

Title: Wells, Daniel, Jr., Papers

Call Number: Mss-0782

Inclusive Dates: 1798 – 1966

Bulk: 7.0 cu. ft.

Location: GV, Sh. 055-056
OS SM “W” (4 items)

Historical Note: Daniel Wells, Jr. was one of Milwaukee’s most prominent early settlers. He was born in West Waterville, Maine, in July 1808. He taught school in the east for several years and also engaged in various mercantile pursuits. In 1836, he settled in Milwaukee and began building a vast fortune speculating in land, grain, and lumber. He was also politically active. A Democrat, Wells held several local offices, was a member of the upper house of the territorial legislature, and served in the U.S. Congress from 1852 to 1856. After his congressional term expired, Wells devoted the rest of his life to expanding his varied business interests. In addition to his lumber, grain, and land ventures, Wells was heavily involved with railroads, banking, and other financial institutions. At the time of his death in March 1902, Wells was reportedly the wealthiest man in Wisconsin.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of correspondence (primarily letters received by Wells), ledgers, receipts, reports, deeds, and other records that help detail Wells’ extensive business interests and political activities. In addition, there is material pertaining to several of Wells’ relatives and some members of his immediate family, such as his daughter Fannie Wells Norris, his brothers Charles and John, his son-in-law Charles W. Norris, and his grandson Niel Norris.

Administrative Note: The collection was reprocessed on August 9, 2004 by Kevin Abing.

SEE ALSO: PHOTOS: MV, SH71

Daniel Wells, Jr. Material-General/Miscellaneous	Box #	Folder #
History of the Wells Family in Wisconsin, 1835-1919	1	1
Biography of Daniel Wells, Jr. & Fannie Wells Norris (Duplicate: See Unpublished Mss. #285)	1	2
Wells Family Genealogy/Reminiscences of Daniel Wells, Jr., & Others, 1891-1899	1	3
Articles re: Daniel Wells, Jr., by Dorothy Ernst, 1960, 1966	1	4
Index of Letters in Wells Collection (Outdated)	1	5
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Daniel Wells Jr. Material	Box #	Location
Account Book: Wells in a/c with Greene & Button, Sept. 1860-June 1861	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Borgh & Oakes? in a/c with Wells, Aug. 1859	7	Loose in box
Wisconsin Marine & Fire Insurance Co. in a/c with Wells, 1840-1845	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Wells & Hohman in a/c with D. L. D. Huntington, July 1845	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Wells? in a/c with Nazro & King, July 1845 – April 1846	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Wells in a/c with Ogden & Metcalf, Jan. – July 1846	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Harvey Terry in a/c with Wells, June 1859 – May 1861	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Price Bros. & Co. in a/c with Wells, Nov. 1862 – July 1864	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Price Bros. & Co. in a/c with Wells, Aug. 1864 – Sept. 1865	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Wells & Hohman in a/c with Shepard & Bonnell, July 1845 – Jan. 1846	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Wells & Hohman in a/c with Cunningham, July 1845 – March 1846	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Wells & Hohman in a/c with Harriman & Allen, June 1845 – Apr. 1846	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Wells & Hohman in a/c with A. F. Clarke, July 1845 – April 1846	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Bradley & Metcalf in a/c with Wells & Hohman, July 1845 – Mar. 1846	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Wells & Hohman in a/c with Blair, July 1845 – April 1846	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Wells? in a/c with Cogswell, Nov. 1845	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Ludington & Co. in a/c with Wells, n.d.	7	Loose in box
Account Book: Vank of Wisconsin in a/c with Chas. A. and A. Grignon?, 1837	7	Loose in box
Accounts due Wells, 1832-1836 (4 vols.)		Loose in box
Bank Account Book: Wells in account with Caldwell, Whitney & Co.'s Bank, June-July 1859	7	Loose in box
Bank Account Book: Wells in account with Parker Paine, St. Paul, Aug.-Sept. 1859	7	Loose in box
Bank Account Book: Merchants Bank in a/c with Wells, 1862	7	Loose in box
Bank Account Book: Alexander Mitchell, Secretary in a/c with Wells, 1850-1853	7	Loose in box
Bank Account Book: Wisconsin Marine & Fire Insurance Co. in a/c with Wells, Sept. 1847 – Oct. 1850	7	Loose in box
Canvas for Agent in 1 st Ward (list of names), ca. 1847	7	Loose in box
Cash Journal, May 20, 1845 – April 22, 1846	7	Loose in box
Field Notes of Fond du Lac Road from West Bend North, Miscellaneous Survey, ca. 1837-1840	7	Loose in box
Guest Book, 1964-1966	7	Loose in box

Index of Names, n.d.	7	Loose in box
Journal/Account Book: Survey of Fox River, Lake Winnebago, & Manitowoc, 1835	7	Loose in box
<i>Journal of the House of Representatives, of the Second Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin, 1839</i>	7	Loose in box
Land Deals, from Blocks 213 to 313 (Milwaukee?), n.d.	7	Loose in box
Lots Sold, 1847/Fees collected (as Notary Public?), 1842-1843	7	Loose in box
Map Book of Milwaukee Lots (Cut up Lapham map?), ca. 1847	7	Loose in box
Miscellaneous Account Book, 1839	7	Loose in box
Miscellaneous Account Book, ca. 1839-1840	7	Loose in box
Miscellaneous Account Book, 1841-1843	7	Loose in box
Notary Public Docket, 1842-1845/Account Book, ca. 1860-1864	7	Loose in box
Rent Receipts, 1887-1901	7	Loose in box
Tax Lots & W. W. Gilman Lots in Milwaukee, 1838-1846	7	Loose in box
Oversize Items		Location
Deed for land between Solomon Juneau, Josette Juneau, & Morgan L. Martin and Daniel Wells, Jr., 1836		OS SM "W"
Nomination and Appointment Certificates naming Daniel Wells Justice of the Peace in Milwaukee County, 1836		OS SM "W"
Certificate appointing Daniel Wells Justice of the Peace, Somerset County, Maine, 1833		OS SM "W"
Certificate appointing Daniel Wells Notary Public, Milwaukee County, 1845		OS SM "W"