



Smithsonian *Gardens*

H. Weber & Sons Co. records, circa 1879-1962

Janet Curll Coleman

2004

Archives of American Gardens
P.O. Box 37012
Capital Gallery West, Suite 3300, MRC 506
Washington, DC 20013-7012
aag@si.edu
<http://www.aag.si.edu>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents Note.....	2
Historical note.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Business Records, 1903 - 1962.....	4
Series 2: Photographs, circa 1920-1950.....	5
Series 3: Medals, 1879 - 1905.....	6
Series 4: Wire Floral Frames, circa 1880-1920.....	7

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Gardens
Title:	H. Weber & Sons Co. records
Date:	circa 1879-1962
Identifier:	AAG.WBR
Creator:	H. Weber & Sons Co. (Nurserymen)
Extent:	7 Boxes
Language:	English .
Summary:	The H. Weber & Sons Co. records document the professional activities of The H. Weber & Sons Company, a florist business consisting of a florist shop and greenhouse which was located in Oakland, Maryland. The collection contains business records, photographs, horticultural medals and wire frames used for floral displays.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

In 1979, a descendent of Henry Weber donated the The H. Weber & Sons Co. Records to the Smithsonian Institution's Office of Horticulture.

Related Archival Materials

The Smithsonian Institution's Botany and Horticulture Library includes two albums of floral designs from The H. Weber & Sons Co. Additional florist trade catalogs compiled by the Weber firm can be found in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History Branch Library Trade Literature Collection.

Other Finding Aids

http://www.gardens.si.edu/horticulture/res_ed/AAG/FindingAids/HWeber&SonsFindingAid_Jul2010.pdf

Processing Information Note

The records were processed by AAG intern Janet Curll Coleman in 2004.

Encoded by Elizabeth Bauerle, December 2011

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Gardens, The H. Weber & Sons Co. Records.

Restrictions on Access

Access to original archival materials by appointment only. Researcher must submit request for appointment in writing. Certain items may be restricted and not available to researchers. Please direct reference inquiries to the Archives of American Gardens: aag@si.edu.

Conditions Governing Use

Archives of American Gardens encourages the use of its archival materials for non-commercial, educational and personal use under the fair use provision of U.S. copyright law. Use or copyright restrictions may exist. It is incumbent upon the researcher to ascertain copyright status and assume responsibility for usage. All requests for duplication and use must be submitted in writing and approved by Archives of American Gardens. Please direct reference inquiries to the Archives of American Gardens: aag@si.edu.

Historical

Henry Weber (1935-1904) was born in Germany and later immigrated to the United States in the 1860s. He was raised on a farm; this experience influenced the course of his life and career. Weber showed an affinity for flower growing and in 1870, he founded his own firm, H. Weber & Sons, a florist shop and greenhouse. In 1866, he married Catharine Schutz. Together they had eleven children; six later joined him in the company, which sold cut flowers (especially carnations and roses), annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetable plants. In 1880, Weber purchased an additional one hundred acres of land for the company. At the height of his business, he held a total of five hundred acres.

Weber sold to a variety of clients, including private individuals and large companies. At the turn of the century, the small town of Oakland, Maryland, where his company was based, was prosperous because of the influence of the railroad, agriculture and summer vacationers. H. Weber & Sons' customer base, however, extended far beyond the boundaries of Oakland and the state of Maryland. Customers were located in Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, North Carolina, and as far away as Illinois, Michigan and Toronto, Ontario.

Henry Weber died in 1904; his sons continued the business until 1978.

Timeline

1870	H. Weber & Sons Florists, founded by Henry Weber.
1879-1905	H. Weber & Sons wins numerous horticultural medals.
1880	One hundred acres of land purchased for business.
1904	Henry Weber dies; his sons continue the company.
1905	The company is incorporated. Company stationery identifies the name of the firm as The H. Weber & Sons Co.
1978	The company is dissolved.

Scope and Contents Note

The H. Weber & Sons Co. Collection documents the professional activities of The H. Weber & Sons Company. The collection contains business records, photographs, horticultural medals and wire frames used for floral displays. The bulk of the collection consists of business records dating from 1903-1907 in the form of accounting journals and ledgers with handwritten entries of sales and payments.

The ledger entries are quite detailed and include the date, customer name and sometimes the location, items purchased (with specific information related to quantity and item description), and unit and total prices. In the case of payments received, the entries include the client, date, amount paid and the method of payment, such as cash, check, money order or p.o. stamps. Some of the journals include sections in which monthly and annual account information was tallied. One ledger appears to contain names of employees, along with information such as hourly wages, hours worked and rent received.

The collection of horticultural medals spans from 1879 to 1905. Most are in their original cases and are engraved. The floral frame collection is extensive; a sampling of the motifs that are represented includes a banner, open book, harp, train, four-leaf clover, cross, star, clock and Masonic symbols. These frames were typically used for funerary flower arrangements.

This collection contains only a sampling of the records of The H. Weber and Sons Co. and should not be considered comprehensive.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Floristry
- Florists
- Greenhouses
- Horticulture
- Mail-order business

Types of Materials:

- Account books
- Floral frames
- Ledgers (account books)
- Medals
- Photographs

Names:

- H. Weber & Sons Co.

Places:

- United States of America -- Maryland -- Garrett County -- Oakland

Container Listing

Series 1: Business Records, 1903 - 1962

5 Boxes

Scope and Contents: This series contains a sampling of the records of H. Weber & Sons and document financial transactions, clients, and vendors.

Box 1	Ledger, 1903 - 1905 Notes: Indicates sales and expenses; includes alphabetical list of clients and vendors.
Box 2	Day Book, 1904 - 1905 Notes: Ledger of sales and expenses.
Box 2	Account Book, 1904 - 1909 Notes: Indicates household and business sales and expenses; includes several loose handwritten notes.
Box 3	Journal, 1905 - 1907 Notes: Ledger of sales and expenses.
Box 4	Journal, 1914 - 1916 Notes: Ledger of sales and expenses.
Box 5	Sales Account Sheets, 1944 - 1957, 1918 - 1923 Notes: Miscellaneous statements and entries related to business accounts.
Box 5	Purchases and Sales Log, 1930 - 1962, 1920 Notes: Summaries of sales and expense totals by type of plant or service.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Photographs, circa 1920-1950

4 Photographs

Box 6

Box 6

Aerial Views of Weber Greenhouse in Oakland, Maryland, circa 1934-1950
4 Photographs
Photographer: Turgeon, Frank, Jr. (L.)

Aerial View of Deep Creek Lake in Oakland, Maryland, circa 1934-1950
1 Photographic print (Framed; Photograph: 13 5/8 x 19 1/4"; Frame: 21 x 25 1/8")
Photographer: Turgeon, Frank, Jr. (L.)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Medals, 1879 - 1905

15 Items

Box 7	OH.1979.035.001: The Agricultural & Mechanical Society of Western Maryland at Cumberland medal, 1879
Box 7	World's Columbian Exposition medal, 1892 - 1893
Box 7	OH.1979.035.003: Atlanta Flower Fair pin, 1895
Box 7	OH.1979.035.004: The American Institute, New York's Medal of Merit, 1897
Box 7	OH.1979.035.005: First Prize for Carnations pin, circa 1899
Box 7	OH.1979.035.006, .007: The Horticultural Society of Chicago medals (2, 1899
Box 7	OH.1979.035.008: The Horticultural Society of Chicago medal, 1899
Box 7	OH.1979.035.009: American Carnation Society's Lawson Medal, 1901
Box 7	OH.1979.035.010: The American Institute, New York's Medal of Merit, 1901
Box 7	OH.1979.035.011: Pan American Exposition medal, 1901
Box 7	OH.1979.035.012: Society of American Florists medal, 1903
Box 7	OH.1979.035.013: American Carnation Society's Lawson Medal, 1904
Box 7	OH.1979.035.014: Louisiana Purchase Exposition Silver Medal, 1904
Box 7	OH.1979.035.015: Society of American Florists medal, 1905
Box 7	OH.1979.035.016-020: Industrial Exposition Company of New York medals, undated 5 Items

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Wire Floral Frames, circa 1880-1920

72 Items

Scope and Contents: This series contains approximately 72 wire frames in a variety of motifs and sizes that were covered with fresh flowers and used for temporary display purposes at funerals. The wire frames are undated.

OH.1979.011: Wire Frames, circa 1880-1920
72 Items

[Return to Table of Contents](#)