

# **Alva Adams**

**Mss.00002**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center  
1200 Broadway  
Denver, Colorado, 80203  
303-866-2305  
[cosearch@state.co.us](mailto:cosearch@state.co.us)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center
<b>Creator - Author</b>	Adams, Alva B., (Alva Blanchard), 1875-1941
<b>Title</b>	Alva Adams
<b>Date</b>	1870-1924
<b>Extent</b>	0.75 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Collection [Box]</b>	0.75 lf
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>A native of Wisconsin, Alva Adams (1850-1922) moved to the Colorado Territory in 1871. He found work hauling tie for the Denver &amp; Rio Grande railway, which was being constructed from Denver to Colorado Springs. Subsequently, he worked for C. W. Sanborn, a Colorado Springs hardware and lumber merchant. In partnership with J. C. Wilson, Adams bought Sanborn's business. Adams opened a hardware store in Pueblo in 1868. In time he established several similar stores throughout southern Colorado. After an active career in local politics, he was elected Governor of Colorado in 1886, and again in 1896. He held that office briefly for a third time in 1905. This collection contains campaign speeches and related literature (1899-1904); a biographical sketch and two volumes of biographies on Adams, authored by his son Alva B. Adams, each about 300 pages in length.</p>

**Preferred Citation note**

Cite as: The Alva Adams Collection, Mss.00002, History Colorado.

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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Alva Adams was born in Wisconsin in 1850 and moved to the Colorado Territory in 1871. Adams was a businessman and initially worked for the Denver & Rio Grande Railway hauling ties. He also owned a hardware and lumber business with multiple Colorado locations. In 1889, Adams helped to organize the Pueblo Savings & Trust Bank, as he was an active member of the Pueblo community.

He was first elected as Governor of Colorado in 1886 after having an active role in local politics in Pueblo. He was elected again in 1896 and 1905. Adams was a Democratic candidate, and was involved mainly in the issues of mining and labor. His wife was Ella (Nye) Adams. Adams died in 1922 in Battle Creek, MI of diabetes. Adams County in northeastern Colorado is named in honor of the former Governor.

His son, Alva Blanchard Adams, born in 1875, wrote his biography. Adams attended Yale, followed by Columbia Law School, and served as a U.S. Senator for Colorado in 1923-1924 and again in 1933 until his death in 1941.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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This collection contains chapters of two unpublished biographies on Alva Adams, a Colorado Governor. The unpublished biographies were written by his son, Alva B. Adams, who served as a Senator for Colorado. It is unclear when the biography was written, though the paper is often Alva B. Adams' letterhead as Colorado Senator, which indicates it was written after his first election in 1923. In addition to the biographies, there is also a soft-cover book in Spanish with one of Adams' "biennial" speeches in 1899 and political propaganda relating to Adams' stances on deportation and mining.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

Open to researchers without restrictions.

## **Provenance**

The provenance of the campaign material, the biographical sketches and the autobiography is unknown.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Company.

### **Genre(s)**

- Biography.

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Adams, Alva, 1850-1922

### **Subject(s)**

- Colorado--Governors
- Governors--Colorado
- Governors--Colorado--Biography.
- Silver mines and mining--Colorado.

## Collection Inventory

FF 1 Biographical sketch: Alva Adams, *Sketches of Colorado*, Vol. 1, pg 76-77 1911 4.0 Item(s)

FF 2 Biography, Chapter 1 n.d.

FF 3 Biography, Chapter 2 n.d.

FF 4 Biography, Chapter 3 n.d.

FF 5 Biography, Chapter 4 n.d.

FF 6 Biography, Chapter 5 n.d.

FF 7 Biography, Chapter 6 n.d.

FF 8 Biography, Chapter 7 n.d.

FF 9 Biography, Chapter 8 n.d.

FF 10 Biography, Chapter 9 n.d.

FF 11 Biography, Chapter 10 n.d.

FF 12 Biography, Chapter 11 n.d.

FF 13 Biography, Chapter 12 n.d.

FF 14 Biography, Chapter 13 n.d.

FF 15 Biography, Chapter 14 n.d.

FF 16 Biography, Chapter 15, pp. 109-116 n.d.

FF 17 Biography, Chapter 15, pp. 117-125 n.d.

FF 18 Biography, Chapter 16 n.d.

FF 19 Biography, Chapter 17 n.d.

FF 20 Biography, Chapter 18, pp.141-149

FF 21 Biography, Chapter 18, pp.150-160 n.d.

FF 22 Biography, Chapter 19

FF 23 Biography, Chapter 20 n.d.

FF 24 Biography, Chapter 21

FF 25 Biography, Chapter 22 n.d.

FF 26 Biography, Chapter 23 n.d.



FF 27 Biography, Chapter 24

FF 28 Biography, Chapter 25, pp. 210-217 n.d.

FF 29 Biography, Chapter 25, pp. 218-225 n.d.

FF 30 Biography, Chapter 25, pp. 226-233

FF 31 Biography, Chapter 25, pp. 234-246

FF 32 Biography, Chapter 26

FF 33 Biography, Chapter 27

FF 34 Biography, Chapter 28

FF 35 Biography, Chapter 29 n.d.

FF 36 Biography, Chapter 31

FF 37 Biography, Chapter 32, pp. 293-301 n.d.

FF 38 Biography, Chapter 32, pp. 302-308 n.d.

FF 39 Biography, copy, Chapter 1-5 n.d.

FF 40 Biography, copy, Chapter 6-13 n.d.

FF 41 Biography, copy, Chapter 14-18 n.d.

FF 42 Biography, copy, Chapter 19-24 n.d.

FF 43 Biography, copy, Chapter 25 n.d.

FF 44 Biography, copy, Chapter 26-32 n.d.

FF 45 Biography, Chapter AA-BB n.d.

FF 46 Biography, Chapter CC n.d.

FF 47 Biography, Chapter EE n.d.

FF 48 Biography, Chapter FF n.d.

FF 49 Biography, Chapter GG n.d.

FF 50 Biography, Chapter HH n.d.

FF 51 Biography, Chapter JJ n.d.

FF 52 Biography, Chapter KK, pp. 90-103 n.d.

FF 53 Biography, Chapter KK, pp. 104-114 n.d.

FF 54 Biography, Chapter LL, pp. 115-128

FF 55 Biography, Chapter LL, pp. 129-140

FF 56 Biography, Chapter NN

FF 57 Biography, Chapter S-T n.d.

FF 58 Biography, Chapter VV n.d.

FF 59 Biography, Chapter XX n.d.

FF 60 Biography, Chapter Y n.d.

FF 61 Biography, Chapter ZZ n.d.

FF 62 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 1 n.d.

FF 63 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 2

FF 64 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 3-4 n.d.

FF 65 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 5 n.d.

FF 66 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 6, pp. 34-41 n.d.

FF 67 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 6, pp.42-49 n.d.

FF 68 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 7 n.d.

FF 69 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 8, pp. 56-63

FF 70 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 8, pp. 64-70 n.d.

FF 71 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 9 n.d.

FF 72 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 10 n.d.

FF 73 Biography, Vol. II, Chapter 11 n.d.

FF 74 Book (softcover) in Spanish, "Mensaje Bienal del Gob. Alva Adams y Disurso Inaugural del Gob. Charles S. Thomas" (Biennial Message of Gov. Alva Adams and Inaugural Speech of G. Charles S. Thomas) 1899

FF 75 Political Propaganda relating to deportatation and mining. 1904