

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

JOHN WILLIAM DANIELS  
January 1845-August 27, 1933

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John W. Daniels was born in January, 1845 (some sources say 1841 or 1846), in England. He came to the United States in 1850 and graduated from Bates College in Maine in 1876. The same year, he married Alice S. Steward. Daniels served as principal of a high school in Westbrooke, Maine, from 1876 to 1877, then was professor of Greek and Latin at Westbrooke College for two years.

After a stay in Europe studying French and German, Daniels came to Boise in 1881 and served one year as principal of the Independent School of Boise City. He was superintendent until 1885, during which time Central School was built and the Boise school system organized. Daniels then paused for a few years to read law, gain admittance to the bar, and practice law, before resuming his position as superintendent. Daniels' "modern" teaching methods and his practice of rigid, military discipline caused him to be either admired or disliked by parents and school board members. The school board removed him in 1894, only narrowly reelected him in 1899, and again removed him in 1902.

In the 1890's, Daniels served as a regent of the University of Idaho and as a member of the board of trustees of the State Normal School at Albion. He was also a music and drama critic for the Idaho Daily Statesman. In 1903 he accepted a superintendent position in Rock Springs, Wyoming. He later moved to Portland, Oregon, where he taught languages and served as vice-principal of the Hill Military Academy. Daniels died August 27, 1933, in Portland.

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