

Daniel Waldo, 1763-1845

WCHS Founder

Artist: Unknown

- Son of Daniel and Rebecca (Salisbury) Waldo. Rebecca was the sister of Stephen Salisbury I
- He never married and lived with his 3 maiden sisters
- Worked in a hardware store that was established in 1782 by his father. It was the first brick building in Worcester, where Elwood Adams, the oldest hardware store in the country, is now located
- His diary took the form of an accounts book wherein he noted every expenditure from 1815-1841. He had the recipient, including his sisters, sign the book and noted the reason for the outlay
- One of the earliest WCHS members; his gift of \$3000 allowed the Society to develop; he gave generously to other institutions as well
- He owned Granite Row (Waldo Block), the center of the dry goods trade, and lived in a large house where Mechanics Hall now stands
- He owned extensive gardens and a greenhouse on Linden Street
- *The Worcester Spy* (December 1826) relates: "several bales of cotton have been raised the past season in the garden of Daniel Waldo....the wool of which is perfectly ripe and of good sample."
- He had one of Worcester's first carriages; Gov. Lincoln and Mrs. Salisbury had the only others
- In 1837 purchased and donated land for Worcester's Rural Cemetery

"But few of you know, possibly, that he took a deep interest in the formation of the Society, recommending it when others hesitated, and affording a hearty cooperation in aid of the first timid steps."

