MURRY, Daniel

MSRC Staff

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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 holographic, 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.

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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.


1922  Retired after over fifty-one years of service at the Library of Congress.

1925  Died in Washington, D.C.

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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

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Murray, Anna E. - correspondence A-Z</td>
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<td>Murray, Anna E. - Legal Papers 1899-1937</td>
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| 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

E  Photographs
Box 73-1
Folder 18  Photographs - Daniel Murray (3 prints) others
       (5)
19  Photograph - Henrietta Leary Evans (framed)