

CANAWLERS AT REST

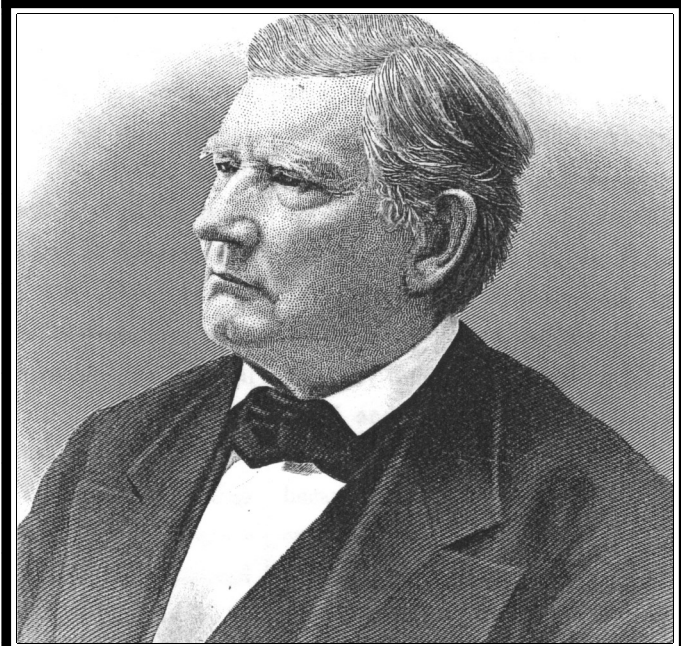
DANIEL YANDES SR.

Find-A-Grave #46054827

b. January 28, 1793

d. June 10, 1878

By Carolyn I. Schmidt



Daniel Yandes was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania on January 28, 1793 to Simon Daniel Yandes and Anna Catharine (Rider) Yandes, both natives of Germany. He and his brother Simon lived and worked on the family farm near the Monongahela River west of Uniontown and helped clear the wild forest around it. They received what little education the common schools of the day provided. He and his family were of the Lutheran faith.

In 1813 both boys enlisted under General William Henry Harrison in the on going War of 1812 and served for six months in northern Ohio never engaging in battle. When the British threatened Washington City in 1814 they enlisted again. Daniel was elected major of the regiment at age 25. Just as they were ready to march they received orders to stay and once again the troops were not ordered out. Later Daniel received a pension for his service.

On February 16, 1815 Daniel married Anna Wilson, the oldest daughter of James and Mary (Rabb) Wilson. She was described in one history as "a woman of gentle and gracious character and proved a veritable helpmeet to her husband." Her father, James was of Scotch-Irish descent, a leading farmer and the magistrate of the county. Her mother was of Scotch-English heritage. The Wilsons were Presbyterians. After this marriage Daniel purchased a flour mill and opened a coal mine.

Daniel's father died in 1817 at age 84. Then in 1818, when the advantages of Indiana's fertile soil were being touted in Western Pennsylvania, Daniel decided to

head for Indiana. He packed up his widowed mother, his wife and their two children. They floated down the Ohio River to Cincinnati and from there made their way to Fayette County, Indiana. He went to Connersville in 1820 and bought a heavily timbered track and cleared a farm in the woods nearby.

By 1821 at age 28, Daniel had accumulated about four thousand dollars from his earlier work and inheritances. He was said to be "a man of rugged health, hopeful, confiding, and enterprising." On March 20, 1821 he moved his family to what was then known as the "Donation," "the Mouth of Fall Creek Settlement," or Indianapolis. Indiana's capital had just been moved from Corydon to Indianapolis the year before his arrival. With his money he was the largest capitalist in and around it for the next ten years. He was also the first person there to speak Pennsylvania German. Since there were no Lutheran churches in Indianapolis at that time, he joined with his wife in attending the Presbyterian Church.

Upon arrival he built a log cabin near the northeast corner of Washington and Alabama Streets and cleared a piece of ground on which to raise vegetables. Land entries in Marion County, Indiana show that in July 1821 he purchased 80 acres in Range 10 and another 95 acres in Range 11 with Ephriam D. Reed. He also owned land outside the city in Township 15N Range 3E. Besides clearing his new land that summer he worked eighty-two days for a surveying party that was laying out the town of Indianapolis. His job was to cut down timber and set stakes.

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With the first sale of lots in Indianapolis in October 1821 Daniel and his partner, John Wilkens, established the county's first tannery known as Yandes & Wilkens. It was located on the east side of Alabama street near Maryland. This partnership lasted for about thirty-years and then Daniel took his nephew Lafayette Yandes in to continue the business. After Lafayette's death, Daniel went into partnership with both another nephew, David Yandes, Jr., and James C. Parmerlee in a leather store at Indianapolis and in a huge tannery in Brown County, Indiana.

Daniel and his brother-in-law, Andrew Wilson, erected a saw and grist mill on the bayou southwest of Indianapolis and built a dam across the White River at the head of an island across from the Old Cemetery. This was the first mill in the New Purchase.

In 1822 Daniel began his "Movin' On Up" to better homes. That year he built his family a double log cabin near the southwest corner of Washington and Alabama Streets that stood opposite Court-House Square. The following year he erected a three-room frame residence nearby.

Daniel was politically a Whig who gave his support

to the Republican Party from its inception. Although he didn't want any political office, in order to accommodate his neighbors he accepted the position as the first treasurer of Marion County on April 16, 1822. He served so well that he was re-elected every year until 1829. He also served as a grand juror. However, at the first court session in 1822 he was excused for "indisposition." During this term he and Andrew Wilson; John McCormick; and William Foster all were indicted for obstructing the White River by building dams for their mills. It turned out that they had only built wing dams or had only dammed one channel and the stream was still navigable. Foster was found guilty during the May term in 1823 and fined 1 cent. During the 1823 November term McCormick was found guilty and fined one cent while Yandes and Wilson were found not guilty.

For about twenty years 1823-1843 Daniel's home served as the leading hospice for the Presbyterian clergy. Rev. Proctor and later Rev. George Bush, some of the most prominent clergymen of the time, spent months in his home. He served as elder and trustee, was on various church committees and was a major contributor to the Second Presbyterian Church in its earliest years. His donations to the church and other charities amounted to sixty-thousand dol-

Daniel Yandes' Family						
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
Simon Daniel Yandes	1733		1817	Pennsylvania		
m. Anna Catherine Rider						
1. George Yandes	1772					
2. Simon Abraham Yandes	1789		1832			
3. Daniel Yandes Sr.	1-28-1793	Uniontown, PA	6-10-1878	Indianapolis, IN	2-16-1815	Indianapolis
m. Anna Wilson	7-18-1795	Fayette, PA	2-24-1851	Indianapolis, IN	2-16-1815	Indianapolis
A. Simon Yandes	1-5-1816		10-5-1903			
B. James Wilson Yandes	12-19-1817		10-30-1885	(merchant)		
C. Alexander Yandes	1820					
D. Mary Y. Yandes	2-27-1823		1852		9-8-1842	
m. Rev. John T. Wheeler			after 1908			
E. Catherine Yandes	9-3-1825					
m1. Carnahan						
1. Andrew M. Carnahan						
m2. Rev. Elijah T. Fletcher						
F. Anna Maria Yandes	1826					
G. Daniel Yandes Jr.	4-30-1830		11-12-1885	(leather dealer)		
m. Sarah Wilcox	1840					
1. Thomas Yandes	1854			(clerk in store)		
2. Rebecca Yandes	1856					
3. Charles Yandes	1859					
H. Elizabeth N. Yandes	2-6-1833		5-?-1904			
m. Joseph R. Robinson				(miller)		
1. Anna B Robinson	1860					
I. William Wilkins Yandes	1836					
J. Margaret Yandes	1837					
K. George B. Yandes	6-7-1838		after 1908	(tanner, bank president)		

lars by 1865.

Around 1825 Daniel opened a store in Indianapolis with Franklin Merrill, brother of Samuel Merrill, whose publishing company evolved into Bobbs-Merrill Company. This store sold dry-goods, groceries, queensware, hardware, hats, shoes, etc.

About 1831 he built a two-story brick residence where the Citizens' National Bank later stood. Part of this building included a store-room where Harrison's Bank later was built. The state of Indiana sold a choice 17 acre site on White River above the National Road and granted the right to cut timber on the land to the Indianapolis Steam Mill Company, which was newly incorporated by Daniel along with James Blake, Nicholas McCarty, Noah Noble, James M. Ray and William Sanders. The 3-story saw and flour mill was completed in 1831. It produced three times more flour than Indianapolis could use and there was inadequate transportation to take the flour elsewhere. In the spring of 1832 wool processing and a dry goods store were added to the mill. The mercantile closed in 1833 and the mill in 1835. It was just too large for early markets. It was the biggest failure in Indianapolis' history for many years. It was sold to Geisendorffs in 1847 for a woolen mill and was used until 1852. It burned down in 1853.

Also in 1831 Daniel partnered with Edward T. Porter in another store. Around 1831-32 he partnered with Joseph Sloan as a merchant at Covington, Indiana.

Nicholas McCarty, superintendent of the Indiana Canal Fund, loaned money on March 16, 1832 to contractors for building the Central Canal with set interest. Daniel Yandes was part of 3 of these loans:

No. 4 Henry Bradley with D. Yandes & S. Merrill \$500 with interest \$15

No. 5 Hervey Bates with B. I. Blythe & Daniel Yandes \$1000 with interest \$30

No. 6 Daniel Yandes with B. I. Blythe and H. Bates \$600 with interest \$18

After a total interest of \$78 was collected on Nos. 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8, it was re-loaned to Daniel per note, all at 6 months.

Around 1833 Daniel and Samuel Merrill, State Treasurer and brother to Daniel's former partner Franklin Merrill, dug a mill race along Fall Creek and constructed a saw and grist mill and a cotton spinning factory. It later was known as West's Mills.

A few years later Daniel partnered with William

Sheets, then late secretary of State, in building Marion county's first paper mill on the Central Canal west of the State-house. This mill was later involved in a U. S. Supreme Court case. At about the same time he partnered with Thomas M. Smith in a store on the north side of Washington Street.

In 1837 he built a large plain two-story brick house on an acre of ground he owned. His wife, Anna, died in this home in 1851. He never remarried. He lived there until he sold it to the church in 1863. where later the First Presbyterian Church was erected.

Also that year, while he was acting as Chairman of Indiana's Central Canal, the board of Internal Improvement gave Daniel the responsibility of conducting a survey and creating an estimate of the cost of building the Michigan Road north of Indianapolis, through Logansport, South Bend and Laporte, to Michigan City. He was to report his findings at the next semi-annual session of the Indiana General Assembly. He was paid \$1900 from the Michigan Road Fund for this purpose on August 14, 1837.

In 1837 Alexander Wilson, a cousin of Daniel, moved to Indianapolis, clerked in a store and acted as agent for Daniel's paper mill. In 1838 Daniel partnered with John F. Hill in another store on the north side of Washington Street a little west of Pennsylvania Street. That year Governor Noah Noble appointed him a member of the State Board of Internal Improvements, which controlled the varied and extensive system of internal improvements that were provided for by the 1836 legislation.

Daniel and Anna's 11th child was born in 1838, their first having been born in 1816. Four of these children died young. The remaining children were reared in Indianapolis. As adults Mary Yandes married the Rev. John T. Wheeler; James W. Yandes became a successful merchant; Simon Yandes became a distinguished lawyer, philanthropist and honored citizen of Indianapolis; Elizabeth Yandes married Joseph R. Robinson; Daniel Yandes Jr. was a leather dealer; Catherine C. Yandes married Elijah T. Fletcher of Indianapolis; and George B. Yandes was the president of Citizens' National Bank in Indianapolis.

On February 4, 1839 the Indiana Senate assembled. At that time the statement of accounts of several members of the State Board of Internal Improvement showing monies they had received and disbursed for the year commencing November 30, 1837 and ending November 30, 1838, were presented. One statement showed the state paying

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Daniel Yandes, the late commissioner, the amount of \$23,358.90 which he in turn as acting commissioner on the Indianapolis Division of the Central Canal paid to contractors and another \$1,795.21 for contingencies for a total of \$25,164.11. Another statement showed the balance in his hands at the last settlement of \$37.53, the drafts drawn by him from the Fund Commissioner in favor of contractors on the canal as \$23,368.90, and for contingencies \$1,650. The balance in favor of Daniel was \$107.68 for a total of \$25,164.11.

In 1839, after building a gristmill, sawmill and paper-mill in Lafayette, Indiana by himself and opening a large store there with his son, James Yandes, the financial panic struck. Daniel found himself heavily in debt as principal and indorser at both Indianapolis and Lafayette. His creditors were not convinced of his solvency. During 1839 to 1844 judgments against him in Marion county totaled over twenty-two thousand dollars. He paid off these debts with some of his most valuable property at much less than cost. He also had a large debt with the Lafayette bank. He was finally able to pay off that debt as well.

In 1841 Alexander Wilson moved to Lafayette, Indiana and established a paper mill between the Wabash & Erie Canal and the Wabash River. At first the name of this firm was Barbee & Yandes, but it was later changed to Hanna, Yandes & Wilson. This paper mill was sold in 1856.

By 1841 citizens of Indiana were not very happy with what had been spent and what had been accomplished on internal improvements in Indiana. At the twenty-sixth session of the Indiana Senate a preamble and resolution concerning the Board of Internal Improvements was put forth by Eggleston as follows:

Whereas, It is notorious, that in the prosecution of the system of Internal Improvements, adopted in the year 1836, in the State of Indiana, that some of the officers and agents employed by the State to borrow money for said purpose, have been guilty of gross negligence in the discharge of their said trust, whereby great loss has been sustained by the State: And whereas, also, it has been currently surmised that some one or more of said agents and officers have been guilty of fraud in the sale of bonds to irresponsible purchasers and in the hypothecation of bonds for less than their market value; And whereas, also, it has been rumored that other agents of the State, employed to borrow money to form bank capital for the State Bank of Indiana, have been guilty of gross mismanagement and of wasteful and unnecessary expenditure of the public money, and it has been ru-

mored that much of this wasteful expenditure has been fraudulently made by one or more of said commissioners for private ends; And whereas, it has been rumored that sundry expenditures of the public money in said works were made without the authority of law, at places where there had been no surveys; And whereas, it has been rumored that larger allowances for their respective services than they were entitled to by the fraudulent connivance and assistance of the officers superintending the said works, and it being desirable that every thing touching the said matters should be investigated at as early a day as practicable, to the end that the State may assert her legal rights in the premises and the offenders exposed before the public.

Resolved, Therefore, that the following named Fund Commissioners, to wit: Nicholas McCarty, Jeremiah Sullivan, Caleb B. Smith, James Farrington, Isaac Coe, Lucius H. Scott, Milton Stapp, Samuel Hanna, Nathan B. Palmer, George H. Dunn, and Noah Noble; Samuel Merrill Bank agent, and the following commissioners to wit: Jesse L. Williams, Samuel Lewis, David H. Maxwell, Thomas H. Black, Elisha Long, John Woodburn, Alexander Morrison, J. G. Clendening, **Daniel Yandes**, James B. Johnson, David Burr and J. H. Graham, be cited to be and appear at the bar of the Senate, on the 3d Monday of December, 1841, at the Capitol in Indianapolis, to answer on oath touching the aforesaid matters, and that process be issued by the President of the Senate for that purpose forthwith, which was adopted.

It is assumed that Daniel was not one of the unscrupulous men. At all other times he made good any debt he owed.

In 1847 Daniel Yandes and Thomas H. Sharpe built College Hall, a brick building at the corner of Washington and Pennsylvania Streets. That same year he built ten miles of the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad, which was completed in September and was the first railroad to Indianapolis. He was also associated in building a grist mill in Franklin, Indiana that year.

A few years later he built another brick building on Washington Street west of Pennsylvania Street. He successfully sent two large cargoes of provisions by flatboats from Indiana to New Orleans. Then in 1852 he and Alfred Harrison built thirty miles of the eastern end of the Bellefontaine railroad in Indiana.

In 1854 when the Kansas-Nebraska Act opened new lands for settlement and repealed the 1820 Missouri Compromise thus allowing settlers to determine if they

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would allow slavery in each territory, Daniel was very anti-slavery. He aided some young men in settling in the Kansas Territory in hopes they could help it become free. He went with them to the west.

Around 1860 Daniel partnered with Edward T. Sinker in the Western Machine Works in Indianapolis. He also took part in the management of a furnace at Brazil, Indiana.

The water power leased to Daniel and William Sheets for their paper mill in 1839-40 came into question in a United States Supreme Court case in December 1864. Their two leases allowed them to use any surplus water from the Central Canal for thirty years.

When Indiana decided to sell the Central Canal the Governor and Auditor of Indiana were authorized to sell and dispose of all the State's waterpower, and appurtenances belonging to the canal including its banks, margins, tow-paths, side-cuts, feeders, basins, right-of-way, dams, and water-power structures. They sold the Northern Division of the canal north of Morgan county to George G. Shoup, James Rariden and John S. Newman on November 16, 1850. Then on February 7, 1851 Shoup, Rariden and Newman sold the canal to Francis A. Conwell. It later was purchased by Selden who tried to collect rent prescribed by the leases from William Sheets (Daniel was no longer Sheets partner by this time). Sheets refused to pay the rent on both May 1 and June 1 of 1860. Thus Selden thought the land described in the two leases was forfeited.

Governor J. A. Wright and Auditor of the State, E. W. H. Ellis, brought suit against the lessees of the waterpower of the Northern Division of the Central Canal. A trial, *Sheets v. Selden's Lessee*, was decided by the U. S. Supreme Court on December, 1864. It involved deciding if Wright and Ellis had acted legally, what was the correct description of margins, if a lease for water was like a piece of property, etc. The court decided that the parties who made the demand for the rent were duly authorized by the lessors of the plaintiff. Authority in writing was not essential; verbal authority was sufficient for the purpose. Judgment was affirmed.

This was not the end of the Central Canal sale controversy. In November 1876 a similar case, *The Indiana Central Canal Co. v. The State*, was held in the Indiana Supreme Court. Daniel testified at this trial saying he knew Jesse Lynch Williams, who was the principal engineer of the canal at the time of a conversation between he and Wil-

liams and that they had discussed what had already been done on the canal. The court said this conversation did not pertain to the case under trial. The court ruled that the case be reheard.

Then the court covered the same grounds that the *Sheets v. Selden's Lessee* case covered saying, "The deed does not, in terms, describe any particular land by metes and bounds or by numbers, but its language is broad enough to cover any land that has been set apart by the State for the use of the canal or water-power in their occupation and enjoyment, or that was essential to their use and enjoyment."

The court said that "the purchaser had not only the right to suppose that such property was included within his purchase, but in its opinion, such property passed to him by his purchase." It said it was at variance with views expressed in the earlier case and discussed them. A petition for a rehearing was overruled.

Daniel Yandes paid his debts honorably and promptly. He was a moral man, who favored good government but was restless. In the *History of Greater Indianapolis* it says:

"One of Mr. Yandes' most curious traits was the manifestation of unusual energy and labor for a series of years, until an enterprise could be placed upon a solid basis, after which he evinced unusual indolence and inattention to details for several years, until he became again enlisted in a new enterprise. As a consequence, after new enterprises were fairly started and tested he lost interest in them, and in a few years would usually sell his interest. He was senior partner and in most cases the capitalist in connection with the various business enterprises with which he thus concerned himself. Although he matured his plans carefully and patiently, he was nevertheless too fond of hazard."

In this way he aided many young men in beginning businesses, some of which accumulated fortunes. The article goes on to say:

"If his business career had terminated when he was seventy-five years of age he would have been a successful business man, but an undue fondness for enterprise and a hopeful enthusiasm, together with the fascination of the far west, an over-confidence in others, and the deterioration incident to old age, with his unwillingness to be advised, resulted in disaster. He lost a considerable amount in mines in the west and a large sum in the Brazil furnace, at Brazil, Indiana, stripping him in effect of his property, when he

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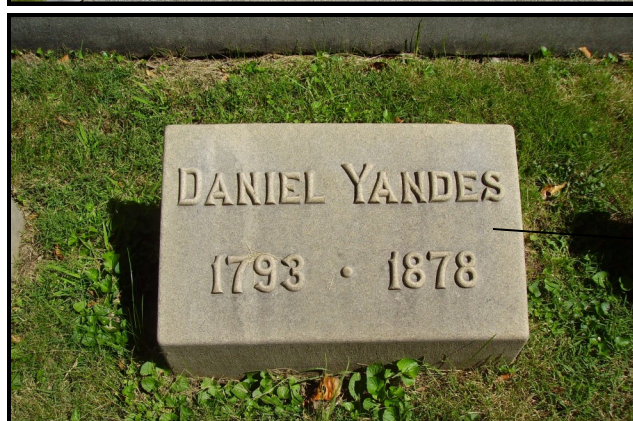
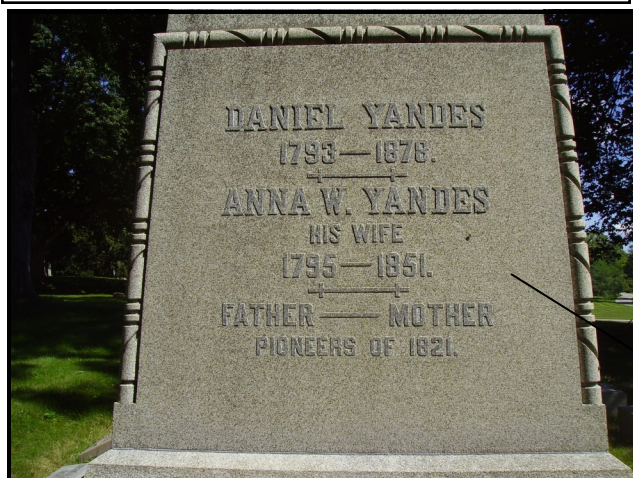
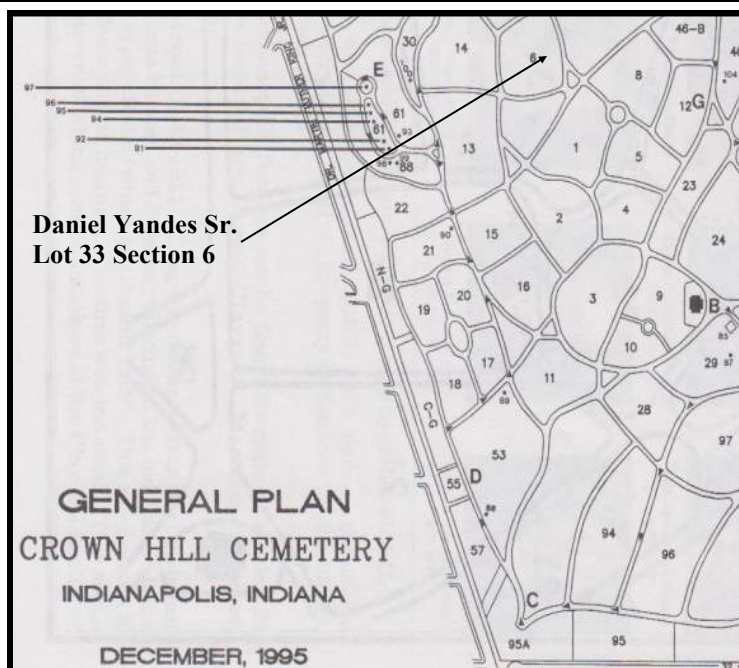
was past the age of eighty years.”

Daniel died at his residence at No. 84 East Michigan Street on June 10, 1878 at the age of eighty-five years and five months. His funeral was held at 2 o'clock on June 12 at his home. He was buried on June 18 alongside his wife Anna in section 6 lot 33 of Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana. Some of their children are buried in lot 33 and others in lot 32 of the same section. Daniel, along with Nicholas McCarty, James M. Ray, and other local businessmen were administrators of this cemetery.

YANDES
SECTION 6 LOT 33
CROWN HILL CEMETERY
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

DANIEL YANDES
1793-1878
ANNA W. YANDES
HIS WIFE
1795-1851

FATHER ——— MOTHER
PIONEERS OF 1821



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Daniel Yandes Sr is described by John Nowland in *Sketches of Prominent Citizens of 1876* as “quite a large featured man, fully six feet in height, with a robust constitution and vigorous for one of his years....His great strength of will and clear perception between right and wrong, and indomitable perseverance enabled him to lay the foundation for accumulating wealth steadily and honestly.”

Jacob Dunn in “Greater Indianapolis” notes that “He (Daniel) ever stood exponent of the most legal and loyal citizenship and was a gracious, noble personality whose memory will be long cherished and venerated in the city to whose civic and material progress he contributed in most generous measure. A man of great business capacity and of the highest principles of integrity and honor, he made his influence felt along diverse lines and he was long a leader in the promotion of legitimate industrial and semi-public enterprises which conserved the general welfare of the city and state of his adoption.”

SOURCES:

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