

JOHN BEAUREGARD DANIEL

John Beauregard Daniel, known to his fellow attorneys as Judge Daniel, was born on a farm in Perry County, Tennessee, on September 9th, 1861. The farm on which he was born bordered on the Tennessee River, and was known then and is known now as Daniel's Landing. At the time of his birth his father was serving in the Confederate Army under the illustrious General Beauregard from Louisiana, hence the name given to the son. He was the son of J. N. and Martha Young Daniel. He received his preparatory education in Cloverdale High School in Dickson County, Tennessee, and his law degree from the Cumberland University, School of Law, at Lebanon, Tennessee, in 1882. Immediately thereafter he set up a law office in Linden, Tennessee, where he practiced for a short while, and was soon thereafter elected to the Tennessee Legislature and on the termination of the Session of 1883 he entered upon the practice of law in Nashville in partnership with Colonel A. S. Colyar which partnership continued for about 15 years.

In 1884 he married Miss Theresa Pendleton of Nashville, Tennessee, who died in 1919. In 1922 he married Miss May Ledbetter of Linden, Tennessee, who survives him. He is also survived by a sister Mrs. Willie D. Bell of Milan, Tennessee.

From the commencement of his practice in Nashville in 1883 he followed his profession in Nashville continuously until about 1950 when he was forced to give up his active practice because of failing eye-sight. After the termination of his partnership with Colonel Colyar he practiced alone but made it a practice to associate young attorneys with him from which association they gained invaluable legal experience. He was a charter member of the Nashville Bar Association and in 1953 he was elected to Honorary Life Membership in the Association.

Judge Daniel was well versed in all branches of the law but it was in the trial of damage suits that he gained his greatest fame. During his active practice in Nashville for over 65 years he was engaged as an advocate in many tort actions usually representing the plaintiff and he obtained many substantial verdicts. His suits were thoroughly and painstakingly prepared and he usually appeared in court with a law-book wrapped in news-paper, which aroused the curiosity and anxiety of his opponent. At the propitious moment he would painstakingly open the concealed volume and cite his Honor to the case in point. His pleadings and briefs were masterpieces of brevity. He was gifted in developing the theory of his suit. He was equally at home in all of the Courts: Circuit, Chancery, Criminal and Appellate, and he served as Special Judge of the Chancery and Circuit Courts on many occasions. He was especially concerned that his clients be advised of all steps in the trial of their cases and it was his habit to have the client present at the hearing of all motions in the lower courts and arguments in the appellate courts.

His main hobbies were gardening and hunting but nothing interfered with his practice of law, which he served as a "jealous mistress".

Judge Daniel was for many years a member of the Vine Street Christian Church and at the time of his death its oldest member. He was kind and charitable to all. He was a credit to his profession.

For the last fifteen years of his life he was nursed and cared for by his faithful wife, who also spent many hours reading to him caused by his loss of sight. His mind was alert and he was interested in reminiscences and discussing current events to the end. He passed quietly from this life on December 20th, 1963, at his home on West End Avenue in Nashville, at the age of 102 years.

Judge Daniel's forced retirement from the practice of his profession was a loss to the Nashville Bar as well as the public.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in the death of Judge John Beauregard Daniel, the Bar of this City and State and the community have lost a distinguished and able citizen, and we, his friends and associates at the Bar, mourn his loss and tender to his family our deepest sympathy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that his widow and sister be furnished with a copy of these resolutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the In Memoriam Book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County, Tennessee.

Jay G. Stephenson,

John J. Hooker,

E. T. Hollins, Jr.
