

## ✚ HOLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HILL OVERLOOKING ROBESONIA ✚

### ST. DANIEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE CONTEXT OF U.S. HISTORY FROM 1853-1864

The years 1853-1864 were a time of national turmoil, marked by deep division and the devastation of the Civil War. It is not known how many St. Daniel's members served in the war, as these and other records were lost in the church fire of 1976 or were destroyed by the ravages of time.

We do know that Thomas Theophalus Jaeger was Pastor from 1853-1864 and Henry Seipel Miller was Pastor from January-July 1864.

Notable events during Rev. Jaeger's and Rev. Miller's ministries at St. Daniel's:

- **1853:** St. Daniel's now affiliated with 11 other churches in one parish.
- **March 4, 1853:** Franklin Pierce is sworn in as the 14th President of the United States.
- **October 1853 – March 1856:** Crimean War
- **March 20, 1854:** Boston Public Library opens in Boston, MA as the first large free municipal library in the US.
- **January 28, 1855:** The Panama Railroad opens, allowing the first locomotive to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.
- **February 8, 1855:** The Smithsonian Institution Building 'The Castle' first opens to the public on the Mall in Washington, DC.
- **October 9, 1855:** American inventor Isaac Singer patents the sewing machine motor.
- **November 4, 1856:** James Buchanan is elected the 15<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.
- **November 14, 1856:** Gail Borden receives a patent for condensed milk.
- **March 6, 1857:** The U.S. Supreme Court issues the Dred Scott v. Sandford decision, ruling that Congress cannot prohibit slavery in U.S. territories and that Black people could not be citizens, furthering tensions over slavery.
- **March 23, 1857:** Elisha Otis installs his first elevator at 488 Broadway in New York City.
- **January 1, 1858:** The first Indian Head cent is minted in the U.S.

- **March 30, 1858:** A pencil with an attached eraser is patented by Hyman L. Lipman of Philadelphia.
- **May 11, 1858:** Minnesota is admitted as the 32nd state of the Union.
- **October 28, 1858:** R. H. Macy & Co. opens its first store in New York City.
- **February 14, 1859:** Oregon is admitted as the 33rd state of the Union.
- **September 1, 1859:** The first Pullman sleeping car is introduced on an overnight journey between Bloomington, IL, and Chicago.
- **April 3, 1860:** The Pony Express begins its first run, carrying mail from St. Joseph, MO, to Sacramento, CA.
- **November 6, 1860:** Abraham Lincoln is elected the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.
- **December 20, 1860:** South Carolina becomes the first state to secede from the Union.
- **December 28, 1860:** Harriet Tubman arrives in Auburn, NY, on her last mission to free slaves, having evaded capture for eight years on the Underground Railroad.
- **January-February 1861:** Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas secede from the Union.
- **January 29, 1861:** Kansas is admitted as the 34th state of the Union.
- **February 9, 1861:** The Confederate States of America is formed.
- **April 12, 1861:** Confederates fire on Fort Sumter, starting the United States Civil War which continued until April 9, 1865.
- **April-June 1861:** Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee secede from the Union.
- **1862:** St. Daniel's purchases its first pipe organ, which was pumped by hand.
- **February 25, 1862:** First Legal Tender Act of 1862 is passed by the US Congress, authorizing the United States note (greenback) into circulation, the first flat paper money that is legal tender in America.

- **January 1, 1863:** Lincoln issues the final Emancipation Proclamation, freeing enslaved people in Confederate-held territory.
- **January 4, 1863:** Four-wheeled roller skates are patented by James Plimpton in New York City.
- **January 15, 1863:** The Boston Morning Journal became the first US newspaper printed on wood-pulp paper, rather than traditional rag-based fibers like cotton and linen.
- **June 20, 1863:** West Virginia is admitted as the 35th state of the Union.
- **July 1-3, 1863:** Battle of Gettysburg, the largest battle of the Civil War and, with over 51,000 casualties (killed, wounded, captured, or missing), the costliest in terms of human life.
- **October 3, 1863:** US President Abraham Lincoln designates the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.
- **November 19, 1863:** President Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address.

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 Thomas Theophalus Jaeger was our Pastor from 1853-1864.

Rev. Thomas Jaeger was born August 29, 1826 in Greenwich Township, Berks County. He pursued his theological studies under Dr. J.W. Richards in Easton, PA. He was ordained in Pottsville, PA on May 29, 1850. He married Mary Palegrove of Mercersburg, PA, in December 1849 and they had 10 children, 7 of whom died in infancy.

Rev. Jaeger was elected pastor of St. Daniel's on November 12, 1853. He served the church for a little over 10 years, preaching his last sermon on January 17, 1864. Records show that he preached 187 times, buried 72 persons, confirmed 155, baptized 300, married 58, and administered Communion to 2,862.

Rev. Jaeger died on May 13, 1888 and is buried in Charles Evans Cemetery in Reading, PA.

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 Henry Seipel Miller was our Pastor from January-July 1864.

Rev. Henry Seipel Miller was the first of 4 Millers to be Pastor of St. Daniel's (so far), though none were related (as far as we know)!

Rev. Miller was born October 30, 1801 near Allentown, PA. He began preparation for the ministry at the age of 17 and was later ordained in Lancaster in 1829. He married Camilla Clemens in March 1823 and they had 4 children. After Camilla died in October 1852, he married Eliza Davis of Easton, PA, in January 1854.

Though his time at St. Daniel's was short, he was active as a Pastor for 52 years and was in the ministry for 64 years.

Rev. Miller died on August 29, 1887 and is buried in Norristown, PA.

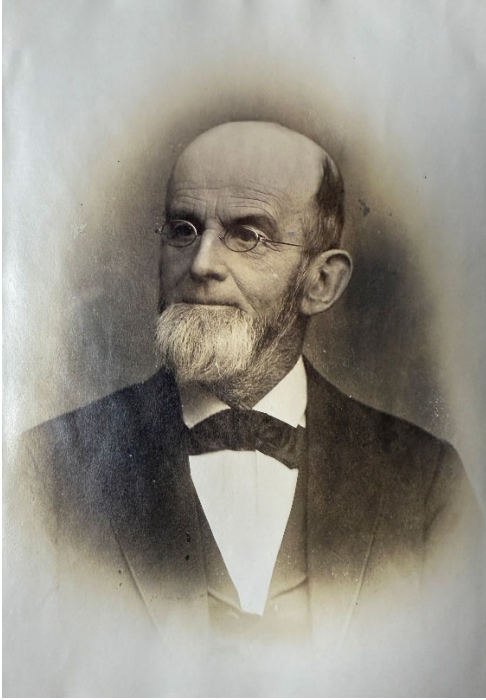
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What an amazing and enduring history we share!

Follow this space throughout the year for snippets of St. Daniel's history from 1751 to 2026.

Historical details taken from the 'Saint Daniel's Evangelical Lutheran Church "Eck Kirche" 1751-2001' church history book written by the St. Daniel's History Committee in celebration of the 250th anniversary. More detail regarding this topic is found in Chapter 3 – Pastors. World timeline details researched on the internet.

**#StDaniels #StDanielsLutheranChurch #EckKirche #CornerChurch  
#OnTheHillOverlookingRobesonia #RobesoniaPA #1751StDaniels2026  
#275thAnniversary #HolyHighlights #History #OurHistory #ReverendThomasJaeger  
#ReverendHenryMiller #ALotHappensIn275Years**



**Rev. Thomas Theophilus Jaeger,  
Pastor of St. Daniel's from Nov. 1853 -  
Jan. 1864**

*Franklin Pierce*  
*14th President*



1853-1857

*James Buchanan*  
*15th President*

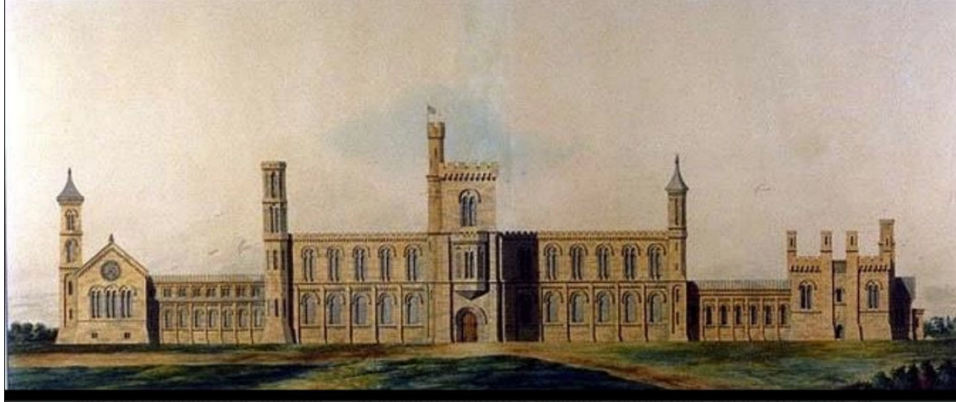


1857-1861

*Abraham Lincoln*  
*16th President*



1861-1865



Smithsonian Building, South Facade, by Moore and Townsend, watercolor, 1848, Smithsonian Institution Archives

The Smithsonian Institution "Castle" first opened to the public on the Mall in Washington, DC, on February 8, 1855.



Image Credit: Wikipedia

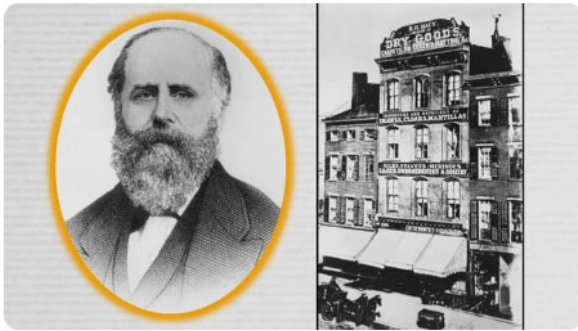
Gail Borden received a patent for condensed milk on November 14, 1856.



Image of Dred Scott, one of the parties in the US Supreme Court decision Dred Scott v. Sandford. The ruling said Congress could not prohibit slavery in US territories and that Black people could not be citizens. This caused further tensions over slavery in the US.



The first Indian Head cent was minted in the US on January 1, 1858.



On October 28, 1858, Rowland Hussey Macy opened a small dry goods store in New York City that would grow into a retail giant renowned for parades.

CBS News



Pony Express Centennial Celebration 1960 USPS Stamp

The Pony Express began its first run on April 3, 1860, carrying mail from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California.



**James Plimpton**

**1863: 4-wheeled roller skates are patented by James Plimpton in NYC.**

Address delivered at the dedication of the  
Cemetery at Gettysburg

Four score and seven years ago our fathers  
brought forth on this continent, a new na-  
tion, conceived in liberty, and dedicated  
to the proposition that all men are cre-  
ated equal.

Now we are engaged in a great conflict,  
testing whether that nation, or any nation  
so conceived and so dedicated, can long  
endure. We are met on a great battlefield  
of this war. We have come to dedicate a  
portion of this field as a final resting  
place for those who here gave their lives  
that that nation might live. It is altogether  
fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedi-  
cate - we can not consecrate - we can not  
hallow this ground. The brave men, liv-  
ing and dead, who struggled here, have con-  
secrated it, far above our poor power to

or detract. The world will little note, nor  
long remember what we say here, but it can  
never forget what they did here. It is for  
the living, rather, to be dedicated here to  
the unfinished work which they who here  
yet have have thus far so nobly advanced.  
It is rather for us to be here dedicated to  
the great task remaining before us - that  
from these honored dead we take increased  
devotion to that cause for which they gave  
the last full measure of devotion - that  
we here highly resolve that these dead shall  
not have died in vain - that this nation,  
under God, shall have a new birth of free-  
dom - and that the government of the people,  
by the people, for the people, shall not per-  
ish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln.

November 19, 1863.

President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863.