



The Urbana Free Library

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Clayton F. Daugherty Collection

Collection 334

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Christine Willson

**Creator/Corporate name:** Clayton F. Daugherty

**Inclusive Dates:** 1826-1872, 1903, bulk 1836-1860

**Physical Description:** 1 box, .5 linear feet

**Provenance:**

The Clayton F. Daugherty Collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

**Access:**

The 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/Historical Note:**

Clayton F. Daugherty (1899-1990) was a Lincoln collector and researcher who lived most of his life in Champaign County, Illinois. He spent many years studying Abraham Lincoln's career as a lawyer, focusing on his legal work in Urbana, Ill., as well as on early Champaign County development and families. He compiled his research into several booklets, including "Politics and Pioneers: A Short History of Champaign County, Illinois" (1951), "the Prominent Somers Family of Champaign County, Illinois" (1971), and "A Short History of Champaign county Court Houses" (1971).

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection includes Daugherty's research notes and photocopies of articles and writings on early Champaign County, including Lincoln in Champaign County and other notable figures such as J.O. Cunningham. Other information includes early courthouse history, mail system, and family histories. Researched dates are from 1826-1872, with the bulk from 1836-1860.

**Arrangement:**

Folders 1-4 were originally grouped together in one folder and were separated based on research topic for this collection. Folder 5 contains materials that were originally loosely placed in the box. Folders 6-7 were originally grouped together but split based on topic. Names of folders were created based on their corresponding folder's content.

**Subject Terms**

Beardsley family

Beasley family

Boyd family

Bradshaw family



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Bromfields family  
Busey family  
Campbell family  
Champaign (Ill.) - History  
Champaign County (Ill.) - History  
Courthouses  
Courthouses – Urbana (Ill.)  
Courthouses - Champaign County (Ill.)  
Hisel family  
Robertson family  
Sadorus family  
Scott family  
Shearer family  
Snelling family  
Stotley family  
Thomas family  
Urbana (Ill.) - History  
Webber family  
Willis family

**Name Terms:**

Cunningham, Joseph O.  
Somers, William D.  
Bruer, Asahel

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

**Series 1: Materials of Clayton Daugherty**

Folder 1: Champaign County Research

- Bulk of the materials include photocopies of handwritten research notes, some of which record the sources where Daugherty got his information from.
- Photocopies of research notes and articles about early transportation in Champaign/Urbana, including the railroad and horse cars, circa 1860.
- 1832-1836: Copy of notes on land deeds for Champaign/Urbana for William Tompkins.
- Short notes on family history for families including Thomas, Snelling, Stotley (alt. spelling Stoltey), Shearer, Scott, and Robertson in Champaign County and cemetery plots.
- 1846-1850: Notes and photocopies of newspaper articles on William D. Somers, some which are copies of work included in the book “The Prominent Somers Family of Champaign County, Illinios”.



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- 1826-1837: Photocopies of research notes on the mail system in early Champaign County.
- 1856, 1903: Photocopies of research notes on the cemetery in early Champaign County.

Folder 2: Joseph O. Cunningham Research

- Handwritten notes and drafts for a biography of Joseph Oscar Cunningham.
- 1853-1858: Draft for the journalistic years of Joseph O. Cunningham, written in 1981.

Folder 3: Hisel Family Research

- 1800's: Handwritten notes, photocopies of correspondences, and drafts of the history of the Hisel family. Alternatively spelled Hysel, Hysell, Hisle, or Heisel.

Folder 4: Early Champaign County and Family History

- Newspaper articles and handwritten notes about the history of Champaign/Urbana including roads, the fire of 1871, courthouses, Lincoln visits, and James F. Tayler vs. Charles Cherry.
- Notes on family history: The Campbell family, the Campbell House, Busey family, Asahel Bruer, Bromfields family, Bradshaw family, Boyd family, Beasley family, and Beardsley family.

Folder 5: New Counties and the Webber, Sadorus, and Willis Families

- Handdrawn map of the Shelbyville and Chicago Road via Urbana.
- 1855-1867: Notes on the attempts to create new counties around Champaign County.
- Notes on the Webber family, Sadorus family, and the Willis family.

Folder 6: Industries, Fires, West Urbana

- 1855-1872: Notes on natural resources, industries, and brick yards of Urbana.
- West Urbana (early Champaign) history.
- 1860, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1901 fires.
- The formation of new counties, and early settlers of Champaign county.
- 1848: Move to California for Gold rush: Henry Sadorus.

Folder 7: Court House Research

- Handwritten notes and articles about the history of the court houses of Champaign county.
- 1833-1869, 1901: Writing on the history of the court houses, township organization, the building of the first prison in 1836 in Champaign County, J.O. Cunningham's involvement, and the Dedication of the Champaign County Court house of 1901.
- Some information here is also found in "A Short History of Champaign County Court Houses".