



Fairfield Museum
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Sherman, Roger Minott Papers 1773-1845 Ms 2

Summary Information

Repository

Fairfield Museum and History Center

Creator

Sherman, Elizabeth Gould, d. 1848

Creator

Sherman, Roger M. (Roger Minott), 1773-1844

Title

Sherman, Roger Minott Papers, 1766-1848

ID

Ms 2

Date [inclusive]

1766-1848

Extent

2.0 Linear feet (7 boxes, 3 oversize items)

Language

English

Abstract

Legal, financial, political papers and correspondence belonging to Fairfield lawyer and state senator Roger Minott Sherman who among many positions served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Errors in Connecticut from 1839-1842.

Preferred Citation note

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (Box #, Folder #). Fairfield Museum and History Center, Fairfield, Connecticut.

Biographical/Historical note

Roger Minott Sherman (1773-1844), the son of the Rev. Josiah and Martha Minott Sherman, was born in Woburn, Mass. He grew up in Milford, Goshen, and Woodbridge, Connecticut and graduated from Yale in 1792. In 1796 he was admitted to the bar, married Elizabeth Gould, and set up a law practice in Norwalk. Twin sons, James M. and William G., were born in 1799.



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Their daughters Harriet and Eliza both died young. He moved his family to Fairfield in 1807, to a home he built on the Old Post Road still known today as the Sherman Parsonage. He continued to practice law, participated in town affairs, was elected to the State Senate, and served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Errors in Connecticut from 1839-1842. Sherman's interests extended to literature and science.

For more information on Roger Minott Sherman see:

Beers, William. (1882). *A biographical sketch of Roger Minott Sherman*. Bridgeport, CT.

Hamlen, B. L. (1846). "Life of the late Roger Minott Sherman." Extracted from *The New Englander, Vol. IV*. New Haven, CT.

This collection preceded another Roger Minott Sherman collection, Ms B96.

Scope and Contents note

This collection consists of five boxes of documents and two boxes containing seventeen assorted ledgers (account books, court docket books, plus one friendship book belonging to Elizabeth Gould Sherman).

The manuscripts and ledgers originally from the Bridgeport Public Library Historical Collections are so indicated by a [B] on the item itself.

The general contents of the collection are a broad spectrum of papers, mostly incoming, including personal, business and legal correspondence. Because R. M. Sherman was highly connected in business, legal, political and church circles, this collection contains material from and about the leaders of the times. Included in one letter from Aaron Burr in 1830 (Box III, Folder F) and an interesting English law case report (Box IV, Folder O).

The personal and business correspondence in Boxes I through III are arranged by year. Within each folder the letters are alphabetically ordered.

Boxes IV and V contain personal and business bills and receipts, deeds, depositions, dwelling agreements, insurance papers, land surveys, notes about legal cases, papers from organizations to which Robert M. Sherman belonged, petitions, promissory notes, wills, writs, summons, subpoenas and other miscellaneous personal and legal documents. Material in folders is generally arranged alphabetically.

Oversize items include a "friendship books" kept by Elizabeth Sherman between 1817 and 1833, some of Roger M. Sherman's account books and ten docket books from Count and Superior Courts dated 1800-1844.