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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Gardens
Title: The H. Weber & Sons Co. records
Identifier: AAG.WBR
Date: circa 1879-1962
Extent: 7 Boxes
Creator: H. Weber & Sons Co.
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

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

Processing Information Note
The records were processed by AAG intern Janet Curll Coleman in 2004.
Encoded by Elizabeth Bauerle, December 2011

Preferred Citation
Restrictions on Access
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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
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.

Geographic Names:
- United States of America -- Maryland -- Garrett County -- Oakland
## Container Listing

### Series 1: Business Records, 1903 - 1962

5 Boxes

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

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

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Series 2: Photographs, circa 1920-1950

4 Photographs
Box 6

Box 6
Weber Greenhouse in Oakland, Maryland, circa 1920-1950
4 Photographs

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Series 3: Medals, 1879 - 1905

15 Items
Box 7

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

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Series 4: Wire Floral Frames, circa 1880-1920

72 Items

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.

Box 7  
OH.1979.011: Wire Frames, circa 1880-1920
72 Items