

L. E. DANIELS—A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

BY

W. S. BLATCHLEY.

Lorenzo E. Daniels was born March 4, 1852, near Mazon, Grundy Co., Illinois. He was reared on the farm, which he afterward inherited, and received his education in the country and village schools. He taught for two years, and later served one or two terms as sheriff of Grundy County. In time a portion of his farm became a town-site, so that he had in his later years a competence which enabled him to devote all his time to natural science.

In his boyhood days Daniels became interested in fossils and shells, and later in reptiles, conchology finally becoming his especial hobby. His home was located near Mazon Creek, which in that region flows through the Coal Measures, exposing numerous outcrops of the Upper Carboniferous Rocks. These he found rich in animal remains, especially in those of insects. In time he gathered personally one of the largest and most valuable private collections of Mazon Creek fossil insects extant. These were later worked up by a Dr. Handlirsch of Vienna and the results published as a Memoir by the U. S. National Museum.

In his study of recent Mollusca Daniels first collected all the species of land and fresh water shells near his home. After retiring from the sheriff's office he began to make annual collecting trips to other states, going the first few years to North Carolina, Tennessee or Florida, and later extending these trips to the far western States.

One of his sisters, Mrs. J. M. Foster, lived at Laporte, Ind., and for a number of years he made his home with her. While there he joined the Indiana Academy of Science, his name first appearing as a member in the Proceedings for the year 1900. It was at one of the Academy meetings about that time that I first met him. As I was then in need of an assistant to help me in locating the marl deposits in and about the lakes in northern Indiana, I secured his services and we worked together at that task during the summer of 1900. Finding him a willing and conscientious worker and an enthusiastic shell collector, I gave him a place as an assistant and field collector for the State Museum, and he served as such for four years. During the months from April to October inclusive of each year he collected shells, fishes, reptiles, batrachians and insects in different parts of the State. These he worked up and installed in the museum during the winter months. All the mounted turtles and snakes, the alcoholic fishes and reptiles, the butterflies in Denton tablets and 75% of the land and fresh water shells which were in the museum at the time I turned it over to my successor were collected and arranged by Daniels.

In the year 1899 I had published in my annual report as State Geologist an extended paper by R. E. Call, entitled "A Descriptive Illustrated Catalogue of the Mollusca of Indiana," which started out with the words: "This

Catalogue is intended to be complete and to fully exhibit our knowledge concerning the group of which it treats as presented in the fauna of Indiana." In it Call described, and for the most part figured, 185 species of land and fresh water shells from different parts of the State. In two years Daniels, by his close field collecting, found no fewer than 91 species not included in Call's catalogue. As up to that time he had had little experience in writing scientific papers, and as I was somewhat familiar with the subject of conchology, we prepared a joint paper entitled "On some Mollusca Known to Occur in Indiana: A Supplementary Paper to Call's Catalogue," in which these 91 species were described and many of them figured. This was published in the Twenty-seventh (1903) Annual Report of the Department of Geology. In the same volume was a paper by Daniels entitled "A Check List of Indiana Mollusca with Localities," in which the 276 species known from the State were listed and their local distribution given.

In 1905 Daniels returned to Laporte and later moved with his sister to a farm near Rolling Prairie in the same county, where he was living at the time of his death, which occurred in a Chicago hospital on October 23, 1918.

During his later years I saw Daniels only a few times, and these usually on occasions of the winter or spring meetings of the Academy, or when he visited this city in connection with his Masonic duties, a fraternity in which he took much interest and in which he received the thirty-third or highest degree. I last saw him at the annual meeting of the Indiana Audubon Society at Michigan City in May, 1917. He then told me that, in company with H. A. Pillsbury of Philadelphia, Junius Henderson of Boulder, Colorado, and Jas. H. Ferriss of Joliet, Illinois, all noted conchologists, he was making annual collecting trips to Idaho, Utah, New Mexico or Arizona in search of mollusks, reptiles, etc. The results of two of these trips were afterward published in joint papers by himself and Henderson in the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science.

Nearly a dozen species of fossil insects and shells were named in honor of Daniels by his co-workers and contemporaries. His private collection of land and fresh water shells was one of the largest and most complete in this country, and after his death was purchased by Bryant Walker of Detroit for the Museum of Zoology at Michigan University. His collection of fossil insects went to the museum of the University of Illinois. No disposal has as yet been made of his reptile collection.

During our four years of association on the State Survey I found L. E. Daniels to be a conscientious worker, an honorable gentleman, a genial companion. He was one of the kind of men who do much and say little. Of such men there are too few on this earth today. In his death this Academy lost a member of greater worth than is perhaps appreciated by most of us who are left.

I append herewith a list of the published writings of Daniels as far as I have knowledge of them. In addition to the two already mentioned there are three others which deal with Indiana Mollusca and may therefore be of more than passing interest to some of the members of the Academy. These are numbers 1, 3 and 4 of those cited.

- 1—Daniels, L. E.—1902—A new species of *Lampsilis* from the Wabash River. *The Nautilus*, Vol. XVI, pp. 13-14, pl. II.
- 2—1903—A Check List of Indiana Mollusca with Localities. Twenty-seventh Rep. Ind. Dept. Geol. & Nat. Resources, pp. 629-652.
- 3—1904—Geographic Range of *Polygyra tridentata discoidea* in Indiana. *The Nautilus*, Vol. XVIII, p. 92.
- 4—1905—Notes on the Semi-fossil Shells of Posey County, Indiana. *The Nautilus*, Vol. XIX, pp. 62-63.
- 5—1909—Records of Minnesota Mollusks. *The Nautilus*, Vol. XXII, pp. 119-121.
- 6—1911—Notes on *Oreohelix*. (Grand Canyon of the Colorado). *The Nautilus*, Vol. XXV, pp. 18-19.
- 7—1912—Abnormal Shells. *The Nautilus*, Vol. XXVI, pp. 38-42, pl. V.
- 8—Blatchley, W. S. & Daniels, L. E.—1903—On some Mollusca Known to occur in Indiana.—A Supplementary Paper to Call's Catalogue. Twenty-seventh Rep. Ind. Dept. Geol. & Nat. Resources, pp. 577-628, pls. I-III.
- 9—Henderson, Junius, & Daniels, L. E.—1916—Hunting Mollusca in Utah and Idaho. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia*, pp. 315-339, pls. XV-XVIII.
- 10—1917—Hunting Mollusca in Utah and Idaho in 1916. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia*, pp. 48-81, pls. XIX-XXII.

