

# GLOBE

## Daniel-Bryan-Vaughn House Alternative Facts and Lore

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Over the years, we have seen and heard various stories and rumors about our home. This is in response to the article referenced about Pittard Connections. It contains most of the routine stories we've heard and some new (to us). Then I found the identical article repeated on other sites. I don't know who is the original author, but I feel a need to correct some assertions or, in other cases when actual facts cannot be determined, I offer alternate theories or family lore handed down.

I've already explained our relationship to this house and our knowledge of it, so I won't go into that again except to highlight that we are direct descendants of original owner, we grew up in Philomath, sat on most everyone's front porch and heard the stories of families and houses, and we have lived in this house continuously since 1964. We have done much work on the house ourselves—all of which gives us a unique perspective and considerable knowledge of this house - its nooks and crannies, its intricacies, its personality. It is our home. It has been a major part of our lives, spending our "vacations" and nights after our paying job working on it, as there is always something else to be done.



### The Secret Room

We have seen and heard a number of stories about the secret room. The funny thing about the "secret room" is...it is NO secret and never has been. There is a second-floor room with a private staircase going from the room below only to this room which was not accessible to the rest of the upstairs. It is above the bedroom originally intended for the parents of the household. It is apparent from outside the house there is a room there (shown in above picture). Inside the downstairs bedroom, it is even more evident. There is a door to the stairs, but it is not concealed within a closet as the Pittard article states; the closets are rather shallow. The enclosed stair to this second-floor room and the door to it are clearly visible (see left photo), so it would not provide a very good place to hide from an enemy; anyone "hiding" there would have no escape except to jump out a window. The closet for the first-floor room is on left side of the fireplace and the stair is on the right - open the door and the stair is right there, then it immediately makes a sharp U-turn with most of the stair going up against the wall of the first-floor room with a door at top of stair going into the 2nd floor bedroom. There is also a small storage area beneath the stair with a door as shown.

That second-floor room was built with no entry from the remainder of upstairs because it was in anticipation of daughters, so they would have to enter and leave through their parents' room. This was obviously to keep them separate from the boys or anyone occupying other upstairs rooms. There were two daughters born after the house was built; Mary (aka Marie) Antoinette *Daniel* (Peek) and Ella Campbell *Daniel* (Bryan) - the latter was our great grandmother.

The house next door was built by another g-g grandfather, Dr. Samuel Glenn, around the same time. On the outside, the two houses appear to be almost identical except the Glenn house has three rooms upstairs and this house has four. There are other structural differences inside. Dr. Glenn married Sophia Denton Milner, *the sister of RCD's wife, Emily G. Milner*, and the two houses were sometimes referred to as *sister houses*. The Glenn house also had the back bedroom upstairs with entry only by a private stair from the parents' bedroom below - also for daughters. That room is also apparent from outdoors and the stair within the parents' first floor room is also apparent, although different in design from the stair in the Globe. This seems to confirm the reason for that room's private stair and not as a "secret".

In 1989, Ginny and I cut a doorway in the back of the closet of that second-floor room going to the front bedroom so the back room is now accessible from the other upstairs and is more useful. In the Glenn house, a door had also been cut through to the front room to make it accessible to the remainder of the upstairs.

## Sherman

The article says that Sherman passed through Philomath and that he made this house his quarters for the night and slept in the "secret room". We had not heard this before. The maps that I have seen of his march (his troops going in 2 basic routes from Atlanta to Savannah) do not seem to come that close to Philomath. While we cannot say unequivocally that Sherman never came here, we do not believe he did.

## Jefferson Davis and End of Confederacy

There are various events that are considered the end of the Confederacy - most history books indicate it was Lee's surrender to Grant on April 9, 1865; but there were other armies still fighting elsewhere. Jefferson Davis fled Richmond heading south, and there were various meetings along the way. Some say Jefferson Davis came here with his cabinet. Our understanding is that he did not come here *at that time*—that he and his cabinet separated when he left Washington, GA, @ May 5, 1865, and he continued south with a small entourage to be less conspicuous. His cabinet came here, then the home of Capt. John J Daniel. They were accompanied by Generals Breckenridge and Duke and their armies. In an article in the *Oglethorpe Echo* dated March 25, 1904, written by publisher T. Larry Gantt about various historical events in the county, there is an account of this event as told by Capt John J. Daniel, himself. The article would seem to confirm that Davis did not visit here at that time. Family lore is that Davis had visited here, but we don't know when or the circumstances. Here is an excerpt from Gantt's article. Note that Woodstock was renamed Philomath, but was still called Woodstock by locals.

WITNESSED THE CONFEDERACY'S END.  
Both Abbeville, S. C., and Washington, Ga., claim the sad distinction of witnessing the final dissolution of the Southern Confederacy. There is no denying the fact that Mr. Davis and his cabinet disbanded and separated in Washington. But Capt. John J. Daniel, of this county, says that the final breaking up of the Confederate government took place in his house at Woodstock, Oglethorpe county, and he was present at and witnessed the act. It was there that the remaining members of Mr. Davis' cabinet decided that it was a needless expenditure of blood to continue the struggle, and the stars and bars of the late Confederacy were forever furled. Even when he separated from his cabinet in Washington Mr. Davis had not abandoned all hope of continuing the struggle, and wanted to make his way to the trans-Mississippi, if possible, and there continue the war.

[*The Oglethorpe Echo*—March 25, 1904]

This *Echo* article must be one of the sources for Miss Florrie Smith's report in her books on the history of Oglethorpe County as some of the words and phrasings are the same. She had other details of this meeting in her books, but I don't know the sources of those. She often spoke of it whenever we saw her. Her report is located elsewhere on this site. In the whole scheme of things regarding the Confederacy's end, I can't say how significant this event was, but this newspaper article seems to confirm there was a meeting here of Davis' cabinet. (see *Globe's* history for additional information on Confederacy's end)

### **Woodrow Wilson and Naming the House Globe**

Woodrow Wilson was born December 28, 1856, in Virginia. Before he was age two, his family moved to Augusta, GA, where his father was a minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Augusta, and sometimes served at the Philomath Presbyterian Church as guest minister. He and his family stayed here. Woodrow and his mother would also visit on their own just as friends would do then.

This Pittard article states that young Woodrow Wilson slept in the secret room. It also says that he was so enamored with the house's history, that he declared "this house is my universe" and that he and his father named it "Globe". This is the first I had heard either of these stories. On the contrary, we heard from our earliest memories and from various sources that Robert C Daniel's family enjoyed the works of Shakespeare and named it after the Globe Theatre in London. We have no way of proving that; but that is what we believe. For one, Wilson was born December 28, 1856, and his family moved to Augusta in 1858, then moved to Columbia, SC, in 1870; so his visits would have been long after this house was built and probably near or after Robert's death in 1863 when Wilson was not yet 7 years old. There is a small metal plaque above the front door that reads simply "GLOBE" that, we understand, was placed there when the house was built. We added our own larger plaque beside the front door in 2016.

As for Woodrow's having slept in the "secret room", it seems unlikely since that room was for the girls of the family.

### **Samuel Ewing Daniel and Union Soldiers**

This is a story I had not heard before and cannot comment on it.

*More complete information on Philomath and this house is available on this website. See History under GLOBE or under PHILOMATH.*