

Daniel-Bryan-Vaughn House The Globe

Sequence of Ownership

Nelda Vaughn

April 19, 2020

**For clarity, it should be noted that Philomath was originally called Woodstock. Name had to be changed in mid-1840s when a post office was approved though locals continued calling it Woodstock and this is still the Woodstock District of the county. It should also be noted that throughout these writings about families, I will use abbreviations and often identify individuals by initials as repetitive full names becomes cumbersome and when writing of two people with same first name, it can be confusing. EX: Robert Cunningham Daniel may sometimes be RCD.*

Robert Cunningham Daniel (RCD) built this house, known as GLOBE, c1830. According to family lore, their first child, John Jonathan Daniel (JJD) was born in the house March 1, 1833, so it had to have been completed at least by that date.

For all our lives, we were told that the house with surrounding property had always belonged in the Daniel family. We had assumed this portion of his estate (house with surrounding land) was left to his eldest son, John Jonathan Daniel. We knew John lived here at the end of war in 1865 when President Davis' cabinet, along with Generals Breckenridge and Duke and their soldiers, met here and decided it was a "needless expenditure of blood" to continue the war. Mama told us that John had some financial difficulty and his sister Ella (our great grandmother) bought it. We knew she had bequeathed it entailed first to her daughter, Nettie *Bryan* Mathis, during her life, second to her son, Jonathan Bryan, during his life, and finally, we understood, to her son (our grandfather) Robert Cunningham Daniel Bryan (RCDB). Ginny & I also assumed RCDB had left it and his other properties equally to both of his children, Robert Glenn Bryan and Emily *Bryan* Vaughn, and that these two heirs divided the properties in which Emily (our mother) ended up with the house. I decided to document the ownership and found that what we thought was mostly true, but not entirely correct.

Considering the wills RCD witnessed, surprisingly, he died intestate on Dec 1, 1863; he didn't bequeath anything to anyone, and it took several years for his estate to be settled. His wife, Emily G. *Milner* Daniel, died just 7 months later on June 30, 1864, leaving two children under age 18: Ella Campbell Daniel was age 17 (to be 18 in September) and Benjamin Franklin Daniel, was age 13 (to be 14 on July 9, 1864). Oldest son, John, was granted guardianship of Benjamin on Dec 5, 1864. [Bond Book M-444] John, his brother William Thomas Daniel (WTD), and brother-in-law Felix G C Peek (FGCP), were appointed administrators of RCD's estate in March 1864. John and his family along with Benjamin lived here following his father's death, but John did not have title to the property. During the ensuing years, the administrators managed the estate, and paid for Benjamin's expenses (clothing, medicine, dental/doctors, tuition, etc.) from the estate. [E&A, D, Pg 63-120 or AR, Books Q-T*]

There were estate sales January 1866 and December 1868 of RCD's household furnishings/goods, farm equipment/livestock, large amounts of stored plant products such as wheat, peas, corn, etc. An inventory and appraisal December 6, 1870, showed RCD owned 3,639 acres at his death appraised at \$5/acre or \$18,195. Land was not divided/sold until January 1870 – perhaps because of Benjamin's age to allow him a chance to acquire a portion of the land although he was only 19 at the time of that division, but then, none of the heirs paid for the land at that time. Just speculating. Except for John (who had declared bankruptcy April 2, 1868), five of RCD's six heirs "purchased" the various lands. There is some confusion, as three parcels of the land were later sold at public outcry before the Court House door, but was purchased by RCD's children at those sales. Whatever the circumstance, the land as well as any items his heirs purchased during the two estate sales had not been paid for as of December 1, 1874. [E&A-D, pg 63-120*] (See Deeds*)

Per the October 1875 term of Superior Court, after payment, titles to land were to finally be transferred. I did not find actual deeds for the property bought by Ella C Bryan or by the estate of William Thomas Daniel. In that October 1875 term of Superior Court, there was an auditor's report that became the decree of the court that: "Deed to all the land of said estate which such heir has heretofore purchased at Administrator's sale of the same; and should said deed for any cause not be made, then said payment shall operate as an Administrator's deed by said Administrators...of said land to said heir." This appears to be the method by which William's estate and Ella acquired title which was proved in subsequent deeds when their lands were sold. I did find deeds for transfer of title from the RCD estate to three other children: Mary Antoinette Daniel Peek, James Cicero Daniel, and Benjamin Franklin Daniel – seems these three were "re-purchased" by public outcry at the Court House door in Lexington for different dollar amounts than those "bid" at the January 3, 1870 division. Thus the confusion, (see Deeds) [AR Books Q-T; E&A, D, pages 63-120*]

I found deeds from four of the five heirs when they later willed or sold the land to others, but not for the land Mary Antoinette Daniel Peek purchased. As for this house with its 16 acres, it was "purchased" (but not paid for) at the heirs' land division January 3, 1870, from RCD's estate by the estate of his deceased son, William Thomas Daniel who had died (was killed) January 1, 1867. An additional 370 acres was also acquired by WTD's estate that included the stables and barns across the road from the house making a total of 386 acres. It was apparently paid for following the court decree in 1875 and said payment operated as an Administrators deed as stated in the decree. (see WTD-MISC, see DEEDS on this website*)

At the November 1875 term of Court of Ordinary, William H Branch, (WTD's brother-in-law and an administrator of his estate) established that WTD's estate had acquired title to 350 acres (actually 386 acres), "***known as the Robert C Daniel home place***", and sought orders to sell the property in order to pay debts of WTD's estate. The petition was granted. [Probate, Minutes 1874-1878, pg 162] (See WTD-MISC*)

DEED: Francis L. Upson, purchased from William H. Branch, Administrator of the estate of William Thomas Daniel, deceased. The property "*was put up and exposed to sale to the highest and best bidder, at the door of the Court House at Lexington...on the first Tuesday in December the year 1875 [December 7, 1875] by said Wm. H Branch Administrator...was knocked off to the said Francis L Upson at and for the sum of [\$4,000]*" the terms being one fourth of amount to be paid at the time of sale and the balance to be paid in three equal installments one, two, and three years from date of sale. It was identified in deed as "*being in*

and near the Village of Woodstock...**being the old homestead of Robert C Daniel...the lot containing Sixteen Acres with barn and Stables on opposite side of road from house** and Three hundred and eighty-six Acres of land, more or less, including the aforesaid lot of Sixteen Acres adjoining lands of Thomas Morrow, James V. Drake, County line road, Estate of J. W. Reid, Estate of W. L. Nichols, and more particularly described in a Survey and plat made in September 1870 by Walter A. Beasley, Surveyor, of the land belonging to the Estate of the said Robert C. Daniel, deceased." (see Deeds*) [Deed Book Y, Pages 314-315]". This deed was not indentured until December 21, 1880, and recorded February 16, 1881. Thus, during the six-year period Mr. Upson owned the house, it did not belong to a Daniel family member; however, as shown later, it seems John and his second wife, Ida, lived here at least part, if not all, of that period.

This deed proves the land WTD's estate purchased from RCD's estate included the Robert Cunningham Daniel home place – Globe. This identity was further proved as the same description is given in deed when Mr. Upson's estate sold the entire 386 acres January 8, 1887, to Ida Pope *Binns* Daniel (John's second wife) and in the subsequent deed when Ella C *Daniel* Bryan bought the house and part of the land December 28, 1910, from her sister-in-law, Ida, and Ella's nephews, R A Daniel and W H Arnold.

Francis Lewis Upson died January 19, 1886, and his estate sold this land and the 386 acres to Ida Pope Daniel, second wife of John J Daniel. The description includes land "***on which John J Daniel & the said Ida P. Daniel now reside***". **QUESTION:** Did Mr. Upson ever live here or had he been leasing the property to John and Ida all along? Perhaps that is why it was said the house had always been in the Daniel Family.

DEED: January 8 1887, Ida P. Daniel purchased from S. S. Upson Legatee & Executrix of last will of Francis L. Upson, dec'd, and from Louie U. Sims legatee under said will, via quick claim to Ida P. Daniel for \$1,000 "*that tract of land in said County on which John J Daniel & the said Ida P. Daniel now reside Containing Three Hundred & Eighty Six Acres more or less formerly belonging to the Estate of R. C. Daniel, being the same tract of land described in a deed from Wm. H Branch, Administrator of Wm. T. Daniel, to Francis L. Upson dated 21st December 1880 & recorded...in Book Y, pages 314 & 315.*" [Deed Book AA, Page 263]

John J Daniel died in 1904 and James McCarter Bryan (Ella's husband) died in October 18, 1907. On December 28, 1910, Mrs. Ella C Bryan bought 100 acres of that 386-acre parcel from Ida P Daniel (John's widow), R A Daniel (John's son) and W H Arnold (John's son-in-law) for \$4,500. The deed indicates the house with 16 acres plus 84 acres located across the road from the house.

DEED: Ella *Daniel* Bryan, purchased for \$4,500 from W H Arnold (her niece's husband), R A Daniel (her nephew) and Mrs Ida P Daniel (widow of her brother John J Daniel) 84 acres on north side of the main road + 16 acres on south side "***on which the dwelling house stands, known as the R. C. Daniel Homestead***"..." Both said lands being part of the lands of R. C. Daniel, deceased, and part of these deeded to Ida P. Daniel by S. S. Upson and Louie U. Sims, and by said Mrs. Daniel to R A Daniel and W. H. Arnold."

Ella Campbell *Daniel* Bryan died July 21, 1922. In her will, Ella D Bryan left the house and "12" (actually 16) acres (with 1/2 acre set aside for cemetery) entailed first to daughter Nettie *Bryan* Mathis for rest of her life, 2nd to son Jonathan Bryan for his life, and if he had no children, last

to Robert Cunningham Daniel Bryan (RCDB) and his children (Robert Glenn Bryan and Emily Bryan Vaughn) = 1/3 share each. Ella left the other 84 across the road from house to six of her children, the land surveyed into 12 portions to obtain equal value. She left an additional 809 acres sandwiched between Hwy 22 and Woodville Road to her seven children. (see ECDB will with plats/maps on this site*)

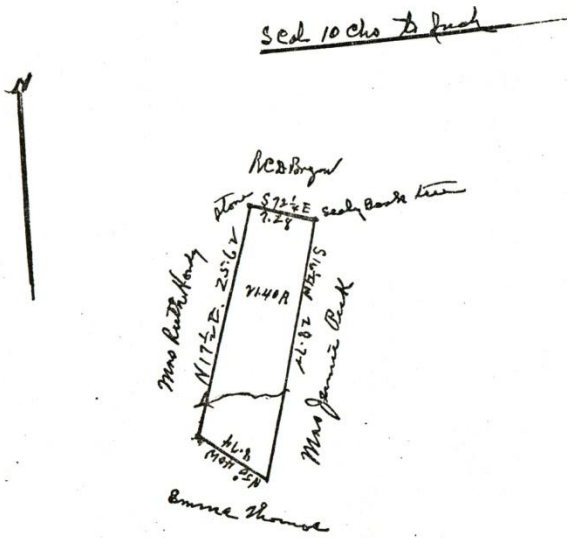
The 1920 census shows Mary Antoinette (Nettie) *Bryan* Mathis was already living with her mother, Ella, after Nettie's husband, Alexander Mathis, had died in 1910. Per her mother's will, Nettie continued living here until her death in December 1925, followed by Ella's son Jonathan Bryan with his wife, Fannie, and his niece/ward (Claudelle Bryan) for his lifetime.

After Jonathan Bryan's death November 15, 1941, the house went to Robert CD Bryan, Robert G Bryan (RGB), Emily *Bryan* Vaughn (EBV) - 1/3 share each - per the will of Ella *Daniel* Bryan. RCDB died July 17, 1956. In his will, RCDB left his 1/3 share to his son, RGB, giving RGB 2/3 share and EBV 1/3 share. RCDB left his remaining land to both his children.

In various swaps of land that RCDB had left his 2 children, Emily *Bryan* Vaughn swapped land to get Robert G. Bryan's 2/3 share giving her full ownership of the house with its 16 acres + 21.4 acres from RGB located directly behind this property. This 21 acre RGB had purchased from Mrs. C N Hardy June 4, 1948. These 2 parcels combined to make the current parcel of 35 acres, more or less, and belong to EBV's two daughters, Nelda E Vaughn and Virginia Vaughn .
 [Deed Book LLL-411; Plat 2-295]

The plat below for 21.4 acres made May 31, 1948, located directly behind the 16 acres with house was purchased by Robert G Bryan from Mrs. C N Hardy that was added to the 16 acres with house. Note the squiggly line running across the property is Flat Rock Creek which rises from a spring on the Wright property in Philomath. It flows into Sylls Fork Creek which flows into Little River which eventually flows into Savannah River. (see Philomath-maps*)

The above plat represents a tract of land sold by Mrs. C N Hardy to R G Bryan. Containing 21 1/2 A - situated in the 230th S.M. adjacent to edge surveyed May 31st - 1948
 J. N. Dumas - Reg. No 178
 Recorded Sept 13th - 1948
 G. Barron cert



*Above deeds and wills can be accessed through the Philomath or Family History sections on this website.

References to individual's information can be found through the Family History section, click on that family's last name, then individual. EX: WTD-MISC = William Thomas Daniel-Miscellaneous information; RCD-BIBLE = Robert C Daniel's Family Bible records.

"E&A, D" = Equity & Appeals, Book D, suppose to be found in the Clerk's Office (they never heard of it; E&A must no longer be used for such records) but found online through Family Search. E&A, Book D, pages 63-120 are about settlement of Robert C Daniel's estate and includes most of the AR records.

"AR, Q-T" = Annual Returns, Books Q-T, found in Probate Office.

Unless otherwise noted, all records are Oglethorpe County.