

Across Oceans, Across Time ® ...
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Daniel Theodore Danielsen was born on November 8, 1842 in Næstved to carpenter Niels Christian Danielsen and his wife, Johanne Kirstine Andersen. At the age of one his family moved to Copenhagen, locating near Rosenborg Castle. In later years Daniel recounted that his childhood playmates included two children of Christian IX, George - later King George I of Greece - and Alexandra, who became the wife of the future Edward VII of England.

In April 1865 Daniel left his homeland for the U.S. After clerking in a grocery store in Chicago he worked his way eastward for two years, intending to return to Denmark and settle down. Upon hearing, however, that there was a need for immigrant labor in the South, he decided to investigate, and found employment at a sawmill in Edgefield (now Saluda) Co., where he settled and spent the rest of his life. In 1870 he married P. Bethany Salter, with whom he had six children: Christian, August, Johanna, Christina, Elizabeth, and John. After his first wife's death, he married Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Davenport and Effie Wilson.

The former playmate of royalty, immigrant Daniel integrated well into his new life in the post-bellum South. He became a member of the Sardis Baptist Church in 1872, later moving his membership to the West End Baptist Church in Newberry, where he served in several official capacities. He was also a member of several fraternal organizations. He farmed and was employed at several sawmills, including the Newberry Cotton Mill, where he was night watchman for 28 years until his death in 1916. On his deathbed he was allowed to name his successor, and the mill honored his choice.

Although it is unknown whether he ever received any formal training, Daniel was an accomplished artist. He would often paint and draw between his watchman's rounds, often recreating scenes with Danish or historical themes. His family history has been written by a great-grandson and can be found in the Family History & Genealogy Center.