Manuscript Collection Inventory

Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Note:** Unless otherwise specified, documents and other materials listed on the following pages are available for research at the Illinois Historical and Lincoln Collections, located in the Main Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additional background information about the manuscript collection inventoried is recorded in the Manuscript Collections Database ([http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php](http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php)) under the collection title; search by the name listed at the top of the inventory to locate the corresponding collection record in the database.
The letters are arranged chronologically, beginning in Folder 4. They are preceded by other miscellaneous manuscripts, also in chronological order.

In addition to William Osman himself, the following correspondents, either as authors or recipients of letters, are represented in the collection:

- M. Beck
- B. C. Cook
- W. Dumen
- W. H. German
- R. E. Goodell
- George William Heilig
- Jacob Hise
- John Hise
- Jesse Klinger
- Rollin Means
- "Mother"
- Joshua Osman
- Moses Osman
- Robert Osman
- Samuel Osman (conformed copy of Will)
- William Osman (nephew)
- J. M. Roberts
- George Schreiber
- John T. Stuart (1 item, addressed to Stuart)
- Willet Terry
- Jacob Walder
- W. H. L. Wallace (1 item, addressed to Wallace)
- George F. Weaver
- C. Witmer
WILLIAM OSMAN PAPERS INVENTORY

Folder No.


1. William Osman (Harrisburg, Pa.) to "Mr. G. I.H. F. W.____" [i.e., George F. Weaver?]. Feb. 29, 1836. (pp. 1-3).
2. William Osman (Harrisburg) to "Mother." June 7, 1836. (pp. 3-5).
3. "G. F. W._____" [i.e., George F. Weaver] (Aaronsburg, Pa.) to William Osman. Sept. 8, 1836. (pp. 5-7).
4. William Osman (near Gratz, Pa.) to "Frederick" [i.e., George F. Weaver] (Aaronsburg). Sept. 15, 1836. (pp. 7-10).
5. George F. Weaver (Aaronsburg) to William Osman. Nov. 14, 1836. (pp. 10-13).
6. William Osman (Harrisburg) to "Dear Brother" [i.e., Moses Osman] (Gratz). Apr. 18, 1837. (pp. 13-16).
7. Moses Osman (Gratz) to William Osman. Apr. 22, 1837. (pp. 16-18).
11. William Osman (Harrisburg) to "Nephew" [i.e., Jesse Klinger] (Lower Mahantango). June 21, 1837. (pp. 20-22).
17. "Speech on the question 'Do the signs of the Times indicate the downfall of the republic?' Delivered before the Jefferson Debating Society on the 10th of Nov. 1837." (pp. 29-31).
18. "Speech delivered before the Young men's Debating Society on the Question: 'Should Negro Slavery in the U.S. be immediately abolished,' on the 8th of January, 1837" [i.e., 1838]. (pp. 32-34).
20. "Speech delivered before the young men's Debating Society on the 22 of January, 1838, on the Question: 'Is Trades' Union beneficial to the community?" (pp. 36-39).


24. William Osman (Gettysburg, Pa.) to "Dear Weirich" [i.e., George F. Weaver?] May 26, 1838. (pp. 41-42).

25. "W. F. Pentz" [i.e., George F. Weaver?] (Harrisburg) to William Osman. June 4, 1836 [i.e., 1838]. (pp. 42-43).


27. William Osman (Gettysburg) to Samuel Osman. June 14, 1838. (pp. 44-45).

28. William Osman (Gettysburg) to W. H. German (Harrisburg). July 5, 1838. (p. 45-47).


2 "Adventures of Joshua and William"--Nov. 1-11, 1838. 24 irregular pages, one partially cut off, and others partially defaced with pencil marks. (A chronology written in the satirical "travel adventure" tradition of Henry Fielding's Joseph Andrews and Tom Jones, telling of the travels of the two brothers in and around Dauphin County, Pennsylvania during the first days of November, 1838.)

3 Diary Fragments--Apr. 4-16, 1839. 12 pages, 13 entries (2 pages cut in half). (William Osman was working for a printer in Philadelphia at this time.)

4 Letters--1838. 6 items.

[See also the 14 entries in the Letter Book (Folder 1) with dates from Jan.-Aug. 1838].

1. From W. Dumon ?. Apr. 19, 1838. In a foreign language [German ?].

2. George Schreiber to Holyon (?). Aug. 1, 1838.
4. Unsigned. Sept. 8, 1838. Appears to be a draft of a letter from William Osman at college in Gettysburg to a brother.
5. George F. Weaver (Harrisburg) to William Osman (Gettysburg). Sept. 10, 1838.

[See also items for Nov. 1-11, 1838 in Folder 2].

6. Unsigned (Gettysburg) to William Osman. Dec. 5., 1838. Appears to be from a fellow college student; pages apparently missing.

5 Letters--1839. 21 items.

2. C. Witmer (Gettysburg) to William Osman (Pottstown, Pa.). c. Feb. 24, 1839.
7. John Hise (Harrisburg) to William Osman (Philadelphia). Mar. 29, 1839. This letter also includes a previous letter to Hise from a person whose name is illegible; Hise apparently reused the paper for his letter to Osman.

[See also diary entries for Apr. 4-16, 1839 in Folder 3.]

15. George F. Weaver (Harrisburg) to William Osman (unsigned and unaddressed, but author and recipient are apparent from the context). July 1, 1839.

6 Letters—1840. 8 items.
1. Samuel Osman (Bellefonte) to William Osman (Harrisburg). May 7, 1840.
2. George F. Weaver (Ottawa, Ill.) to William Osman (Harrisburg). May 25, 1840 [i.e., 1840].
3. George F. Weaver (Ottawa) to William Osman (Harrisburg). June 29, 1840.
4. Unsigned (Harrisburg) to William Osman (Ottawa). Aug. 21, 1840.
5. Moses Osman (Harrisburg) to William Osman. Sept. 29, 1840.

7 Letters—1841. 6 items.
2. Samuel Osman (Bellefonte) to William Osman (Ottawa). May 4, 1841.
8 Letters--1842. 3 items.

1. Willet Terry (Ottawa) to John T. Stuart [i.e., Stuart] (Washington City, D.C.). Jan. 3, 1842. [Stuart was a member of Congress at this time.]
3. Jacob Walder (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) to William Osman (Ottawa). May 9, 1842.

9 Letters--1843. 3 items.


10 Letters--1844. 4 items.


11 Letters--1845. 4 items.

1. B. C. Cook (Springfield, Il.) to William Osman (Ottawa). Jan. 20, 1845. (Includes a letter to the "Editors"--presumably of William Osman's Free Trader.)
2. Jacob Walder (Wilkes-Barre) to William Osman (Ottawa). June 29, 1845.

12 Letters--1846. 1 item.

1. Jacob Hise (Ottaway [sic.]) to "Son" (Pittsburgh, Pa.). Mar. 22, 1846.
13 Letters--1847. 1 item.

1. William Osman (Saltillo, Mexico) to W. H. L. Wallace (1st Ill. Vol.). Apr. 12, 1847.

14 Letters--Unascertainable Date. 8 items.

1. Undated. Unsigned. Appears to be a draft of a school essay on the "witty" use of language.
2. Undated. "W" [i.e., William Osman]. Appears to be an essay on the timelessness of defaming prominent people. [According to the Webster's New International Dictionary, unabridged 2nd edition, a "Roorback" (or "Roorbach") is a defamatory falsehood published for political effect. It states further that the word originated in 1844, when there was published, to the detriment of James K. Polk, then a candidate for President, an extract purporting to be from Roorback's Tour through the Western and Southern States in 1836.]
3. William Osman [nephew of William Osman] (St. Louis) to William Osman (Ottawa). Aug. 20, 1847. Nephew writes his uncle asking for money, as he is sick and cannot pay rent; nephew's landlord, H. G. Barrett, also encloses a note, entreating uncle to pay nephew's debt.
4. Undated. Unsigned to "Dear brother."
6. Fragment of letter, with signature "Cousin Barney."

15 Legal Papers. 2 items.

2. Conformed copy of the Will of Robert Osman, dated Aug. 21, 1826; indicates Letters Testamentary granted to the Co-Executors under the Will by Register in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, on Mar. 23, 1831.

16 Obituary of William Osman. 2 items.

17 Newspapers. 6 items.

1. The Illinois State Register & Illinois Advocate, Friday, March 25, 1836.
2. (Reprint) The New York Herald, Saturday, April 15, 1865.
3. The Ottawa Free Trader, Saturday, March 2, 1867.
6. The Daily Times (Ottawa, Illinois), Special 150th Anniversary Section, Friday October 14, 1994 (cover showing pedigree of the newspaper, including William Osman and The Ottawa Free Trader).

18 Miscellaneous. 3 items.

1. Miscellaneous newspaper clippings regarding members of the Osman family, 1898-1946.