

Daniel Allen Birchett

Veteran of Mexican War of 1848 and the Union Navy in the Civil War of 1861-65

He was born in Smith County, Tennessee. He was married in Davidson County Tennessee to Lavania Cole, granddaughter of Joseph Cole, a Revolutionary War soldier who spent the winter at Valley Forge with the American Forces under George Washington.

He was kicked by a mule in a stampede in Vera Cruz, Mexico while in a Mounted Volunteer unit commanded by Captain Wheat. His hearing was damaged and bothered him the rest of his life. He was honorable discharged in Memphis, Tennessee. He worked at several jobs including being a policeman in Nashville. We don't know if he worked for the City of Nashville. He became a stone mason and stone cutter. Ellen and Ruby both told me he cut the grave stone of his wife after she died.

His father-in-law, Elisha Cole gave him two slaves, a man and a woman, for a wedding present. The story is that he put them in a wagon and took them back to Wilson County and refused to accept the present. The whole family of Birchetts were anti-slavery. His brother Samuel also fought in the Mexican War and in the Union Army in the Civil War.

Their father, Edward Birchett fought in the War of 1812 in the Battle of New Orleans in January of 1815. He is buried in the cemetery lot with Daniel and Lavania. Markers for both Daniel and Edward were placed on their graves by the State of Tennessee Veterans Department. Walter Buckingham, of Lebanon, Tennessee is the husband of Louise Birchett Buckingham, the granddaughter of Elijah Birchett, one of Daniel's sons. He presented the information to have the markers placed. Edward's wife, Elyzabeth Morris Birchett survived Edward and moved to Paducah, Kentucky to live with her oldest son and Daniel's brother, Thomas Jefferson Birchett. She is buried in the Paducah City Cemetery with Thomas Birchett

He worked as an engineer on a Cumberland River Union gun ship, Shaddell, in the fall of 1862, He was captured by a Confederate cavalry troop in Murfreesboro, in 1863 and was a prisoner for three months. They let them go and he returned to Nashville. The story is that she had the next picture, a tin type made to send to him. Grandma Hill said she walked each day from her South Nashville home to First and Broad to look for him.

Daniel is buried with Lavania on a lot in Nashville City Cemetery.