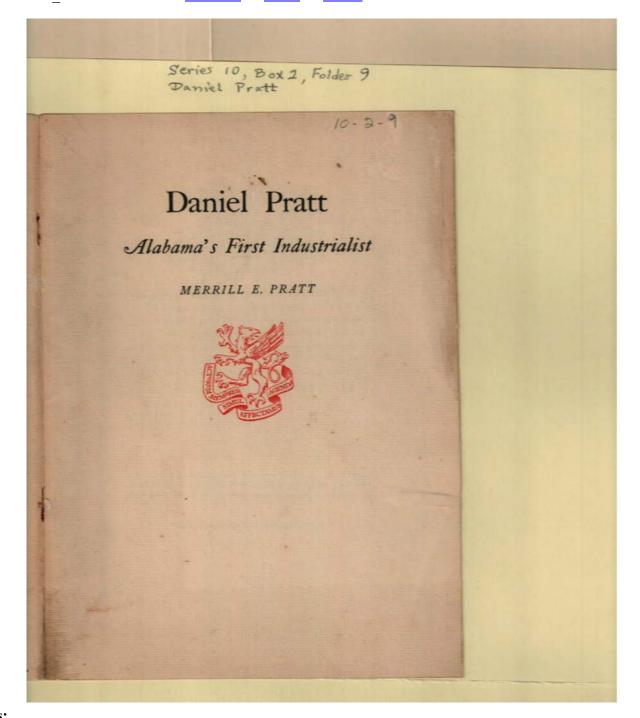
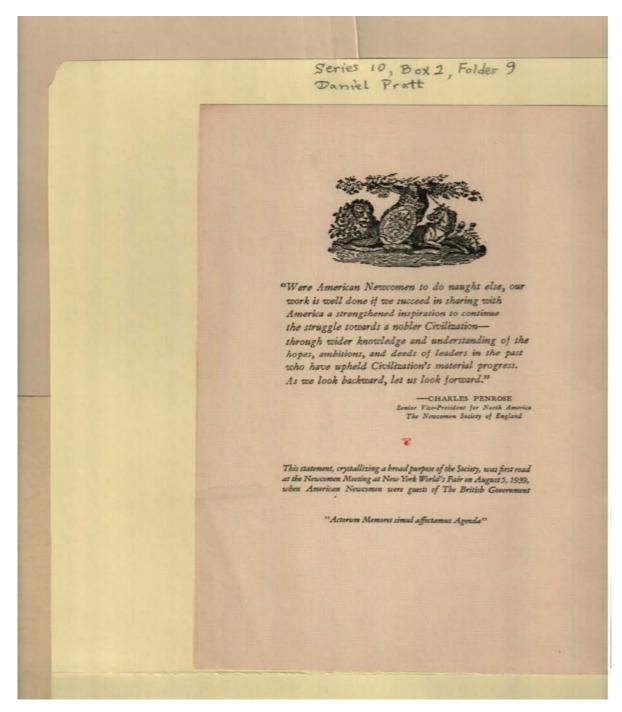
Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 1r10\_02-09-000-0002ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Pratt, Daniel Pratt, Merrill E. Daniel Pratt, Alabama's First Industrialist

Types: booklet Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 2r10\_02-09-000-0003ContentsIndexAbout



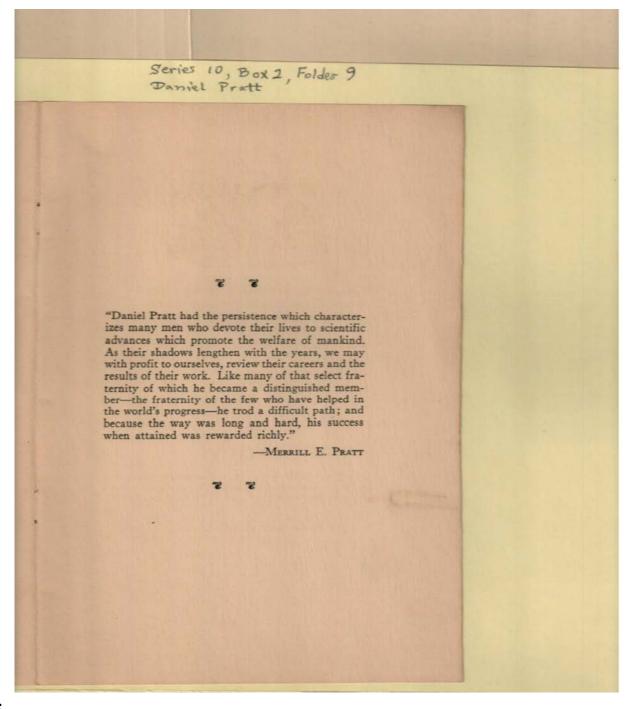
Names:

Penrose, Charles

**Types:** 

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 3r10\_02-09-000-0004ContentsIndexAbout

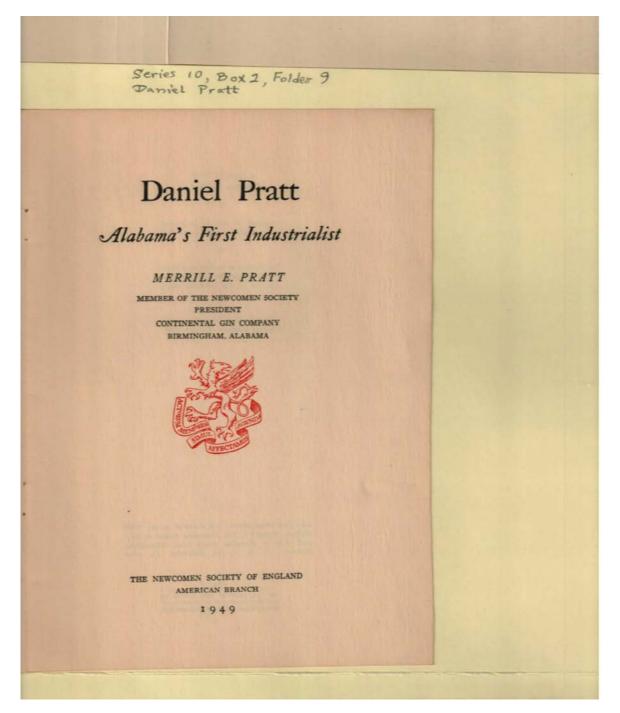


Names:

Pratt, Daniel

Types: booklet Pratt, Merrill E.

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 4r10\_02-09-000-0005ContentsIndexAbout



#### Names:

Newcomen Society of England

#### **Places:**

Birmingham, AL

### **Types:**

booklet

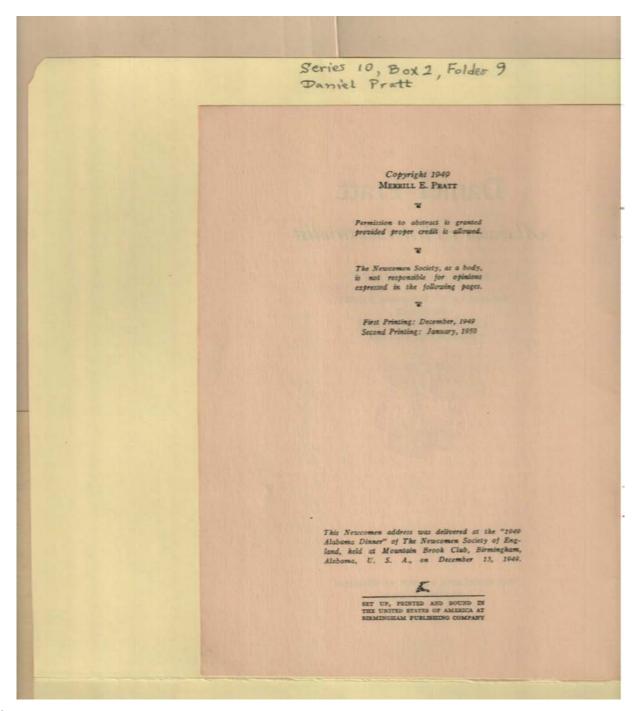
#### **Dates:**

1949

Pratt, Merrill E.

Daniel Pratt, Alabama's First Industrialist

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 5r10\_02-09-000-0006ContentsIndexAbout



#### Names:

Pratt, Merrill E.

#### **Places:**

Birmingham, AL

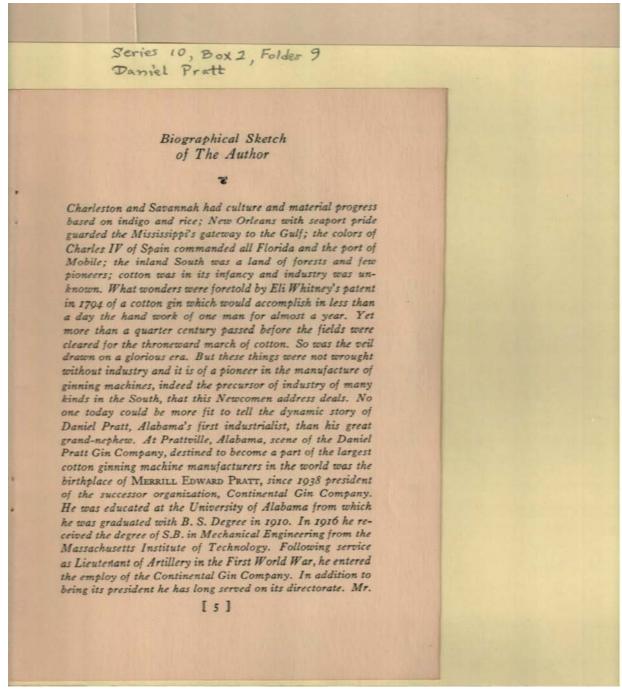
#### **Types:**

booklet

### Dates:

1949

# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 6r10\_02-09-000-0007ContentsIndexAbout



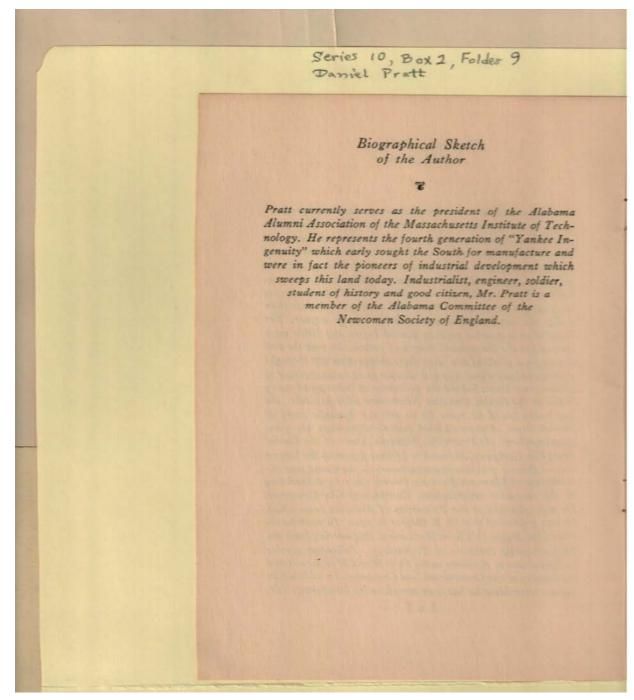
Names:

Pratt, Daniel

Pratt, Merrill Edward

Whitney, Eli

Types: booklet Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 7r10\_02-09-000-0008ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Pratt, Merrill E.

Types:

booklet

# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 8r10\_02-09-000-0009ContentsIndexAbout

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9 Daniel Pratt

#### Reflections of the Chairman:

The cotton growers of the South and its greatest industrial district, the Birmingham iron and steel center, owe much to Daniel Pratt. Inspiration is to be secured from the unfolding of the life of the forceful, God-fearing New Hampshire-man who came South in 1799 and carved a new community out of the wilderness of middle Alabama; creating new industries, giving employment to thousands, creating wealth which was to be used freely in the War Between the States and in helping his fellowman.

By what process did this New Hampshire carpenter-apprentice defy tradition and rise from the status of a workingman and carpenter to wealth, influence and public acclaim, in the Deep South, so that the Newcomen Society in its broad survey of material history pauses to review his notable career, is an arresting question. That the life of such a man can, after nearly eight decades since his death, stand out on the landscape of human achievement as conspicuously as the great political characters of the nation, shows that in final count, individual personality, ability, will, faith and character, transcend mere abstractions among the forces of Civilization. As the influence of men's lives after them, so the rugged spirit of Daniel Pratt pervades to this day his chief and final effort, the development of iron and steel in the Deep South.

Merrill Pratt's discerning analysis of significant events in the life of this adopted son of the South whose brain, voice and purpose contributed so potently to its welfare, is deserving of high place in the annals of a Society whose aim is to encourage and promote free enterprise through research and study of material history.

THOMAS W. MARTIN Chairman, Alabama Committee Newcomen Society of England

[7]

#### Names:

Martin, Thomas W.

Birmingham December 13, 1949

Pratt, Daniel

Pratt, Merrill

**Places:** 

Birmingham, AL

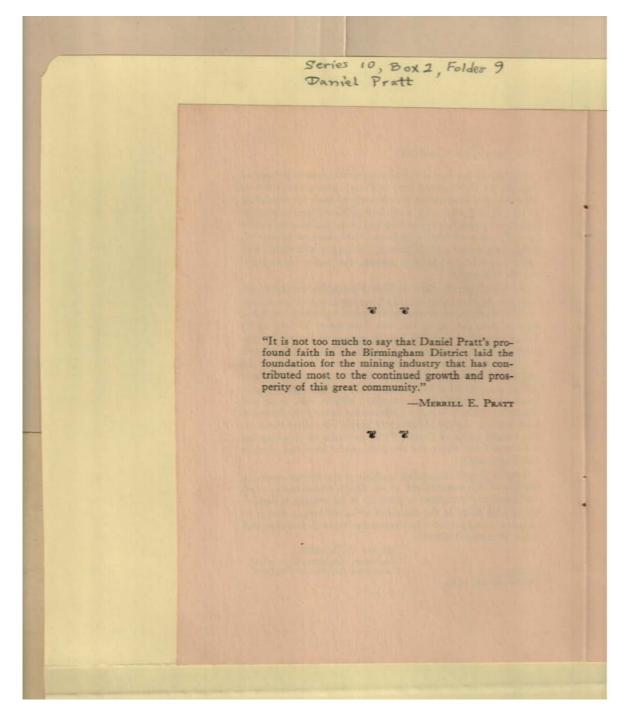
#### **Types:**

booklet

#### Dates:

Dec 13, 1949

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 9r10\_02-09-000-0010ContentsIndexAbout

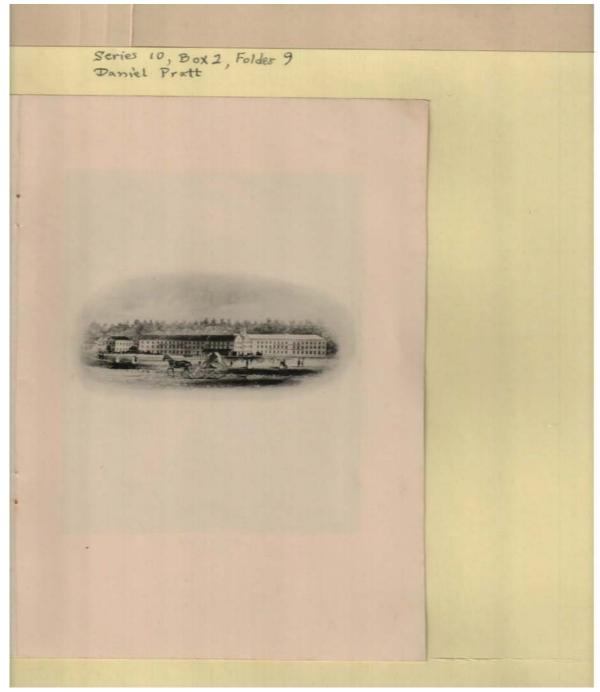


Names:

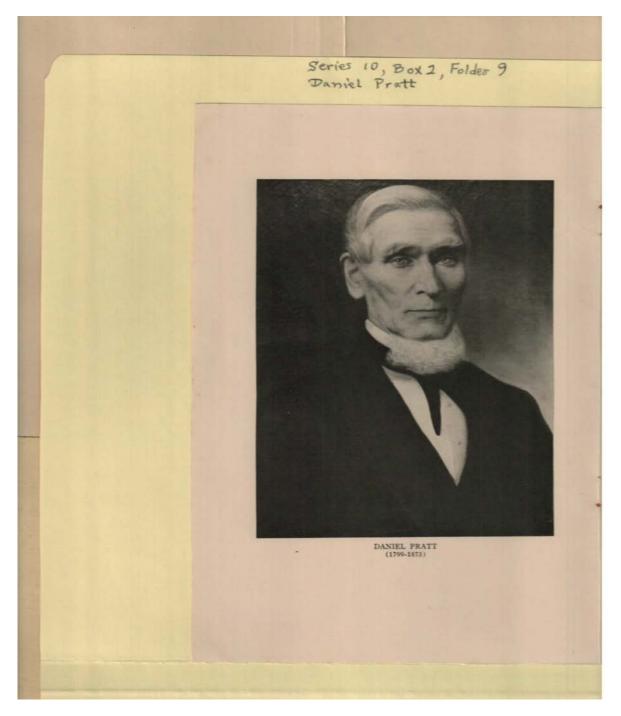
Pratt, Daniel

Types: booklet Pratt, Merrill E.

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 10r10\_02-09-000-0011ContentsIndexAbout



Types: drawing Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 11r10\_02-09-000-0012ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Pratt, Daniel

Types:

portrait

# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 12r10\_02-09-000-0013ContentsIndexAbout

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9 Daniel Pratt DANIEL PRATT Alabama's First Industrialist Z My fellow members of Newcomen: AM GREATLY HONORED this evening to be presented as the speaker on such an auspicious occasion. I consider this a rare privilege and can assure you that it means a great deal to me. I am introducing you to Daniel Pratt who in turn introduced himself to his many clients and business associates and friends as The Builder of the Finest Cotton Gins in the World. Those actual words were engraved on the bottom of his personal business cards, one of which I have. As I have attempted to delve into the archives for the interesting facts and memoirs of Daniel Pratt, I have been convinced that every step in his life was taken with deep sincerity. Yet he was everlastingly aware of opportunities for advancement, which he wasted no time in seeking to achieve with the best of his ability. Before speaking further about the man himself, there are two extraordinary things that Daniel Pratt did which are historically significant, and above all, I should like for you to remember from this talk, each of these unique factors. One is that when he moved to Alabama, as nearly as the physical environment and climate would permit, Daniel Pratt duplicated a New England village, both as to its physical setting and background. If you have ever been in New England, you must have noted that wherever there is a village, there is usually water power with a plant of some kind adjoining and with stores and homes as close to the river as they can possibly get. Should you go down to Prattville today, you will see this same thing. Second and more important, according to the present definition of the word, Mr. Pratt was the first "industrialist" of the South. He showed unusual vision and courage in the [9]

Names:

Pratt, Daniel

**Types:** 

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9 Daniel Pratt timing of his entry into the manufacture of cotton gins shortly after Eli Whitney's patent on the first cotton gin had expired. He assuredly saw the South's great industrial possibilities and in particular, the advantages to be gained by manufacturing in the heart of the South rather than returning to the East where at that time practically all manufacturing was carried on. His activities covered a wide range, including the manufacture of cotton gins; the weaving of wool and cotton into cloth; the fabrication of metal products; of sash and doors and blinds from the abundant native woods. He financed several plank roads, the forerunner of our modern road system, designed covered bridges\*, and after the War Between the States, interested himself in banking, in build-ing of railroads in middle and north Alabama, and in the development of the vast mineral resources of his adopted State. Certainly it took both vision and courage to go against the commonly accepted trend of thought at that time, namely, that the South was not properly located nor adapted to manufacturing. His timely arrival in the South was opportune, not only for his personal fortunes, but for the destiny of the industrial South in general, and in particular, for his own State of Alabama. Let us look briefly into his life: Daniel Pratt was born at Temple, New Hampshire, July 20, 1799; he died at his home in Prattville, Alabama on May 13, 1873. His father, Edward Pratt, was a son of Daniel Pratt, a native of Reading, Massachusetts, whose wife was Asenith, daughter of Ebenezer Flint of Wilton, New Hamp-shire. He was reared in the Puritan "rigors" common to his day. He was educated in the schools of his section, and when about sixteen years old, was apprenticed to a Mr. Putnam, a carpenter, to learn the carpenter's trade. Mr. Putnam became financially involved by going security \*Peter A. Brannon, Esquire, Curator of the Department of Archives and History, State of Alabama, states in his Newcomen paper ROMANCE OF BEGINNING OF SOME ALABAMA INDUSTRIES, 1939, p. 35: "The covered bridge of Alabama owes its origin to a model made in Daniel Pratt's gin factory at Clinton, Georgia." [ 10 ]

#### Names:

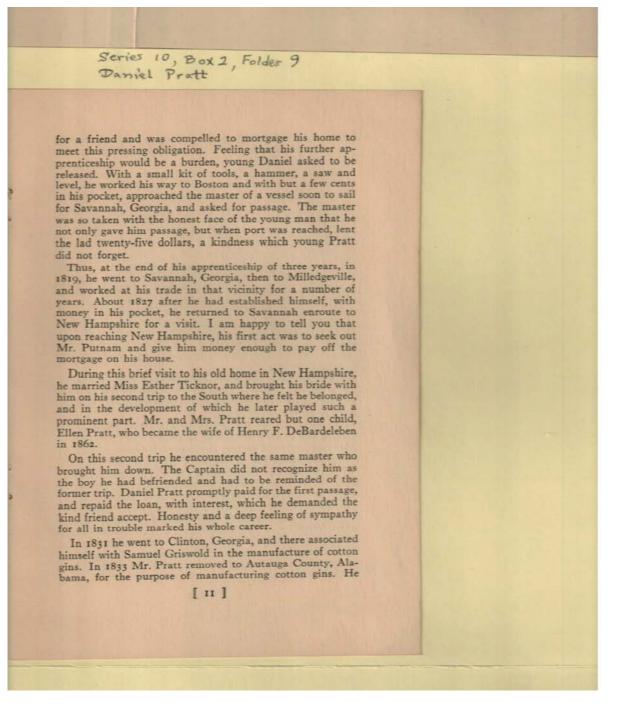
Brannon, Peter A. Flint, Ebenezer

**Types:** 

speech

Pratt, Asenith Pratt, Edward Putnam, Whitney, Eli

# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 14r10\_02-09-000-0015ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

DeBardeleben, Henry F. Griswold, Samuel

Pratt, Daniel, Mr. & Mrs.

Putnam, Ticknor, Esther, Miss

#### **Types:**

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 15r10\_02-09-000-0016ContentsIndexAbout

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9 Daniel Pratt invited Mr. Griswold to go with him to Alabama in this venture, but this Mr. Griswold declined to do, due to his fear of Indian uprisings. I should like to point out one of his great accomplishments in the field of architecture. While in Milledgeville and Clinton, Georgia, he designed and built some of the most outstanding antebellum homes in America. Some of these are still standing. It was my good fortune to visit the house at Clinton. Known as "Lowther Hall", this magnificent dwelling was destroyed by fire in 1938. The interior was beautifully proportioned and had a winding stair to the second story which the owner told me was studied each year by many architects. Pictures of this house appeared some years ago in an issue of House and Garden, together with descriptions of its outstanding architectural beauty. The home that Mr. Pratt built for himself at Prattville about 1842, was also an outstanding example of architecture. His architectural genius was shown in all of the buildings that he constructed either for cotton gin manufacturing, cotton mills or such other structures as he designed and built in Prattville. For many years he maintained a school for the poor children of Prattville, and in other ways endeavored to help them and their parents when they came to the village for employment in its varied industries. In recognition of the important place he had made for himself and of his contribution to society, the University of Alabama conferred on him the honorary degree of "Master in the Mechanic and Useful Arts" on December 21, 1846. Daniel Pratt had the persistence which characterizes many men who devote their lives to scientific advances which pro-mote the welfare of mankind. As their shadows lengthen with the years, we may with profit to ourselves, review their careers and the results of their work. Like many of that select fraternity of which he became a distinguished mem-ber—the fraternity of the few who have helped in the world's progress—he trod a difficult path; and because the way was long and hard, his success when attained was re-warded richly. [ 12 ]

#### Names:

Griswold, Samuel

Pratt, Daniel

**Types:** 

# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 16r10\_02-09-000-0017ContentsIndexAbout

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9 Daniel Pratt In Autauga County, Alabama, on the plantation of Gen-eral Elmore, Mr. Pratt manufactured a few gins in 1833. This was only a tentative venture and one preparatory for greater things toward which he was gradually moving. On Autauga Creek near McNeill's Mill, there was abundant water power with which to operate his primitive machinery. Leasing the use of this power for a nominal sum, he was enabled finally to begin the manufacture of gins. Both faith and grit were needed to meet the demand of the occasion, but these Mr. Pratt had. Guided by the same wisdom which had led him thus far, he was finally in condition to purchase land in 1838, farther up on Autauga Creek where he built his first gin factory and founded a town which he named Prattville. Here it should be noted that "Daniel Pratt's Cotton Gin Factory" had continuous existence under this name until changed in recent years to the present "Continental Gin Company"-a period of one hundred and sixteen years. No other industry in Alabama has had continuous existence for so long a period of time. The main plant for the manufacture of gins by the Continental Gin Company is today at Prattville. Continued research has wrought vast improvement over the original machinery designed and manufactured by Daniel Pratt. Today on the same spot where he began his illustrious career stands a modern cotton gin manufacturing plant which would exceed even his fondest dreams. Soon after the gin factory was in successful operation, Daniel Pratt invited his nephew Merrill E. Pratt, likewise a native of New Hampshire, to become associated with him and to live at Prattville which he did in 1841. Several years later he wrote to his sister and her husband who were still in New Hampshire and suggested that if they would like to come to Alabama, he would build them a home and use his sister's husband, Mr. Holt, in one of his manufacturing enterprises. He left it up to them to decide whether they should come. However, he could not help doing some selling! He said if they were in as good health as when he saw them last that though the journey was hard and long, [ 13 ]

Names:

Holt,

Pratt, Daniel

Pratt, Merrill E.

Types: speech

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9 Daniel Pratt they could get to Prattville safely. He further told them that while it would be hard for them to believe, they would find the climate in Alabama much more healthful and pleasant than in New England. In 1846 Daniel Pratt decided to erect a cotton mill. This was built and put into operation and for many years was very successful. It was hard hit during the Civil War, but a cotton mill still stands on the original site of his first mill and is still in operation in Prattville. In addition to the cotton mill, he erected a grist and flour mill. Records show that customers travelled as far as 150 miles to have their corn and wheat milled. Another industry which he started was a woolen mill where wool was treated and woven into cloth. In later years this building was used as an experimental plant for cotton gins. The manufacture of gins in the South and the production of cotton acted and reacted on each other with wonderful effect. Mr. Pratt was compelled to enlarge his facilities for the manufacture of gins, so that by 1860 he was building not less than 1500 each year. The Pratt gin became famous throughout the South and until the beginning of the Civil War, the sales continued to grow. Mr. Pratt was a very energetic man and as a result amassed one of the largest fortunes in the South. As he became established as a manufacturer he purchased thousands of acres of mineral land in North Alabama and was one of the first to develop the coal and iron mines in the State or in the South. He built the furnaces at Oxmoor near Birming-ham and the Pratt mines were opened up by his son-in-law, H. F. DeBardeleben. He confided more and more of his business projects to Mr. DeBardeleben, and in particular, his new railroad enterprise, the South and North Alabama Railroad, and the iron making venture in Shades Valley. The necessities of the Civil War caused a group of individuals to form themselves into an association known as the Alabama Arms Manufacturing Company, the name of which was changed to Red Mountain Iron and Coal Company by an act of the Legislature of Alabama, approved November 5, 1862. [ 14 ]

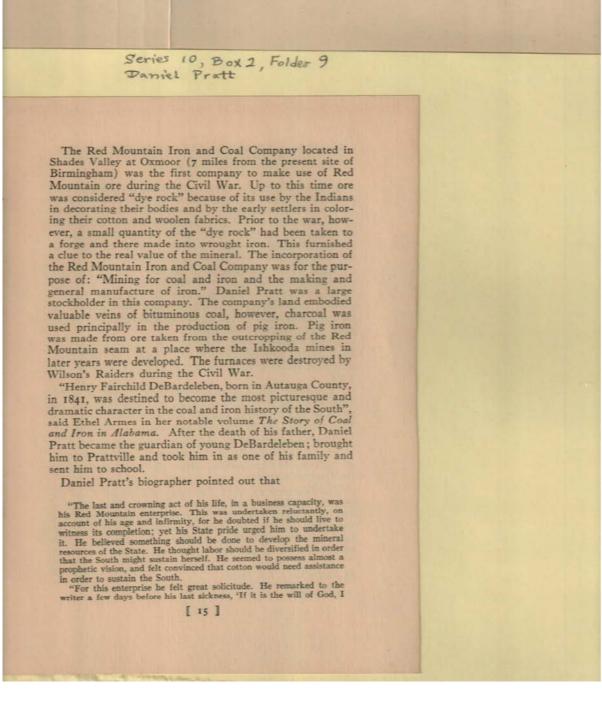
#### Names:

DeBardeleben, H. F.

Pratt, Daniel

#### **Types:**

# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 18r10\_02-09-000-0019ContentsIndexAbout



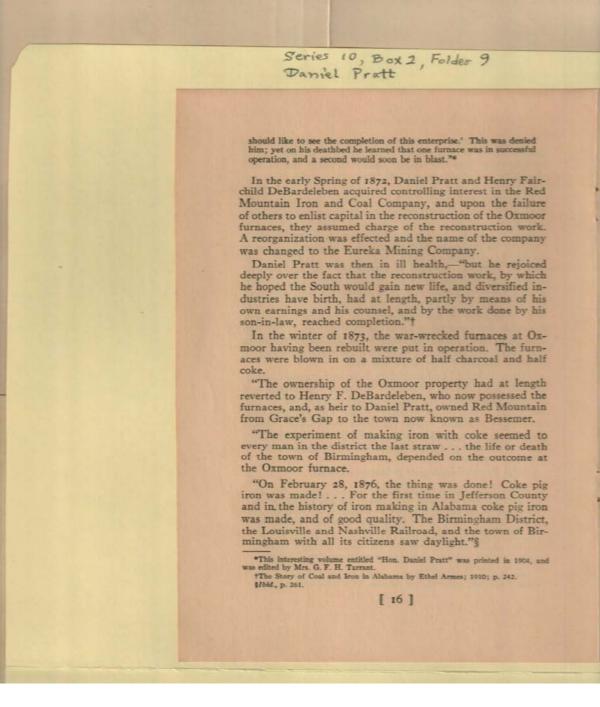
Armes, Ethel

DeBardeleben, Henry Fairchild Pratt, Daniel Wilson,

#### **Types:**

Names:

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 19r10\_02-09-000-0020ContentsIndexAbout



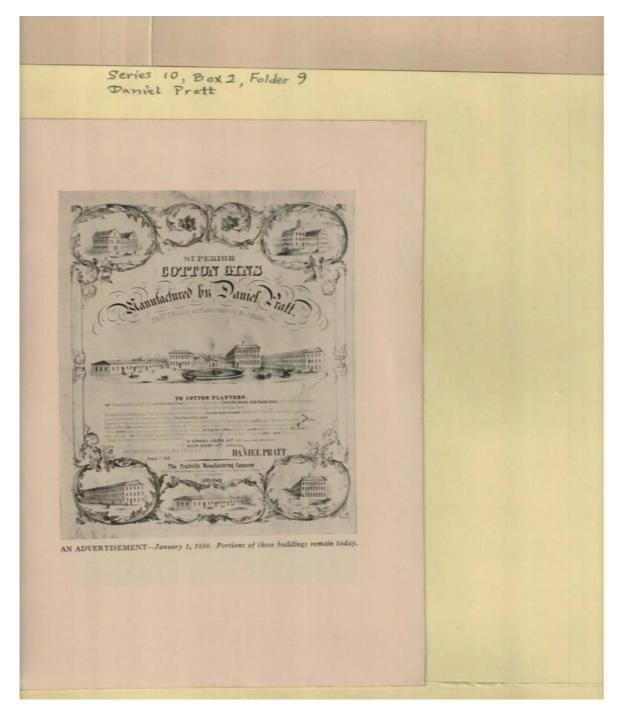
Armes, Ethel

**Types:** 

Names:

speech

DeBardeleben, Henry Fairchild Pratt, Daniel Tarrant, G. F. H., Mrs. Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 20r10\_02-09-000-0021ContentsIndexAbout



#### Names:

Pratt, Daniel

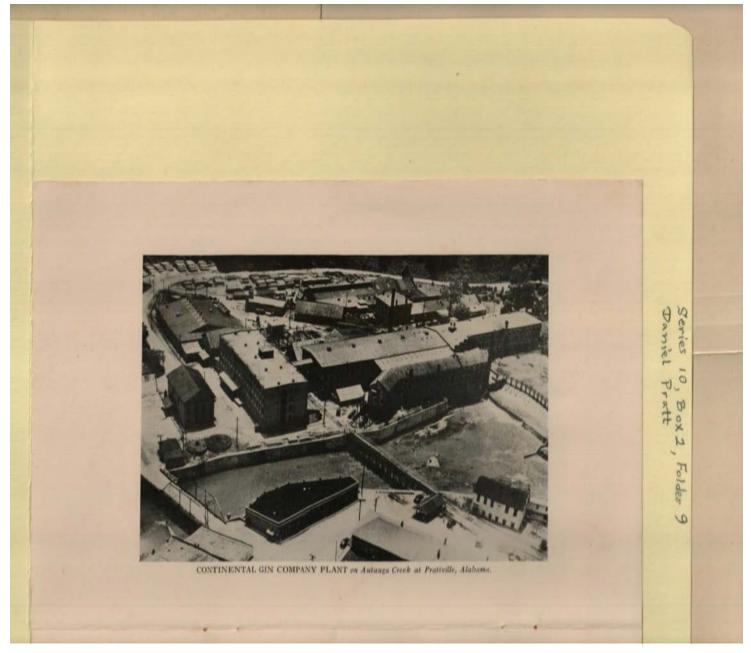
#### **Types:**

advertisement

#### **Dates:**

Jan 01, 1856

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection:Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 21r10\_02-09-000-0022ContentsIndexAbout

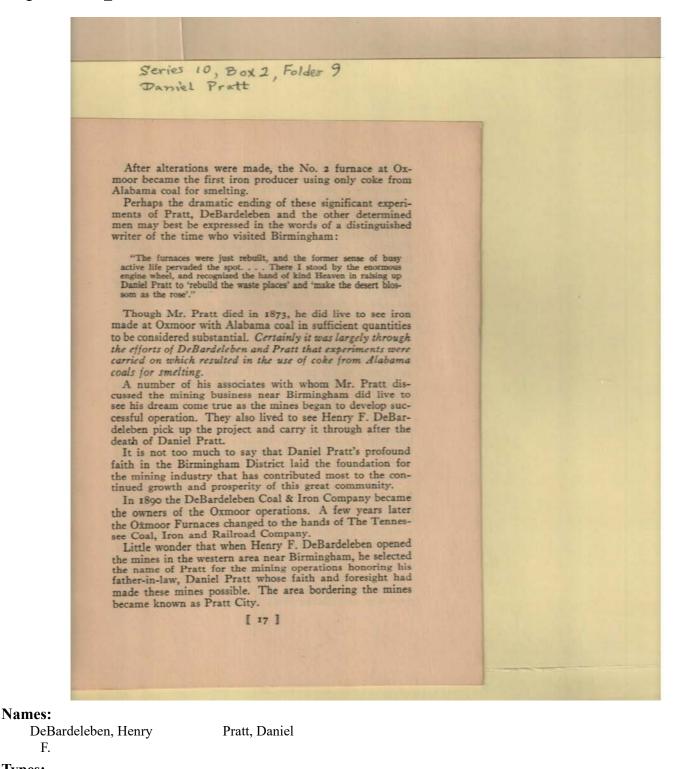


### Names:

Continental Gin Co. **Types:** 

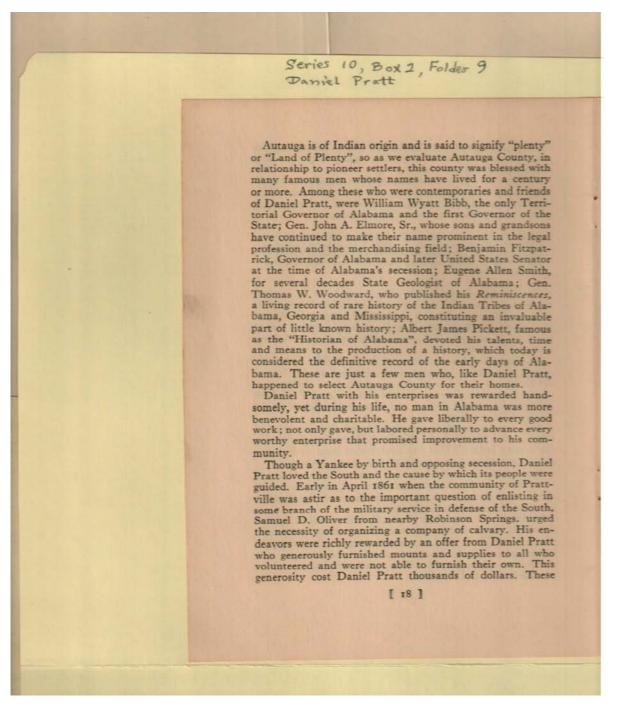
photograph

# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 22r1002-09-000-0023ContentsIndexAbout



#### **Types:**

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 23r10\_02-09-000-0024ContentsIndexAbout



#### Names:

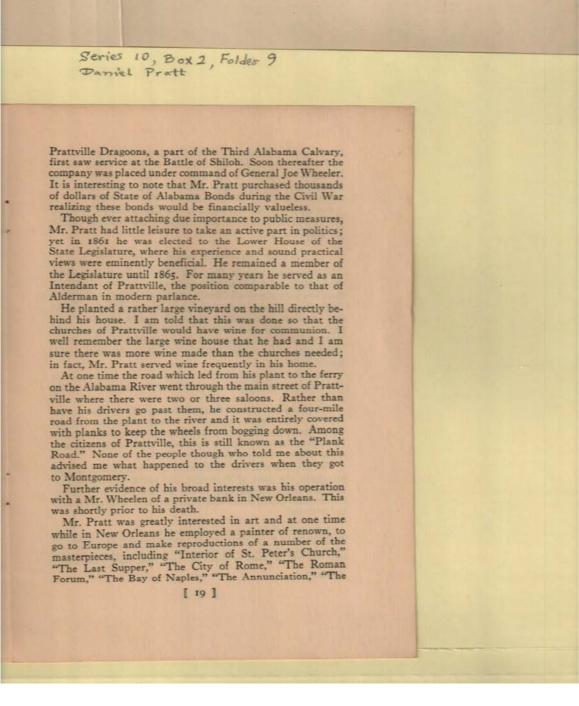
Bibb, William Wyatt Elmore, John A., Sr., General

#### **Types:**

speech

Fitzpatrick, Benjamin Oliver, Samuel D. Pickett, Albert James Pratt, Daniel Smith, Eugene Allen Woodward, Thomas W.

# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 24r10\_02-09-000-0025ContentsIndexAbout



Pratt, Daniel

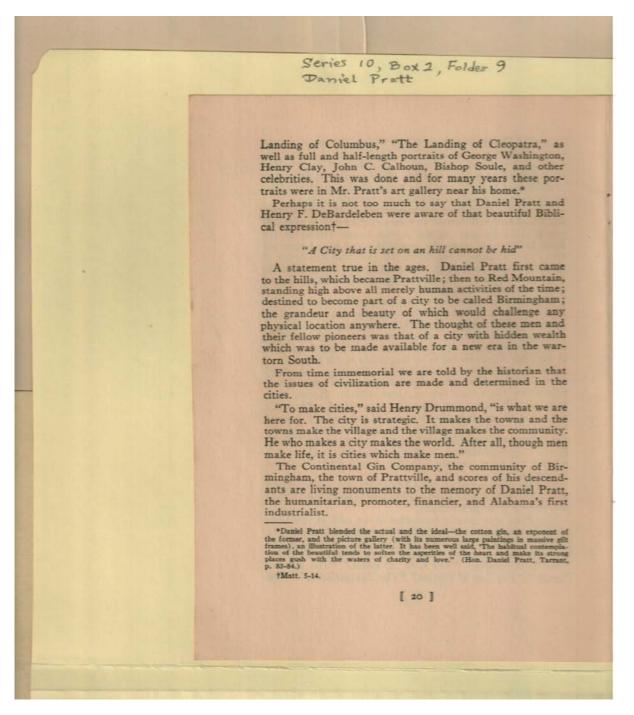
Wheelen,

Wheeler, Joe, General

Types:

Names:

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 25r10\_02-09-000-0026ContentsIndexAbout



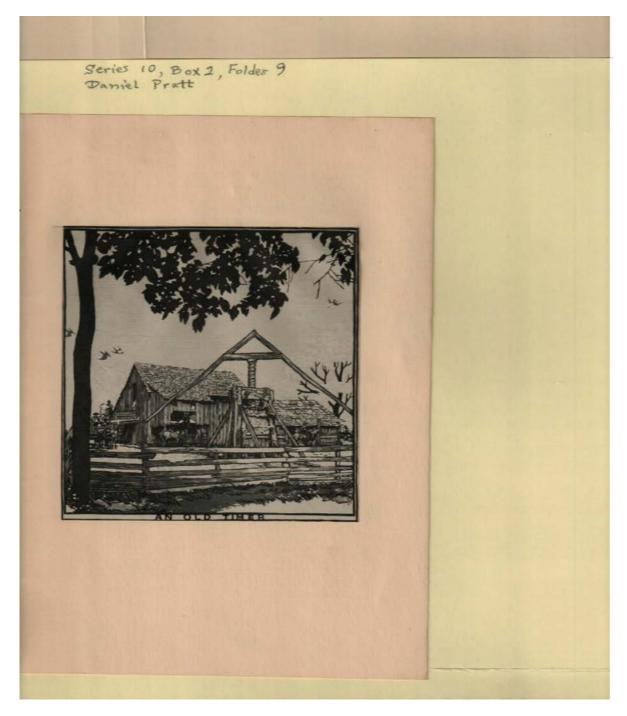
#### Names:

Calhoun, John C. Clay, Henry

#### **Types:**

speech

DeBardeleben, Henry F. Drummond, Henry Pratt, Daniel Soule, Bishop Washington, George Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 26r10\_02-09-000-0027ContentsIndexAbout



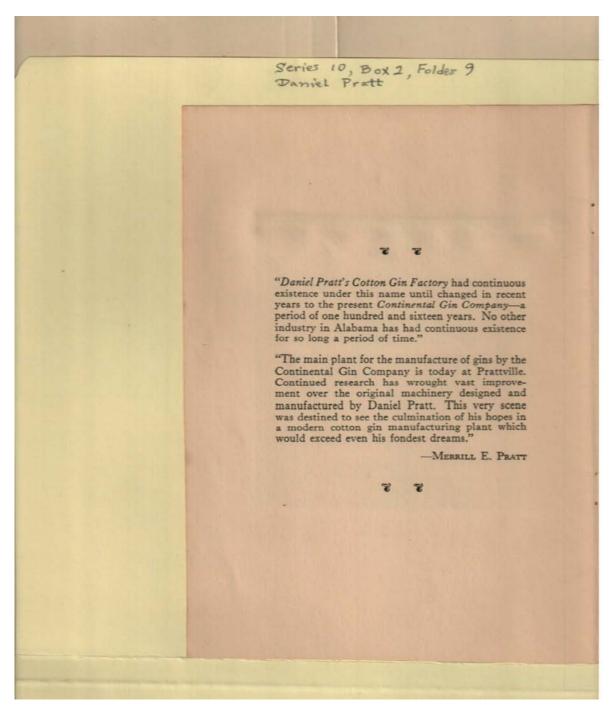
#### Names:

Old Cotton Press

### Types:

drawing

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 27r10\_02-09-000-0028ContentsIndexAbout

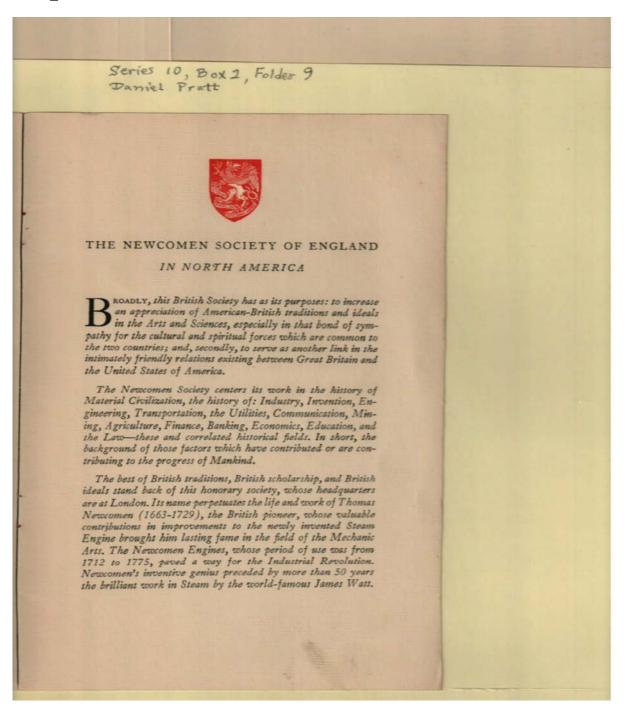


Names:

Pratt, Daniel

Types: booklet Pratt, Merrill E.

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 28r1002-09-000-0029ContentsIndexAbout



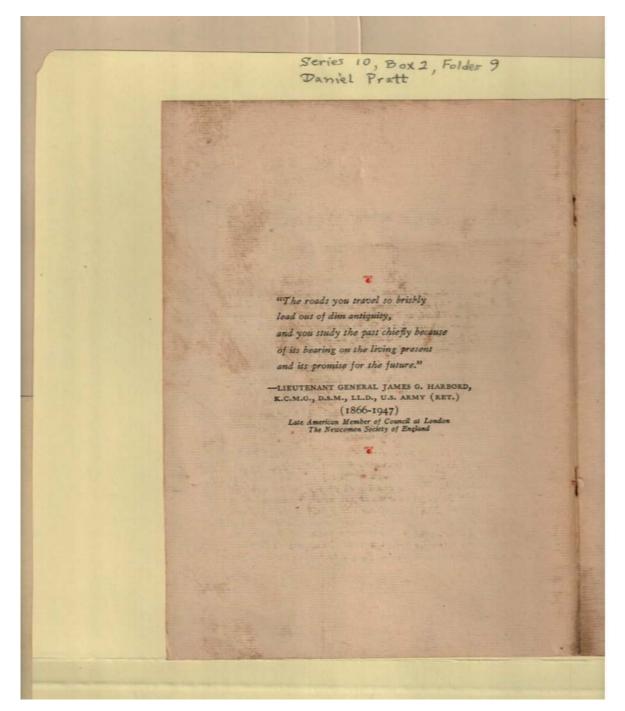
#### Names:

Types:

booklet

Newcomen Society of England

Newcomen, Thomas Watt, James Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949Image 29r10\_02-09-000-0030ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Harbord, James G., General

#### Types:

booklet

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### **Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection**

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**Collection Scope and Content:** The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

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