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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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Thomson R. Webber
Papers, 1828-81.

Outline of Folders

Webber Family Genealogy

Journals

Portrait

Personal Correspondence

Business Correspondence

Taxes

Legal matters

 Financial

 Real Estate

 Probate

 Other Law Documents

Illinois Industrial University

Folder listing

Webber Family Genealogy

Information on family members, 1752-1993 (15 pages, typed and handwritten)

T. R. Webber Journals

1828-39: Photocopy of a typescript which details Webber's search for a wife; discusses friction between his father (William T. Webber) and an early Busey in Urbana; includes references to the Jackson-Adams campaign of 1828 (6), to a local tax vote in 1830 (22), to Illinois' Winter of the Deep Snow, 1830-31 (28), and

to the settlers' fears during the Black Hawk War in 1832 (34-35, 41-42)

1856-62: Original journal and photocopy of a 12-page typescript. Largely a travel book, this journal describes Webber's vacation to Niagara Falls (July 16 - Aug. 4, 1856). He enjoyed good company and reports on several encounters, with other passengers fighting over the same cabin, with Indians at Mackinaw on the way east and a black carriage driver on the return trip, and with bedraggled German immigrants en route to Milwaukee. Webber also recounts the travelers' "straw votes" on the train to Chicago (Buchanan won) and on the boat across Lake Michigan (when Fremont pulled ahead). The journal also describes Webber's summer 1857 trip to Mackinaw with James S. Gere (of Gere Fine Jewelry, in Urbana, Ill.), who had tuberculosis and died the next April. The last pages of the journal contain miscellaneous notes dating to 1862.

T. R. Webber Portrait

[Filed in flat storage, gray cabinet, drawer 20]

Personal Correspondence

From:

Lucy Ayres (cousin), Cottage Grove, Washington County, Minn., 1862 (2 items): describes the effects of the Sioux uprising in Minn.; writes of family, life in Minn., and an encounter with a Mr. Bunn (of the Springfield Bunns?) on the Illinois Central

Susan A. Blaydes (daughter), Shelbyville, Ill., Roachdale, Ind., Bagdad, Ky., Clayvillage, Ky., 1870-81 (9 items): updates her father about their extended family and discusses the ill health of her immediate family

Carson Family, San Francisco:

M. N. (Mathias N.) (brother-in-law)

June 28, 1863: inquires about friends and family in Ill. and Ky. and wonders if any one he knows is fighting in the war; suggests that the war has not affected California, though the state is mostly pro-Union; discusses his family

June 18, 1876: expresses condolences over the death of T. R.'s wife Anna (May 22, 1876) and discusses his family

M. C. (nephew), April 10, 1881: writes about family and reports that California has had an inordinate amount of rain that has ruined the fruit crops

Kate [Ko?] (daughter), Rock Rapids, Iowa, 1875-76 (2 items): tries to convince T. R. and his wife Anna to come visit; second letter pertains to the deaths of Anna Webber and a few of Kate's friends and neighbors

G. Mitchell (friend), Locust Grove, [Ky.], 1859 (1 item, original and photocopy): discusses his family, the spread of the railroad in Ky., and the pork market

Sue Thompson (niece), Shelby County, Ky., June 26, 1869: discusses a possible typhoid outbreak and the poor quality of the wheat crop; describes family matters, a massive tornado that passed through Ky. and Ill., and several accidental deaths, including that of a local man and his horse who were struck by lightning in front of a group of college girls

Annie Weakley (niece), Clayvillage, Ky., Oct. 19, 1881: updates Webber about their extended family and briefly discusses the effects of a drought in Ky.

A. (Augustine) Webber (uncle), Louisville, Ky., 1873 (2 items): discusses family history and the Ky. and Ill. Webbers' claim to a portion of the Holland Webbers' \$45 million estate

Anna B. Webber (second wife), 1857-70 (18 items): These letters offer a glimpse of the relationship between husband and wife in the mid-nineteenth century.

J. W. (John Waller) Webber (brother), Burlington, Iowa, 1858-63 (3 items): writes generally about his family's health, the quality of the oat and wheat crops, and the high cost of goods and real estate in war time

Letter of Aug. 3, 1858, discusses Stephen A. Douglas at length, with regard to his stance on the Kansas Question and his reception in Illinois.

Letter of July 23, 1860, discusses national politics and the possibility of disunion. J. W. Webber believes that a

large number of Southern voters prefer Lincoln for president because his policies will supply them with grounds for secession. Webber calls secession treason.

Letter of Feb. 11, 1863, discusses the "fanaticism" that has overtaken the country (especially with regard to abolitionists) and the feeling that both the Union and the Confederacy are "demoralized." J. W. mentions that men from the Burlington area have fought on both sides and details losses in Iowa's 25th and 34th infantries. He also asks his brother, "By the way, what became of your paymastership? Did you get it? or did Old Abe play you double as he does every one else?"

Mary Weed (sister), Mendon, Ill., 1873-74 (3 items): asks for legal advice and discusses family

Unidentified Sender, Oakland, Clinton County, Ohio, 1879: describe the Webbers as pioneers in Champaign County, Ill., and discusses the family's roots in Ohio

Mathias N. Carson to (his son) Thomas B. Carson, c/o James Webber, Urbana, Ill., Aug. 22, 1864; Mary E. Carson to T. R. Webber (her brother-in-law) on p. 3: Mathias Carson to Thomas Carson pertains to the Civil War. In a previous letter Thomas told his father that Sherman and Grant were capable of defeating the Confederate forces. Mathias states that "the Army of the Potomac has always been so unfortunate that it almost seems imposable [sic] for it to obtain a victory. With Grant as its leader and Unkle [sic] Abe to stand off and not interfere I think we will fetch them this time." Mary Carson to T. R. Webber simply states that she is excited that T. R. might visit her family in California.

Business Correspondence

From

T. R. Webber, 1860-65 (5 items, retained copies): concerns taxes and estate administration

Merrit and William Canby, Wilmington, Del., 1862-72 (163 items): pertains to Webber's service as a land agent

W. N. Coler (of Coler, Smith, & Reed, Attorneys at Law, Real Estate and Loan Agents), Champaign, Ill., June 24, 1871:

concerns a real estate matter in Ky.

Daniel Hammer, Des Moines, Iowa, 1864-66 (3 items): concerns estate administration and politics

William McCaulley (of Wm. McCaullet & Co., Conveyancers, Real Estate Agents and Brokers), Wilmington, Del., 1864-66 (12 items): pertains to Webber's service as a land agent

E. R. Maxwell, Appleton, Wisc., 1874 (6 items), addressed to [J. O.] Cunningham and [T. R.] Webber: concerns a lawsuit regarding real estate

Busey Miller, Urbana, Ill., May 21, 1861: discusses a hair removal cream he would like Webber to endorse publicly

William E. Nelson, July 14, 1863, Decatur, Ill., including a draft reply): relates to real estate

J. C. Wallen, Mineral Point Ky., Oct. 8, 1871; Louisville, July 6, 1875 (2 items): regards legal matters pertaining to real estate

David Davis, Bloomington, Ill., to H. C. Whitney, Aug. 5, 1858: regards a divorce case which involves both Whitney and T. R. Webber (also contains a short letter from Whitney to Webber, Aug. 8, 1858, sent to Webber with Davis's letter as the enclosure)

Misc. Business Correspondence
 1845-59 (14 items)
 1860-91 (65 items)

Taxes

Champaign County Tax Lists

"Tax Book for 1833" (10 1/2 sheets, legal size pages, partly stitched)
 Taxes due, n.d. (7 sheets, legal size pages, B-Z)
 Taxes as collected, n.d. (10 sheets, legal/size, names not listed in alphabetical order)

Tax Receipts, 1854-73 (4 items)

Commissioner of Internal Revenue, blank forms, 188- (2 items)

Legal Matters

Financial

T. R. Webber's Financial Records

Promissory Notes, 1836-77 (19 items)

Tax Receipts, 1832-79 (17 items)

Other Records Including: Receipts, Invoices, Deposit Slips,
Accounts etc., 1835-93 (82 items)

Correspondence Re: Collections, 1837-74 (31 items)

Correspondence Re: Payment Instructions, 1847-78 (16 items)

Financial Arrangements between Robert Lilly and Robert Dean,
1856-57 (3 items)

Notes on the Accounts of B. H. Hickman, 1857 (25 items)

Promissory Notes, 1834-76 (56 items)

Receipts, 1836-80 (140 items)

Misc. Financial Papers, 1837-78 (50 items)

Real Estate

Certificates of Redemption, 1857-73 (3 items)

Contract for Land Purchase, 1849

Deeds

1842-60 (42 items)

1867-77 (10 items)

Quit Claim Deeds, 1854-77 (2 items)

Foreclosure Cases

1849-61 (54 items)

1862-73 (32 items)

Land Grants to William Nox signed by Gov. Joseph Duncan, Aug. 1,
1837 (2 items)

Leases, 1857-77 (7 items)

Purchase of Drainage Land, 1858

Sheriff's Certificates of Land Sold, 1860-62 (3 items)

Misc. Real Estate Papers (9 items)

Probate

Appraisal of Jesse B. Webber's estate, 1864 (5 items)
 Last Will of Henry B. King, Oct. 29, 1840
 Papers Re: Estate of Jacob Bradshaw, 1844-55 (28 items)
 Papers Re: Estate of John R. C. Jones, 1847-66 (87 items)
 Papers Re: Estate of Rebecca Ogden, 1854-62 (11 items)
 Papers Re: James Core and proceeds from estate of Jacob
 Umbenower (?), 1870-73 (17 items)

Partition Cases

Hubbard v. Hubbard, Apr. 1857 (2 items)
 Frame v. Frame, Apr. 1868 (3 items)
 Abbott V. Rea, Nov. 1868 (6 items)
 Slater v. Slater, Oct. 1869 (4 items)
 Van Metre v. Van Metre, Apr. 1870 (10 items)
 Clark v. Clark, Oct. 1870 (29 items)
 Abbott v. Hays, Oct. 1870 (15 items)
 Moninger v. Luellin, Oct. 1872 (5 items)
 Gill v. Nuckles, Apr. 1873 (11 items)
 Gill v. Eppstein, Sept. 1873 (3 items)
 Cosgrove v. Clark, Mar. 1874 (8 items)
 Wilson v. Wilson, 1873-83 (10 items)

Misc. Estate Papers, 1858-69 (4 items)

Other Law Documents

J. O. Cunningham signed statement regarding papers in the
 case of Eunice Cunningham v. James Graham, n.d.

Bankruptcy Cases, 1871-74 (3 items)
 Bonds, 1856-66 (5 items)
 Breach of Contract Cases, 1857-63 (2 items)
 Divorce Case, Wilkinson v. Wilkinson, 1858 (1 item)
 Guardianship Letter, 1872 (1 item)

Misc. Legal Papers, ca. 1859-64 (9 items)
 Misc. Notes and Papers, ca. 1861-72 (20 items)

Blank Legal Forms (11 items)
 Blank Pension and Bounty Claim Forms (8 items)

Illinois Industrial University

Record of Funds collected "in relation to the Agricultural College," 1865
Handbill to State Legislators supporting location of State Agricultural College in Champaign County, ca. 1865
Receipts from Baker & Phillips, printers, Springfield, Ill., for printing of bills and report regarding Illinois Industrial University, 1865
Letter, John T. Barnett (Ft. Brown, Tex.) to "Cousin Webber" (Urbana, Ill.), Feb. 28, 1883 (withdrawing consideration for "instructorship in military tactics")
"Appropriations for the Illinois Industrial University," data on sale of lands in Nebraska, repairs and improvements in buildings and grounds, etc., ca. 1885