

A Minorcan saying: "No hi ha mal que per bé no vingui." - "There is no harm that does not come for good."

Where are the Missing Minorcans?

The list of names of the 964 Minorcans who died and were buried on the Turnbull plantation (New Smyrna Beach) is missing. Many Catholics firmly believe that Father Pedro Camps, who acted as a Pastor, would have maintained an accurate record of the deaths and burials of his parishioners. In fact, he was meticulous in keeping track of baptisms and marriages starting in 1768, and records the deaths from 1777 onwards after the small group of maybe 200 families reached St. Augustine after walking 70 miles over several days from New Smyrna. Historians and scholars have used 400 as the number of poor, hungry and ill-clothed Minorcans arriving in British occupied St. Augustine. I think that number is close to accurate because there were 361 of the original 1225 colonists alive plus the new births who completed the freedom walk.

Governor Patrick Tonyn letter to Lord George Germaine dated December 29, 1777. [The Letters of Dr. Andrew Turnbull \(unf.edu\)](#)

YEAR OF DEATHS	MEN	WOMEN 7 CHILDREN	TOTAL
1768	300	150	DEATHS
1769	155	22	
1770	34	6	
1771	10	6	
1772	8	3	
1773	11	13	
1774	5	19	
1775	30	21	
1776	45	8	
1777	72	12	
(1768-1777)	34 GREEKS	(No breakdown on male/female	
TOTAL DEATHS	704	260	964
TOTAL COLONISTS-----	1225		
TOTAL DEATHS-----	-964		
TOTAL SURVIVORS-----	361		

According to Patricia C. Griffin's book, "*Mullet on the Beach*," she provides valuable information on the survivors' national origins of the colony based on census records from 1784, 1786, and 1787. The records reveal that the vast majority of survivors were Minorcans from the Isle of Minorca. The census listed only 285 individuals, with 227 of them being from Minorca, and Alayor was the most common birthplace. Additionally, there were 22 Italians, 11 Greeks from Corsica, and 12 Greeks from other regions. The remaining survivors consisted of six individuals from France, five from Mallorca, and two from Spain. Overall, these census records provide valuable insights into the demographics of the colony and its survivors.

We have an accurate number of the deaths and burials on the plantation.