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DANIEL ALEXANDER MURRAY PAPERS

Collection 73-1

Prepared by:
Wilda D. Logan
June 1980

Scope Note

The Daniel Murray papers span « linear foot and cover the period from 1872 to 1937. Included are correspondence of Murray from 1911 to 1917 and of his wife, Anna, from 1908 to 1937. Legal papers of Mrs. Murray spanning the period 1899 to 1937 are also included.

The collection includes detailed biographical notes, mainly holo-graphic, on Benjamin Banneker, Alexander Hamilton, Charles E.M. Brooks and others, which were to be included in Murray's proposed Historical and Biographical Encyclopedia of the Colored Race Throughout the World.

Twenty years of research were put into the encyclopedia which was to include 25,000 biographical sketches and an extensive bibliography on the history of the Black man, but the project was never completed or published. Photographs, clippings, programs and invitations relating to Murray and his research projects are also included.

Published letters, by Murray on the controversial school policies of Roscoe C. Bruce, Assistant Superintendent in charge of the colored schools in the District of Columbia, appeared in The Citizen between December 1909 and July 1910 and copies of these issues are included in the collection. Two official investigative reports, one from the U.S. Senate and one from the District of Columbia Board of Education on the controversial administration of Roscoe Bruce are also in the collection .

Daniel Murray and his wife were very influential members of the Washington's social elite. Requests for Mrs. Murray's support and aid to advance the civic and educational programs, as noted in her correspondence, give evidence of her influence and respect in the community.

Daniel Murray began his illustrious career at the Library of Congress in 1871 and rendered exceptional service until his retirement fifty-one years later. It was during his long tenure that he was assigned "curator" of a Negro collection that was prepared for the Paris Exposition of 1900, which was later called the Murray collection". He published a biblio-

graphy of the collection entitled Preliminary List of Books and Pamphlets by Negro Authors, which was a landmark bibliography of the American Black experience.

Biographical Sketch

- 1852 March 3 Born in Baltimore, Md. son of George and Eliza (Wilson) Murray.
- 1869 Graduate from the Unitarian Seminary in Baltimore.
- 1871 Began career at the Library of Congress.
- 1874-1897 Appointed personal assistant to Ainsworth R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress.
- 1879 April 2 Married Ann Evans of Oberlin, Ohio - fathered seven children.
- 1880 Appointed Assistant Librarian during his tenure of service at the Library of Congress he did research on his proposed six volume work Historical and Biographical Encyclopedia of the Colored Race Throughout the World.
- 1900 Published Preliminary List of Books and Pamphlets by Negro Authors for the Paris Exposition and the Library of Congress
- 1921 Collaborated in writing Banneker, The Afro-American-Astronomer.
- 1922 Retired after over fifty-one years of service at the Library of Congress.
- 1925 Died in Washington, D.C.

Series Description

- Series A Correspondence
- Box 73-1 Correspondence of Daniel Murray dealing with the publication of his encyclopedia and that of his

wife, Anna dealing with her civil activities.
Included are Anna's legal papers.

Series B Notes

Box 73-1 Biographical notes of persons to be included in his publication, some detailed information specially on Benjamin Banneker; publisher's notes on binding; most of the notes-are holographic.

Series C Printed Materials

Box 73-1 Included are, a printed mailing list, reports, publications, programs, and invitations, postcards, advertisements and addresses.

Series D Clippings

Box 73-1 Newspaper clippings.

Series E Photographs

Box 73-1 Photographs of George A. Myers, Henrietta Leary Evans, (framed), three prints of Murray and several unidentified prints.

Container List

A Correspondence

Box 73-1 Folder 1 Murray, Anna E. - correspondence
A-Z
2 Murray, Anna E. - Legal Papers
1899-1937
3 Murray, Daniel E. - correspondence
A-B
4 Murray, Daniel - correspondence
C-L
5 Murray, Daniel - correspondence
M-Z

B Notes

6 Biographical
7 Publishers
8 General

C Printed Material

- 9 List of names
- 10 Washington, D.C.- Public
School - 2 reports
- 11 The Citizen
- 12 Murray's Historical and
Biographical Encyclopedia
title page to prospector
- 13 Programs/invitations
- 14 Post cards
- 15 Advertisements
- 16 Address at the dedication of the
Houdon Statue of
President Washington,
State Capitol, Richmond, VA
as of 5/14/1796

D Clippings

17 Clippings

- 6 -

E Photographs

Box 73-1

- Folder 18 Photographs - Daniel
Murray (3 prints) others
(5)
- 19 Photograph - Henrietta Leary
Evans (framed)