Richard Arthur Minter was the son of Richard Evan Minter, merchant, of Halstead, Essex. He was educated at Earls Colne Grammar and Felsted Schools and admitted to Worcester College Oxford, where he matriculated at on 15 October 1926, reading history (information from application form at College). He achieved second class honours in Modern History in 1929 (his BA was conferred on 23 November 1929) and third class honours in Theology in 1931 (Oxford Historical Register). His MA was conferred on 22 June 1933. Between then and 1938 he evidently taught at Manchester University and Burgh Missionary College, Lincoln. In 1938 he was appointed Rector of Claremont, St. Ann’s Parish, Jamaica, serving there until 1945, when he returned to the United Kingdom as Vicar of Stow-cum-Quy (Cambs.), which post, remarkably, he occupied very nearly until his death, aged 91, in 1997.

Minter’s interest in the West Indies continued long after his return to the U.K. He made numerous trips back to the island and for his thesis, resuming as a student of Worcester College, in part-fulfilment of his B.D., awarded 28 April 1955, he presented a thesis on the church and slavery in the West Indies. The College tutor and lecturer in Theology in 1955 who may have supervised his thesis was the Reverend Robert L. P. Milburn, Fellow and Dean of Degrees, Estates Bursar, and Chaplain.

The papers consist chiefly of letters, research notes, drafts and the completed manuscripts of Minter’s two principal historical works, which reflect his interest in the Anglican Church in Jamaica - ‘The Comparative Importance of Influences Hostile to the Slave Trade within and without the Established Church in the West Indies before 1783’ (evidently submitted for his BD in 1955) and Episcopacy without Episcopate, on the Jamaican clergy, privately published in 1990 [copy now in CCCW Library: 283.7292 MIN]. With these papers there is also collected material – photocopies and offprints of articles, pamphlets and church guides and official Church or Government publications on Jamaica in general. Additional matter can be found on the Bray Theological Libraries, and the League of Nations and the New Commonwealth in the 1930s and news-cuttings from the Jamaican press on the progress of the World War 1939-45.
Additional papers, mainly index slips of Anglican churches and clergy in the West Indies, received July 2016 and January 2017 (Acc 2016/08, 2017/01) have not yet been appraised or listed.

MIN

SYNOPSIS

MIN 1  Correspondence and other papers
MIN 2  Articles, notes etc. mainly on the Jamaican churches and clergy
MIN 3  Pamphlets and Booklets
MIN 4  Newspaper Cuttings
MIN 5  Complete copy of ‘The Comparative Importance of Influences Hostile to the Slave Trade both within and without the Established Church in the West Indies before 1783’
MIN 6  Rough notes and draft copy of ‘The Comparative Importance…’
MIN 7  Episcopacy without Episcopate – complete copy with slight amendments
MIN 8  Advance draft of ‘Episcopacy’
MIN 9  Incomplete early draft of ‘Episcopacy’ with amendments and repetitions
MIN 10 Working notes and rough drafts of ‘Episcopacy’
MIN 1  Correspondence and other papers
Letters to The Reverend Minter unless specified

1/1  Circular letter relating to clergy stipends,
Kingston, Jamaica, 31 July 1940

1/2  Guildhall Library, 18 November 1966
Enquiry about clergy records

1/3  Lincolnshire Archives, 23 December 1969
Enquiry about records

1/4  F. Seal Coon, Kingston, 11 April 1970,
Notes on Free Masonry in Jamaica

1/5  Charlie Moule, Clare College, Cambridge, 16 July 1970,
Concerning a research enquiry

1/6  Same, 17 July 1970,
Sends some archive references

1/7  Privy Council Office, 4 August 1970,
References to slavery records

1/8  Essex County Record Office, Chelmsford, 18 December 1970,
Research enquiries.

1/9  Huguenot Society of London, 11 January 1971,
Information on records relating to Huguenots

1/10  Norfolk and Norwich Record Office, 18 January 1971,
Answer to research enquiry re. Thomas Scrambler

1/11  Rev Peter Hammersley, The Rectory, Winstead P.O., Jamaica, 11 March 1972,
Information on the founding of churches in Jamaica

1/12  R. Lewen, Hayes Clarendon, Jamaica, 28 March 1972
Information on St. Peter’s Church

1/13  Rev. Victor Davidson to Re. Smith, St George’s Anglican Church, Portland, Jamaica, 4 April 1972,
Notes on the church

1/14  Philip Leimen, Parish Church of St. James, Montego Bay, Jamaica,
10 April 1972,
Information on the church

1/15  Rev Victor Davidson, St. George’s Church, Portland, Jamaica, 24 April 1972,
Inscriptions on the Communion Plate at the church (includes a sketch)

1/16  Rev C.A. Golding, Parish Church of Westmoreland, Savanna-La-Mar, Jamaica,
No date c. 1972
History of the church

Concerning research on Jamaica

1/18 D. Macarthur, Librarian, St. Andrews, 9 April 1973,
Research query

1/19 H.P. Jacobs, General Secretary, Farquharson Institute of Public Affairs,
Kingston, Jamaica, 7 August 1973,
Information on Jamaican history

1/20 Lawrence Brown, Editor, The Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church,
Austin, Texas, 17 September 1973,
Reply to a query

1/21 Arthur C. Barker, Archivist and Librarian SPCK, London 31 October 1973,
Reply to a research question

1/22 Michael T. Malone, Episcopal Church of the Advent, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 27
November 1973,
Information on North Carolina clergy

1/23 ‘Lewis’ and ‘Vera’, Montego, Jamaica, November 1973,
News of their life in Jamaica and some information on Jamaican clergy in the past.

1/24 Note on the Diocese of Jamaica Reference Library, 2 May 1974

1.25 Ethics reading list from Ridley Hall, Cambridge, 13 October 1980

1/26 John Gilmore, University of the West Indies, Barbados, 5 February 1983,
Information about a book on the Catholic Church in Jamaica

1/27 P.F. Campbell, St. Michael’s, Barbados, 5 March 1983,
Discusses his book on the Seventeenth Century church in Barbados

1/28 May D. Lofgren, Historical Society of the Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas, 23
September 1983.
Has discovered a copy of his dissertation on Influences Hostile to the Slave Trade

1/29 Invitation to a BBC World Service Caribbean evening, no date

1/30 A.N.L. Munby, King’s College, Cambridge, no date
Answer to a research query on E. Marshall in the Eighteenth Century

1/31 E.P., Smith, Editorial Director, Churchman Publishing, no date,
Cannot publish his manuscript

1/32 Papers relating to the Supplementary Training Programme in the Diocese of Jamaica, 1983

1/33 Reviews of Episcopacy without Episcopate, 1990
MIN 2  Articles, notes etc. mainly on the Jamaican churches and clergy


2/5  Clare Taylor ‘Charles and Amelia Long, Lord and Lady Farnborough’ 1986

2/6  ‘Correspondence relating to Milburn Tower and its Garden, 1804-1830
Home of the Listons, a family with West Indian connexions.

2/7  ‘The Liston Papers, 1796-1800’

2/8  Clare Taylor, ‘Lady Liston’s American Journals’

Comments on the schools in Jamaica and the problem of educating girls. The Flint School was used by planters for their daughters.

2/10  ‘The Boston Clique Revisited’
Refers to a group of abolitionists


2/12  A note on women diarists, including Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and Henrietta, Lady Liston

2/13  Notes on North Carolina clergy, in particular Francis Johnston

2/14  ‘Jamaica, Isle of Springs’
Notes on various aspects of life in Jamaica (stencilled) [before 1940]
The last page endorsed ‘Jamaica Lecture’. This is evidently a series of notes intended as commentary for a lantern slide lecture. As with 2/25 pieces of scrap paper have been pasted over several of the numbered paragraphs, presumably of slides that were missing or going to be omitted, and several sentences crossed through in pencil, either for brevity or probably by RA Minter as he took issue with the patronising or florid style of the original writer (e.g., ‘one finds the people happy and good-natured, ...’). The scrap paper includes a tax form for Charles Coe of Halstead (pp3, 6, 9) and a letter to RE Minter from Burberrys (pp15, 17), both 1940.

2/15 A note on the Row Family of Jamaica

2/16 ‘A History of St. Andrew’s Parish Church, Half Way Tree, Jamaica.
One of the first Anglican churches in Jamaica in the 1660’s

2/17 History of St Michael’s Church, Kew Park, Westmoreland, Jamaica. Consecrated in 1898

2/18 Newspaper cuttings on Jamaican churches

2/19 ‘The Churches’
Essay by Minter on Jamaican churches (3 copies)

2/20 Notes on the church of St. Ann

2/21 Notes on the Scrambler Family’ - ?pages from drafts of Venn’s Alumni in Cambridge University Archives (cf MIN 1/5-6)

2/22 Notes on Jamaican churches

2/23 Report on archaeological excavations at Port Royal, Jamaica, 1969-70

2/24 List of microfilmed materials at the Barbados Public Library, 1960

2/25 ‘A Trip to Banana-Land’
Lantern lecture notes on banana growing and shipping

2/26 Rev A. Tindal Hart ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’
An address delivered in Ripon Hall Chapel, 19 February 1960
Problems confronting the Anglican Church

[presented by Mrs Gowlett, 12 October 2015]

MIN 3 Pamphlets and Booklets

3/1 The First Report issued by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. (modern reprint) 1704

3/2 Journal of the Sixtieth Annual Synod of the Church of England in Jamaica
3/3-7 New Commonwealth Pamphlets:-

3/3  No. 1 The Aims and Objectives of the New Commonwealth
c. 1932 (3 copies)

3/4  No. 3 The French Plan. January 1933

3/5  No. 4 Peace or War? February 1933

3/6  No. 5 Aviation for World Service March 1933

3/7  No. 6 Why War “Open Letters” between Einstein and Friend January 1934

3/8  Refugees and the League September 1935


3/10 The Last Stronghold of Slavery. What Abyssinia Is. Professor G.C. Baravelli of Rome University. 1935 [for date see page following ‘Contents’ at end]
Justification for the Italian invasion of Abyssinia

3/11 The New Commonwealth no. 4 Vol. 5 (January 1937)

3/12 The Bible Reading Fellowship. Notes on Kings and Proverbs

3/13 Jamaica. Annual Report of the Education Department. Year ending 31 December 1937


3/16 R. Ross Brown Mission to Jamaica [History of the Congregational Church in Jamaica, including directory of churches and ministers since 1834] (1947)

3/17 The Liberal Evangelical Vol. VIII No. 9 (February 1962)

3/18 Pamphlet commemorating the tercentenary year, 1664-1964 of St Andrew’s Parish Church Half Way Tree (Jamaica)

3/19 Pamphlet commemorating the tercentenary of St Paul’s Parish Church, Chapleton (Jamaica) 1666-1966

3/20 Pamphlet commemorating the tercentenary of the Parish Church, Morant Bay, Jamaica, 1666-1966

3/21 Souvenir Programme for St Andrew’s Church, Golden Grove, St Thomas, Jamaica

3/22 Journal of the Ninety-Ninth Annual Synod of the Church in Jamaica
February 1969
3/23 Pamphlet commemorating the centenary of the Parish Church of St Anne, St Ann’s Bay (Jamaica) 1871-1971

3/24 Pamphlet to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the cornerstone laying of St Cyprian’s Church, Highgate (Jamaica) 1897-1972

3/25/1 *The Banana Church’ 75th Anniversary Record of St Cyprian’s Church, Highgate, St Mary, Jamaica.* Inscribed to Revd Basil McAllister [rector 1942-47] 1972
Incorporates earlier history by Canon Samuel Swaby, rector, 1921, and acknowledges assistance of R.A. Minter.

3/25/2 Ditto, inscribed ‘With compliments’, therefore plainly Minter’s own copy. 1972

3/26 *Journal of the One-Hundred and Third Annual Synod of the Church in Jamaica*
April-May 1973

3/27 *Diocese of Jamaica Synod Handbook*
Containing the annual reports and financial statement for the year 1973

3/28 *Justice* No. 8 (March 1973)
Published by the Social Action Centre, Kingston, Jamaica

3/29 *Justice* No. 9 (June 1973)

3/30 Pamphlet celebrating 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Jamaica 1824-1974

3/31 *List and Map of Historic Monuments open to the public in the U.K.* 1974

No date [before 1971]

3/33 Leaflet for the Self-Publishing Association
No date

**MIN 4 Newspaper Cuttings**

From *The Daily Gleaner* and *The Sunday Gleaner*, principal newspaper published at Kingston, Jamaica
Concerned especially with educational matters in Jamaica but also the wider world during the Second World War

**MIN 4/1** Newspaper cuttings pasted on to foolscap paper sheets.
19 items, 1943-44

**MIN 4/1/1** ‘The Latest Inquiry’ (into the improvement of secondary education) and ‘Elementary Education’
16 – 26 Jul 1943

**MIN 4/1/2** ‘Peaka Peow’ [form of gambling] and ‘A Retrospect’ (on progress in Jamaica since Emancipation)
30 Jul – 3 Aug 1943

**MIN 4/1/3** ‘At Loggerheads’ (the Board of Education and the
11 – 17 Aug 1943
Director of the J.U.T.) and ‘United we Stand’
(United Nations in the war)

MIN 4/1/4 ‘Silly Season’ (pre-war August) and ‘Which Back Door’ (the ‘backdoors of Germany’) 19 – 25 Aug 1942

MIN 4/1/5 ‘Prevention and Cure’ (of epidemics), ‘Fallen Greatness’ and ‘Parochial Boards’ 25 Aug – 1 Sep 1943

MIN 4/1/6 ‘Hospital Staffs’ 7 Sep 1943

MIN 4/1/7 ‘Waste’ (during war), ‘Out of Date’ (education) and ‘The Law’s Delays’ 15 – 22 Sep 1943


MIN 4/1/9 ‘Not So Simple’ (the subsidies on bananas) and ‘The Balkans’ 7 Oct 1943

MIN 4/1/10 ‘Good News’ (on future trade) and ‘K.S.A.C. Conduct’ 25 – 18 Oct 1943

MIN 4/1/11 ‘Atrocities’ and ‘Erosior’ (Jamaican agriculture) 8 – 15 Nov 1943

MIN 4/1/12 ‘Travel’ and ‘Ill-timed Controversy’ 16 – 20 Nov 1943

MIN 4/1/13 ‘Petain’ (Marshall Petain) and ‘The Danes’ (Denmark) 24 – 27 Nov 1943

MIN 4/1/14 ‘Pity the Teacher!’ (Teacher’s strike) and ‘In Which We Serve’ (a film) 20 Nov – 10 Dec 1943

MIN 4/1/15 ‘About The Problem of Constituencies’ and ‘Penitence’ 16 – 19 Dec 1943

MIN 4/1/16 ‘Half a Loaf’ (agriculture in Jamaica) and ‘West Indian Needs’ 24 – 29 Dec 1943

MIN 4/1/17 ‘Erosion Control’ and ‘The Hundred Days’ (a prediction that the war is nearly over) 5 – 10 Jan 1944

MIN 4/1/18 ‘Nothing New’ (education in Germany as Nazi Propaganda) and ‘Problems of the Peace’ 13 – 17 Jan 1944

MIN 4/1/19 ‘Our New Masters?’ (tax rises to pay civil servants) 28 Jan 1944

MIN 4/2 Loose newspaper cuttings, arranged here in chronological order. 24 items, 1943-44

MIN 4/2/1 ‘Politics and Economics’ and ‘Travel’ 16 Nov 1943

MIN 4/2/2 ‘Red Army Rolls on’ and ‘The Hundred Days’ 10 Jan 1944

MIN 4/2/3 ‘Heroes of the North’ 1 Feb 1944

MIN 4/2/4 ‘The Spoils System’ 8 Feb 1944

MIN 4/2/5 ‘The Vandals’ 14 Feb 1944

MIN 4/2/6 ‘Census and Concubinage’ 15 Feb 1944

MIN 4/2/7 ‘A Noble Gift’ 18 Feb 1944

MIN 4/2/8 ‘The Latest Pogrom’ 25 Feb 1944
MIN 4/2/9  ‘Examination Bugbear’ In relation to school examinations.  4 Mar 1944
MIN 4/2/10  ‘Cracking up?’ an update on the war  6 Mar 1944
MIN 4/2/11  ‘Clean Elections’  11 Mar 1944
MIN 4/2/12  ‘The Parties’  18 Mar 1944
MIN 4/2/13  ‘A Good Start’  4 Apr 1944
MIN 4/2/14  ‘Heaven Helps Those…’  17 Apr 1944
MIN 4/2/15  ‘A Problem’  22 Apr 1944
MIN 4/2/16  ‘A Sin and a Crime’  24 Apr 1944
MIN 4/2/17  ‘The Drought’ Two sheets.  28 Apr 1944
MIN 4/2/18  ‘The “Plutocrats”’  3 May 1944
MIN 4/2/19  ‘Electoral Law’  10 May 1944
MIN 4/2/20  ‘Water’  27 May 1944
MIN 4/2/21  ‘Railway Enterprise’  18 Jun 1944
MIN 4/2/22  ‘Resident Artists Exhibition’  22 Jun 1944
MIN 4/2/23  ‘The War’s Cost’ Three sheets. Includes two hand written notes ‘Richards article’ and ‘Don’t you think it’s good?’  26 Jun 1944
MIN 4/2/24  ‘Denominational Schools’ and ‘Closing Exercises at Happy Grove School’  15 Aug 1944

MIN 5 Thesis

R.A. Minter, ‘The Comparative Importance of Influences Hostile to the Slave Trade within and without the Established Church in the West Indies before 1783’
Thesis as student of Worcester College, Oxford.
c.1953-4 [note 76 to chapter 1 refers to The Times 29 April 1953 (a late ms amendment in MIN 6) and last page of draft of Preface, probably written last, is written on back of appeal for new church boiler at Quy dated 13 Sept 1954.] Evidently submitted in part-fulfilment of degree of B.D. 1955
Complete. In three parts

MIN 6 Thesis Drafts

Draft of chapters I-VII only of MIN 5 based upon an earlier thesis ‘The Contribution of the Evangelical Movement towards the Abolition of the Slave Trade with special reference to the Archives of Jamaica. Part I. The Preliminaries’, including title and contents pages of same (chapter II being ‘Noble Savage’ instead of ‘Literary Influences’ and having just 3 instead of 5 appendixes). Some pages of preface handwritten on back of original sheets of this thesis, including reference to work of 1939, so evidently after that date, but earlier than MIN 5

1939 x 1954
MIN 7 - MIN 10 Book Drafts [in need of review]

MIN 7  R.A. Minter, 'Episcopacy without Episcopate, the Church of England in Jamaica before 1824'. Published in 1990
Complete typed copy with slight amendments

MIN 8  Episcopacy without Episcopate
Advanced draft, almost complete

MIN 9  Episcopacy without Episcopate
Incomplete early draft with amendments and repetitions. Labelled ‘redundant’

MIN 10/1  Episcopacy without Episcopate
Working notes and rough draft

MIN 10/2  Episcopacy without Episcopate
Very rough research notes