

Nathan W. Daniels Diary and Scrapbook
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2015

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2002084934>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014083>

Prepared by Bennett Heggstad
Revised and expanded by by Connie L. Cartledge

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014
Revised 2016 March

Collection Summary

Title: Nathan W. Daniels Diary and Scrapbook

Span Dates: 1861-1867

ID No.: MSS84934

Creator: Daniels, Nathan W., 1836-1867

Extent: 5 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: 0.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2002084934>

Summary: Union army officer and lecturer and advocate for civil rights and the Freedmen's Bureau. Married Cora Hatch, Spiritualist medium and lecturer. Handwritten diary with photographs, illustrations, and newspaper clippings in three volumes kept by Daniels during his Civil War service and Reconstruction. The third volume was written primarily by his wife, Cora Hatch. Also included are a typescript of summaries and transcripts of the diaries by C. P. Weaver and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings assembled by Daniels or his wife.

Online Content: The diary and scrapbook of Nathan W. Daniels is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000039>.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Daniels, Nathan W., 1836-1867.

Richmond, Cora L. V. (Cora Linn Victoria), 1840-1923. Cora L.V. Richmond diary. 1866-1867.

Weaver, C. P., 1939-

Organizations

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

United States. Army. Native Guard Infantry Regiment, 2nd (1862-1863)

United States. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

Subjects

African American churches--Washington (D.C.)

Civil rights--United States.

Freedmen.

Lectures and lecturing--Middle West.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877).

Spiritualism--United States.

Theater--Washington (D.C.)

Places

Cuba (N.Y.)--History.

Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

New Orleans (La.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Ship Island (Miss.)--History.

Southern States--History--1865-1877.

United States--History--1865-1898.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, African American.

United States--Politics and government--1861-1865.

United States--Politics and government--1865-1877.

United States--Politics and government--1865-1877.

Washington (D.C.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Titles

Nathan W. Daniels Diary and Scrapbook at the Library of Congress

Nathan W. Daniels papers

Occupations

Army officers.

Lawyers.

Provenance

The diary of Nathan W. Daniels, Union army officer and lecturer and advocate for civil rights and the Freedmen's Bureau, was given to the Library of Congress by C. P. Weaver in 2002. A scrapbook was given as an addition to the collection by Weaver in 2015.

Processing History

The Nathan W. Daniels Diary was processed in 2005. The finding aid was created in 2014. The scrapbook addition was added to the collection in 2015.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Nathan W. Daniels is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The diary and scrapbook of Nathan W. Daniels are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Online Content

The diary and scrapbook of Nathan W. Daniels is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000039>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Nathan W. Daniels Diary and Scrapbook, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Nathan W. Daniels (1836-1867), spanning the years 1861-1867, consist of a handwritten diary with photographs, illustrations, and newspaper clippings mounted throughout the text in three volumes. Included are a typescript of summaries and transcripts of the diaries by C. P. Weaver, who donated the collection, and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings.

In volume one, Daniels describes his Civil War service with an African-American regiment, the U.S. Army 2nd Native Guard Infantry Regiment, chiefly while stationed at Ship Island, Mississippi, and his time in New Orleans during the summer and fall of 1863. In volume two, Daniels discusses military, political, and social affairs in Washington, D.C., during his years in the capital, 1863-1865. Subjects include civil rights, the creation of the Freedmen's Bureau (U.S. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands) in March 1864, radical Republicans, and the theater. Volume three was written primarily by Daniels's wife, the Spiritualist medium Cora Hatch (Cora L. V. Richmond). Topics include the Freedmen's Bureau, speaking engagements at African-American churches in Washington, D.C., a visit with her family in Cuba, N.Y., and a lecture tour of the Midwest.

An addition to the Nathan W. Daniels collection consists of a scrapbook of newspaper clippings, 1863-1867, probably assembled by Daniels or his wife. The scrapbook complements the topics and events chronicled in the diaries of Daniels and Hatch. The articles were usually written by Daniels under the pseudonym "Viator." They include references to either him or his wife or pertain to subjects of interest to the couple, such as African-American military service during the Civil War, the condition of freedpeople after the war, Reconstruction, and spiritualism, particularly Washington, D.C.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Diary
BOX 1	Vol. I, 1861, Dec.-1864, May Digital content available
BOX 1	Vol. II, 1864, May-1865, Dec. Digital content available
BOX 1	Vol. III, 1866-1867 Digital content available
BOX 1	Summaries and transcripts by C. P. Weaver
BOX 1	Folder 1 Digital content available
BOX 1	Folder 2 Digital content available
BOX 1	Folder 3 Digital content available
BOX 2	Addition, scrapbook, 1863-1867 Digital content available