

OBITUARY NOTICE

COLIN PATRICK MINORGAN (26.6.1920 – 4.12. 2000)

Colin joined our *Special Interest Group* at the outset in February 2000, as a very proud descendant of Enrolled Pensioner Guard **Thomas Minorgan**. He gave us much encouragement and was the source of much early information which helped us to develop a Resource File for researchers. The family donated a very concise history of this family to have on file at WAGS.

Colin died on the 4th December last year, and a Eulogy was held on the 8th December at his 'Happy Valley' at Jarrahdale. He leaves 3 sons and 2 daughters. The name Minorgan lives on. His family is also proud of him. His sister Brenda Bell is still a member of this group having joined along with Colin.

Early years were spent at the family home in North Perth where he attended Highgate State School. His father died young and Colin grew up during the depression. He was apprenticed to the State Electricity Commission and worked there until war broke out. He and his brother joined the Australian Navy, the brother was killed in action on the 'Hobart', and Colin spent four and a half years in the Navy on minesweepers. Following the war, he married, and in 1958 bought his property at Jarrahdale, which he thought to be a 'little bit of heaven' and a special place for the family he leaves behind. After the war, he returned to the SEC, rising to be an Inspector, and retiring at the age of 60. I'm sure that at this time he would like us to also remember his ancestor Thomas Minorgan of whom he was so proud.

THOMAS MINORGAN was born in County Carlow, Dublin, in 1832, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin. . At the age of 22 years he enlisted with his brother Robert John for duty in the Crimea War. His regiment was the 24th Foot.

He served in the battles of Alma, Sebastopol and Inkerman, earning decorations of 'Crimea Medal with three bars' and the 'Turkish Medal'. His rank at the time, was 'Sergeant'. After the withdrawal of the British Army from the Crimea, he was stationed for some time at Gibraltar –with him was his first wife (name unknown) and his small son, Robert John.

It is not known when he left Gibraltar, but reports are that in June 1862 he arrived in Western Australia with his family aboard the 'Norwood' which was carrying convicts for the Swan River Colony, neither is it known how long he stayed in the Colony in this first venture. His wife was in poor health and homesick, and they returned to Ireland where she eventually died. He later married again – to Catherine Flynn of Dublin, and in 1872 he set sail again for Western Australia, this time with his wife and two sons, Robert John and Thomas. He enrolled with the Pensioner Force, his duties being that of Staff Sergeant at Perth Barracks, Inspector of Pensioner cottages, and later became Imperial Paymaster for the Pensioner Force in the Colony. He was promoted to Colour Sergeant and received the 'Meritorious Medal' during his duties in Western Australia. He received a grant of land known as 21 John Street, West Perth, where he and his family lived for many years.

He died on the 1st December, 1911, aged 79 years, leaving his widow Catherine, four sons, Robert, Thomas, James, and Edward, and three daughters, Annie, Catherine and Alice. He was accorded a full military funeral – his burial taking place in the Anglican portion of the Karrakatta Cemetery.

The preceding passage has been taken from the notes which Colin donated to WAGS in recognition of his forebear Thomas