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Webber Family Collection, 1836-1959

Collection 170

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Sandy Kroeker, April 2024

Creator/Corporate Name: Webber Family

Inclusive Dates: 1836-1959

Physical Description: 3 boxes, (3.7 linear ft.)

Provenance:

The Webber Family Collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by Betty Webber Sadtler in June and July 1990.

Access:

These 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.

Biographical Note:

Thomson Rhodes Webber was born in Shelby County, Kentucky on October 6, 1807. He married Martha Thompson in 1831 and together they had three children: Joseph T., William Bowes, and Susan Ann Webber. In 1833 Thomson and his family moved to Illinois and settled in what is now Champaign County. In 1837, his wife Martha passed away and in 1838 he married Anna B. Carson, with whom he had two children: Robert A. and James H. Webber. Thomson was the first postmaster of Urbana and upon the organization of Champaign County he was elected Clerk of the County and Circuit Courts. He served as County Clerk for 25 years and Circuit Clerk for 28 years in addition to serving as Master in Chancery for the Circuit Court for 40 years. He died at age 75 in Urbana on December 14, 1881.

William Bowes Webber was born on October 31, 1836 in Urbana, Illinois to Thompson Rhodes and Martha Webber. In 1864 he married Sarah D. Barnett of Shelby County, Kentucky and together they had seven children, including Grace, Pearl, and William Barnett Webber. William Bowes studied law in the office of Judge William D. Somers and Captain John C. Moses. He was admitted to the bar 1863 and throughout his career he practiced with lawyers such as Judge Somers and J.O. Cunningham. In addition to a successful career as a lawyer in Urbana, William was also elected to the Illinois legislature in 1884 and elected Mayor of Urbana in 1893. He died in Champaign County on September 8, 1916.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains account books, correspondence, law briefs, and journals related to the professional careers of Thomson Rhodes and William Bowes Webber. Additional materials include books and ephemera from other members of the Webber family.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged by size.

Subject Terms:

Family history



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Lawyers—Illinois

Webber family

Name Terms:

Barnett, W.S.

Delta Chi Fraternity

Kyle, James H.

Maguire, Ramon

McRoberts, Samuel

National Law and Collection Association of the U.S.

North American Mercantile Agency Co.

Sadtler, Betty

Somers, William D.

Webber, Betty

Webber, Charles M.

Webber, Joseph

Webber, Pearl

Webber, R.

Webber, R.A.

Webber, Thomson R.

Webber, Thomson Rhodes

Webber, William B.

Webber, William Bowes

Container List

Thompson Rhodes Webber Materials

Box 1

Folder 1: Master Chancery's Sale Record, T.R. Webber, 1869-1874

Folder 2: Cash Book, T.R. Webber, and some loose notes, 1836-1842

Folder 4: T.R. Webber, Master in Chancery, Account Record, 1855-1865

Folder 5: T.R. Webber, Law Journal, 1864-1866, including Champaign County delinquent tax list, 1870-1873

Box 2

Folder 2: T.R. Webber, Business Docket (Court Cases), 1860-1863

Box 3

Folder 5: T.R. Webber, Expense Record, Estate and Guardianship Cases, 1850-1853

William Bowes Webber Materials

Box 1

Folder 3: Law Briefs, for future use, Wm. B. Webber, 1862-1866



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Folder 7: Tax Purchase Book, Wm. B. Webber and R.A. Webber, 1878-1891

Folder 9: W.S. Barnett Investment in tax titles by Wm. B. Webber, 1873-1874

Folder 10: Law Briefs, William B. Webber, 1869-1877

Box 2

Folder 1: Wm. B. Webber business letters (onion skin, very poor condition), 1870s-1888

Folder 3: Accounts of Somers and Webber against sundry clients, 1861-1876

Folder 4: Wm. B. Webber Account Book, 1870s, also used by Pearl Webber, his daughter, 1935-1959

Folder 5: Memoranda of Law Business, Wm. B. Webber, 1870-1880s

Box 3

Folder 2: Wm. B. Webber Letters (onion skin, difficult to read), 1861-1870s

Folder 4: The National Law and Collection Association of the U.S. & The North American Mercantile Agency Co. Legal Register (Wm. B. Webber was a member of both), 1877-1897

Other Webber Family Members' Materials

Box 1

Folder 6: Joseph Webber, Practice book for writing, 1851

Folder 8: Memorial Addresses on life and character of James H. Kyle, 1902

Box 3

Folder 1: Webber, Charles M. Fraternity Pin, undated

Folder 3: Invoice of Goods Furnished by Samuel McRoberts to R. Webber, Urbana, 1836-1837