

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
H. A. Webber Ledger**

Collection Description: The H.A. Webber Ledger is a handwritten business ledger recording the transactions of H. A. Webber from 1873 to 1891, especially 1879-1880. H.A. Webber was a shoemaker and also ran the Roanoke County jail around 1890. The ledger including account for performing work on behalf of others, for employees making shoes, and for keeping people in jail for the U.S. Government who were brought in by U.S. Deputy Marshals.

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Title: H. A. Webber Ledger

Physical Characteristics: 1 (one) volume, 1 (one) envelope

Arrangement: 1 ledger, 1 envelope of loose papers found inside the ledger

Creator: Henry A. Webber (1849 - 1891)

Reproduction Restrictions: Due to condition, this item may not be photocopied. No other restrictions.

Processor: Amy Vilelle, April 2015

Biographical Note:

Henry A. Webber was born in West Virginia in 1849. He was trained as a cobbler and shoemaker and worked in Salem, Virginia. He also was the Roanoke County jailor from 18xx to 1891. He also ran the Virginia Detective Agency in Salem and gained local notoriety for his astute detective work that led to the out-of-state capture of an escaped murderer Charles Watkins in 1891.

Scope and Content:

The Ledger is a handwritten business ledger recording the transactions of H. A. Webber from 1873 to 1891, especially 1879-1880.

About half of the ledger is devoted to board and lodging and employment accounts for men working for him as shoemakers. Michael Halpin, for example, works for Webber from Aug 1879 to late 1880, making boots, gaiters and shoes. About two dozen other people have a one-page account. There are also multiple-page accounts run for Dr. James H. Henning and John T. Wygal that seem to show deliveries of food, wood and coal items, as well as payments to various people, including J.B. Bransford.

Many pages headed "in account with H. A. Webber, Jailer" refer to an account with the United States for providing a jail to hold detainees brought in by U.S. Deputy Marshals. Where noted, the arrests are mainly for illegal production and sale of alcohol, but also include counterfeiting money and robbing the U.S. mail. The names of the committing party are also listed – mostly US deputy marshals including R.E. Latham, J.D. Martin, W.R. Mill, W.S. Gravely, and also J.B. Frier, U.S. Commissioner for the western district of Virginia. Other names include Barksdale, Wootten, Snow, and Kennelly.

Loose items stored in ledger:

Empty envelope addressed to Miss Pearl Brugh of Botetourt County, Virginia (no date)

Bill from H. A. Webber to Palmer & Dame for boarding Thomas (no date)

Postcard of Green Island Hotel in Michigan from Joe to J. Starr Webber, postmarked 26 August 1901

Printed name card for Miss Rose Humphries (no date)

Receipt from H. A. Webber to James Crawford (no date)

Scrap of paper printed with "JNO H. PALMER, JAS. T. DAME" with brief notes about names and witnesses, 1891

Letterhead of Webber Brothers & Co., Real Estate Agents of Salem, Virginia (C. M. Webber, F. G. Webber, N. B. Dillard and J. N. Strickler) addressed to Governor P. W. McKinney, 18 August 1891

Letter from H. A. Webber to Col. John G. Watts regarding payment of corrected accounts, 27 July 1891

Two drafts of a night message telegram from H. A. Webber to Chief Police or J. T. Wygal of Pulaski City regarding arrest of William Hairston, 12 June 1891

Blank Western Union Telegraph Company Night Message form, 189x

Blank Western Union Telegraph Company forms, 189x

Men listed in jailor account, by name with page number

Green	Akers	124
Samuel	Akers	124
Lewis	Bandy	134
Thomas	Bandy	119
Thomas	Bandy	131
Thomas	Bandy	134
J. W.	Barton	135
Henry	Booth	135
Henry N.	Booth	131
James	Bowers	122
Leminos	Boyd	135
Isaac W.	Bradford	140
James	Briant	135
Ransom	Buffalo	118
W. H. C.	Burnett	135
Christopher	Canada	130
David	Carter	118
James	Clark	120
James	Clark	122
David	Cochran	121

William H.	Cochran	129
William E.	Conduff	138
William E.	Conduff	139
Robert	Conner	121
Christopher	Cox	121
Charles	Davis	129
William	Deheart	120
Peter	Dewese	122
Tez	Dudley	124
Ross	Duncan	120
John	Epperly	128
Lewis	Ferguson	139
Tazwell	Finley	136
Edward	Garirn (?)	130
Samuel	Gill	119
Samuel	Gill	124
Samuel	Goff	135
George W.	Goode	127
James	Goode	127
James W.	Graham	131
T. W.	Graham	131
James W.	Grayham	125
John	Greer	141
William	Hairston	150
John	Hall	122
John	Hall	129
Aca	Helm	118
J. H.	Helm	118
Bruce	Hollins	140
William	Hollins	140
Charles	Houchins	124
Thomas	Howall	139
Calib	Howard	128
Edward	Howard	129
John	Howard	128
William	Howard	129
Issac	Huff	133
Jacob	Huff	134
James	Huff	134
James	Huff, Junior	134
Joseph	Inghran	129
Norman	Jones	139
Richard	Jones	130
Dan	Kelley	124
Ennis	Lemons	128
C.	Ligs (?)	130
James	Lovel	139
Bluford	Martin	122
James	McDaniel	131

James	McDaniel	136	
Bluford	McPeak	123	
Ira	Moor	129	
Jack	Moor	128	
Jacob	Moor	127	
Jim	Murphy	150	
Thomas	Mussleman	140	
George	Nawbern	123	
John	Newman	123	
Jack	Nowlin	135	
Lee	Page	136	
John	Pate	140	
David	Peters	140	
Joel	Pucket	136	
Phillip	Pucket	136	
Phillip	Pucket	141	
Stanton	Rakes	121	
William	Rakes	129	
George	Randolph	141	
James	Rarer	123	
Gabe	Redd, alias Harris	120	120
Robert	Reynolds	120	
Robert	Reynolds	124	
Britt	Ross	118	
Jordan	Ross	125	
Jordan	Ross	127	
Jordan	Ross	129	
Jordon	Ross	126	
David	Sanders	139	
Bird	Smith	125	
Bird	Smith	131	
Fleming	Smith	131	
Fleming	Smith	139	
James	Smith	122	
Jack	Steward	119	
Jacob	Steward	120	
William	Steward	135	
Tazwell	Sumner	141	
John	Thomas	128	
Polk	Thomas	133	
Polk	Thomas	139	
James	Turner	123	
John	Turner	130	
John W.	Turner	139	
John W.	Turner	139	
Charles	Underwood	123	
H. M.	Underwood	122	
H. M.	Underwood	138	
Noah	Underwood	122	

Peter	Vaughn	133
Samuel	Vaughn	121
Burwell	Via	128
Lee	Via	128
Archy	Walters	134
Spaniel Gitten	Walters	130
Wade	Walters	134
Joseph	Weaks	118
Monroe	Wells	128
Jeff	Whirley	119
William Smith	White	150
S. H.	Whitlock	140
Sam W.	Whitlock	139
John J.	Wood	135
William	Wood	133
James	Woodson	130