



# THE URBANA FREE LIBRARY

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Heiser Family  
Collection, 1882-1982

Collection 400

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Cassandra Parsons, June 2025

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Heiser Family

**Inclusive Dates:** 1882-1982

**Physical Description:** 1 box, (0.25 linear ft.)

**Language:** English

### Provenance:

The Heiser Family Collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by Jo Ann Heiser on January 30, 2025.

### 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.

### Harmful Language in Archives:

The Champaign County Historical Archives at The Urbana Free Library is committed to developing inclusive collections that capture the diverse history of our communities. However, some language used in our collections and collection descriptions may be outdated or harmful. Please refer to our statement on [Harmful Language in Archives](#) to learn how we are addressing language concerns in our collections.

### Biographical Note:

Isaac (1869-1953) and Mary (1869-1962) Heiser moved to Fisher, Illinois, in 1903 and worked as farmers until Isaac retired in 1919. Mary was the daughter of Christian King and Phoebe Zehr. Isaac and Mary had two sons, Albert and Ervin, and three daughters, Alma, Lavina, and Ferne. After retirement, Isaac and Mary transferred land ownership to their son Albert and his wife Anna between 1920 and 1922. Between 1927 and 1944, land ownership agreements between Alma Heiser and the Village of Fisher were also made to use the land for a local school. Alma Heiser (1896-1983) graduated from the Mennonite School of Nursing in Bloomington, IL, and was a former Illinois Nursing Association District 15 president.

### Scope and Content Note:

The Heiser Family collection consists of financial and personal documents concerning the Heiser family. The personal financial documents consist of land ownership agreements between Isaac and Mary Heiser and their son Albert and his wife Anna Heiser after Isaac retired from farming in 1919. They also include personal loan agreements between Isaac and the Federal Bank of St. Louis, Isaac's will from 1921, tax documents, social security checks and documents, and a guidebook for general mathematics. The school financial documents include signed agreements between Alma Heiser and the Village of Fisher. The Heiser family's documents include paper mementos, including a bookmark, a local club meeting book, a coupon for ice cream, a high school graduation reunion poem, a postcard, a journal with personal financial notes, a receipt for Isaac's funeral, and Alma Heiser's R.N. notebook. The Zehr family's



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documents include a typed autobiography of Elizabeth Zehr Ulrich (Phoebe Zehr's sister) and a copy of Christian Zehr's (Phoebe Zehr's father) typed will.

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged by subject material, with the Heiser family and Zehr family documents split between personal and financial documents.

**Subject Terms:**

Heiser Family  
Zehr Family  
Fisher (Ill.) – Genealogy  
Brown Township (Ill.)

**Name Terms:**

Heiser, Isaac  
Heiser, Mary  
Heiser, Alma  
Heiser, Albert  
King, Mary  
Oyer, Mary  
Ulrich, Elizabeth  
Zehr, Christian  
Zehr, Elizabeth  
Zehr, Mary

**Container List**

**Box 1**

Folder 1: Personal Financial Documents, 1903-1953  
Folder 2: School Financial Documents, 1927-1949  
Folder 3: Heiser Family Personal Documents, January 1934-1944  
Folder 4: Heiser Family Personal Documents, 1944-1982  
Folder 5: Zehr Family Personal Documents, 1882; 1949