

IHLC MS 376

**Thomson R. Webber  
Papers, 1828-1881**

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**Webber Family Genealogy**

Box 1

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

**Journals**

Photocopy of a typescript, 1828-1839

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, 1830-1831 (28), and to the settlers' fears during the Black Hawk War in 1832 (34-35, 41-42).

Original journal and photocopy of a 12-page typescript, 1856-1862

Describes Webber's vacation to Niagara Falls (July 16–August 4, 1856). 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 Island, Michigan, with James S. Gere (of Gere Fine Jewelry, in Urbana, Illinois), who had tuberculosis and died the next April. The last pages of the journal contain miscellaneous notes dating to 1862.

**Portrait**

Flat files

Filed in flat storage, drawer 20.

## Personal Correspondence

All correspondence is incoming unless otherwise noted.

### Box 1, cont.

Lucy Ayres, cousin, of Cottage Grove, Minnesota. 1862. 2 items.

Describes the effects of the Sioux uprising in Minnesota, as well as family, life in Minnesota, and an encounter with a Mr. Bunn on the Illinois Central.

Susan A. Blaydes, daughter. 1870-1881. 9 items.

Updates her father about their extended family and discusses the ill health of her immediate family.

The Carson Family of San Francisco

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

June 28, 1863. Inquires about friends and family in Illinois and Kentucky, and 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. 10 April 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, 1875-1876. 2 items.

Tries to convince T. R. and his wife Anna to come visit. Second letter pertains to the deaths of Anna Webber, as well as a few of Kate's friends and neighbors.

G. Mitchell, friend. Locust Grove, Kentucky, 1859. 1 item.

Original and photocopy records discussing his family, the spread of the railroad in Kentucky, and the pork market.

Sue Thompson, niece. Shelby County, Kentucky. June 26, 1869. 1 item.

Discusses a possible typhoid outbreak and the poor quality of the wheat crop.

Describes family matters and a massive tornado that passed through Kentucky and Illinois.

Annie Weakley, niece. Clayvillage, Kentucky, October 19, 1881.

Updates Webber about their extended family and briefly discusses the effects of a drought in Kentucky.

Augustine Webber, uncle. Louisville, Kentucky, 1873. 2 items.

Discusses family history and the Kentucky and Illinois Webbers' claim to a portion of the Holland Webbers' \$45 million estate.

Anna B. Webber, second wife. 1857-1870. 18 items.

John Waller (J.W.) Webber, brother. Burlington, Iowa, 1858-1863. 3 items.

August 3, 1858.

Discusses Stephen A. Douglas with regard to his stance on the Kansas Question and his reception in Illinois.

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.

February 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.

Mary Weed, sister. Mendon, Illinois, 1873-1874. 3 items.

Asks for legal advice and discusses family.

Unidentified sender. Oakland, Ohio, 1879.

Describes the Webbers as pioneers in Champaign County, Illinois, and the family’s roots in Ohio.

Mathias N. Carson to his son, Thomas B. Carson, c/o James Webber. Urbana, Illinois, 22 August, 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**

All correspondence is incoming unless otherwise noted.

T.R. Webber, 1860-1865. 5 items.

Concerning taxes and estate administration.

Merrit and William Canby. Wilmington, Delaware, 1862-1872. 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, Illinois, 24 June 1871.

Concerns a real estate matter in Kentucky.

Daniel Hammer. Des Moines, Iowa, 1864-1866. 3 items.

Concerns estate administration and politics.

William McCaulley (of Wm. McCaulley & Co., Conveyancers, Real Estate Agents and Brokers). Wilmington, Delaware, 1864-1866. 12 items.

Pertains to Webber’s service as a land agent.

E.R. Maxwell. Appleton, Wisconsin, 1874. 6 items.

Addressed to (J.O.) Cunningham and (T.R.) Webber; concerns a lawsuit regarding real estate.

Busey Miller. Urbana, Illinois, May 21, 1861.

Discusses a hair removal cream he would like Webber to endorse publicly.

William E. Nelson. Decatur, Illinois, 14 July 1863.

J.C. Wallen. Mineral Point, Kentucky, October 8, 1871. And Louisville, Kentucky, 6 July 1875. 2 items.

David Davis, Bloomington, Illinois, to H. C. Whitney, August 5, 1858.

Regards a divorce case which involves both Whitney and T. R. Webber. Also

contains a short letter from Whitney to Webber, dated August 8, 1858. Sent to Webber with Davis's letter as the enclosure.

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

## Taxes

Champaign County Tax Lists  
 Tax Book for 1833. 10.5 sheets.  
 Taxes due, undated. 7 sheets.  
 Taxes as collected, undated. 10 sheets.

Tax Receipts, 1854-1873. 4 items.  
 Commissioner of Internal Revenue, blank forms. 188-. 2 items.

## Legal Matters

### Financial

T.R. Webber's Financial records  
 Promissory notes, 1836-1877. 19 items.  
 Tax receipts, 1832-1879. 17 items.  
 Miscellaneous receipts, invoices, deposit slips, account information. 1835-1893. 82 items.

Correspondence on collections, 1837-1874. 31 items.  
 Correspondence on payment instructions, 1847-1878. 16 items.  
 Financial arrangements between Robert Lilly and Robert Dean, 1856-1857. 3 items.

Notes on the accounts of B.H. Hickman, 1857. 25 items.  
 Promissory notes, 1834-1876. 56 items.  
 Receipts, 1836-1880. 140 items.  
 Miscellaneous financial papers, 1837-1878. 50 items.

### Real Estate

Certificates of redemption, 1857-1873. 3 items.  
 Contract for land purchase, 1849.

Deeds  
 1842-1860. 42 items.  
 1867-1877. 10 items.  
 Quit claim deeds, 1854-1877. 2 items.

Foreclosure cases  
 1849-1861. 54 items.  
 1862-1873. 32 items.

Land grants to William Nox signed by Governor Joseph Duncan, 1 August 1837. 2 items.

Leases, 1857-1877. 7 items.  
 Purchase of drainage land, 1858.  
 Sheriff's certificates of land sold, 1860-1862. 3 items.  
 Miscellaneous real estate papers. 9 items.

### Probate

Appraisal of Jesse B. Webber's estate, 1864. 5 items.  
 Last will of Henry B. King, 29 October 1840.

Estate of Jacob Bradshaw papers, 1844-1845. 28 items.  
 Estate of John R.C. Jones papers, 1847-1866. 87 items.  
 Estate of Rebecca Ogden papers, 1854-1862. 11 items.  
 James Core and proceeds from estate of Jacob Umbenower (?) papers, 1870-1873.  
 17 items.

#### Partition cases

Hubbard v. Hubbard, April 1857. 2 items.  
 Frame v. Frame, April 1868. 3 items.  
 Abbott v. Rea, November 1868. 6 items.  
 Slater v. Slater, October 1869. 4 items.  
 Van Metre v. Van Metre, April 1870. 15 items.  
 Clark v. Clark, October 1870. 29 items.  
 Abbott v. Hays, October 1870. 15 items.  
 Moninger v. Luellin, October 1872. 5 items.  
 Gill v. Nuckles, April 1873. 11 items.  
 Gill v. Eppstein, September 1873. 3 items.  
 Cosgrove v. Clark, March 1874. 8 items.  
 Wilson v. Wilson, 1873-1883. 10 items.

Miscellaneous estate papers, 1858-1869. 4 items.

#### Other Law Documents

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

Bankruptcy cases, 1871-1874. 3 items.

Bonds, 1856-1866. 5 items.

Breach of contract cases, 1857-1863. 2 items.

Divorce case, Wilkinson v. Wilkinson, 1858.

Guardianship letter, 1872.

#### Miscellaneous

Legal papers, circa 1859-1964. 9 items.

Notes and papers, circa 1861-1872. 20 items.

#### Blank forms

Legal forms. 11 items.

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, circa 1865.

Receipts from Baker & Phillips, printers, Springfield, Illinois, for printing of bills and  
 report regarding Illinois Industrial University, 1865.

Letter from John T. Barnett (Fort Brown, Texas) to "Cousin Webber" (Urbana, Illinois),  
 withdrawing consideration for "instructorship in military tactics." 28 February 1883.

"Appropriations for the Illinois Industrial University," data on sale of lands in  
 Nebraska, repairs and improvements in buildings and grounds. Circa 1885.