

JAMES JAQUELIN DANIEL—To perpetuate the memory of an important citizen of the State of Florida, whose life story is in itself a contribution to the history of the State, the following biography is reprinted, almost verbatim from a "History of Duval County."

Known to his fellow-citizens as "Colonel J. J. Daniel," the subject of this sketch was one of the most beloved men Florida has ever produced. He became one of the leading lawyers of the State, a lieutenant-colonel in the Confederate Army, president of a bank and of a newspaper, and through marriage with Emily I. L'Engle, head of a family which has made its impress upon the life and history of this section of Florida.

Colonel Daniel was born August 14, 1830, at Columbia, South Carolina. He died of yellow fever, October 2, 1888, in Jacksonville, leading the citizens' fight against an epidemic of this dread disease, sacrificing his life to this cause. The day after his demise the "Florida Times-Union" turned its column rules, making black borders of mourning, thus paying the great tribute of journalism to the man who was beloved by his community.

In 1842 his father, James Madison Daniel, a professor in a South Carolina college, decided to move from Columbia to Florida, and after a long and tedious journey the family settled in Nassau County, where the elder Daniel engaged in the lumber business. The young man, then only twelve years of age, helped his father and mother, whose maiden name was Edward Jaqueline Smith, a native of Virginia, whose family was descended from the Colonial leaders of the old Dominion. She was a woman of education and great force of character and transmitted these attributes to her son. The family moved to Jacksonville a little later where Mr. Daniel engaged more extensively in the logging and lumber business, and built a home which was later known as the Talleyrand Place. He also constructed the St. Johns Mills. In the Secession Convention of 1861 he was elected a member of Duval County; and was at one time clerk of the Circuit Court.

Surveying was the first occupation studied by James Jaquelin Daniel. Under Dr. Westcott, of Saint Augustine, he helped to survey large tracts and grants of land. During these years he found opportunity for study of the law. He entered the office of J. P. Sanderson, then a prominent attorney, and was admitted to the bar in 1858. The law firm became known as Sanderson and Daniel and later as Sanderson, Daniel and Jones, with offices at Ocean and Forsyth streets. Mr. Daniel was just gaining a reputation for himself as an attorney, when the War Between the States broke out and the young lawyer left his profession to raise a company of infantry, known as the St. Johns' Grays.

The company camped in Springfield and the regiment went into camp at what is now called La Villa. Captain Daniel's company was known as one of the best drilled in the command; after participating in the first battle of Manassas, July 21, 1851, they proceeded to Richmond, and during the following winter engaged in operations along the York River. In April, 1862, Captain Daniel's company was loudly cheered by both friends and foes for the magnificent order in which, when ordered to retreat in the battle of Peach Orchard near Yorktown, it retired from the front. Captain Daniel participated in the battle of Williamsburg and was not wounded, but later his health failed and after a serious illness at Richmond he returned to Florida. He was assigned to the conscription department of the army with headquarters at Gainesville, subsequently removing them to Tallahassee and later to Madison. At the battle of Natural Bridge, Florida, he was in command of the entire Confederate forces engaged, he leading the 13th Regiment of Reserves. He commanded the same regiment in the battle of Olustee. His promotion to the rank of lieutenant-colonel dated from a time prior to the former of these two engagements.

At the close of the war, Colonel Daniel returned home to set to work to repair his shattered fortunes. He engaged in surveying operations for more than a year, but the old desire for a legal career was still strong in him and in 1866 he formed a law partnership with Louis I. Fleming, a compact which continued for twenty-two years and was only broken by the death of Mr. Fleming about a month before the Colonel died.

Colonel Daniel was a lawyer and a business man, becoming eminently successful, but he persistently refused to accept any public office always giving as an excuse that it was sufficient for him to know that the people wished to honor him. He did, however, accept positions on boards and committees of a public nature. He was president of the Auxiliary Sanitary Commission, organized to fight the yellow fever epidemic of 1888. He was president of the Jacksonville Board of Trade and many times a member of the board of directors. At his death he was president of the National Bank of the State of Florida, and president of the Florida Publishing Company, publishers of the "Times-Union." The Daniel Memorial Orphanage and Home for the Friendless was organized shortly after Colonel Daniel's death as a living monument to his memory.

On May 22, 1859, Colonel James Jaquelin Daniel married Emily I. L'Engle, of Jacksonville, and they were the parents of ten children of whom the following survived: 1. Mary Emily, who married M. H. Haughton. 2. Evelyn I. 3. Susan, married Arthur M. Knight, deceased, of Waycross, Georgia, who had two sons, Arthur M. Knight, Jr., of Waycross, Georgia, and Gerald B. Knight, of Orlando, Florida. 4. Anna Madeleine, who married F. H. Elmore, deceased, who had one son, Frank H. Elmore, Jr. 5.