

## CANAWLERS AT REST

### DANIEL McKAHAN

Find-A-Grave # 39875388

**b. March 18, 1825**

**d. September 2, 1863**

**By Carolyn I. Schmidt**

Daniel McKahan was born to Mr. and Mrs. William McKahan in Pennsylvania on March 18, 1825. He was one of their ten children. The others were Hugh, who died at the age of sixty-two; Mary Jane, who married John Q. Simons, of Wabash, a captain of Company K. One Hundred and First Regiment Indiana Volunteers, who served as sheriff of Wabash county from 1868 to 1872 before moving to Indianapolis, Indiana where he died at age 60; Elizabeth; Lewis, a physician, who died at the age of 44; Andrew Jackson, who died at the age of 31; Ellen; John M.; Julia and Jerry.

William and his wife came to the new country poor in worldly wealth. But they were strong and noble and through hard work managed to accumulate enough money to buy land. In 1836 he purchased land in Indiana from the government. It was located about three miles north of the Wabash county seat. There the family settled. They cleared and otherwise developed a good farm. His wife preceded him in death at the age of 68. William died at age 84.

Daniel McKahan, our subject, was a young man, age 18, when he first came to Wabash county. For a number of years he dealt quite extensively in horses, buying and shipping to the Eastern market. He was also largely identified with traffic on the Wabash & Erie Canal, owning two boats, which he ran for many years, being captain of one and exercising per-

sonnel supervision over the other. The 1860 U.S. Federal Census lists his occupation as boatman. He was an aggressive business man and was financially successful. His trading operations, as well as his boats, returned him a liberal income.

Daniel, at age 25, married Mary Barnhart. They had ten children within a 12 year period. Their oldest child was born on November 15, 1850 and was named Daniel B. after our subject. Almost half of their children died as little more than infants. Unfortunately Daniel died in Wabash on September 2, 1863 when only 37 years old leaving Mary to survive him and rear their children. She died on June 9, 1899.



#### McKAHAN

**DANIEL McKAHAN 1825-1863**  
**MARY McKAHAN 1828-1899**  
**MATTIE M. McKAHAN 1882-1914**

**Plot: Sec H, Lot 82**  
**Falls Memorial Gardens**  
**Wabash, Wabash County, Indiana, USA**

Photo courtesy Friends of Falls Cemetery

Upon his father's death, Daniel B. McKahan found that although Daniel had been successful in life, he had left little beyond a piece of swamp land. Thus Daniel B., a mere boy, was obliged to contribute largely to the support of his mother and the younger children. Their home was a little log cabin around which a small area of ground had been cleared. It was not even large enough to be dignified by calling it a field. The family survived by selling the timber from this land. Whenever possible Daniel B. attended what schools the county afforded.



Daniel B. McKahan

As Daniel B. grew up he remained with his mother looking after her interests until age 40. He worked at clearing more land on the home place. He cleared and cultivated fifty acres, meanwhile devoting certain portions of his time to cutting cord wood for other people and converting nearly all the available timber on the farm into wood to add to his earnings. At some later date he sold this farm to A. W. Schuler. In Schuler's biography it describes the old homestead as "a fine farm of sixty-seven acres in Lagro township, located two and a half miles from Urbana on the north Manchester Pike. This place has a peculiar interest not only as a tract of land exceptionally well managed and producing the staple crops of Wabash county, but also because of the fact that it has produced two exceptionally efficient and honored county officers. It was originally the Daniel McKahan heirs' farm, and from this place Daniel [B.] McKahan, Jr. went into the office of sheriff by the vote of his fellow citizens. Only recently Mr. A. W. Schuler retired from the office of county recorder..."

Daniel B.'s timber business eventually overtook his farming. For the next five or six years he also engaged in the manufacture of hubs, dealt in lumber in connection with the timber business and met with success and financial profit. He built up a large trade.

On November 15, 1894, the forty-first anniversary of his birth, Daniel B. married Mrs. Florence DeArmond. Her maiden name had been Jack. She was

the daughter of John Jack and the widow of Job DeArmond, who had served a justice of the peace in his township and was also the trustee for several consecutive terms. She had married DeArmond when she was nineteen years of age. He died fourteen years later. They had one child, Zoe DeArmond. After marrying Daniel B., they had a child and named her Mary after Daniel B.'s mother.

Later Daniel B. began the manufacture of brick and drain tile, which he carried on for eight to ten years, in the meantime purchasing a large sawmill. The mill was quite extensive and gave employment to 6-8 men. Although the mill was very successful, his last two or three years in the tile trade were not profitable because of the competition in the gas belt where the tile could be manufactured very cheaply on account of the nominal cost of fuel.

For a number of years Daniel B. was an active worker in the Republican party. In recognition of his valuable services, he received the nomination for sheriff in 1890 but was defeated due to the strength of the opposing party. Four years later he was re-nominated for the office and elected by one of the largest majorities ever given to a candidate for the office. He served in this position from 1895 to 1899.

After his term as sheriff expired, Daniel B. opened a meat market in Wabash and continued his farming. He eventually owned a valuable farm of one hundred and eighty acres. In addition to general agriculture he was largely interested in live stock, especially cattle, which he bought, fed and shipped in partnership with a gentleman who lived on his place. He was on the board of directors of the Timber Canyon Mines Company. The mine was located 25 miles east of Baker City, Oregon.

### Sources:

*Biographical Memoirs of Wabash County, Indiana.* Chicago, IL/ B. F. Bowen, Publisher, 1901.

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Daniel McKahan, Mary Barnhart, Daniel B. McKahan "Metal Mining Profits." *The Mining World.* Chicago, IL/Mining World Company, October 1905.

U.S. Federal Census 1850, 1860

Weesner, Clarkson W. *History of Wabash County, Indiana.*

Chicago, IL? The Lewis Publishing Company, 1914.

DANIEL MCKAHAN'S FAMILY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BIRTH</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DEATH</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>CEMETERY</u>	<u>MARRIAGE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
McKahan, William m.		PA	Age 84 Age 68				
McKahan, Daniel m. Barnhart, Mary	3-18-1826 8-22-1828	PA Huntington IN	9-02-1863 6-16-1899	Wabash IN Wabash IN	Falls Memorial Gardens Falls Memorial Gardens	5-31-1849 5-31-1849	Huntington IN Huntington IN
McKahan, Elizabeth McKahan, William J.	1850 1851		10-07-1850 1852				
McKahan, Daniel B m. DeArmond, Ida Florence McKahan, Mary m. Morgan, Cilo	11-15-1853 (nee Jack) 6-29-1896	IN	4-23-1923 1929 1986	Wabash IN	Falls Memorial Gardens	11-15-1894 11-15-1894	Wabash IN Wabash IN
McKahan, Emma McKahan, Claire McKahan, Matilda M. McKahan, Luettie m. Miller	1855 1861 1862 1863		1855 1861 1014 1923				
McKahan, ? McKahan, ? McKahan, ? McKahan, Hugh McKahan, Mary Jane m. Simons, John Q. McKahan, Elizabeth Jane McKahan, Lewis McKahan, Andrew Jackson McKahan, Ellen McKahan, John M. McKahan, Julia McKahan, Jerry							
			Age 62				
			Age 44 Age 31				
			Age 60+				
			boyhood				