

## William H. Daniel

(12 Jan 1844 – 27 Aug 1897)

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*The Evening Star, August 27, 1897*

### **William H. Daniel Dead**

#### **Well-Known Musician and Musical Composer Unexpectedly Passed Away**

#### **The Director of St. John's Choir and Also Conducted with Many Local Organizations**

Mr. William H. Daniel, the well-known musician, died at his residence, 414 10th street southwest, at eighteen minutes before 6 o'clock this morning. Mr. Daniel had been ill for some time and suffered considerably from an abscess which gathered on the right side of his neck. It is supposed that blood poisoning was the ultimate cause of his death.

The death of Mr. Daniel came suddenly and as the greatest surprise to his friends, who are numbered; by the thousands, in every section and quarter of the city. Mr. Daniel, like his father before him, and with him, was identified with the musical interests of Washington for more than a quarter of a century, and during that time he steadily increased the number of those who deemed it an honor to call him friend.

#### *Taxed His Energies*

When death came he was engaged in building up the St. John's choir, of which he was leader, and in the spring taxed his energies more than his friends were willing he should in order that the boys should have their regular summer outing. During that outing he worked still harder to care for his flock while away from the city, and see that each one enjoyed the opportunity for fun. While Mr. Daniel had not been well for the past year, the end was not supposed to be in sight, and his death will be a severe shock to all who knew him.

Mr. Daniel was the eldest son of James H. and Ann C. Daniel, and was born January 12, 1844, in this city, where the greater part of his life was spent. At the age of seventeen he joined the confederate army under Gen. Jackson, and fought in that service until the end of the great struggle. As a soldier he was noted for his daring and bravery, and several times received public commendation for some brilliant exploit. Mr. Daniel married Miss Mary A. Brown, December 23, 1869. Miss Brown was the daughter of William Brown, surgeon in the United States army. From 1883 to 1884 Mr. Daniel was connected with the firm of Geo. F. Timms & Co. having charge of an important branch of business.

#### *Career in Musical World*

Mr. Daniel's career in the musical world was a long one and a most useful one. From his father, who taught music in the public schools of Washington for such a long period of time, he inherited a strong love for music, an excellent voice and an understanding that reached into the innermost recesses of musical lore.

He was director of the St. John's choir at the time of his death, which position he had held for over sixteen years. The choir under his direction was brought from a position of obscurity into the local musical world to a place ranking among the foremost church organizations of this city, and occupying a position with the great vested choirs of the country.

While choirmaster at St. John's, he personally directed and participated in many notable funerals and weddings. At the request of the President, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Daniel personally conducted the music at the funeral of Mrs. and Miss Tracy, and later that of Mrs. Harrison in the White House. Mr. Harrison for this service transmitted to Mr. Daniel a letter of thanks in which his warmest sentiments were brought forth.

### *Composer of Ability*

Mr. Daniel was also a composer of no mean ability, his talent in this line being mainly directed to practical church work. Some of his work is now widely used in the Episcopal Church of this country, and has excited general comment by its worth. It is not generally known that he was the creator of the part of Captain Corcoran in "H.M.S. Pinafore" in this country.

### *His Prominent Connections*

There was scarcely an organization in Washington with which Mr. Daniel was not affiliated, including the old Arion Society, the Saengerbund, the Choral Society, the Washington Operatic Society and a host of others interested in musical work. For two years he was the honored president of the Choral Society, resigning from that position last year on account of failing health.

He remained on the board of directors, however, and continued to lend his valuable aid and influence in conducting its affairs. He was also identified with a musical coterie, consisting of Mr. Pugh, Mr. Hay, Miss Helen Lamont and Mrs. True, which put on such operas as "Penelope," "Rose of Auvergne," "Barber of Bath" and other light works.

As an arranger and director Mr. Daniel was particularly well known, and he was constantly in demand when Sunday schools and other organizations were preparing musical works for presentation. The death of Mr. Daniel's father and of Mr. Daniel himself have removed from Washington two of its brightest lights and two of the most beloved members of the musical world.

*The Evening Star, August 30, 1897*

### **William H. Daniel At Rest**

#### **Funeral Services at St. John's Church Yesterday Afternoon**

A large concourse of people attended the funeral of Prof. William H. Daniel, which took place from St. John's Episcopal Church yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The services were conducted by Rev. Robert S. Wood, assisted by Rev. Thomas O. Tongue and Rev. George Dudley, and the body was placed in the vault at Congressional cemetery. The pallbearers were M.B. Fugitt, R.H. Atkinson, E.E. Stevens, E.B. Hay, H.C. Pearson and J.C. Spencer.

Representatives of the Choral Society of Washington were present, and there were handsome floral tributes from organizations and personal friends. The Choral Society sent a magnificent piece in the shape of a harp, with the initials "C.S." on the strings.

After the 11 o'clock service at St. John's Church yesterday morning Rev. Mr. Wood spoke feelingly for some time on the life of Prof. Daniel. The beautiful character of the dead man was emphasized, together with his devotion to his church and choir, and the example of his just life to all mankind.