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Daniels, Percy (1840-1916), Collection, 1868-1976

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43 Daniels, Percy (1840-1916), Collection, 1868-1976
21 folders

INTRODUCTION

A collection of correspondence, financial and legal records, photographs, newspapers, writings, and miscellaneous materials pertaining to Percy Daniels and family.

DONOR INFORMATION

The bulk of the collection was a gift from Edith Martin in 1995. The transcription and photocopy of a letter from Percy Daniels on February 14, 1910, was a gift from Arnie and Carolyn Maddox in 2000.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Percy Daniels (1840-1916) was born in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Orphaned at the age of six, he was educated at Westminster Seminary in Vermont and the University Grammar School in Providence, Rhode Island, where he trained to be a civil engineer. During the Civil War, Daniels enlisted in the Union Army where he advanced to the rank of colonel. After the war he worked surveying railroads in the South, but was not happy with the prospects there. He migrated west to near present-day Girard, Kansas, with his newly wedded wife, Eliza Ann Eddy, in 1868. The couple owned and operated a farm and general store and would have four children that survived to adulthood. In 1873 the family moved back to New England where Daniels was a city engineer for Worcester, Massachusetts, and oversaw his brother's estate. In 1881, when the family moved back to their farm in Kansas, Daniels became the county surveyor for Crawford County, Kansas. He became a supporter of Populism, wrote books and pamphlets on government reform, and bought the Girard Herald newspaper in 1890 to spread his political ideology. In 1892 he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Kansas on the Populist ticket, and would be instrumental in settling the coal miners' strike in southeast Kansas in 1893. Following his retirement from public office after one term, Daniels remained a Populist theorist and political philosopher until his death.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Percy Daniels Collection consists mostly of correspondence received by Walter H. Daniels, financial and legal records, newspapers, and the writings of Percy Daniels. Financial and legal records consist mostly of mortgage documents. The newspapers include one issue of a newspaper from Daniels' home town of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and clippings of articles that Percy Daniels wrote. Also included are photocopies of books and pamphlets that were written by Percy Daniels. The collection has been arranged into eight series: **Correspondence, Financial and Legal, Will and Testament, Photographs, Newspapers, Writings, Biographical,** and **Miscellaneous.**

The **Correspondence Series** contains correspondence that dates from 1885 to 1918 with most of the letters written to the second eldest son, Walter H. Daniels, from various family

members and friends. Letters include information about the daily happenings around Girard, Kansas, and rural Crawford County, Kansas.

The **Financial and Legal Series** consists mostly of mortgage documents of the Daniels family from 1868 to 1916. The series includes original documents about the purchase of property near present day Girard, Kansas, dating from 1868.

The **Will and Testament Series** consists of Percy Daniels' original will, documentation of changes in the will, and other documents reflecting how the Percy Daniels' estate was divided. This includes list of items that were taken from the estate. This series dates from 1912 to circa 1916.

The **Photograph Series** consists of original and reprinted photographs from circa 1862 to circa 1900. Most of the photographs are of Percy Daniels, but there are a few photographs of his wife, Eliza Ann Eddy Daniels, and their house in Crawford County, Kansas. Some negatives are included.

The **Newspaper Series** dates from 1868 to 1950. This series includes a complete newspaper from Woonsocket, Rhode Island, clippings of articles written by Percy Daniels, as well as obituaries of Percy Daniels and family members.

The **Writings Series** includes copies of Percy Daniels' published works dated from 1889 to 1908. Books included are: A Crisis for the Husbandman; The Free Coinage of American Labor into Honest Dollars; Cutting the Gordian Knot; The Conquering March of Capital; and Swollen Fortunes and the Problem of the Unemployed.

The **Biographical Series** contains multiple short biographies of Percy Daniels as well as the drafts for some of these biographies. Items date from 1903 to 1976.

The **Miscellaneous Series** consists of items dating from 1896 to 1973. Items include a physical health record of Walter Daniels, a copied excerpt of an Official Kansas Roster, a Catalog of Practical Books, and a pamphlet titled What We Owe and How to Pay It by A. Layman. Also included is a book titled Field Engineering once owned by Walter Daniels.

FOLDER LIST

Correspondence Series

- f. 1 September 10, 1885-December 2, 1895
- f. 2 February 2, 1886-January 10, 1897
- f. 3 January 16, 1897-March 17, 1897
- f. 4 March 22, 1897-May 30, 1897
- f. 5 July 16, 1897-April 24, 1902

Correspondence Series (continued)

- f. 6 May 28, 1902-April 9, 1903
- f. 7 May 29, 1903-October 25, 1903
- f. 8 November 1, 1903-September 22, 1918

Financial and Legal Series

- f. 9 June 6, 1868-June 21, 1886
- f. 10 September 1, 1887-February 16 1916

Will and Testament Series

- f. 11 May 12, 1912-circa 1916

Photographs Series

- f. 12 circa 1862-circa1900

Newspaper Series

- f. 13 October 30, 1868-January 14, 1950

Writing Series

- f. 14 1889
- f. 15 1895
- f. 16 1896
- f. 17 1897
- f. 18 1908

BIOGRAPICAL SERIES

- f. 19 1903-1976

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- f. 20 1896-1973
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