, still standing in Arcata and founded the town of McKinleyville named for President McKinley, with his stores and creamery. One of his last major business enterprises was organizing the National Bank of Arcata, of which he served as president until his death.

Isaac and his wife, Hannah Nina Minor, had twelve children, only six of whom lived to adulthood. Six were fatally stricken by scarlet fever, three infants: Lottie F., Maggie L. and Sarah L., and three as young children: Alice, Florence and May.

The children who survived Isaac were:

Theodore H., who went into the business in Bakersfield, Calif.

Isaac N., who took over management of the Minor Mill and Lumber Company in Glendale.

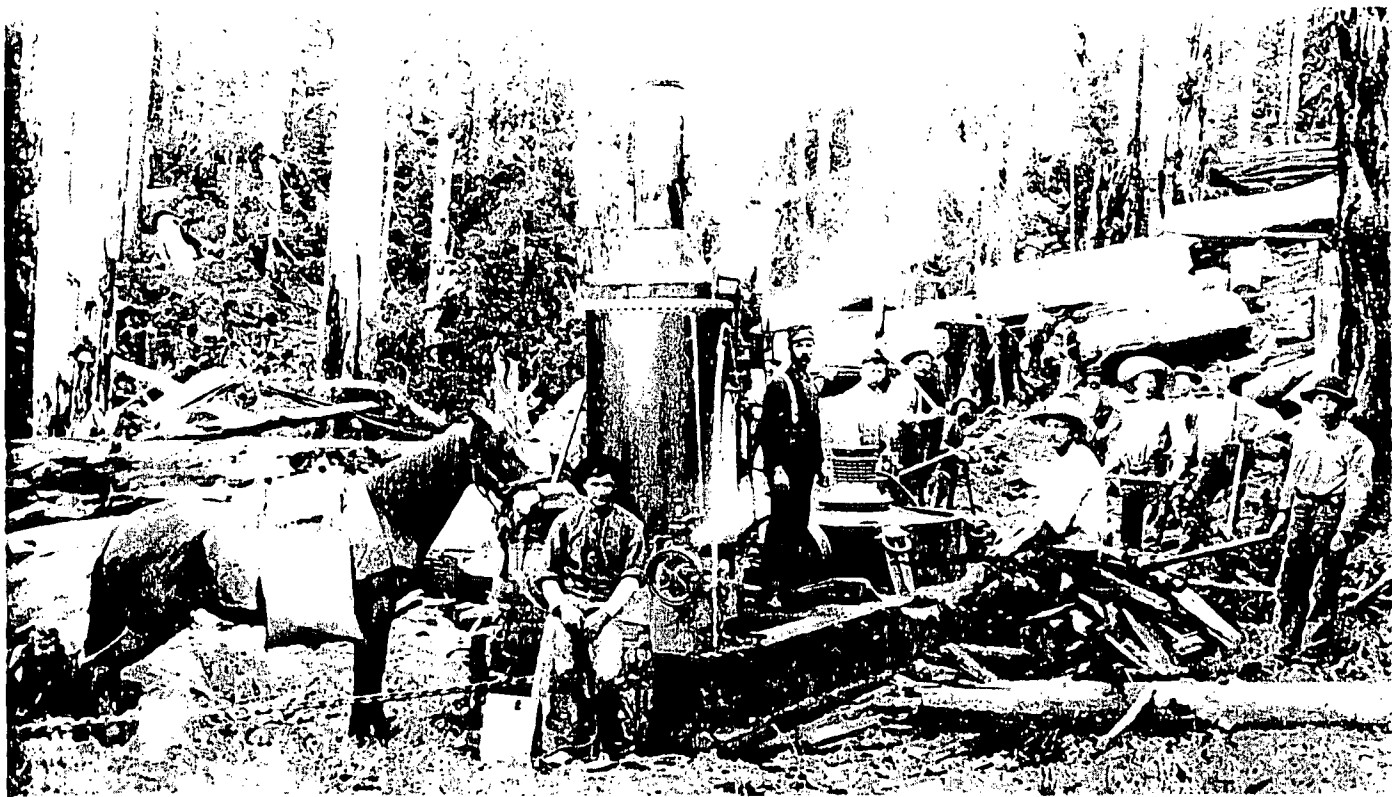
David K., who became an oil operator in Oakland.

Elizabeth, who married H.D. Pringle in San Francisco.

Bertha, who married L.D. Granger in McKinleyville.

Jessie I., who married H.J. Watson in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Isaac's wife died in 1908 and is buried in the mausoleum that Minor built. He remarried in 1909 to Caroline Crockett, Arcata, younger than his youngest daughter, Jessie.



c Minor's mill

Out of Minor's eight brothers and sisters, three followed him to California and were associated with him in his timber ventures. They were Samuel, killed by the Indians; David, who died in Arcata in 1920 and William Hazlett Minor. All three brothers are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery at Arcata where the Minor Mausoleum is located, along with at least 27 other Minor descendants.

At the time of his death in 1915, Isaac Minor still owned and operated what the Davis Encyclopedia of that year called "one of the finest farms in the region" on 140 acres of Arcata bottom land, "producing 80 bushels of wheat per acre and potato production exceeding all other farms in the area." The earlier Elliot History of Humboldt County, published in 1881, contains two full pages of drawings of the Minor city residence, the Minor residence and ranch, and the Mad River sawmill. Describing the Arcata farm, that history says it had "100 head of cattle, 30 hogs, 30 thoroughbred rams, 15 horses, 100 apple trees, 25 cherry, 12 plum and 12 pear."

SAMUEL MINOR

We know that Samuel was in Arcata, unmarried and working for his brother, Isaac, on or before the year of 1863 due to the account of his death told below and also from the date of his death as engraved on his tombstone in the Greenwood Cemetery, Arcata.

The following account of Samuel's death was written by Andrew Genzoli

Steam donkey yarder bringing in logs for Glendale Mill. Note pack horse with bags to supply boiler. —Courtesy Harmon Minor

and Wallace Martin and appears in their article, "A Frontier Remembers," contained in the "Redwood Pioneer" published in 1968 by Schooner Features, Eureka. It is assumed that this account was taken from its original source which was probably an Arcata or Eureka newspaper published in or close to August, 1863. It is recorded as follows:

"The autumn of 1863 was a bloody season for the settlers of the new Humboldt country. In one instance, with summer dwindling away, one of Arcata's best known young citizens was shot and killed only a few hundred yards from the Plaza. The tragic event was demoralizing to the pioneer settlement. Fear had come home where it was least expected.

"Samuel Minor and his brother, Isaac, were logging in the redwoods, a few hundred yards southeast of Arcata, and about 200 yards from the Phillips' home on Monday morning, August 1, 1863. Later Isaac returned to Arcata on business, planning to return to work in the afternoon.

"About 11 o'clock, Wesley Sumption, who drove team, had left with his third log, when he heard Samuel call. Thinking Samuel had cut his foot, or in some way injured himself, he ran back to find him bleeding profusely.

"Samuel had been shot with a ball which entered his back, passed through

one lung and out. Three Indians then rushed upon him, one of drawing an arrow over his bow, sent it through Samuel's prostrate body. Another Indian took Samuel's axe and struck him a powerful blow on the side of the neck, leaving him for dead.

"Sumption saw the Indians who ran back, and found the patch of bullet still burning near where the wounded man lay. Minor was removed to the home of his brother, where he lingered in agony until seven the next morning. It is told that he was perfectly conscious up to the moment of his death and aware that he had but a few hours to live. He stated all the circumstances connected with the murder, and was confident that he recognized one of the diggers as a Redwood Indian. V. Samuel Minor died (Aug. 3, 1863) was 26 years of age."

Family records prove that Samuel was born in 1835, thus the age at death was 28 rather than 26 as stated above. He was buried in Arcata's Greenwood Cemetery about 100 yards to the right of Isaac Minor's Mausoleum. His grave is covered with a large, simple marker.

DAVID W. MINOR

David W. Minor was born in 1840 and died in Arcata in 1920. He was married to Esther A. (maiden surname known) and both are buried in I

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This photo, taken in 1980, shows Gordon Minor in front of the first Arcata farmhouse built by his grandfather, William H. Minor, Sr., next door to a larger, second house built later. Gordon and his family lived in this house from 1918 to 1921. The house, 110 years old, is located on Foster Road, Arcata.

The four Minor brothers made mark in Arcata

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Minor's Mausoleum at Arcata's Greenwood Cemetery. Esther was born in 1846 and died in 1926.

Some of the information on David comes in a letter written in 1864 by the senior Samuel, father of the four Minor brothers, to William who was then serving in the Civil War. In the letter, the father said he had not heard for quite awhile from Isaac or David.

This could imply that the father knew that his son, Samuel, had been killed and also that David was in Arcata with Isaac prior to 1864. The writer remembers that as a young boy of five or six years of age, he accompanied his parents for several visits to Uncle David and Aunt Esther in their Arcata home.

The following information has been gleaned from these visits and from verbal information from the writer's parents, James M. and Mary Millard Minor:

David did some gold mining and had several gold nuggets on display in his home. At various times he worked for his brother, Isaac, in his lumber business. David had the distinction of being the first R.F.D. (Rural Free Delivery) mailman in Arcata. David and Esther had no children, but did have an unofficially adopted daughter who lived with them.



Farmhouse of William Minor, Sr., in Arcata. The house, built in 1891, is still standing. In the picture is Gordon Minor, grandson of William.

WILLIAM HAZLETT MINOR

William was born in 1843 near Uniontown, Fayette County, Penn., where he worked on his father's family farm until age 21. In 1864 he enlisted in the Penn. Volunteers for the Civil War. His description on the enlistment paper is given as "eyes grey, hair dark, complexion dark, height 5'6".

While William was at work constructing a trench, a large man jumped into



Harriet Hedden Minor, wife of William Minor, Sr.



William Hazlett Minor, Sr., holding one of the horses at his Arcata Bottom farm. the trench, landing upon the young soldier. This caused a chest injury, and on September 29 he was admitted to Mount Pleasant Hospital, Washington, D.C. Hospital records show "dysentery and remittent fever...returned to active duty October 27." The military record had him returning to Fort Ethan Allen, Virginia, on Nov. 3, 1864. He was mustered out of the Army at Fort Ethan Allen on June 13, 1865.

Shortly thereafter his hospital stay, William received the following letter dated Oct. 9, 1864, from his father, Samuel. This letter is still in the possession of William's descendants and has been carefully reproduced here; spelling and all, exactly as his father wrote it:

"My sone I reseved your letter Dated Mount Pleasant Hospittel September the 30 and was glad to hear from you but verry sorrye to here that you was sick but I was looking to it when you stand out at knight you must rap up the best you can...know Billy I will tell you

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May-June 1989

something about home well we thrashing dun the meshine broke and we hade to wate 10 days it rain a part of boath days the wheat staks whare all a little groad we had 82 bs of what and one hundred and thirty fore bushels of oats we have our corn cutup theadore has got out of the Noshin of listing for the present well William I haven't laid out your money yet and I gess I wont till Spring... know William the fare has come off and was how grait things Theadore and our houskeeper went to the fair and there was a young lady came home with them and staid all night with us hur name was Jane Craft and she was a very pirty girl and lived in Brownsvill... Theadore has gown to the mountain today for grapes and has knot got back yet... we had knot hard from David sense you left home nor from Isaac. I close four the present your father write as soon as this come to hand and let us know how you have got. Samuel Minor to William Minor."

After his Civil War duties William returned to the farm to work for his father for the next six years. Then in 1879, at age 29, and with the savings he had accumulated by working for his father, he left Penn. to join his brother, Isaac, and, we believe, his brother, David, in Arcata.

William's date of arrival and means of transportation are indicated on a trans-continental passenger train's list of passengers containing his name and stating that the train passed Carlin, Nev., Aug. 7, 1872. He probably arrived in San Francisco on the following day and soon took an ocean steamer from San Francisco to Eureka and thence to Arcata where he worked for his brother, Isaac. Five years later, on Nov. 7, 1877, at age 34, he married Harriet Eleanor Hedden.

It is uncertain where they lived for the first one or two years, but it is known that their first child, James Marion, was born Aug. 24, 1878, in Isaac's Arcata Bottom farmhouse and that the next five children were born on the ranch that William bought on Arcata Bottom about one mile west of Arcata. Since Isaac Oliver, William and Harriet's second child, was born on Oct. 13, 1879, it indicates that William bought his farm and moved there at least prior to that date and possibly even by the end of 1878.

On his farm William raised thoroughbred horses and did general farming, which included hay, potatoes, poultry, pigs, milk cows, a family vegetable and berry garden, and fruit and English walnut trees.

Mary Kjer Minor, wife of William



Isaac Minor's farmhouse on Arcata Bottom was built in 1862 and is in excellent early-era condition. Today it is a bed and breakfast inn known as "The Plough and the Stars Country Inn" operated by Bill and Melissa Hans. It is located at 1800 27th Street, Arcata.

Hazlett Minor, Jr., who lived in Arcata to adulthood and was the daughter of Mads Kjer, who settled on his farm on the Arcata Bottom in 1874, stated that William H. Minor, Sr., was the first official agricultural instructor for the Indians on the Hoopa Reservation.

William was troubled with chronic bronchitis ever since his chest injury in the Civil War. On July 17, 1891, at age 48, William applied for a total disability military pension, listing "chronic bronchitis, affliction of the liver, and general debility." His death two years later, July 6, 1893, due to "consumption" was attributed to the Civil War chest injury.

Despite the early death of William and his marriage of only 15 years and 4 months, he left his widow, Harriet, in comfortable circumstances. With the money she received from selling off part of the farmland, the accumulated funds left her by William, and her \$30 per month Civil War widow's pension, she lived the remaining 32 years of her life very comfortably on the family farm which included the large 14-room house, the smaller original home, outbuildings, and 15 acres of farmland. She rented out the cottage on the farm property and hired one or more men to do the farm work.

At the time of her husband's death she had five children, 14 years and younger,

all of whom lived to adulthood. The five children helped with the farm work and management as well as pursuing the educations independently.

Harriet, along with her daughter, Loretta Belle, are listed as two of the seven founders of the Arcata Baptist Church. Harriet was born Oct. 22, 1848, and died on March 19, 1926, at the age of 77 at the home of her daughter, Alice Eleanor Brown in Oakland, Calif. She is buried beside her husband in the William Minor plot at Greenwood Cemetery, Arcata. The plot is located to the right of Isaac Minor's mausoleum.

At the death of Harriet, the farm and buildings were inherited in equal share by the remaining three living children: James Marion, Alice Eleanor, and William H., Jr., and sold shortly thereafter. The smaller home is now at least 110 years old and the larger one 98 years old. Both of these homes are in good condition, the farmland has been increased to near its original size of 150 acres and is a successful dairy farm under its present owners, Johnnie and Mary Avila, Jr. The home is located at 3067 Foster Rd., Arcata.

There were six children from the marriage of William and Harriet. The last two were twins. The six are listed as follows:

(continued on page 12)



The four Minor brothers made mark in Arcata

(continued from page 11)

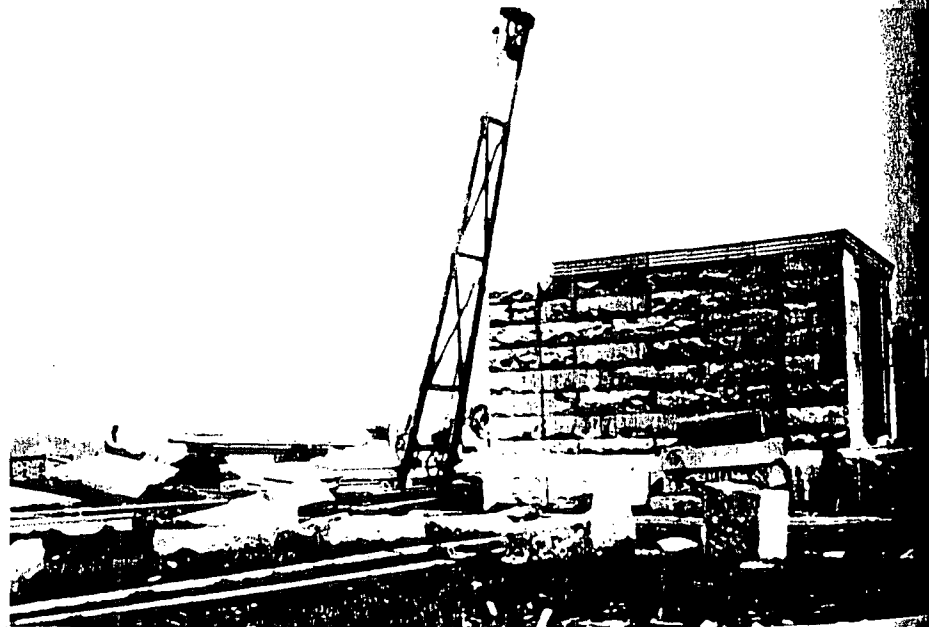
1. James Marion Minor, born Aug. 24, 1878, died Feb. 6, 1949, at age 70. Married Mary Elizabeth Millard, Jan. 6, 1910, daughter of the Arcata pioneers, Samuel and Catherine Millard. Had two sons, Carl Wilbur and Gordon Marion. James Marion, an electrical engineer, helped to build the first electric power line through his native Humboldt County.

2. Isaac Oliver, born Oct. 13, 1879, died June 9, 1904, unmarried. As a young man in his early 20s, Isaac Oliver went to Bakersfield, Calif., to work in the oil business for his uncle, Theodore H. Minor. He contracted valley fever and died of this ailment shortly thereafter at age 24.

3. Loretta Belle, born Mar. 8, 1881, died Feb. 12, 1926, at age 45 of a brain tumor. She was unmarried and lived with her mother on the family farm as companion and general helper.

4. Alice Eleanor, born June 8, 1884, died July 8, 1969, in Oakland, Calif., at age 85. She married Claude Brown of Santa Rosa and had two daughters, Arnolda Lowry and Claudia Elva Laverly.

The family home that Isaac Minor built at 11th and H streets, Arcata. Only a portion of the house remains as a part of a later structure.



The Isaac Minor Mausoleum under construction at Greenwood Cemetery, Arcata. A crane was used to put the granite blocks in place. It cost \$35,000 when built in early 1900. The roof consisted of four large slabs of granite, each weighing 13 tons.

5. William Hazlett, Jr., born Sept. 24, 1886, died May 6, 1969. He married Mary Kjer of Arcata. In his late teens and before his marriage, William moved from Arcata to Riverside, Calif. Here, with his wife, Mary, he established himself very successfully in the orange grove business accumulating

several fine groves and being affiliated with the Sunkist Growers Cooperative. William and Mary had one adopted son, William H. Minor, III.

6. Harriet L., born Sept. 24, 1886, died Jan. 19, 1887, at three months of age. Harriet L. was a twin sister of William Hazlett, Jr.

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