

Inventory of the

**American Legion Post 864**  
**Daniel Post**  
Rockford, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 194**

## INTRODUCTION

Robert Borden, longtime member and former historian of the American Legion Daniel Post 864 of Rockford, Illinois, donated the post's records to the Regional History Center in 1989.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.5  
Number of containers: 5  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 194

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection partially documents the history of the American Legion Daniel Post 864 of Rockford, Illinois from 1937 to 1986. The post meeting minutes and financial reports provide extensive information of the group's functions and activities from 1937-1986. The post newsletter, 864 News, details its activities from 1960-1986. Additional information to document special events sponsored by the post is foldered separately and includes Armistice Day (Veterans Day) banquets (1938-1985), Memorial Day services and parades (1942-1983), travelogue programs (1960-1987), and various local scholarship awards (1971-1986). Of special interest are the documents detailing the Daniel Post of Ex-Servicemen's application to merge with the American Legion in 1943, and the subsequent incorporation of the Daniel Post Building Corporation in 1944.

Researchers should note a gap in the meeting minutes which occurs between 1976 and 1985. The run of minutes for the years 1956 to 1976 often have financial reports included as attachments. Financial information on membership (dues) and the annual travelogue lecture series is included as part of the regular financial reports. Other membership information can be found in the chronological correspondence. Annual reports submitted by different post commanders at irregular intervals are also included in the chronological correspondence.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

In August 1937, a group of veterans began working on organizing an American Legion post in Rockford with membership requirements that differed from accepted Legion standards. Calling themselves the Daniel Post of Ex-Servicemen, the members stressed religious belief and a patriotic commitment. Participation in gambling, drinking of alcohol, dancing, "stag" entertainments, and rough language were disallowed at the Daniel Post. The members preferred to devote themselves energetically to good works for the benefit of Rockford's veterans and the community as a whole. In its first year, the Daniel Post gathered more than one hundred

members, mostly veterans of World War I. The Daniel Post obtained its American Legion Charter on April 7, 1944, after making three separate applications. A ladies auxiliary of fifty members received its charter on the same day.

In the fall of 1944, the Daniel Post purchased a house at the corner of 7th Street and 11th Avenue in Rockford. Post members promptly formed the Daniel Post Building Corporation to raise funds to renovate their house, which dated from 1882. The new post home was dedicated in July 1945.

Throughout the next several decades, the Post was active in lobbying to secure benefits for veterans of all wars. The Post has been active in supporting Christian missionaries overseas since 1966. Within Rockford, the Post supports scholarship awards for local students and assists in coordinating ROTC programs. The Post faithfully participates in municipal Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Independence Day celebrations. The Post has sponsored an annual educational travelogue series since 1960 as a fundraiser. Today, the Daniel Post continues to play an active and beneficial role in the Rockford community.

#### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Daniel Post of Ex-Servicemen  
American Legion  
Veterans  
Rockford (Ill.)

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	Histories, 1965, 1980-1981	
	2	News releases, 1937-1985, 2004	
	3	American Legion post application, 1937-1944	
	4	Post home property deeds, 1882, 1884, 1918	
	5	Post home dedication, 1945	
	6	Post and regional constitutions, 1938, 1944, 1955	
	7-10	Chronological correspondence, 1937-1985	
	10a	Correspondence, 2001-2007	
	11	Correspondence with missionaries, 1966-1984	
	12	Correspondence, Auxiliary, 2003-2004	
	13-14	Minutes, 1937-1946	
	2	1-5	Minutes, 1947-1985
		6-7	Meeting attendance sign-in sheets, 1949-1986
3	1	Membership rosters, 1943-1984	
	2	Officers and lifetime members, 1937-1986	
	2a	Membership Cards, Robert Borden, 2003, 2004; National American Legion Press Association Card, 1968	
	2b	Obituaries and Memorial Service Programs, 2003-2006	
	3-5	Financial reports, 1939-1984	
	6	Donations to post, 1945-1958	
	7	Tax documents, 1947-1983	
	8	Post home insurance policy, 1984-1985	
	9	<u>The 864 News</u> , 1960-1986	
	10	Post award certificates, 1953-1981	
	11	Initiation ceremony, n.d.	
	12	Songs, prayers, jokes for meetings, (1938-1983), n.d.	
	13	Armistice Day (Veterans Day) banquet programs, 1938-1985, 1998, 2005	
13a	Memorial Day, 1942, 1978, 1983		
4	1	Banquet tickets, meeting invitation cards, 1946-1985	
	2	Post sponsored ROTC and local scholarship awards, 1971-1986	
	3	Premier Boy's State, 1961-1984	
	4	High school oratorical and essay contest, 1958-1982	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
4	5	Travelogue correspondence, promotional material, (1960-1996)	
	6	Travelogue programs, 1960-1987	
	7	Veteran's affairs and legislation, 1945-1986	
		Daniel Post Building Corporation:	
	8	Articles of incorporation, 1944, 1960	
	9	Chronological correspondence, 1945-1962	
	10	Minutes, 1944-1981	
	11	Financial reports, 1945-1955	
	12	Lists of certificate holders, 1944-1964	
	13	Certificates, 1946-1958	
	14	Mortgage burning celebration, 1958	
	15	Photographs:	
		Envelope 1	
		Post home, North Seventh Street, Rockford, 1880, n.d. (2 prints 2 negatives on wood blocks)	
		Envelope 2	
		Meetings at Post home, 1961, n.d. (2, 21)	
		Envelope 3	
		Banquet scenes, n.d. (0, 16)	
		Envelope 4	
		Cemetery ceremony, n.d. (0, 8)	
		Envelope 5	
		Picnic/meeting at Post home, n.d. (0, 7)	
		Envelope 6	
		Picnic in a park, 1962, n.d. (2, 1)	
		Envelope 7	
		Parade scenes, 1967, 2005, n.d. (3, 7)	
		Envelope 8	
		Poppy Day sales, 1965, n.d. (1, 4)	
		Envelope 9	
		E. Harold Ericsson family, n.d. (1, 0)	
		Envelope 10	
		Shoe store window display, n.d. (1, 0)	
		Envelope 11	
		Al Keller, Jr. portrait, 1959, n.d. (2, 0)	
		American Legion:	
5	1	Second Division materials, 1960-1983	
	2	Twelfth District materials, 1956-1983	
	3	Twelfth District membership reports, 1982-1985	
	4	Winnebago-Boone County Council, 1951-1983	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
5	5	Illinois constitution and directory, 1951-1982	
	6	National constitution, 1937, 1944, 1951, 1966	
	7	Post handbook, 1954	
	8	Manual for post service officers, 1944, 1982	
	9	Manual of ceremonies, 1921, 1951	
	10	Instructional booklets (various topics), 1960-1985	
	11	Memorabilia, 3 decals, 1 pin	
	12	Walter R. Craig Post No. Rockford, Illinois, 1980-1984	
	13	Walter Graham Post No. 332, Rockton, Illinois, 1981-1983	
	14	U.S. troops stationed in various nations, October 1975	
	15	Winnebago County Veterans Association, n.d.	
Oversize Drawer 14	3	Post Award Certificates, 1954, 1960-1961 (3)	