William Mintzer, merchant, banker, and lumber dealer, was born May 11, 1820 in Pottstown, Montgomery County, Pa. He was one of nine children born to William and Sarah Mintzer. After being educated at the academy of Joshua Hoopes in West Chester, Pa., Mintzer worked in his father’s dry-goods store until the elder Mintzer’s death in 1839. He then bought and operated another shop for six years. After the closure of that shop, Mintzer managed a lumber business in Schuylkill County. Moving back to Pottstown, he established a banking business and became the cashier at the Pottstown Bank. When the owner of the Pottstown Bank, Henry Potts, died, Mintzer took over as president. Additionally, he began the Pottstown Iron-Works in 1863 and headed the Perkiomen and Reading Turnpike Company.

In 1841 William Mintzer married Rebecca Evans. Together they had seven children, only three of which reached maturity—George E., William, and Sarah. William Mintzer was a devoted Republican his entire life. An Episcopalian, he served as warden and secretary for the Christ Church in 1859. He died in 1867 at the age of 47.

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