



## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Rebekah Loyd, February 2016

**Creator/Corporate name:** Dr. Ellen Miner

**Inclusive Dates:** 1859-1954, bulk 1887-1934.

**Physical Description:** 3 boxes, (1.5 linear feet)

**Provenance:**

Items in this collection were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by Nancy L. Williams in July 2015.

**Access:**

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library. In accordance with HIPAA regulations, access to some medical records is restricted. Medical records over 100 years old are accessible to the public. Individuals have access to their own health information, and records will be made available to researchers with written authorization for access from the individual of interest. In all other circumstances, copies of medical records are available with all personal identifiers masked.

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

Ellen Miner practiced gynecology and obstetrics in Champaign, Illinois, from 1896 until her retirement in the 1920s. She was born in 1854 to Charles and Eunice Miner and raised in Hensley, Champaign County, Illinois. Dr. Miner graduated from the Woman's Medical College of Chicago—known as the Medical Department for Women at Northwestern University after 1891—in 1893 and received her license to practice medicine in Illinois the same year. In 1896, she returned to Champaign, Illinois, and established a gynecology and obstetrics practice operating out of her home at 209 West Eureka Street. Dr. Miner was involved in the Champaign chapter of the Illinois State Medical Society and served as the secretary-treasurer in 1897 and the vice-president in 1910.

Dr. Miner kept up correspondence with several of her seven brothers, especially Seth Miner, who moved west searching for work as a farmhand. Her brother Dan Miner stayed in the area, and she remained close with his family, including her nephew Chester, his wife Mabel Edith Irle Miner, and their children Irle, Mary, and Ellen Rose. Chester was involved in the Mahomet Baptist Church, and this collection touches on his interests.

In 1934, Dr. Miner, who had never married and did not wish to inconvenience her family in her old age, was committed to the state hospital in Kankakee, Illinois. She died there in October 1935, and her body was returned to Champaign County and interred in Mahomet, Illinois.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Materials in this collection range from 1859-1954, but the bulk of the records are from 1887-1934. The collection includes papers related to Ellen Miner and her close family members, including her brother Daniel Miner, her nephew Chester Miner. He lived with her while attending school in Champaign during



## Ellen Miner Papers

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the winter months. Chester's interests included the Mahomet Baptist Church. The collection also includes correspondence from Ellen's youngest brother Seth Miner, a farmhand living in the West.

The collection is primarily related to Dr. Miner's gynecology and obstetrics practice in Champaign, Illinois, beginning in 1896. It includes Dr. Miner's examination ledger and notes from patient consultations in 1907-1917; obstetric records of infants delivered from 1907-1921; notes from medical school on chemistry, pharmaceuticals, obstetrics, and Latin; correspondence with patients about treatments; and other papers related to her practice. Dr. Miner treated irregular menstrual cycles, stomach complaints, pregnancy, post-pregnancy complications, uterine complications, and many other female ailments. Researchers can find information on gynecological practices from 1896 to the 1920s, women's medical history, local women's relationship with doctors and medicine, local history, and the Champaign medical community.

### Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in 4 series: Biographical, Correspondence for Ellen Miner, Miner Family, and Oversized.

The Biographical Series contains information related to Dr. Miner's medical education, medical practice, and adult life. Materials are arranged by relevance and then chronologically.

The Correspondence for Ellen Miner series includes letters from her brothers and other assorted correspondence. Letters pertaining to medical services are filed with papers related to her medical practice. Materials are arranged alphabetically by sender and followed by a folder of "other" correspondents.

All resources related to other members of the Miner family are included in the Miner Family Series. Information about Ellen's and her siblings' educations, Daniel Miner, Chester Miner, Irle Miner, and Mary Miner are included in this series. These materials are organized chronologically.

The final series of Oversized Items includes Dr. Miner's Physical Geography Book from 1873, account books from her medical practice, and Mabel Edith Irle Miner's high school diploma, all organized chronologically.

### Subjects Terms:

Names:

Charles Miner

Chester Miner

Daniel Miner

Ellen Miner

Ellen Rose Miner

Grant Miner

Irle Miner

Mary Miner



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Monroe Miner  
Seth Miner

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Places:

Champaign, Illinois  
Champaign High School (Champaign, Ill.)  
Hensley, Champaign, Illinois  
Julia F. Burnham City Hospital (Champaign, Ill.)  
Mahomet Baptist Church (Mahomet, Ill.)

Subjects:

Abortion  
Delivery (Obstetrics)  
Education  
Education, Medical  
Education - Secondary  
Gynecology – Practice  
Local history  
Medical offices  
Medicine – practice  
Obstetrics  
Women  
Women physicians  
Women physicians – United States

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

**Series 1: Biographical**

Folder 1: Medical School, 1887-1892  
Folder 2: Medical Practice, 1896-1914  
Folder 3: Examination Ledger, 1907-1917  
Folder 4: Obstetric Record, 1907-1921  
Folder 5: Illinois State Medical Society, 1897-1922  
Folder 6: Financial Information, 1898-1934  
Folder 7: Personal Papers, 1898-1927  
Folder 8: Other Papers, 1859-1923

**Box 2**

**Series 2: Correspondence for Ellen Miner**

Folder 9: Correspondence from Charles Miner, 1913-1916  
Folder 10: Correspondence from Grant Miner, 1887  
Folder 11: Correspondence from Monroe Miner, 1922  
Folder 12: Correspondence from Seth Miner, 1922-1934



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Folder 13: General Correspondence, 1887-1934

**Series 3: Miner Family**

Folder 14: School District Elections, 1862-1877

Folder 15: Miner Children's School Records, 1860-1878

Folder 16: Dan Miner, 1921-1931

Folder 17: Chester Miner, 1916-1954

Folder 18: Mahomet Baptist Church, 1921-1928

Folder 19: Irle Miner's School Books, 1927-1931

Folder 20: Mary Miner's School Books, 1931-1936

Folder 21: Champaign High School Yearbooks, 1913-1914

Folder 22: Champaign High School Yearbooks, 1915-1916

**Box 3**

**Series 4: Oversized Items**

Box 1: Physical Geography Textbook, 1873

Box 2: Account Ledger, 1903

Box 3: Account Ledger, 1905

Box 4: Day Book and Ledger, 1906

Box 5: Day Book and Ledger, 1913-1914

**Map Case: Oversized Item**

Flat file: Mabel Edith Irle's High School Diploma, 1920

**Outside Sources**

Dr. Ellen Miner is Committed to Hospital. (1934, July 16). *The Evening Courier*, p. 1. Champaign-Urbana.

Dr. Ellen Minor Dies Monday Night. (1935, October 30). *The Evening Courier*, p. 3. Champaign-Urbana.

Johnson, C. B. (1901). *Medicine in Champaign County: A Historical Sketch*. Champaign, Illinois: Times Print.

Johnson, C. B. (1909). *Medicine in Champaign County: A Historical Sketch* (Fiftieth Anniversary Souvenir Edition). Champaign, Illinois: Gazette Press.

Miner Services to Be Held Thursday. (1935, October 30). *The Evening Courier*, p. 3. Champaign-Urbana.

*Official Register of Legally Qualified Physicians*. (1915). Springfield, Ill.: Schnepf & Barnes, State Printers.

Services for Dr. Miner to be on Thursday. (1935, October 20). *Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette*. Champaign-Urbana.

The Burnham Hospital. (1905, March 10). *Urbana Daily Courier*. Urbana.

Three Good Papers Were Read at Meeting of Medical Club. (1906, November 22). *Urbana Daily Courier*. Urbana.