

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Minns, Constant Freeman, Account Book, 1837-1841

**LOCATION:**

Octavo vols. "M"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

1 octavo volume (135 p.)

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For biographical and genealogical information, and a portrait see, *Genealogical Histories of Minns and Allied Families ...* (New York: National Americana Society, 1925), p. 17, etc. See also *Vital Records of Lincoln, Mass.*

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Gift of Francis J. Driscoll, 1932

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Constant Freeman Minns (1800-1841), the son of Thomas Minns (1773-1836) and Susanna Mitchell Minns (1777-1865), was born in Boston, Mass., on 2 November 1800. He attended the Boston public schools, as well as Boston Latin School. Though Minns excelled in scholarship, particularly in foreign language, he did not attend college; rather, he worked for his father translating the business news from South America and Europe. In 1825, after his marriage to Frances Ann Parker ( -1892), he removed to New York City where he established himself as a drug importer. Due to failing health, he removed to Lincoln, Mass., in 1836 and remained there until his death on 13 May 1841.

As well as being a merchant, Minns was a scholar and writer. He was considered to be a man of deep culture and excellent literary tastes. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in Lincoln and helped found the Unitarian church in that community.

This one hundred thirty-five page note and receipt book, for the period 1837 to 1841, includes listings of accounts, notes on the depth of wells and quantity of livestock, mathematical notations, and many receipts for payment by Minns signed by his French-Canadian employees, and by masons, storekeepers, and other creditors. The receipt book was taken over by his wife upon her husband's death.