Daniels, Herbert, 1836-1899 (MSS 500)

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Biographical Note

Herbert Daniels, the son of David Daniels (1804-1847) and Nancy Ballou (1815-1846), and the older brother of civil engineer and Kansas lieutenant governor Percy Daniels (1840-1916), was born near Woonsocket, Rhode Island on 1 October 1836. His father was a prominent Rhode Island lawyer and judge and his mother was the daughter of a wealthy businessman, but both parents died when Daniels was still a child.

On 30 June 1862, Daniels enlisted as a private in Rhode Island's 7th Infantry; his brother Percy served in the same regiment. Daniels served in “B” Company until his transfer to “C” Company in 1 February 1865. Mustered out of service on 9 June 1865, he returned to Rhode Island where he became a surveyor in Providence. On 16 March 1868 in Boston, Massachusetts, Daniels married Elizabeth LaPierre, but she obtained a divorce approximately five years later. Daniels then married Salina Ann (Brewster) Waterson in Hampton, Connecticut on 5 December 1873. Salina was previously married to William Waterson and had two daughters, Florence Nightingale Waterson (1855-1936) and Hannah Maria Waterson (1857-1922).

Salina died on 27 September 1882 in Providence, Rhode Island. In his later years, Daniels sank into poverty and became increasingly reclusive but, according to an article in the Pawtucket (Rhode Island) Times of 29 November 1899, refused offers of aid. He died on 26 November 1899.

Collection Note

This collection consists of letters written from 1863-1865 by Herbert Daniels to Salina Ann (Brewster) Waterson while she was living in Worcester, Massachusetts and he was serving with the 7th Rhode Island Infantry in four locations: Lexington, Kentucky; Point Isabel (now Burnside), Kentucky; Annapolis, Maryland; and Washington, D.C. Although the two did not marry until 1873, these letters, together with other letters not a part of this collection (see typescripts in Folder 1), show that their relationship dates to at least 1862.

The letters in this collection indicate that the couple wrote to each other frequently; in addition, Salina sent Herbert articles such as newspapers and clothing. The letters also make...
clear that they enjoyed a sexual relationship that long predated their marriage and that Herbert is anxious to resume. He writes in intimate terms, wishing that he could kiss, “tickle” and “punish” her, bathe with her, “inflict happiness” on her, and sleep between her “stones,” and fantasizes about their future encounters. He also gossips about the sexual activities of fellow soldiers. While stationed in Washington, D.C., he refers to action against two officers for “certain unfavorable influences,” likely sexual misconduct, and incidents of drunkenness. He writes of camp life, mentions brother Percy’s military and personal activities, and in February 1864 describes the arrival of a deserter at Point Isabel who, ill with consumption, marries his pregnant bride in the guardhouse and then escapes. Military matters mentioned in the letters include the Second Battle of Fort Sumter (1863); a guerrilla attack and burning of the courthouse at Mt. Sterling, Kentucky (1863); the Battles of Wilmington and Petersburg (1865); and, in a letter written on the day of President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination, of military movements around Washington, D.C.

SHELF LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Herbert Daniels</th>
<th>1863-1865</th>
<th>26 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory and associated data, including typescripts of other Daniels letters written from 1862-1864</td>
<td>3 items</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters to Salina A. (Brewster) Waterson</td>
<td>1863</td>
<td>8 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters to Salina A. (Brewster) Waterson</td>
<td>Jan.-April 1864</td>
<td>8 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Letters to Salina A. (Brewster) Waterson</td>
<td>Oct. 1864-Apr. 1865</td>
<td>7 items</td>
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</tbody>
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS DANIELS, Herbert, 1863-1865
505 1836-1899

Letters of Herbert Daniels, serving with the 7th Rhode Island Infantry, to Salina A. (Brewster) Waterson in Worcester, Massachusetts. He reports on camp life in Kentucky, Maryland and Washington, D.C., gossips about other soldiers, and makes candid references to his sexual relationship with Salina.

½ box. 4 folders. 26 items. Originals.
SC2014.118.1
SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Civil War, 1861-1865 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – Mt. Sterling, 1863  B1,F2
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – Wilmington, North Carolina, 1865  B1,F4
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – Fort Sumter, South Carolina – 1863  B1,F2
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – Petersburg, Virginia, 1865  B1,F5
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Military life, 1863-1865
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Sex
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Soldiers from – Rhode Island
Daniels, Percy, 1840-1916 – Relating to  B1,F2,3
Waterson, Salina Ann (Brewster), 1828-1882 – Letters to  B1,F2-4

Niedermeier/Jeffrey  10/30/2014