

K Daniel Burns Dyer (1849-1912) Papers, 1866-1913
0168 0.75 cubic feet

MICROFILM

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at shsofmo-kc@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The papers contain correspondence, ephemera, clippings, pamphlets, scrapbooks, and photographs related to the Daniel B. Dyer, Native Americans, and Dyer's collection of Native American artifacts.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were received as a gift on 5/31/1984 (KA0246). An additional accession was received on 10/26/1984 (KA0258).

COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS

The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Daniel Burns Dyer was born March 21, 1849, in Joliet, Illinois. His father, George Randolph Dyer, was a successful farmer and merchant, who moved his family west in the early 1850s, settling first in Joplin, Missouri, then Pilot Knob, Missouri, and finally Baxter Springs, Kansas. At the age of 15, Dyer entered the United States Army and saw action in Arkansas and Missouri before the end of the Civil War. Shortly after the War ended, he married the daughter of ex-Governor Casey of Illinois and returned to Baxter Springs, where he operated a hardware business with a branch in Joplin, Missouri.

In 1880, Dyer was appointed Indian Agent to the Quapaw Agency, just south of Baxter Springs in the northwest corner of what was then Indian Territory. Four years later, he became the Agent for the Cheyenne-Arapahoe Agency at Darlington, Indian Territory. He is credited with moving the Modocs from Arizona and California to their reservation in the Indian Territory. While working at the Indian Agencies Dyer became friends with William F. 'Buffalo Bill' Cody. In 1885, Dyer resigned and moved to Kansas City where he worked with his brother-in-law, A. A. Whiting, in the real estate business.

At the opening of Oklahoma in 1889, Dyer went to Guthrie, Oklahoma, where he was elected its first mayor. However, he retired from this position after only a few months and returned to Kansas City. Early in 1890, Dyer went to Augusta, Georgia, where, with the Kansas City financial firm of Jarvis and Conkling, he purchased the Augusta Street Railway Company. With Dyer as president, the company expanded and

prospered. Daniel Dyer is also credited with building in 1891 the first modern office building in Augusta and with the establishment of two urban parks in that city. He invested in the Augusta Chronicle and served as president of the publishing company which printed the paper until 1911.

In October 1904, Dyer gave his excellent collection of Native American, Filipino, and Mexican artifacts to the City of Kansas City. These materials had been displayed at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago and later at an exposition in Atlanta, Georgia, where it drew much attention. The collection, which consisted of over 60,000 items, was housed at the Kansas City Public Library until about 1940 when it was transferred to the Kansas City Museum.

Dyer continued to own real estate in both Augusta and Kansas City until his death. He wintered in Georgia and returned to Kansas City in the summer. He died in Kansas City after a lingering illness on December 22, 1912.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers consist of correspondence, ephemera, government forms, clippings, pamphlets, copies of the journal *Council Fire*, scrapbooks, and photographs. The correspondence includes telegrams and letters. The collection also includes items such as land lease agreements, cash receipt rolls, and railroad liability policies. Clippings include articles and advertisements from various newspapers covering a variety of topics including politics; the flood of 1908; Col. Jordan's American Indian Village; and the death of Col. Daniel Burns Dyer. Pamphlets include a number of publications related to and published by Native Americans. The papers also include issues of *Council Fire*, a monthly journal published in Washington D. C. concerning the history, character, social life, religious traditions, and legends of the American Indian.

The papers also include three scrapbooks. Scrapbook 1 contains death notifications, marriage announcements, poems, instructional and political articles, obituaries. At the end of the scrapbook are a number of articles on Col. Daniel B. Dyer and related pictures. Scrapbook 2 contains photographs of Native Americans and information on tribes and relics. The scrapbook also contains articles on Dyer's collection. Scrapbook 3 contains clippings and letters on Native Americans and Dyer's collection of Indian items. Due to preservation concerns, researchers are asked to use the microfilm version of the scrapbooks.

The papers also include two 1911 photographs: one shows William F. 'Buffalo Bill' Cody on horseback, and the other is a studio portrait of William F. Cody and D. B. Dyer.

The entire collection is available on microfilm. The first reel contains folders 1-17, and the second reel contains the scrapbooks. Oversize scrapbooks and photographs have been removed to a flat box.

PREFERRED CITATION

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Daniel Burns Dyer (1849-1912) Papers (K0168)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Correspondence, ephemera, and related documents, 1880-1885 (oversize)
- f. 2 Correspondence, ephemera, and related documents, 1890-1895
- f. 3 Correspondence, ephemera, and related documents, 1900-1906
- f. 4 Correspondence, ephemera, and related documents, n.d.
- f. 5 Clippings – D. B. Dyer, 1881-1889
- f. 6 Clippings – D. B. Dyer, 1912
- f. 7 Clippings – D. B. Dyer, n.d.
- f. 8 Clippings – Miscellaneous, 1866-1894
- f. 9 Clippings – Miscellaneous, 1904-1908
- f. 10 Clippings – Buffalo Bill and Scouts, 1911-1913
- f. 11 Pamphlets, 1878
 - Circular in Reference to American Archaeology, 1878
 - Speech of Congressman Dudley C. Haskell, 1878
- f. 12 Pamphlets, 1881-1889 (1 of 2)
 - The Hallaquah, 2/1881
 - The Hallaquah, 5/1881
 - William Resor and Co.'s Almanac, 1882
 - The Indian Rights Association, 1883
 - Report of a Visit to the Great Sioux Reserve, Dakota, 1883
 - The New Era, 3/1884
- f. 13 Pamphlets, 1881-1889 (2 of 2)
 - Cheyenne Transporter, 11/5/1884
 - Cheyenne Transporter, 5/15/1885
 - Cheyenne Transporter, 8/15/1885
 - Cheyenne Transporter, 1/12/1886
 - Public Law – No. 87, 1886
 - Indian Rights Association, 1889
- f. 14 Pamphlets, 1890-1896
 - House of Representatives, Report No. 3147 re: Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, 1890
 - D. B. Dyer's Private Collection of Indian Curiosities from Different Indian Tribes exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893
 - Southern Development by Col. Daniel B. Dyer, Young Men's Business League, ca. 1894
 - The Chemawa American, 7/15/1896
- f. 15 Pamphlets, 1903-1907
 - Native American, 1/10/1903
 - Books on Indians and General Literature, 1903
 - Native American, 4/29/1905

- Field Notes, 12/1905
Uniform Rules and Regulations re: Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities, 1906
Public Law – No. 209, 1906
Native American, 7/7/1906
Native American, 10/27/1906
The Earth, 5/1907
Nucleus of Southwestern Museum, n.d.
- f. 16 *Council Fire*, 1881-1887 (incomplete) (1 of 2)
f. 17 *Council Fire*, 1881-1887 (incomplete) (2 of 2)
f. 18 Scrapbook 1, ca. 1872 – ca. 1898
f. 20 Scrapbook 2, ca. 1883 – ca. 1901 (oversize)
f. 19 Scrapbook 3, ca. 1896 – ca. 1906 (oversize)
f. 21 Photographs, 1911 (oversize)
 William F. 'Buffalo Bill' Cody on horseback, 2/26/1911
 Daniel B. Dyer and William F. 'Buffalo Bill' Cody, 12/1911

LOCATION NOTE

The majority of the collection is stored offsite (133360) and will need to be retrieved before viewing. Microfilm reels of the loose textual items, photographs, and scrapbooks are stored onsite. Oversize scrapbooks and photographs have been removed to a flat box stored onsite.

SUBJECT TERMS

Curiosities and wonders
Indians of North America – Antiquities

Processed 3/2016.