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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<br>(Xerox copy)                    |
|          | 8 Certificate - Y.M.C.A. Bible Study, 1912  |
|          | 9 Certificate - Eugene Davidson appointment as notary public for the District of<br>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<br>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<br>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
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- 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
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- 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