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Moorland-Spingarn Research Center
Howard University Washington, D.C.

EUGENE C. DAVIDSON Collection
Collection 91-1 to 91-5

Prepared by:
W. Paul Coates
August 1984

Manuscript Division

Scope Note

The Eugene Davidson collection was donated to Howard University by Dr. Edmonia Davidson, wife of Eugene Davidson. The collection is approximately 1/2 linear feet in size and spans the years 1912 to 1963. The years best documented by the collection are 1933 to 1940.

The collection contains correspondence, photographs, news-clippings, leaflets and programs, most of which pertain to civil rights organizations in Washington, D.C. There is especially strong documentation on the New Negro Alliance and its struggle to obtain jobs for "Negro" workers. Of particular interest is a series of editorials Mr. Davidson wrote for the Washington Daily American, one of three small Black newspapers for which he served as editor. (The other two newspapers were the Washington World and the Washington Tribune). The editorials, published in 1925, are located in Series A.

The collection documents Eugene Davidson and other early Washington, D.C. civil rights activists noted among these activists is George Rycraw. Like Mr. Davidson, Mr. Rycraw was an administrator of the New Negro Alliance (N.N.A.), and actively involved with other civic action groups. Materials pertaining to Mr. Rycraw can be found in Series B and C.

The photographs in this collection include Eugene Davidson as a young high school student and later as a commissioned officer during World War I. This series also includes a poster with an early photograph of William Leo Hansberry.

Researchers using this collection may also be interested in the several recorded interviews with Mr. Davidson which are part of the Oral History collection at Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

Biographical Data

- 1896 May 3 Born Eugene C. Davidson, to Shelby and Lenora Coates Davidson.
Attended and graduated from M Street High School, (now Dunbar)
Washington, D.C.
- 1917 Graduated Harvard University. Commissioned captain during WWI
- 1925 Graduated Howard University Law School.
- 1939 Served as administrator of the New Negro Alliance.
- 1940 Served as chairman, Washington Civil Committee.
- 1941-1946 Served as Associate National Director of Field Operations for the
President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.
- 1947 Founded real estate firm Eugene Davidson Inc.
- 1952-1958 Served as president of Washington, D.C. Branch, N.A.A.C.P.
- 1973 Retired from real estate practice.
- 1976 March 6 Died, Washington, D.C.

Source: Eugene Davidson Collection

Series Description

- Series A Personal Papers
Box 91-1 This series contains obituaries, news clippings, and writings by and about Eugene Davidson, including the editorials he wrote for the Washington Daily American in 1925. It also contains certificates, employment evaluation, and correspondence related to his appointment as a Real Estate Commissioner.
- Series B New Negro Alliance (N.N.A.)
Box 91-1 to 91-2 This series contains correspondence, reports, news clippings, press releases, membership and meeting announcements.
- Series C Other Organizational Affiliations And Activities
Box 91-2 to 91-3 This series includes correspondence, brochures, news clippings and organizational announcements. Some of the organizations included are the Washington, D.C. branch N.A.A.C.P., Washington Civil Rights Committee, and the Harlem Stock Exchange.
- Series D Photographs
Box 91-3 This series includes photographs of Eugene Davidson, World War I training camp scenes, N.N.A. members and civil rights demonstrations. The series includes a poster with an early picture of William Leo Hansberry.
- Series E Oversize Items
Item 91-4 to 91-6 This series contains certificates belonging to Eugene Davidson; and a newspaper advertisement about the New Alliance.

Container List

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Series A | Personal Papers |
| Box | Folder |
| 91-1 | 1 Obituaries |
| | 2 Newsclippings about Eugene Davidson |
| | 3 "Why we honor Eugene Davidson" |
| | 4 "White phosphorus in matches and its substances" by Eugene Davidson |
| | 5 Washington Daily American editorial by Eugene Davidson |
| | 6 Washington Daily American editorials by Eugene Davidson |
| | 7 Certificate - First Lieutenant, Company of the High School Cadets..., 1912
(Xerox copy) |
| | 8 Certificate - Y.M.C.A. Bible Study, 1912 |
| | 9 Certificate - Eugene Davidson appointment as notary public for the District of
Columbia, 1930 (Xerox copy) |
| | 10 Civil Service Efficiency Rating |
| | 11 Correspondence re: appointment as Real Estate Commissioner |
| Series B | New Negro Alliance (N.N.A.) |
| 91-1 | 12 Newsclippings - N.N.A. activities |
| | 13 Newsclippings - N.N.A. activities |
| | 14 "Theory of the Alliance" |
| | 15 Brief statement of aims and objectives |
| | 16 N.N.A. constitution and bylaws |
| | 17 N.N.A. minutes, October 10, 1935 |
| | 18 New Negro Opinion April 28, May 12, 1934 |
| | 19 New Negro Opinion April 13, 1935 |
| | 20 New Negro Alliance BI - Monthly Council Vol, I, No.2 October 8, 1935
Vol, II, No.2 October 22, 1935 |
| | 21 N.N.A, Executive Council - 1939 |
| | 22 N.N.A. Annual Report - 1939 |
| | 23 Correspondence to and from Eugene
Davidson |
| | 24 Correspondence to George Rycraw |
| | 25 Correspondence from George Rycraw |
| | 26 Correspondence to and from Doxey Wilkerson |

Container List

- Series B
Box
91-1
- New Negro Alliance (N.N.A.) (cont.)
Folder
27 Correspondence - cases committee - to and from Eugene Davidson and other N.N.A. officials
28 Correspondence - form letters from and organizations
29 Reports - cases committee
30 Peoples Drug Store (PDS) - news releases
31 P.D.S. picket assignments blank forms
32 P.D.S. picket leaflets
33 P.D.S. picket leaflets
34 P.D.S. picket leaflets
35 P.D.S. picket - form letters to individuals and organizations
36 P.D.S. picket - form letters to individuals and organizations
- Series C
91-2
- 1 P.D.S. picket - assignments
2 P.D.S. reports on picket
3 P.D.S. picket - survey
4 P.D.S. picket - joint council of teachers union in Washington
5 P.D.S. picket - United Retail Employees Assoc.
6 "Collegiate Auxiliary..." Walter Washington, Pres.
7 Court of Appeals - N.N.A. v.s. Harry Kaufman Inc., January 1934
8 Fifth anniversary of the Alliance
9 High's Inc. Cream Company
10 Legislative and court documents Re: Civil Rights
11 Meeting and membership announcements
12 Eugene Davidson - statement concerning Northwest Health Center
13 James Reese Europe Post No. 5 Resolution
14 Sanitary Grocery Co. Inc.
15 Sanitary Grocery Co., Inc. (Safeway) picket
16 Washington Civil Rights (WCRC) committee-Press Releases
17 WCRC Executive committee members
18 WCRC correspondence
20 WCRC - correspondence from Frank D. Reeves
21 WCRC - correspondence from Gertrude B. Stone
22 WCRC - Abraham Lincoln Civil Rights mass meeting
23 WCRC - H.R. 8896: A Bill to Provide...accommodations in D.C.
24 Holographic notes
25 American friends of Spanish Democracy correspondence - form letter
26 American league for peace and democracy -call to conference
27 Associated Negro Press - Eugene Davidson correspondence to an from Claude Barnett
28 Associated Negro Press - news clippings; Re: "The Black Cabinet"

Container List

- Series C Other Organizational Affiliations and Activities (cont.)
- Box Folder
- 91-2 29 Associated Negro Press - news article "The Black Cabinet in the New Deal" by Eugene Davidson
- 30 Associated Negro Press - press release ... Eugene Davidson resigns position on staff of Associated Negro Press ...
- 31 Citizens Committee for Medical Freedom -protest stickers
- 32 Citizens Committee for Progressive Action - stationary
- 33 Citizens Committee on Fair Taxation
- 34 Citizens Conference on District suffrage conference information
- 35 Civil Liberties Quarterly September, 1938
- 36 The CIO News December 18, 1939
- 37 Federal workers school - fall announcement 1938
- 38 Fifteenth Infantry, New York Guard - menu- dinner tendered to Colonel William Jay Scheffelin October 6, 1920
- 39 First, Washington Youth Conference - publicity leaflet
- 40 "The Harlem Stock Exchange"
- 41 Howard University Alumni Journal Commencement 1936
- 42 Negro March on Washington Committee - press release
- 43 "The Birth of Executive Order 8802" Eugene Davidson
- 44 N.A.A.C.P. - speech by Eugene Davidson "A Negro's Concept of Loyalty" Feb. 9, 1941
- 45 N.A.A.C.P. - correspondence -concerning Davidson's speech "A Negro's Concept of Loyalty"
- 46 N.A.A.C.P. - Annual campaign mass meeting April 9, 1945
- 47 N.A.A.C.P. - membership campaign - 1946
- 48 N.A.A.C.P. - Washington, D.C. School Board Controversy, An Analysis by Eugene Davidson, Feb. 1954
- 49 N.A.A.C.P. - "The 1955 Record of Militant Service..."
- 91-3 1 N.A.A.C.P. - Pre-publication announcement complete answer to defamation
- 2 N.A.A.C.P. - testimonial dinner ... in honor of Eugene Davidson, June 26, 1959
- 3 N.A.A.C.P. - response of Eugene Davidson delivered at testimonial, June 26, 1959
- 4 The National Capital Country Club
- 5 The National Negro Congress
- 6 The National Negro Congress - correspondence to George Rycraw
- 7 National Negro Hospital Foundation -interview, Paul V. McNutt and Rev. Amos H. Carnegie
- 8 Social Questions Bulletin April, 1940
- 9 Statement of Eugene Davidson before Board of Commissioners District of Columbia, July 26, 1963

Container List

- Series C Other Organizational Affiliations and Activities
Box Folder
91-3 10 United Federal Workers of America - publicity materials
 11 The Veterans Organizations of D.C. memorial day services, May 29, 1938
 12 The Voice - weekly bulletin of the Liberty Baptist Church, July 10, 1938
 13 Washington Industrial Union Council - announcements
 14 Washington Industrial Union Council - minutes of meeting, December 19,
 1938
 15 Works Progress Administration – news releases
 16 Y.M.C.A. Hidden Talent Revue, May 9, 1959
- Series D Photographs
91-3 17 The Lilliputians - M Street High School 1913 basketball team - Eugene
 Davidson, Kelly Miller Jr. and others
 18 Eugene Davidson, Harry (Kazlow), Ollie Lewis
 20 Eugene Davidson and others picketing Peoples Drug Store
 21 N.A.A.C.P. membership campaign -Eugene Davidson and others
 22 Eugene Davidson and Washington, D.C. Board of Commissioners
 23 Colonel Charles Young
 24 Fort Des Moines, camp scenes and individuals
 25 N.N.A. members
 26 Negroes employed as a result of N.N.A. efforts
 27 Rev. F.D. Thorton
 28 U.S. Supreme Court Justices - 1937
 29 Civil Rights Demonstration- 1963 Unidentified photograph from N.N.A. files
 30 Unidentified individuals
 31 Peoples Drug Store window
 32 Poster - "Ancient African Civilizations and their Significance" a lecture
 by William Leo Hansberry, Feb. 7, 1922
- Item E Oversized Items
91-4 Certificate -... First Lieutenant, Company B. of the High School Cadets...
 November 11, 1912, (Original) Use Copy in Box 91-1, Folder #5
- 91-5 Certificate - Eugene Davidson's appointment as notary public for the District
 of Columbia, October 31, 1930 (Original) use copy in folder Box 91-1,
 Folder #7
- 91-6 Newspaper Ad- "Washington's own NEW NEGRO ALLIANCE seven years of
 Civic Service" November 30, 1949 (original) copy in Box 91-1, Folder #7