

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Herrick Family Papers

Summary Information

Repository

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

Creator

unidentified

Title

Herrick Family Papers

Identifier

DA 559

Date

1868-1940

Physical Description

5 boxes

Physical Location

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

Language of the Material

English

Abstract

D-Cady Herrick was a prominent Albany lawyer, jurist, and democratic politician whose influence and recognition extended to the national level during the late 19th and early 20th century.

This collection contains correspondence, clippings, obituaries, scrapbooks, ledger books, and other business records.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Herrick Family Papers, 1868-1940, DA 559. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions on Access

None

Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the Albany Institute of History & Art Library will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Archivist/Librarian.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession: # unidentified

Accession Source/Date: D-Cady Herrick's granddaughter, date unidentified

Processing Information

Processed by S. McCloud, October 1990; finding aid updated by H. Cox, August 2021.

Biographical/Historical

D-Cady Herrick was a prominent Albany lawyer, jurist, and democratic politician whose influence and recognition extended to the national level during the late 19th and early 20th century. Born in Esperance, Schoharie County, New York, on April 12, 1846, Herrick's father Johnathan wanted to name his son after his friend David Cady, but not wanting to use two given names, shortened it to the hyphenated D-Cady. The family later moved to Albany where the young Herrick studied at the Albany Classical Institute and later at the Albany Law School. He earned his law degree in 1868 and as an attorney,

gained early public recognition by his trial defense of accused murderer Emil Lowenstein in 1874. Although Lowenstein was convicted, Herrick won widespread acclaim for his efforts. One of those who noticed him was Albany political boss Daniel Manning, who also owned the Albany Argus newspaper. Always interested in politics, the young Herrick was taken under the wing of democrat Manning, who saw in Herrick the makings of a loyal and potentially formidable political ally.

Herrick's first bid for political office came in 1877 when he ran unsuccessfully for district attorney of Albany County. In spite of the loss, he was again the democrat's candidate for the same office in 1880, this time successful. Herrick was apparently a competent district attorney in spite of his devoting a great deal of time helping Manning run the Albany democratic machine. By 1885 Herrick had become Manning's right hand man and had a great deal of say in granting political favors and patronage in Albany County. As a result of his growing party responsibilities, Herrick resigned as district attorney in 1885 and was appointed to the position of corporation council for the city of Albany. The position carried a lucrative salary of \$6,000 per year and allowed Herrick to devote more time to party activities.

At the 1883 state democratic convention, the Albany machine and Herrick supported Grover Cleveland for president. Herrick played a key role in the political maneuvering that carried the convention for Cleveland. After his election as president, Cleveland rewarded Daniel Manning's political loyalty by appointing him to the job of Secretary of the Treasury. This left Herrick in control of the Albany County democratic machine. He was elected as state committee chairman of the party in 1885 despite opposition from Governor David Hill and the Tammany Hall wing of the party. In time however, Hill was able to undermine Herrick's control of the state party organization, leaving him to control only Albany County.

In 1891, Herrick made it known in political circles that he would be favorably disposed to accepting a judgeship in the state. His stature and influence got him his wish and he was nominated and elected to the state supreme court in 1892. When the state established a court of appeals as its highest court in 1894, Herrick received an appointment as one of its seven members. His political career reached its zenith in 1904 when he was nominated as the democrats compromise candidate for governor. Herrick lost the race in part because of his reputation as a back room, dealmaking politician, at a time when Teddy Roosevelt and progressivism were gaining mass support.

Herrick's career after his defeat was somewhat anticlimactic. He returned to private law practice, never again seeking or holding public office. He did not, however, divorce himself from politics and became a sort of elder statesman and advisor in the party, especially in Albany County. He was again in the public eye in 1913, when he acted as chief defence counsel at the impeachment trial of Governor Sulzer. Sulzer's conviction did nothing to tarnish Herrick's reputation and he remained highly esteemed within the party. His last major political function came in 1924 when he was keynote speaker at the state convention which nominated governor Al Smith for president. He died the following year at the age of 80, shortly after the death of his wife Helen. The Herricks

had three children, Helen Herrick, Bertha Herrick, and Charles J. Herrick. Charles Herrick would marry Carrie Stephens, the daughter of Benjamin and Annie Stephens of Brooklyn.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains two series, the D-Cady Herrick Papers and the Stephens and Hughson Family Papers. It spans the period from 1868 to 1940. There are five boxes of material, with the records of D-Cady Herrick comprising three fifths of the collection and the remainder primarily of records of the Stephens family. D-Cady Herrick's papers came into the hands of his son Charles Herrick after the former's death in 1925. Charles Herrick was the husband of the former Carrie Stephens and the collection contains a considerable amount of material of Carrie's mother, Mrs. Benjamin Wickes Stephens. Also in the collection are the papers of Frank S. Hughson and papers of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Albany. Mr. Hughson was a trustee of the church for many years. It is unclear how he is connected with the Herrick or Stephens family.

The D-Cady Herrick series contains correspondence, personal papers, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks concerning his legal and political career. His correspondence deals almost entirely with his political career. Notable are three letters from Grover Cleveland to Herrick concerning Cleveland's campaign activities in New York State. There are also letters from colleagues in the legal and political professions that discuss Herrick's political activities and career. Two folders of newspaper clippings also trace Herrick's career as a political boss, lawyer, judge, and gubernatorial candidate, as well as revealing the major political issues of the late 19th and early 20th century. Herrick's personal papers include campaign memorabilia from his 1904 run for governor, copies of campaign speeches, a pamphlet refuting published charges of corruption by Herrick, and invitations to political banquets. There are six scrapbooks containing more newspaper clippings on the subjects of the 1904 gubernatorial campaign, the Lowenstein murder case, political issues, Herrick's political career, political cartoons and news photos, and society articles relating to Herrick's daughter Bertha. There is also a ledger book of legal definitions and statutes.

The second series, the Stephens and Hughson Family Papers contains correspondence from William Wickes to his daughter Annie Stephens discussing family matters and his business interests, correspondence from other relatives discussing family and day to day activities, and business correspondence to Mrs. Stephens from contractors and assorted vendors she dealt with. There is a folder containing personal items including three address books, a checkbook, locks of hair from Stephen's son Willie, and a few photographs, possibly of Mrs. Stephens and of her children. There is also a folder of receipts and business records relating to her personal transactions and to the upkeep of rental properties she and her husband owned. The series also contains financial records of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Albany kept by its treasurer and board member Frank Hughson. These records encompass the period from 1912 to 1940. While mostly of a

financial nature, there are some letters and documents relating to religious matters as well. Finally, there are two folders of unrelated newspapers from the mid 1930's.

Contents List

The following section contains a listing of the materials in the collection.

Description	Box	Folder
D-Cady Herrick Papers		
Political & Professional Correspondence, 1868-1906	1	1
Personal Papers, 1891-1918		2
Newspaper Clippings, 1885-1903		3
Newspaper Clippings, 1904-1924		4
Obituaries, 1926	2	1
Scrapbook of Political Career, various dates		2
Scrapbook of Daughter Bertha Herrick, various dates		3
Scrapbook of Political Issues, various dates	3	1
Scrapbook of Lowenstein Murder Case, 1874		2
Scrapbook of Gubernatorial Campaign, 1904		3
Scrapbook of Political Cartoons & News Photos, various dates		4
Ledgerbook of statutes and legal definitions, undated		5
Stephens and Hughson Papers		
William Wickes Correspondence, 1880	4	1
Annie Stephens, Family Correspondence, 1868-1904		2
Annie Stephens, General Correspondence, 1878-1934		3
Annie Stephens, General Correspondence, undated		4
Annie Stephens, Business Records, 1896-1933		5
Annie Stephens, Postcards & Envelopes, various dates		6
Annie Stephens, Personal Effects, undated	5	1
Stephens Family, Miscellaneous Papers, 1879-1908		2
The Frank Hughson Papers, 1912-1940		3
Unrelated Newspapers, 1930's		4-5