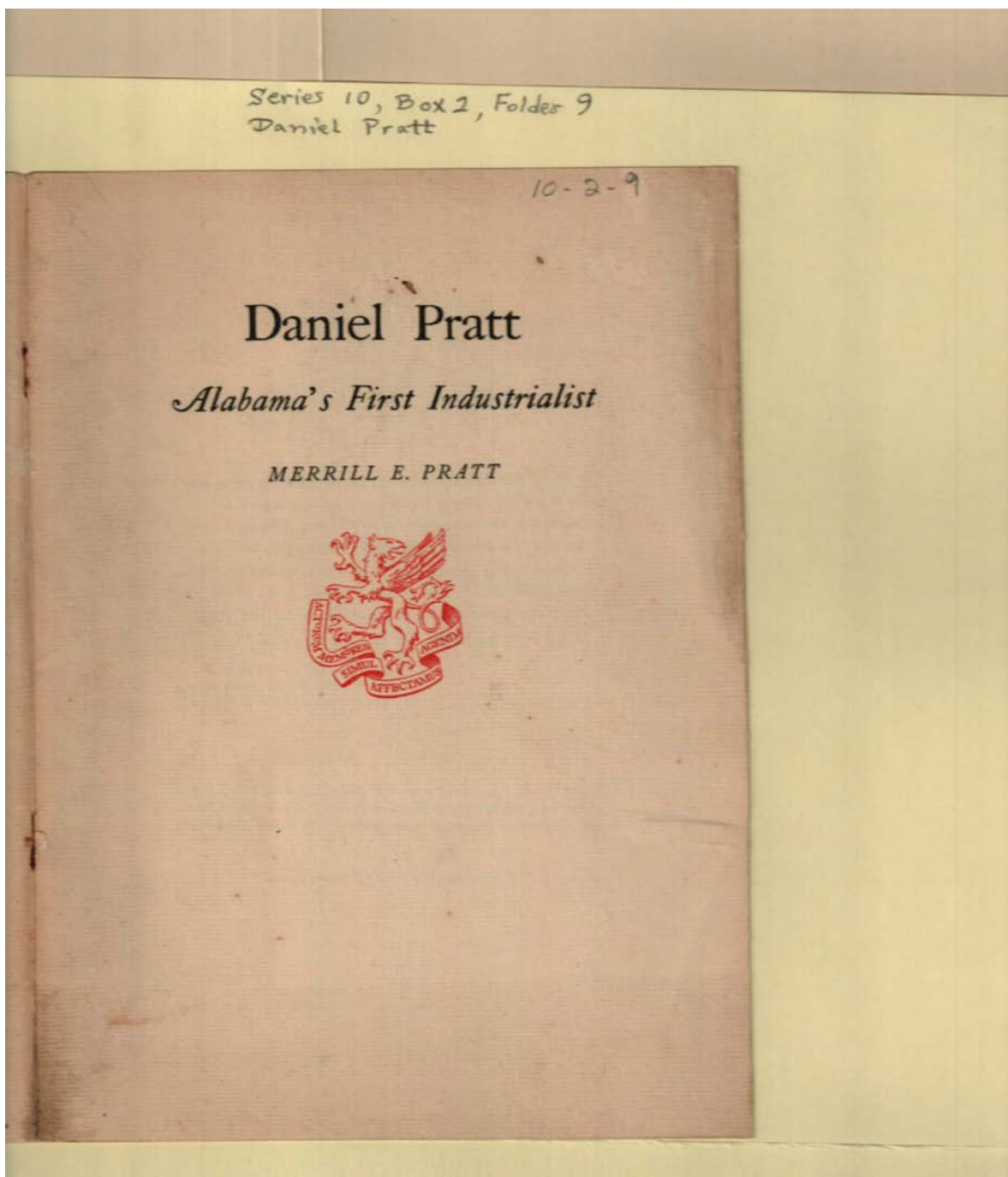


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949

Image 1 r10_02-09-000-0002 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Pratt, Daniel
Pratt, Merrill E.

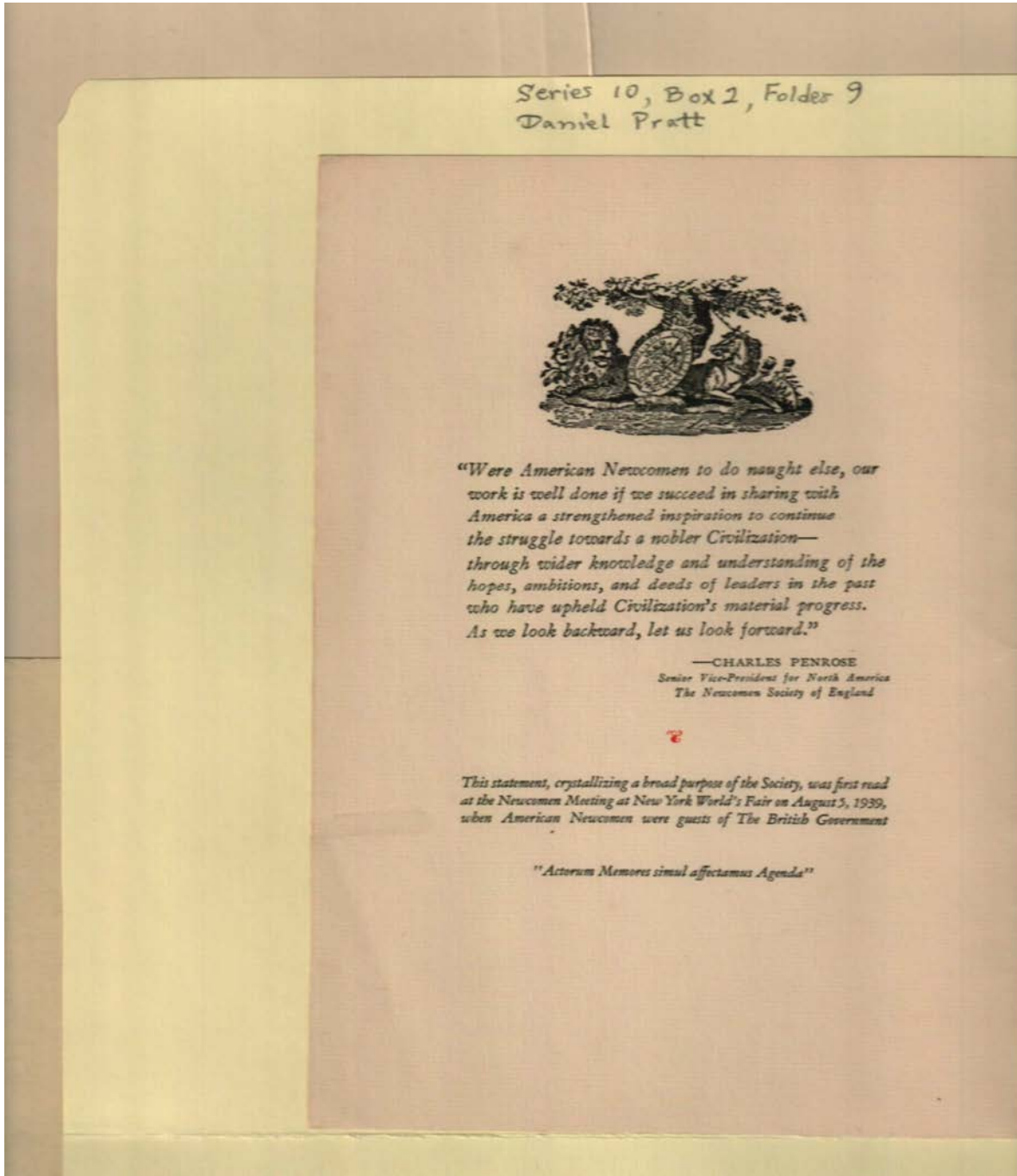
Daniel Pratt,
Alabama's First

Industrialist

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949
Image 2 r10_02-09-000-0003 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

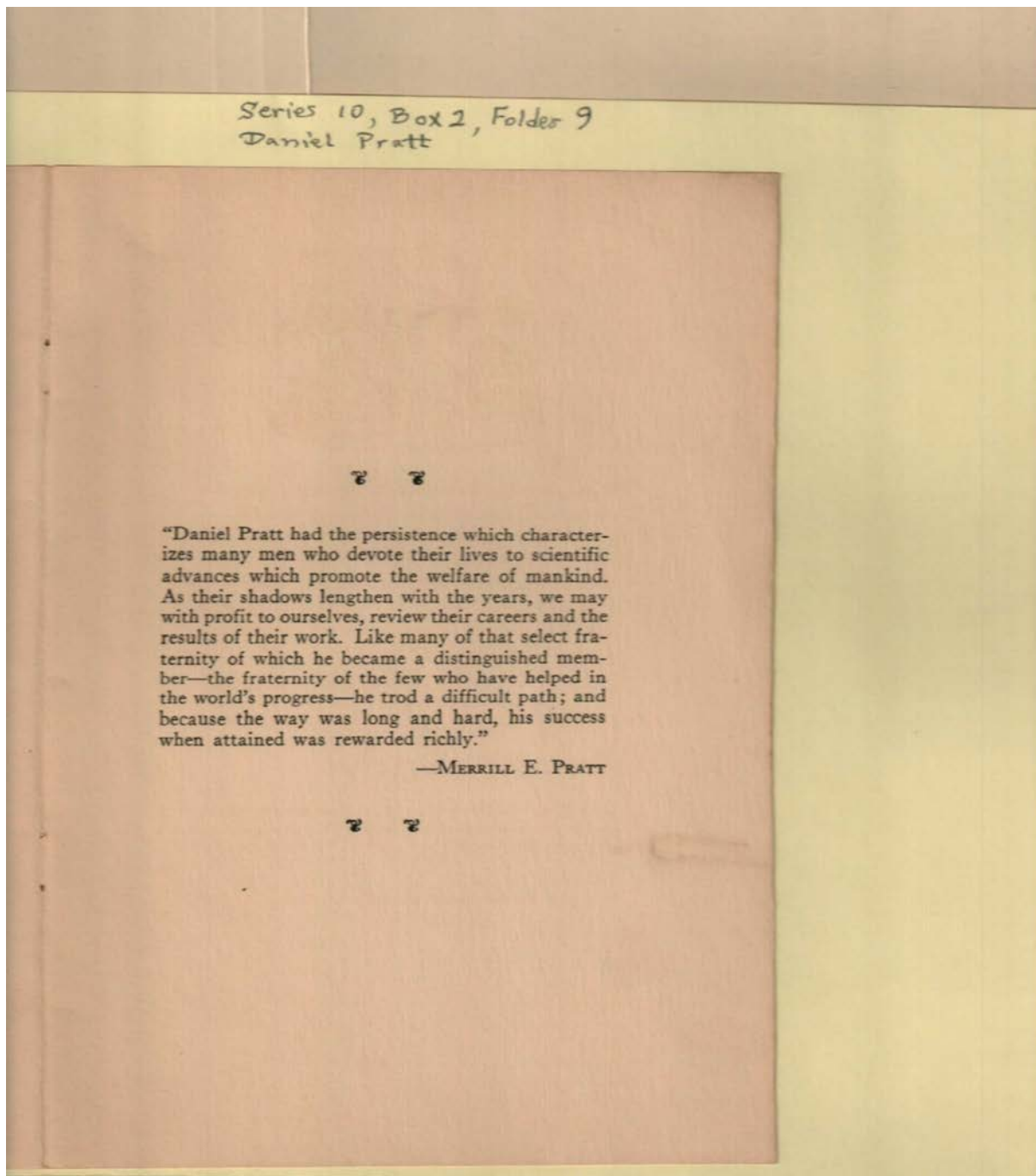
Penrose, Charles

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949

Image 3 r10_02-09-000-0004 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

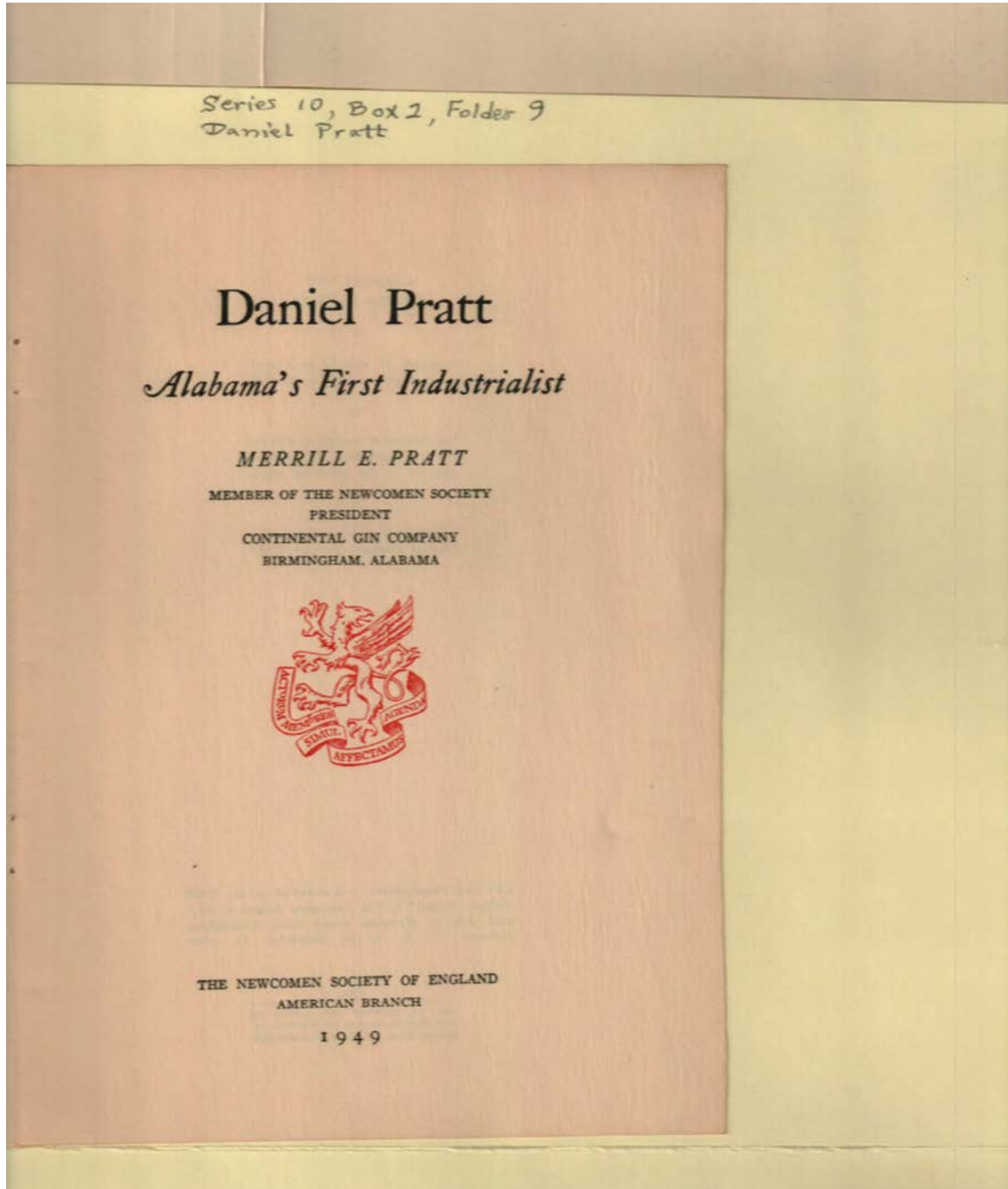
Pratt, Daniel

Pratt, Merrill E.

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949
Image 4 r10_02-09-000-0005 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Newcomen Society of
England

Pratt, Merrill E.

Daniel Pratt,
Alabama's First

Industrialist

Places:

Birmingham, AL

Types:

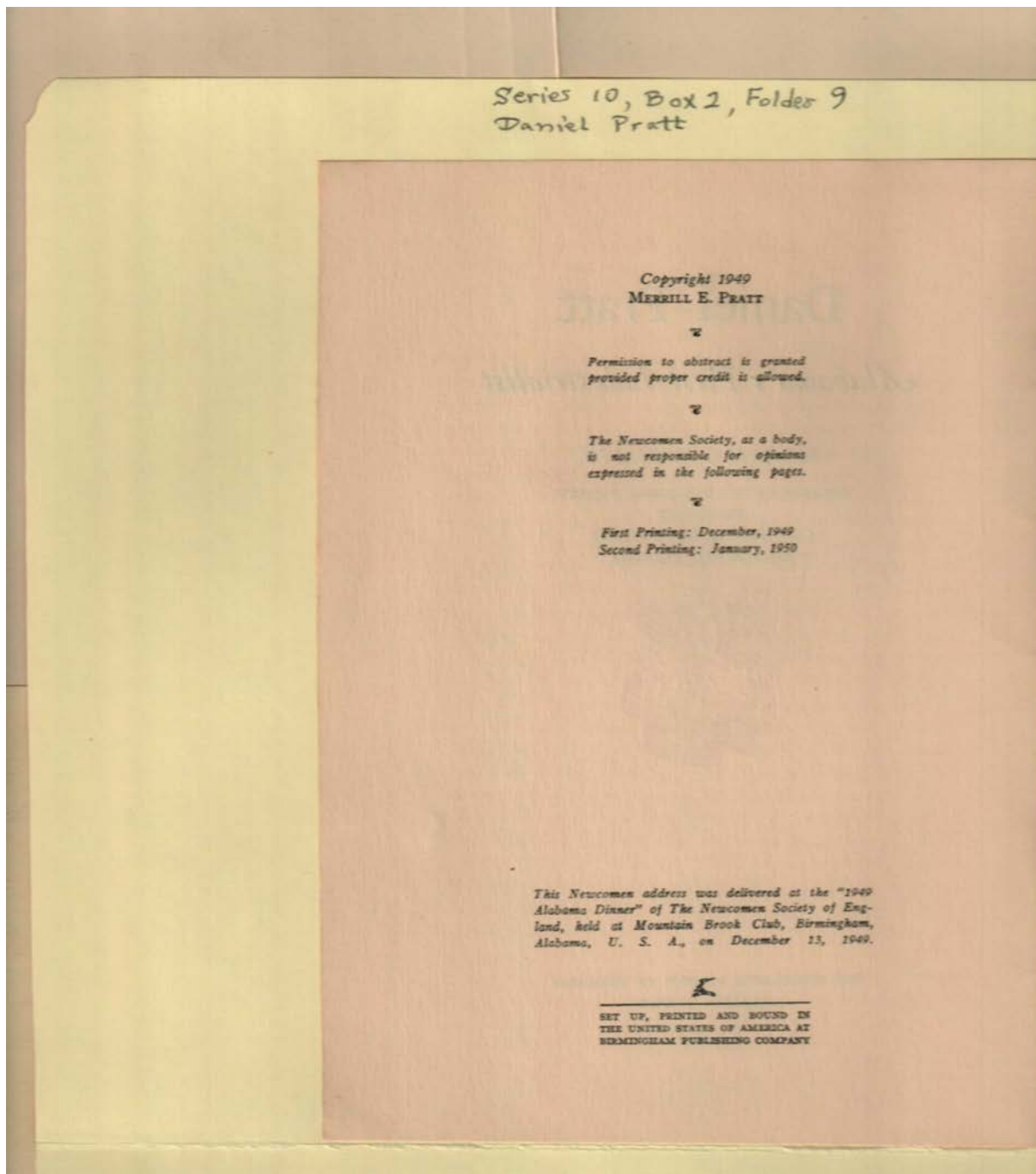
booklet

Dates:

1949

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949

Image 5 r10_02-09-000-0006 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Pratt, Merrill E.

Places:

Birmingham, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

1949

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Daniel Pratt

*Biographical Sketch
of The Author*

❧

Charleston and Savannah had culture and material progress based on indigo and rice; New Orleans with seaport pride guarded the Mississippi's gateway to the Gulf; the colors of Charles IV of Spain commanded all Florida and the port of Mobile; the inland South was a land of forests and few pioneers; cotton was in its infancy and industry was unknown. What wonders were foretold by Eli Whitney's patent in 1794 of a cotton gin which would accomplish in less than a day the hand work of one man for almost a year. Yet more than a quarter century passed before the fields were cleared for the throneward march of cotton. So was the veil drawn on a glorious era. But these things were not wrought without industry and it is of a pioneer in the manufacture of ginning machines, indeed the precursor of industry of many kinds in the South, that this Newcomen address deals. No one today could be more fit to tell the dynamic story of Daniel Pratt, Alabama's first industrialist, than his great grand-nephew. At Prattville, Alabama, scene of the Daniel Pratt Gin Company, destined to become a part of the largest cotton ginning machine manufacturers in the world was the birthplace of MERRILL EDWARD PRATT, since 1938 president of the successor organization, Continental Gin Company. He was educated at the University of Alabama from which he was graduated with B. S. Degree in 1910. In 1916 he received the degree of S.B. in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Following service as Lieutenant of Artillery in the First World War, he entered the employ of the Continental Gin Company. In addition to being its president he has long served on its directorate. Mr.

[5]

Names:

Pratt, Daniel

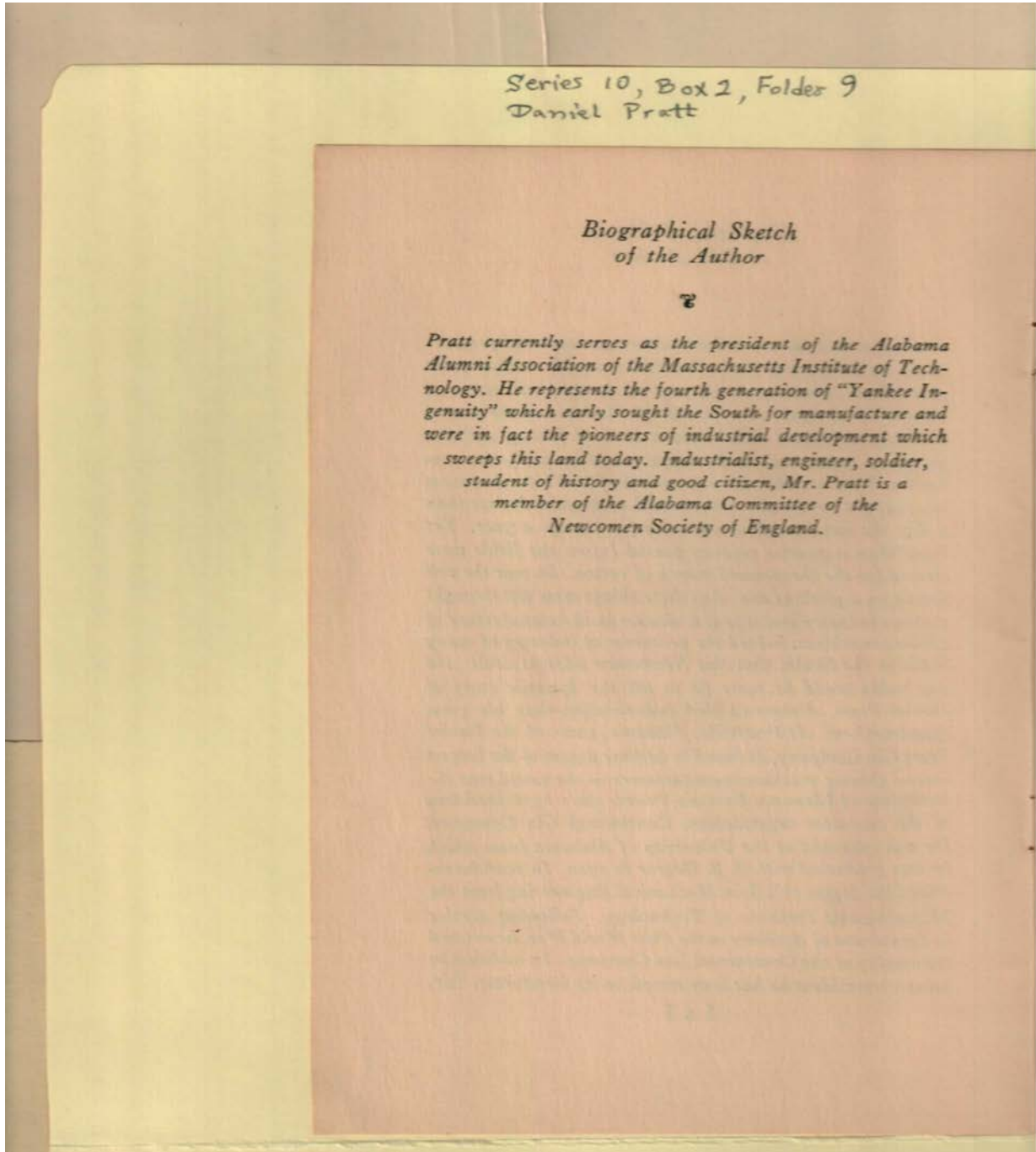
Pratt, Merrill Edward

Whitney, Eli

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949
Image 7 r10_02-09-000-0008 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

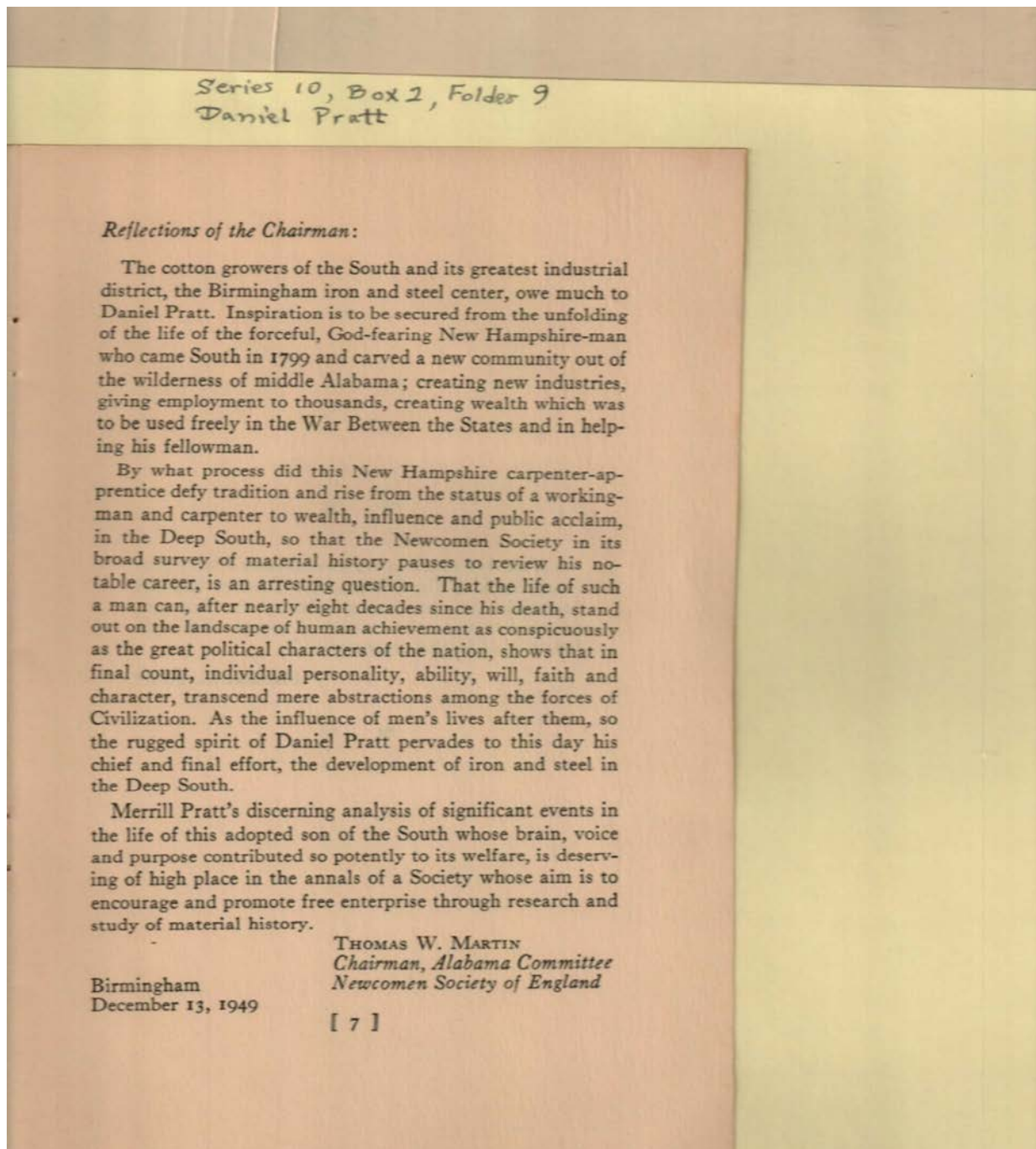


Names:

Pratt, Merrill E.

Types:

booklet



Names:

Martin, Thomas W.

Pratt, Daniel

Pratt, Merrill

Places:

Birmingham, AL

Types:

booklet

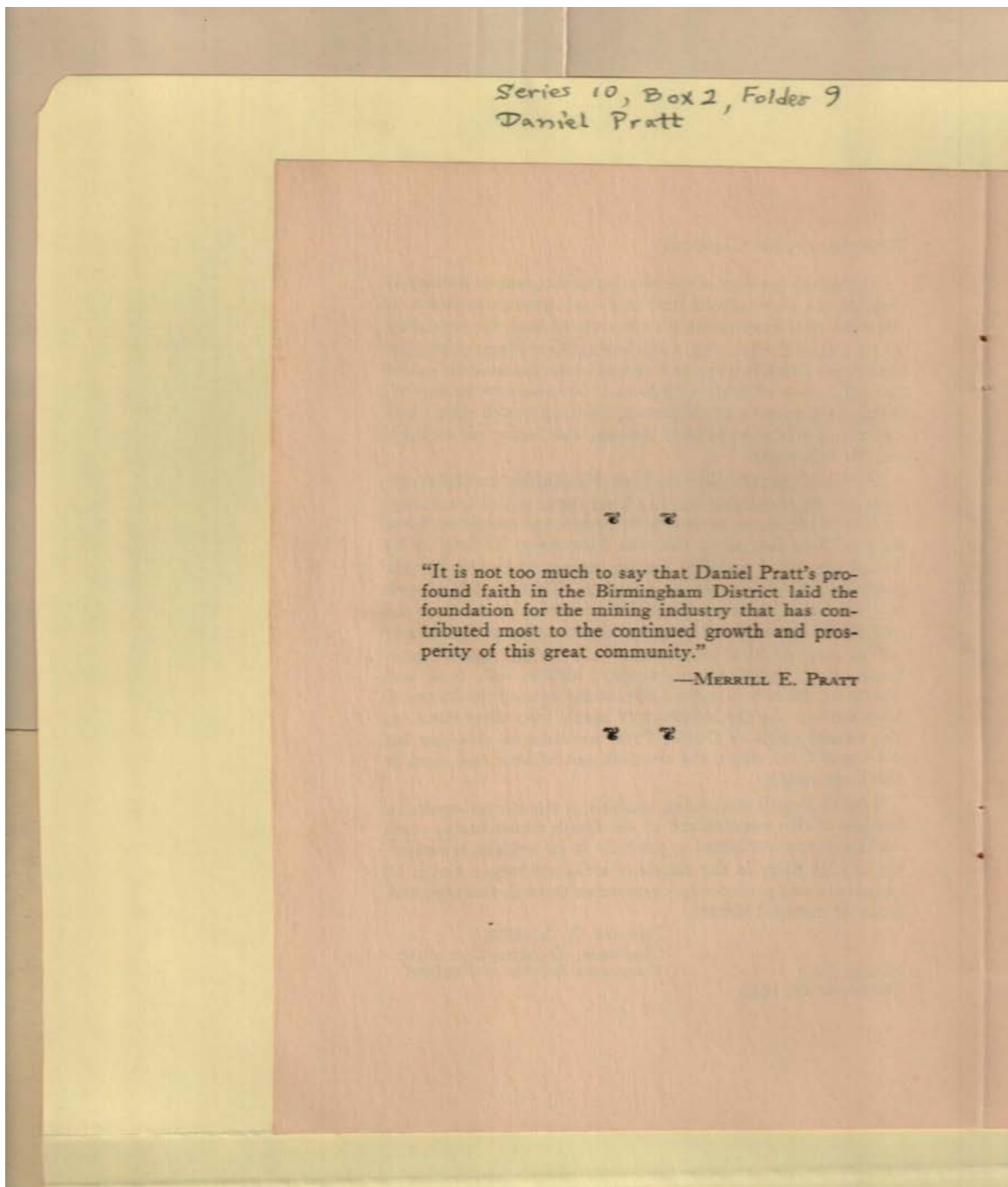
Dates:

Dec 13, 1949

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9

Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949

Image 9 r10_02-09-000-0010 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Pratt, Daniel

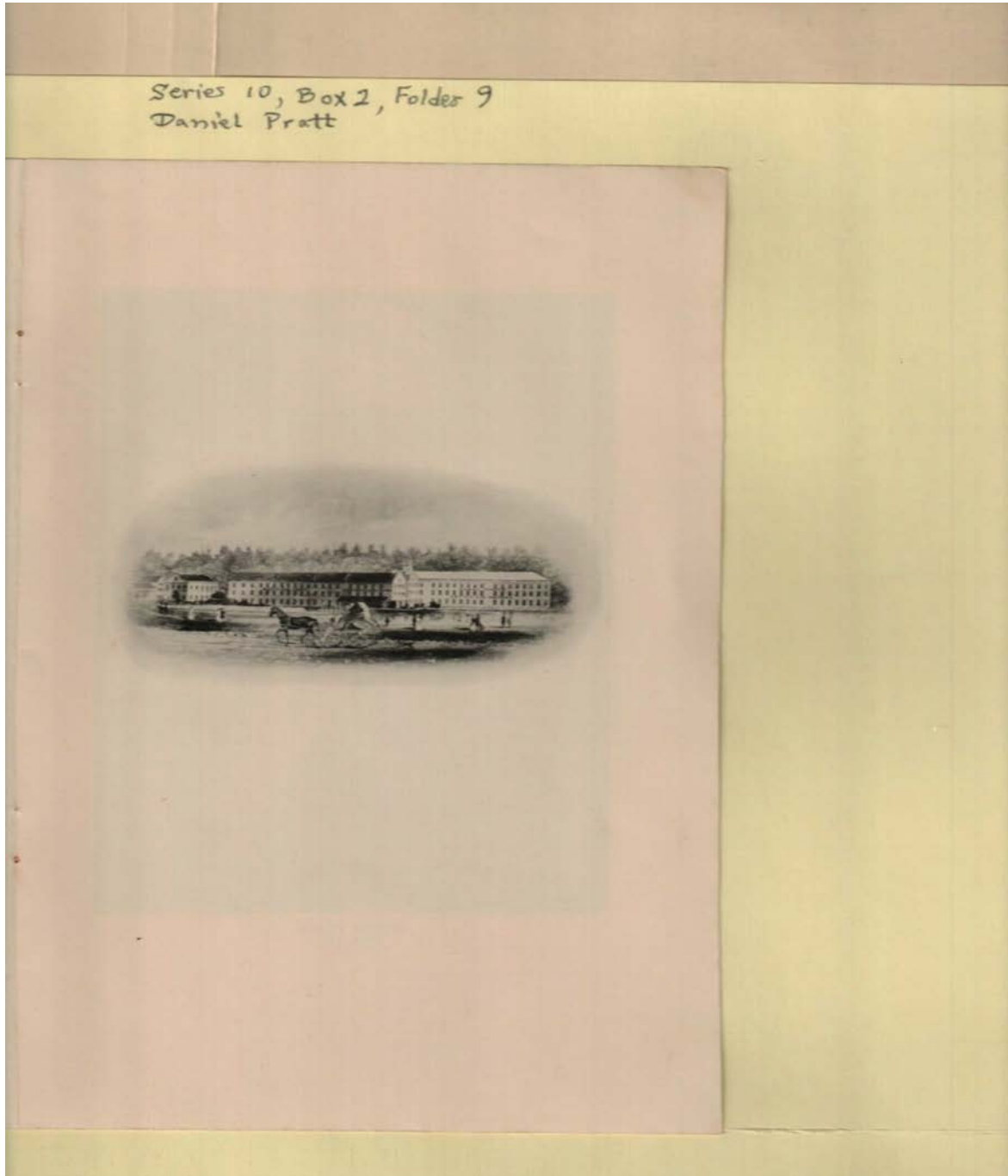
Pratt, Merrill E.

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949

Image 10 r10_02-09-000-0011 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

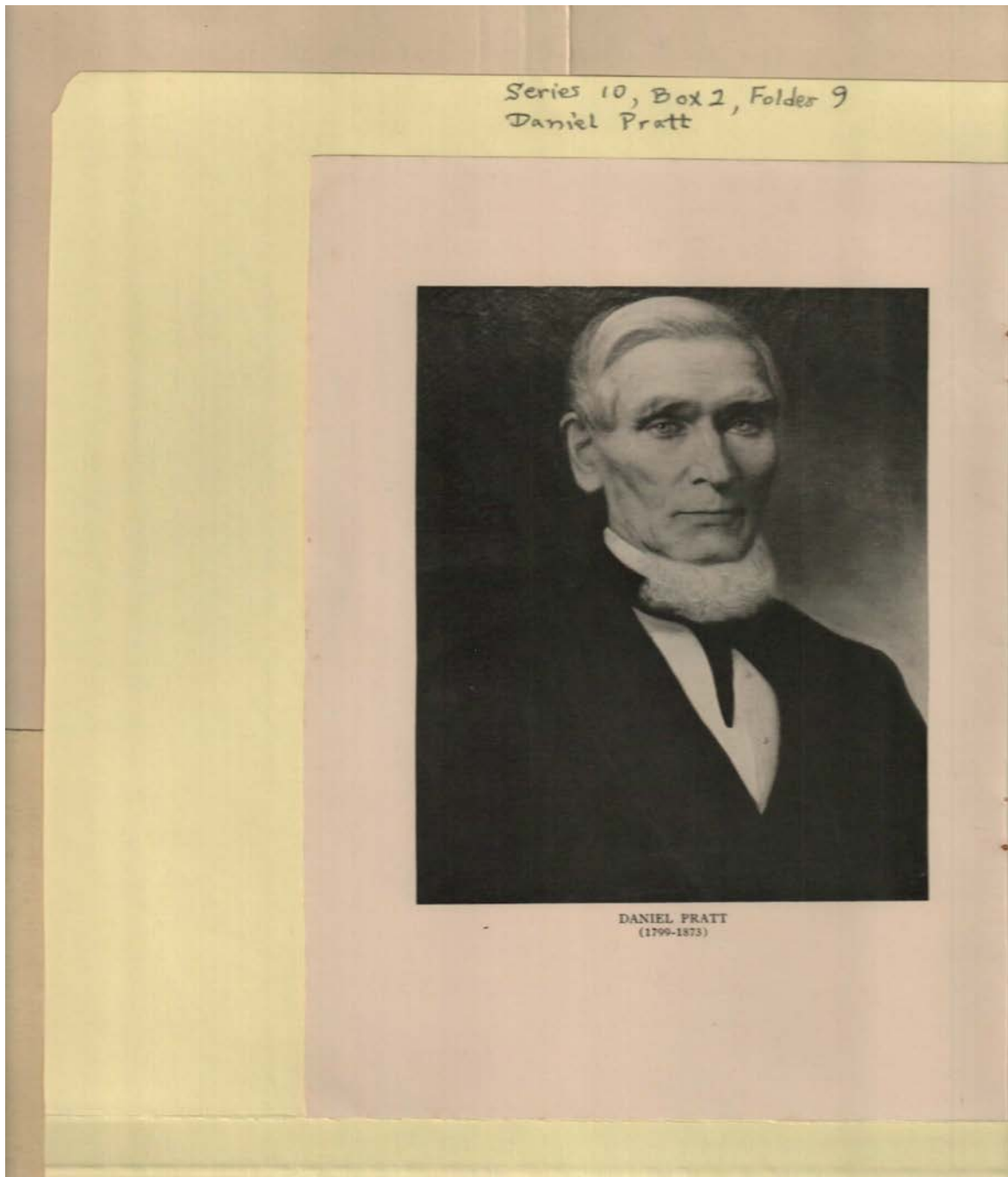


Types:
drawing

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9

Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949

Image 11 r10_02-09-000-0012 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

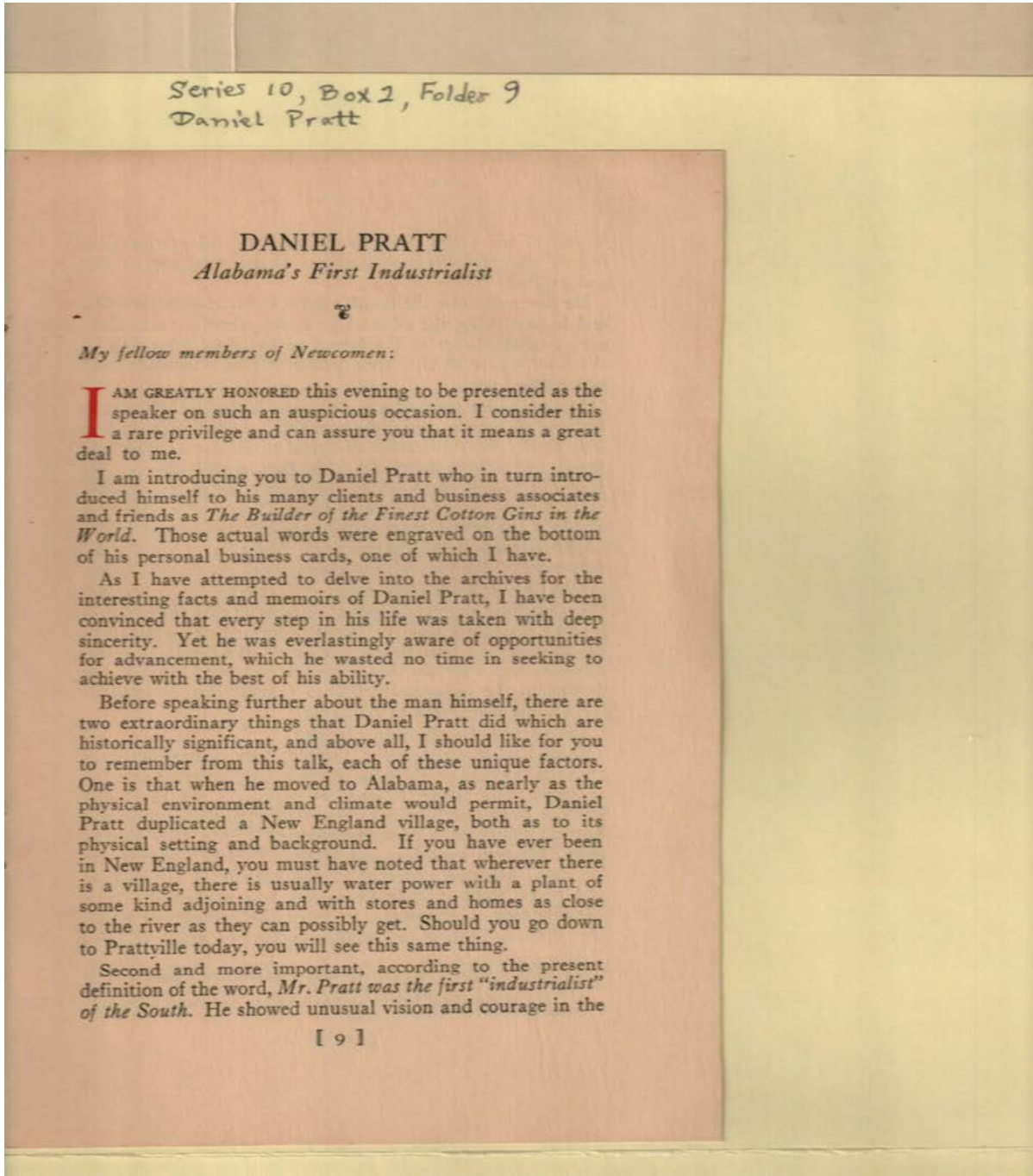


Names:

Pratt, Daniel

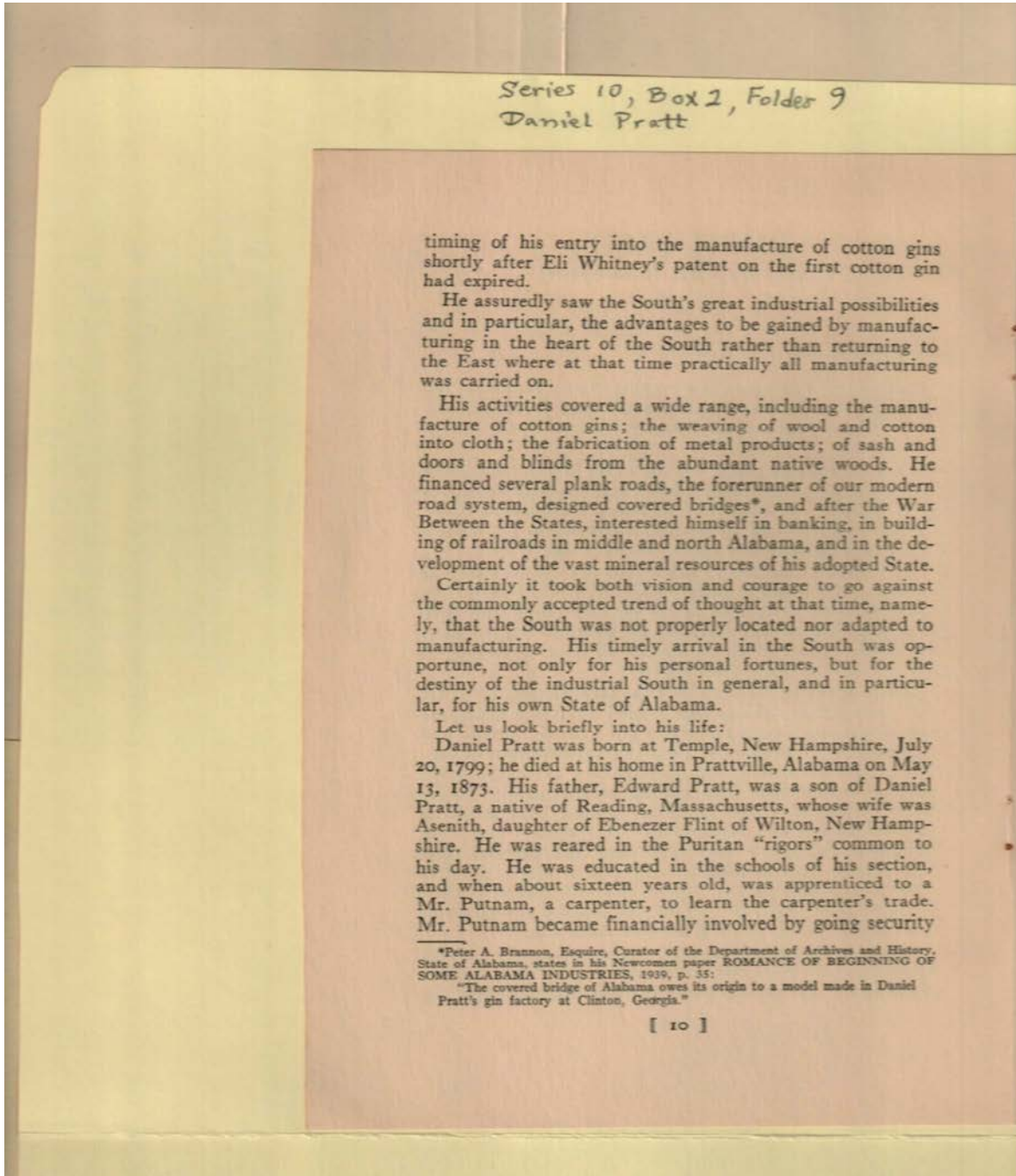
Types:

portrait



Names:
Pratt, Daniel

Types:
speech



Names:

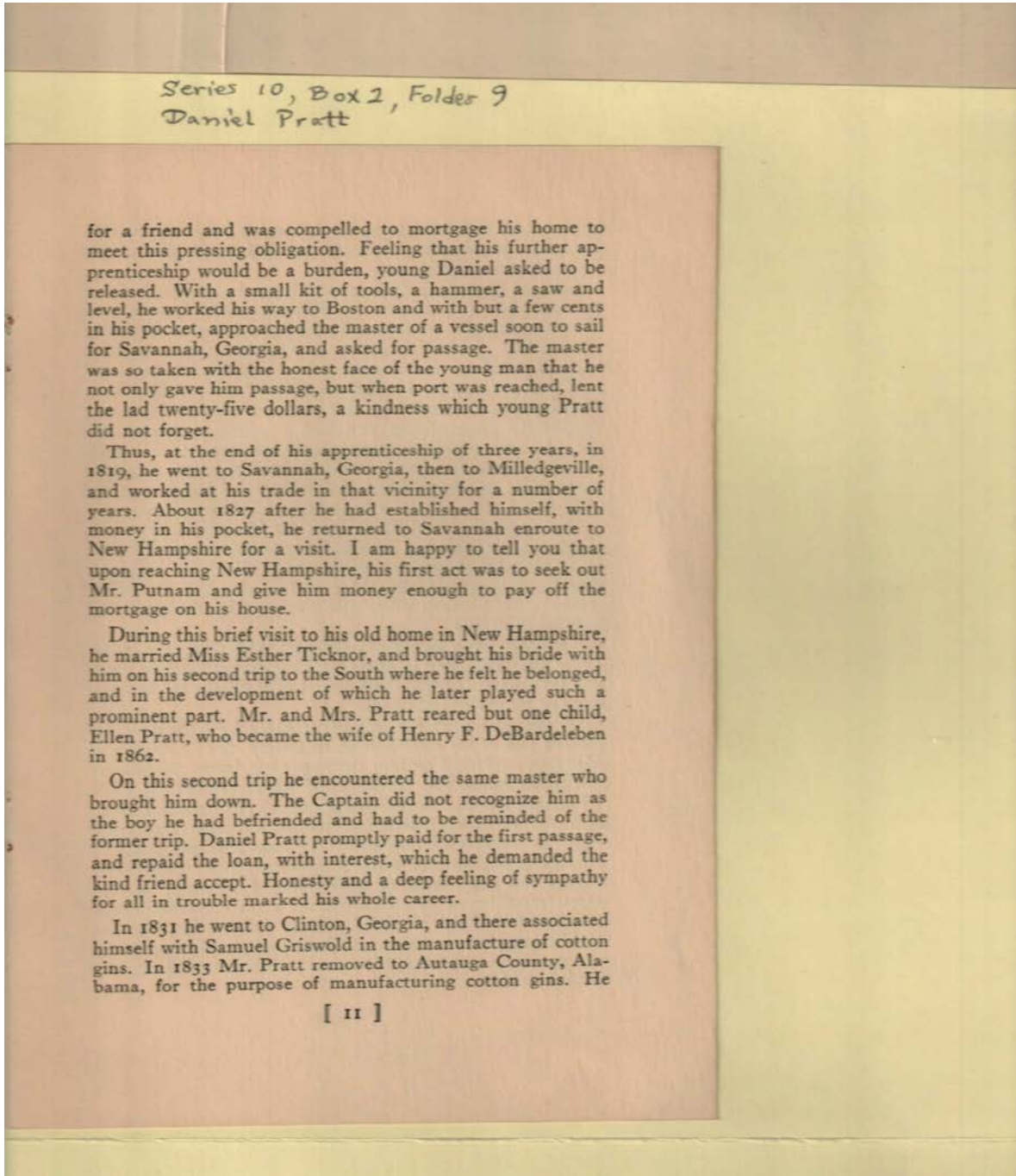
Brannon, Peter A.
Flint, Ebenezer

Pratt, Asenith
Pratt, Edward

Putnam,
Whitney, Eli

Types:

speech



Names:

DeBardeleben, Henry
F.

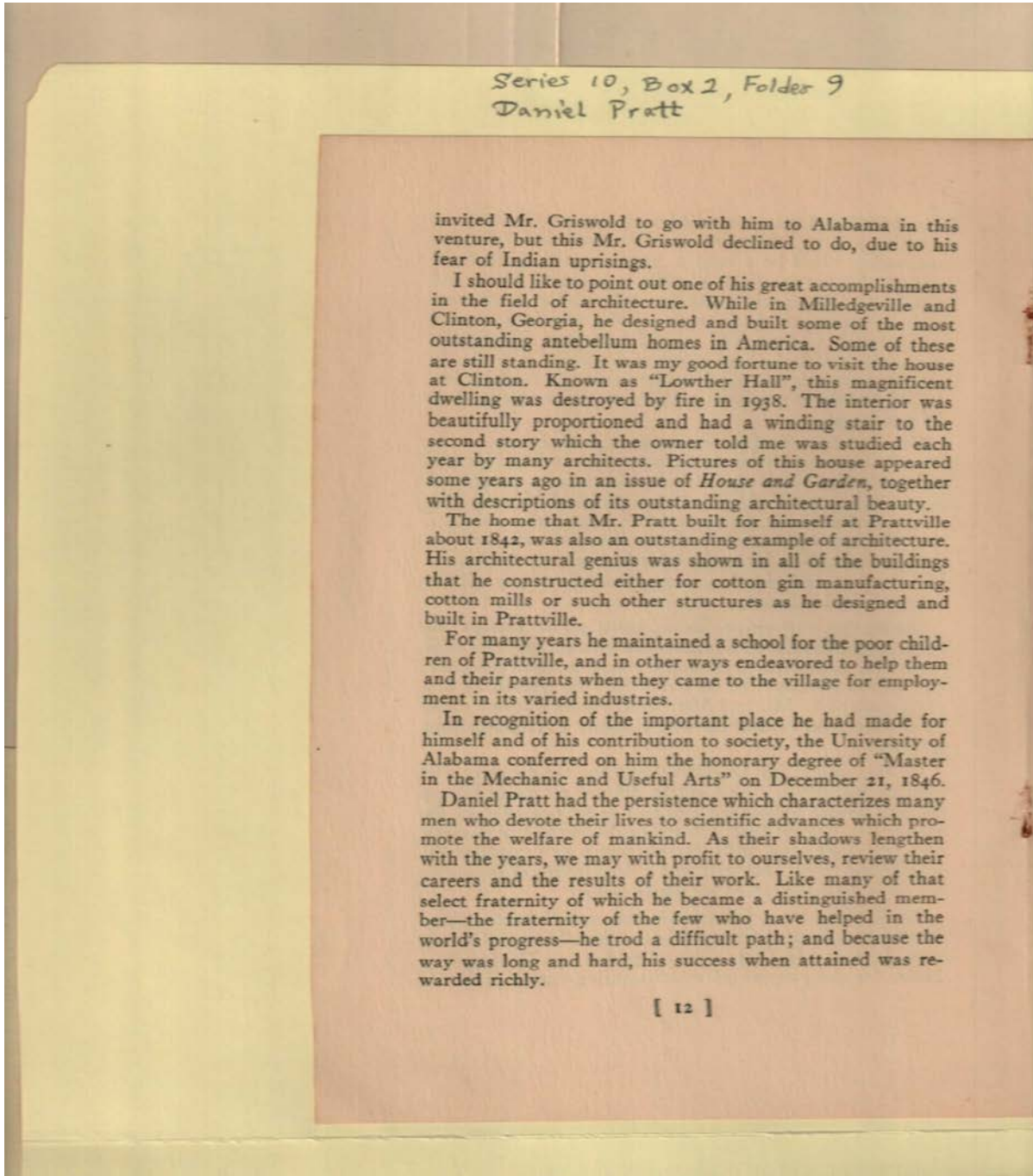
Griswold, Samuel

Pratt, Daniel, Mr. &
Mrs.

Putnam,
Ticknor, Esther, Miss

Types:

speech



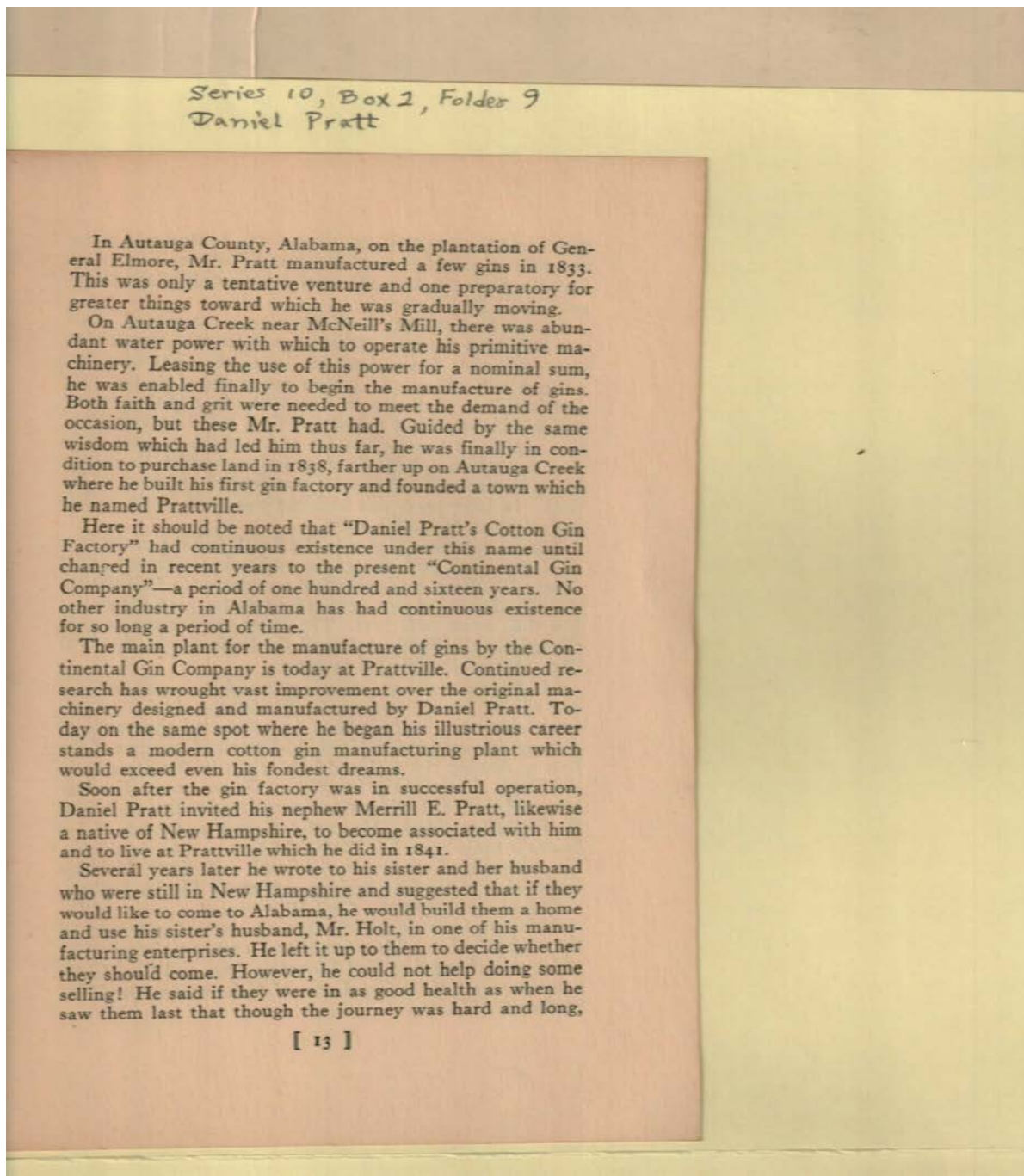
Names:

Griswold, Samuel

Pratt, Daniel

Types:

speech



Names:

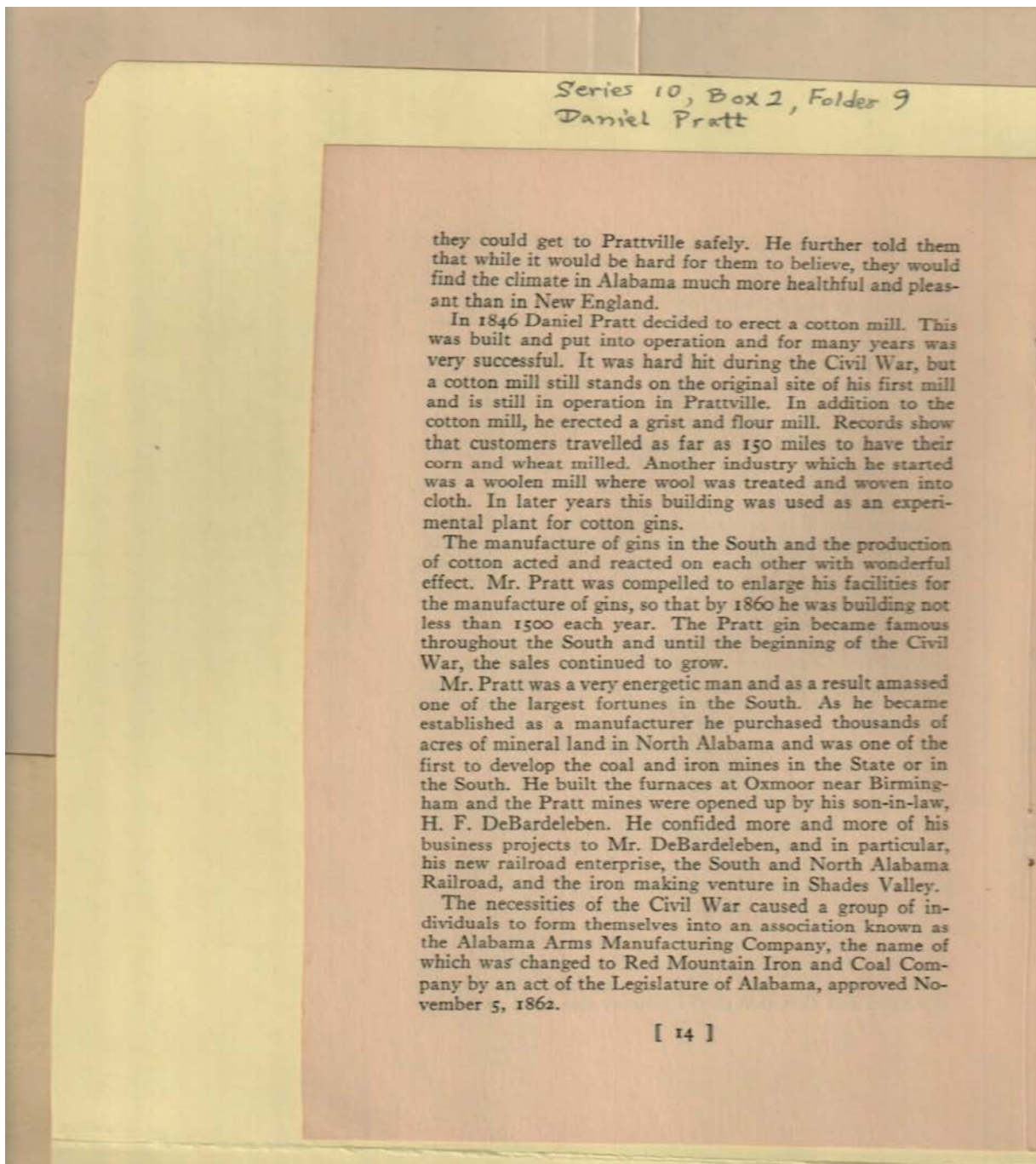
Holt,

Pratt, Daniel

Pratt, Merrill E.

Types:

speech



Names:

DeBardeleben, H. F.

Pratt, Daniel

Types:

speech

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Daniel Pratt

The Red Mountain Iron and Coal Company located in Shades Valley at Oxmoor (7 miles from the present site of Birmingham) was the first company to make use of Red Mountain ore during the Civil War. Up to this time ore was considered "dye rock" because of its use by the Indians in decorating their bodies and by the early settlers in coloring their cotton and woolen fabrics. Prior to the war, however, a small quantity of the "dye rock" had been taken to a forge and there made into wrought iron. This furnished a clue to the real value of the mineral. The incorporation of the Red Mountain Iron and Coal Company was for the purpose of: "Mining for coal and iron and the making and general manufacture of iron." Daniel Pratt was a large stockholder in this company. The company's land embodied valuable veins of bituminous coal, however, charcoal was used principally in the production of pig iron. Pig iron was made from ore taken from the outcropping of the Red Mountain seam at a place where the Ishkooda mines in later years were developed. The furnaces were destroyed by Wilson's Raiders during the Civil War.

"Henry Fairchild DeBardeleben, born in Autauga County, in 1841, was destined to become the most picturesque and dramatic character in the coal and iron history of the South", said Ethel Armes in her notable volume *The Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama*. After the death of his father, Daniel Pratt became the guardian of young DeBardeleben; brought him to Prattville and took him in as one of his family and sent him to school.

Daniel Pratt's biographer pointed out that

"The last and crowning act of his life, in a business capacity, was his Red Mountain enterprise. This was undertaken reluctantly, on account of his age and infirmity, for he doubted if he should live to witness its completion; yet his State pride urged him to undertake it. He believed something should be done to develop the mineral resources of the State. He thought labor should be diversified in order that the South might sustain herself. He seemed to possess almost a prophetic vision, and felt convinced that cotton would need assistance in order to sustain the South.

"For this enterprise he felt great solicitude. He remarked to the writer a few days before his last sickness, 'If it is the will of God, I

[15]

Names:

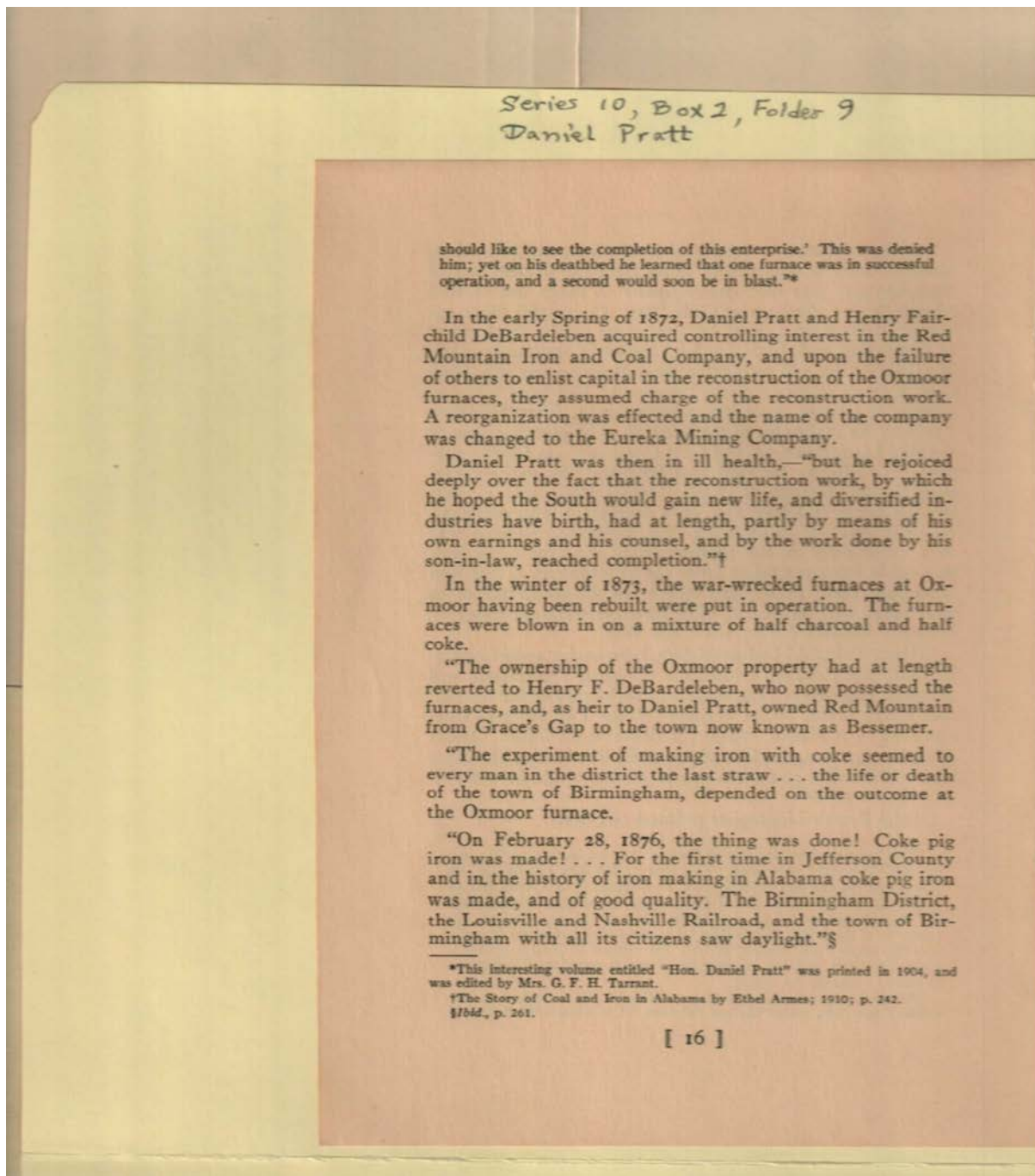
Armes, Ethel

DeBardeleben, Henry
Fairchild

Pratt, Daniel
Wilson,

Types:

speech



Names:

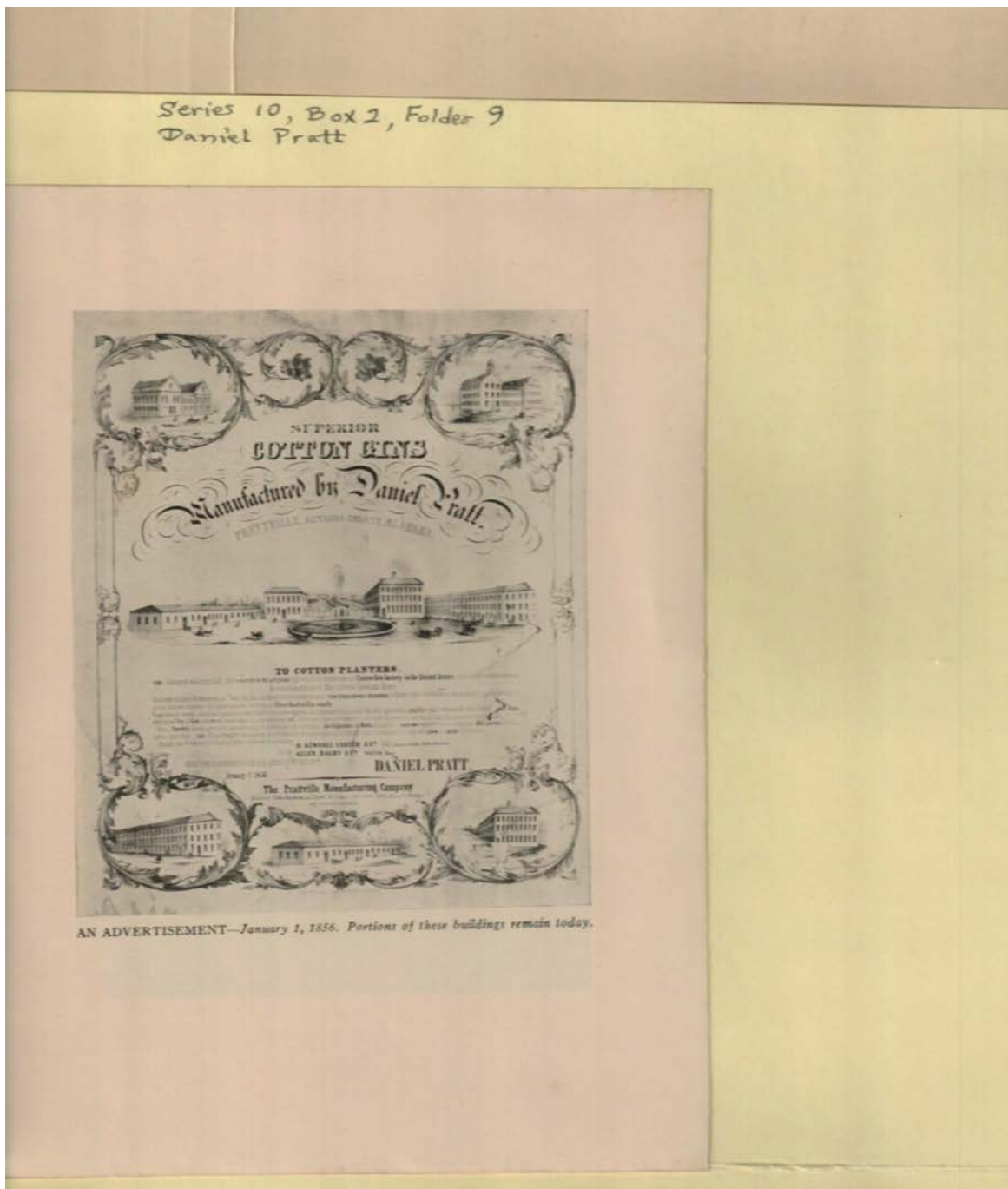
Armes, Ethel

DeBardeleben, Henry
Fairchild

Pratt, Daniel
Tarrant, G. F. H., Mrs.

Types:

speech



Names:

Pratt, Daniel

Types:

advertisement

Dates:

Jan 01, 1856



CONTINENTAL GIN COMPANY PLANT on Autauga Creek at Prattville, Alabama.

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Daniel Pratt

Names:

Continental Gin Co.

Types:

photograph

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Daniel Pratt

After alterations were made, the No. 2 furnace at Oxmoor became the first iron producer using only coke from Alabama coal for smelting.

Perhaps the dramatic ending of these significant experiments of Pratt, DeBardeleben and the other determined men may best be expressed in the words of a distinguished writer of the time who visited Birmingham:

"The furnaces were just rebuilt, and the former sense of busy active life pervaded the spot. . . . There I stood by the enormous engine wheel, and recognized the hand of kind Heaven in raising up Daniel Pratt to 'rebuild the waste places' and 'make the desert blossom as the rose'."

Though Mr. Pratt died in 1873, he did live to see iron made at Oxmoor with Alabama coal in sufficient quantities to be considered substantial. *Certainly it was largely through the efforts of DeBardeleben and Pratt that experiments were carried on which resulted in the use of coke from Alabama coals for smelting.*

A number of his associates with whom Mr. Pratt discussed the mining business near Birmingham did live to see his dream come true as the mines began to develop successful operation. They also lived to see Henry F. DeBardeleben pick up the project and carry it through after the death of Daniel Pratt.

It is not too much to say that Daniel Pratt's profound faith in the Birmingham District laid the foundation for the mining industry that has contributed most to the continued growth and prosperity of this great community.

In 1890 the DeBardeleben Coal & Iron Company became the owners of the Oxmoor operations. A few years later the Oxmoor Furnaces changed to the hands of The Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company.

Little wonder that when Henry F. DeBardeleben opened the mines in the western area near Birmingham, he selected the name of Pratt for the mining operations honoring his father-in-law, Daniel Pratt whose faith and foresight had made these mines possible. The area bordering the mines became known as Pratt City.

[17]

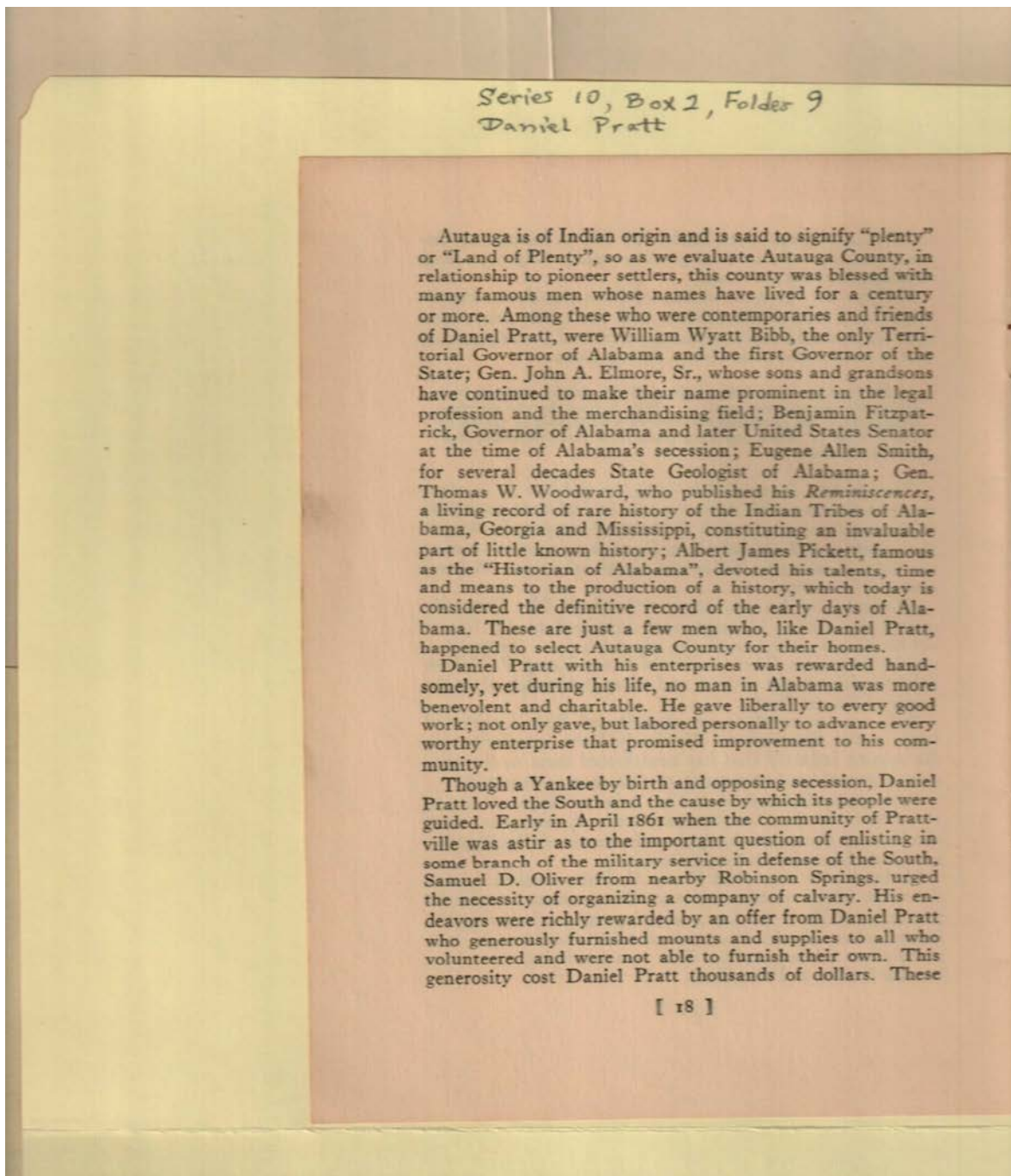
Names:

DeBardeleben, Henry
F.

Pratt, Daniel

Types:

speech



Names:

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

Fitzpatrick, Benjamin
Oliver, Samuel D.
Pickett, Albert James

Pratt, Daniel
Smith, Eugene Allen

Woodward, Thomas
W.

Types:

speech

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Daniel Pratt

Prattville Dragoons, a part of the Third Alabama Cavalry, first saw service at the Battle of Shiloh. Soon thereafter the company was placed under command of General Joe Wheeler. It is interesting to note that Mr. Pratt purchased thousands of dollars of State of Alabama Bonds during the Civil War realizing these bonds would be financially valueless.

Though ever attaching due importance to public measures, Mr. Pratt had little leisure to take an active part in politics; yet in 1861 he was elected to the Lower House of the State Legislature, where his experience and sound practical views were eminently beneficial. He remained a member of the Legislature until 1865. For many years he served as an Intendant of Prattville, the position comparable to that of Alderman in modern parlance.

He planted a rather large vineyard on the hill directly behind his house. I am told that this was done so that the churches of Prattville would have wine for communion. I well remember the large wine house that he had and I am sure there was more wine made than the churches needed; in fact, Mr. Pratt served wine frequently in his home.

At one time the road which led from his plant to the ferry on the Alabama River went through the main street of Prattville where there were two or three saloons. Rather than have his drivers go past them, he constructed a four-mile road from the plant to the river and it was entirely covered with planks to keep the wheels from bogging down. Among the citizens of Prattville, this is still known as the "Plank Road." None of the people though who told me about this advised me what happened to the drivers when they got to Montgomery.

Further evidence of his broad interests was his operation with a Mr. Wheelen of a private bank in New Orleans. This was shortly prior to his death.

Mr. Pratt was greatly interested in art and at one time while in New Orleans he employed a painter of renown, to go to Europe and make reproductions of a number of the masterpieces, including "Interior of St. Peter's Church," "The Last Supper," "The City of Rome," "The Roman Forum," "The Bay of Naples," "The Annunciation," "The

[19]

Names:

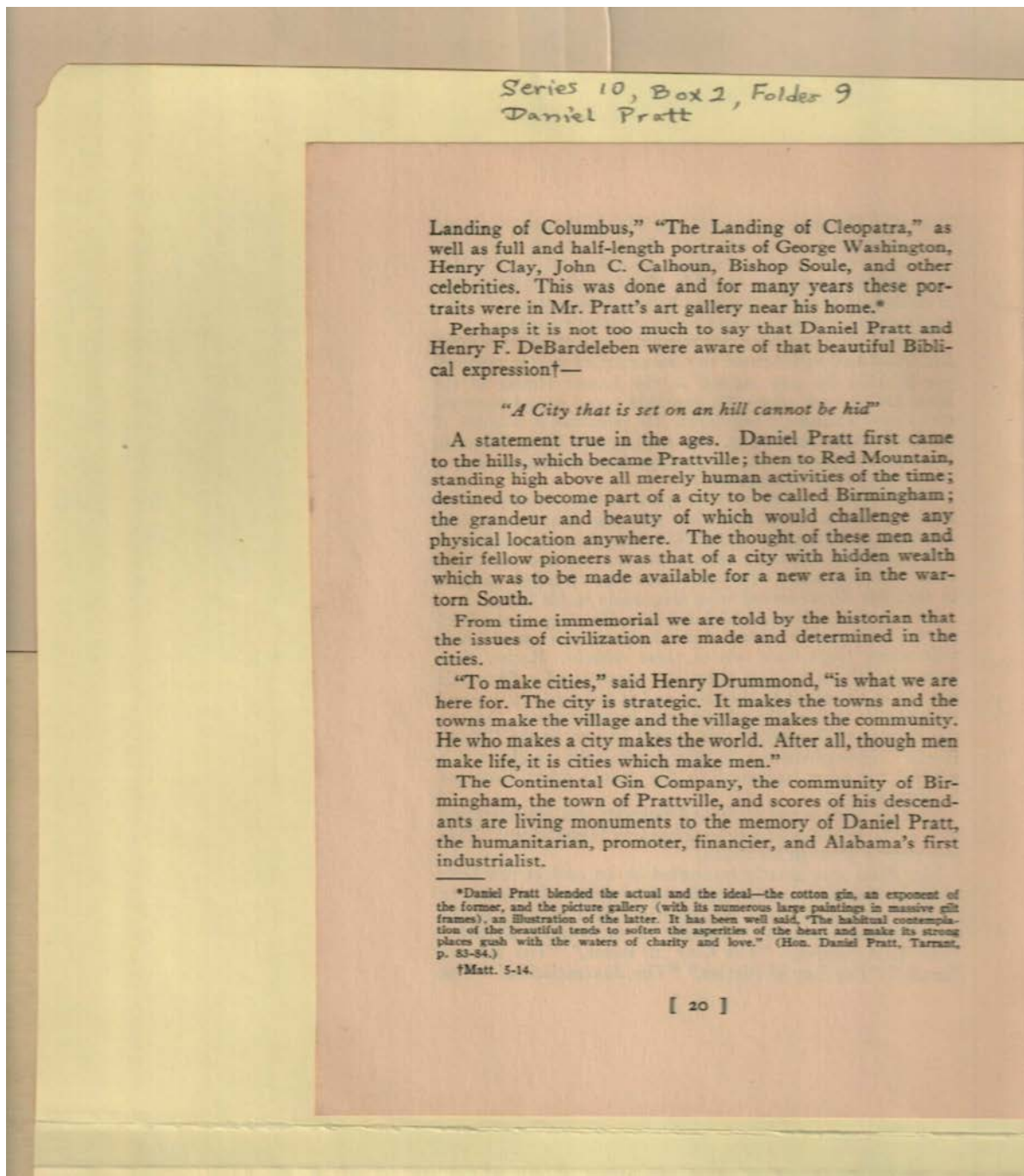
Pratt, Daniel

Wheelen,

Wheeler, Joe, General

Types:

speech



Names:

Calhoun, John C.
Clay, Henry

DeBardeleben, Henry
F.

Drummond, Henry
Pratt, Daniel

Soule, Bishop
Washington, George

Types:

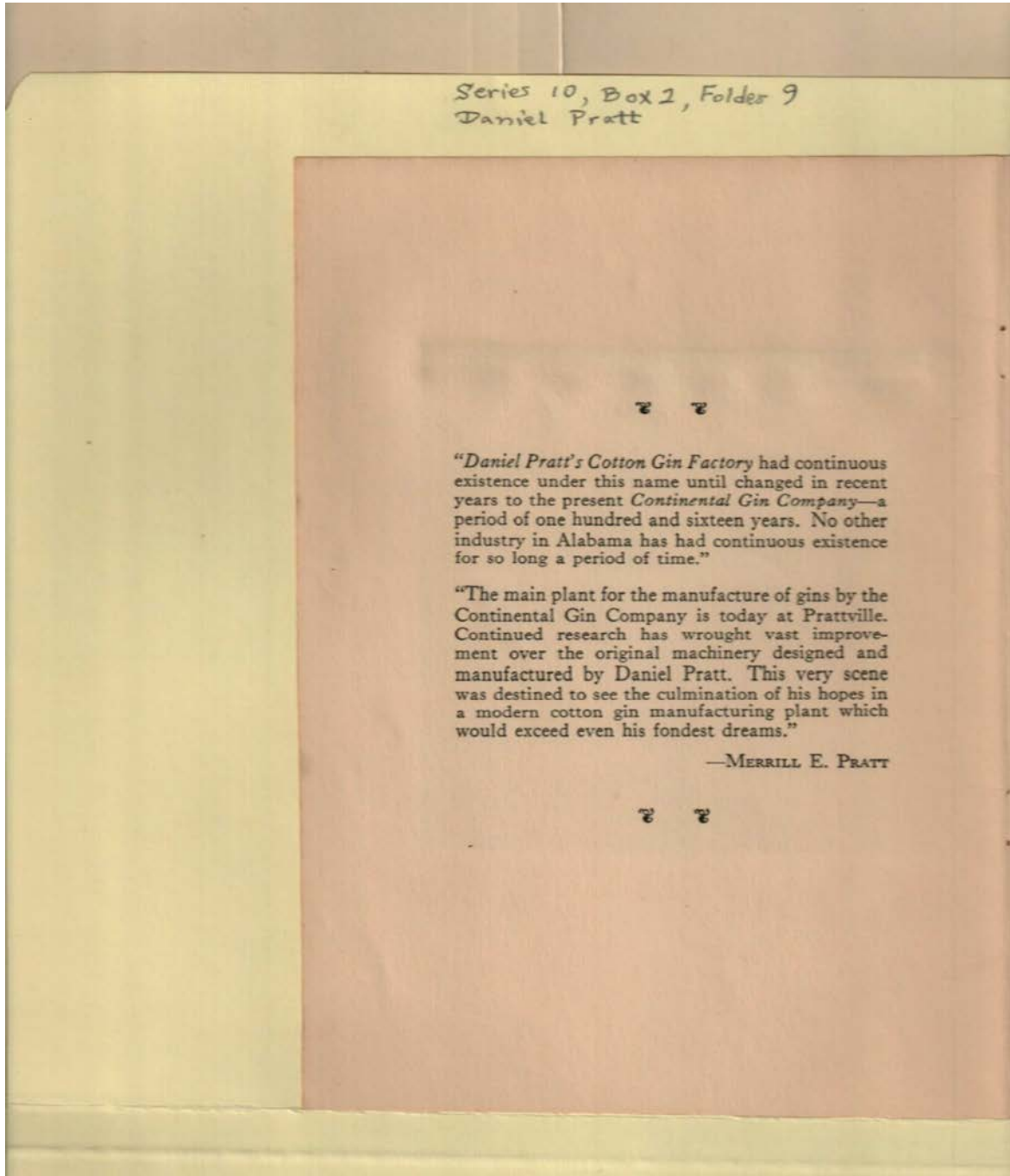
speech

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Daniel Pratt



Names:
Old Cotton Press

Types:
drawing



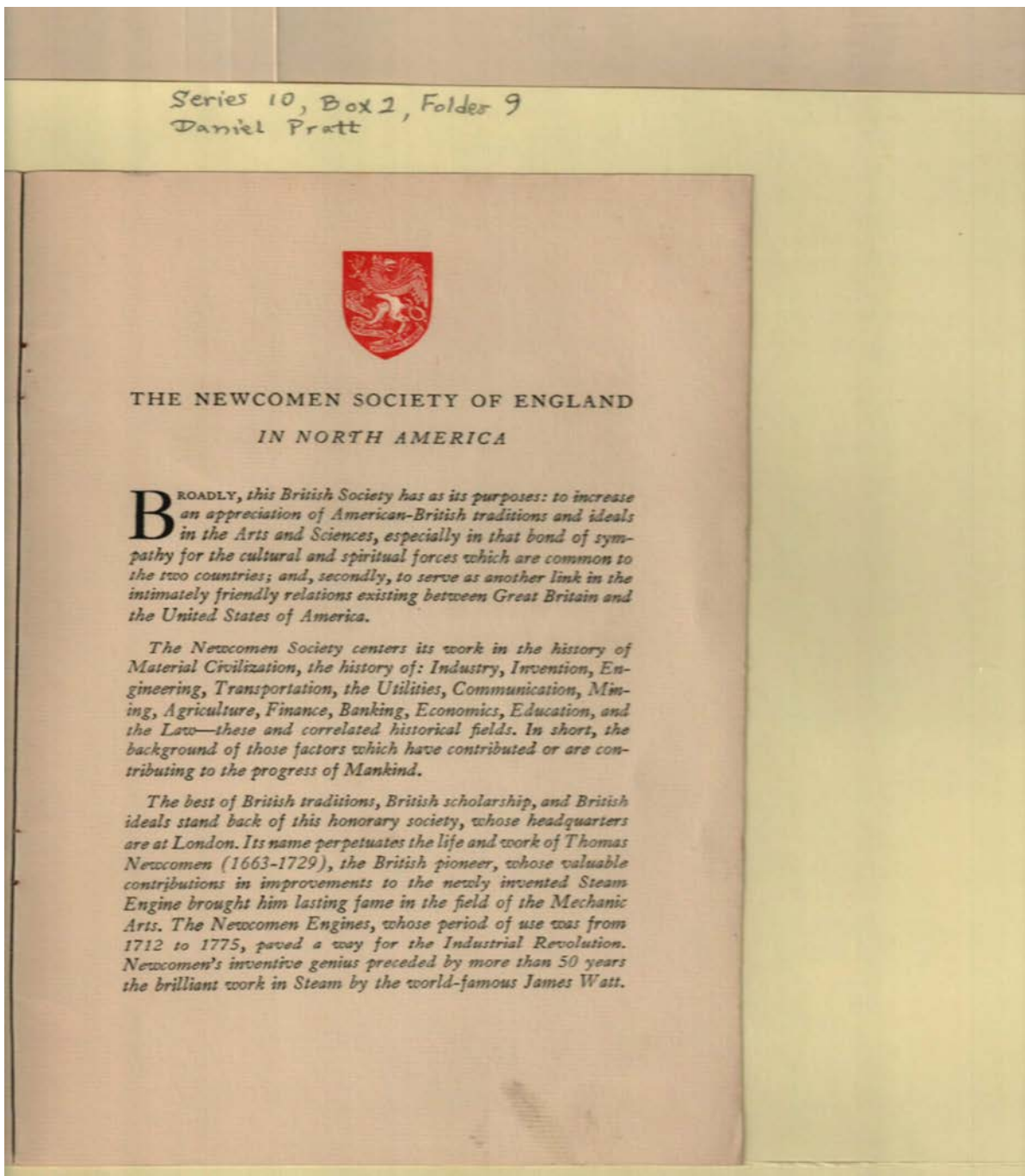
Names:

Pratt, Daniel

Pratt, Merrill E.

Types:

booklet



Names:

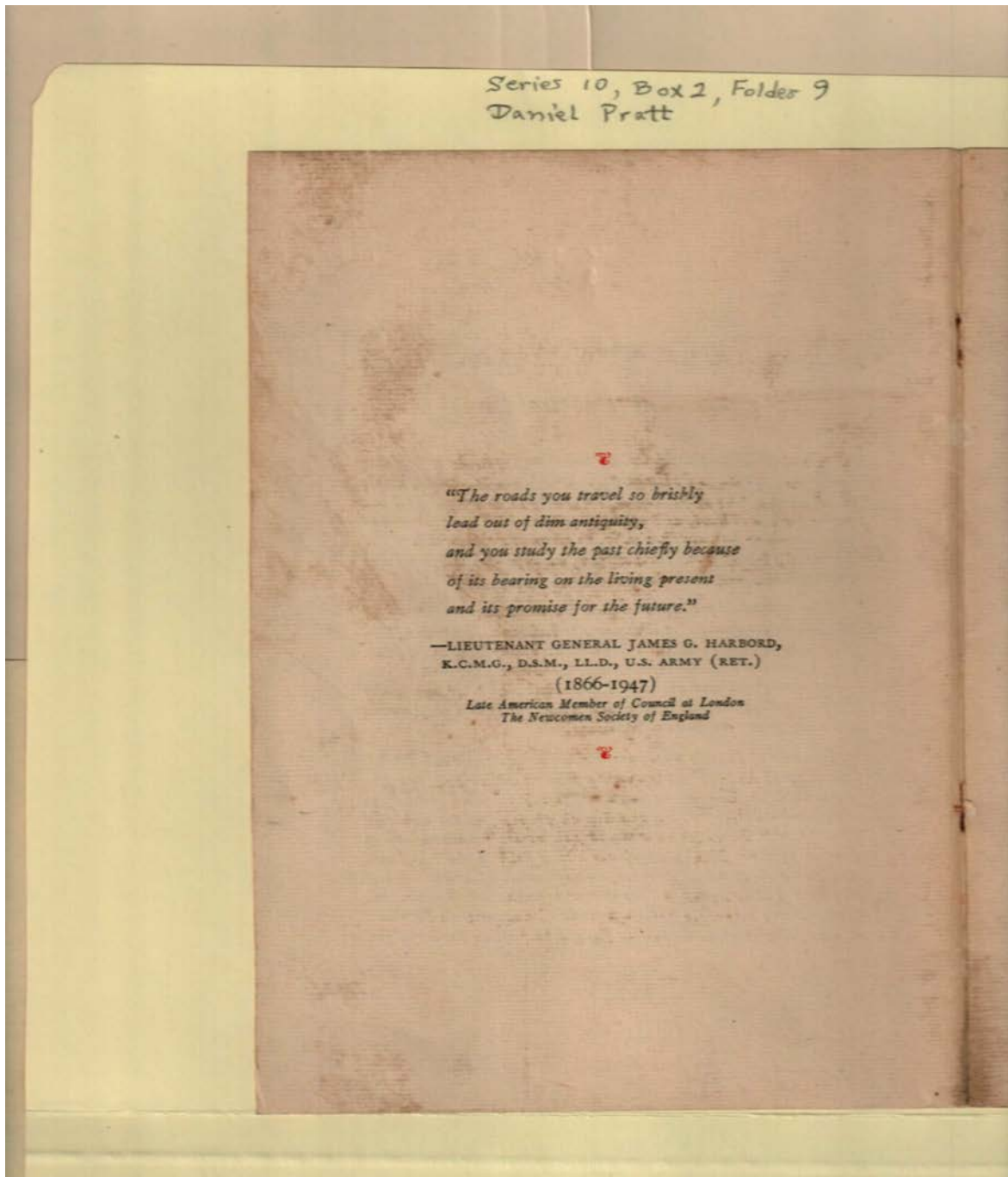
Newcomen Society of
England

Newcomen, Thomas
Watt, James

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949
Image 29 r10_02-09-000-0030 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Harbord, James G.,
General

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949

[Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

Table of Contents

[Image 1](#) (r10_02-09-000-0002)

[Image 2](#) (r10_02-09-000-0003)

[Image 3](#) (r10_02-09-000-0004)

[Image 4](#) (r10_02-09-000-0005)

[Image 5](#) (r10_02-09-000-0006)

[Image 6](#) (r10_02-09-000-0007)

[Image 7](#) (r10_02-09-000-0008)

[Image 8](#) (r10_02-09-000-0009)

[Image 9](#) (r10_02-09-000-0010)

[Image 10](#) (r10_02-09-000-0011)

[Image 11](#) (r10_02-09-000-0012)

[Image 12](#) (r10_02-09-000-0013)

[Image 13](#) (r10_02-09-000-0014)

[Image 14](#) (r10_02-09-000-0015)

[Image 15](#) (r10_02-09-000-0016)

[Image 16](#) (r10_02-09-000-0017)

[Image 17](#) (r10_02-09-000-0018)

[Image 18](#) (r10_02-09-000-0019)

[Image 19](#) (r10_02-09-000-0020)

[Image 20](#) (r10_02-09-000-0021)

[Image 21](#) (r10_02-09-000-0022)

[Image 22](#) (r10_02-09-000-0023)

[Image 23](#) (r10_02-09-000-0024)

[Image 24](#) (r10_02-09-000-0025)

[Image 25](#) (r10_02-09-000-0026)

[Image 26](#) (r10_02-09-000-0027)

[Image 27](#) (r10_02-09-000-0028)

[Image 28](#) (r10_02-09-000-0029)

[Image 29](#) (r10_02-09-000-0030)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Name & Place Index](#)

[About the Collection](#)

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 9
Pratt, Merrill E. "Daniel Pratt: America's First Industrialist," 1949

[Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

Name & Place Index

Armes, Ethel [18](#), [19](#)
Bibb, William Wyatt [23](#)
Birmingham, AL [4](#), [5](#), [8](#)
Brannon, Peter A. [13](#)
Calhoun, John C. [25](#)
Clay, Henry [25](#)
Continental Gin Co. [21](#)
Daniel Pratt, Alabama's First Industrialist [1](#), [4](#)
DeBardeleben, H. F. [17](#)
DeBardeleben, Henry F. [14](#), [22](#), [25](#)
DeBardeleben, Henry Fairchild [18](#), [19](#)
Drummond, Henry [25](#)
Elmore, John A., Sr., General [23](#)
Fitzpatrick, Benjamin [23](#)
Flint, Ebenezer [13](#)
Griswold, Samuel [14](#), [15](#)
Harbord, James G., General [29](#)
Holt, [16](#)
Martin, Thomas W. [8](#)
Newcomen Society of England [4](#), [28](#)
Newcomen, Thomas [28](#)
Old Cotton Press [26](#)
Oliver, Samuel D. [23](#)
Penrose, Charles [2](#)
Pickett, Albert James [23](#)
Pratt, Asenith [13](#)
Pratt, Daniel, Mr. & Mrs. [14](#)
Pratt, Daniel [1](#), [3](#), [6](#), [8](#), [9](#), [11](#), [12](#), [15](#), [16](#), [17](#), [18](#), [19](#), [20](#),
[22](#), [23](#), [24](#), [25](#), [27](#)
Pratt, Edward [13](#)
Pratt, Merrill E. [1](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [7](#), [9](#), [16](#), [27](#)
Pratt, Merrill Edward [6](#)
Pratt, Merrill [8](#)
Putnam, [13](#), [14](#)
Smith, Eugene Allen [23](#)
Soule, Bishop [25](#)
Tarrant, G. F. H., Mrs. [19](#)
Ticknor, Esther, Miss [14](#)
Washington, George [25](#)
Watt, James [28](#)
Wheelen, [24](#)
Wheeler, Joe, General [24](#)
Whitney, Eli [6](#), [13](#)
Wilson, [18](#)
Woodward, Thomas W. [23](#)

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

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.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

Conditions Governing Use: This material may be protected under U. S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) which governs the making of photocopies or reproductions of copyrighted materials. You may use the digitized material for private study, scholarship, or research. Though the University of Alabama in Huntsville Archives and Special Collections has physical ownership of the material in its collections, in some cases we may not own the copyright to the material. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in our collections.

Provenance: Gift of Johanna Shields on October 28, 2006.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

**The UAH Archives and Special Collections
M. Louis Salmon Library**