

ANNIE DANIELS CLAIM

Anna Evaline Stakebake Daniels was the second wife of Benjamin Franklin Daniels. Ben had developed a number of mineral prospects in the Madera Canyon area in the early 1900s and had laid claim to eleven mineral lodes under the Mining Act of 1872. The act allows the miner to extract minerals from public land without obtaining a patent (title) on the claim as long as the claim was continuously worked or improvements were made annually. If these conditions were not met, the claim could be considered abandoned. The act also had provisions and requirements for a claim to be patented. The patent was essentially a deed to the land and once a claim was patented and processed through the General Land Office the owner gained title to the land and it could be put to any legal use. The General Land Office (GLO) had been created in 1812 to oversee the surveying, platting and sale/transfer of public lands to the private sector. When the land to be transferred was a patented mining claim the GLO normally relied on the survey conducted in conjunction with that claim to satisfy the survey requirement in lieu of conducting their own survey.

Ben was 56 years old when he married Anna Evaline (age 39) in 1908. We imagine that by 1920 Ben was getting concerned about what would happen if he passed on and his claims were not patented. He wanted to assure that Annie did not lose the property. The process to patent the property commenced on February 25, 1921. The survey of the property commenced on May 1, 1921 and was completed on July 20. It included the following mineral lodes: Daniels, Daniels No. 1, Daniels No. 2, Daniels No.3, Daniels No. 4, Daniels No. 5, Daniels No. 6, Daniels No. 7, Daniels No. 8, Daniels No. 9 and Daniels No. 10 that were located in the Tyndall Mining District. The size of each of the eleven lode claims was approximately 20 acres. Since some of the adjacent lode claims had small conflicting or overlapping areas the total area of the land to be patented was around 212 acres. The mining claim was filed under the name of Annie E. Daniels and was given the designation of U. S. Mineral Survey No. 3747. The survey was accomplished by the Office of the U.S. Surveyor General for the District of Arizona, Department of the Interior. The Surveyor Generals Certificate of Approval of the Mining Claim was dated 24 January 1922. The General Land Office certified the claim in 1923 as indicated by a GLO marker that was found (see Figure 8) near an adit that the GVR Hiking Club calls Daniels' Mine. Annie was very fortunate since Ben passed away on April 20, 1923. Annie kept possession of the land until she sold it to the Richardson Family in 1940.

The survey was very comprehensive and covered not only the status and extent of all the lode claims but also the improvements. Two examples of improvements were: 1. Daniels Lode: Frame and Iron house 20 x 12 feet and frame house 12 x 30 feet. 2. Daniels No. 9 Lode: A 25 x 16 foot frame engine house with a 2 cylinder, 2 drum steam hoist and blacksmith equipment. This location also included a 60 horsepower steam engine.

The survey included numerous claim markings. The primary claim marker was installed on top of Hill 5463 which is just to the east of the current Madera Canyon Road in Madera Canyon. The marker consists of a 20 foot by 2 ½ inch iron pipe extending 17 feet above the ground. The

bottom 3 feet of the pipe is secured in the ground with concrete. A circle of stones 3 ½ feet high surrounded the pipe. Five feet above the ground the pipe is marked as follows: U.S.L.M. No. 3747, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, ARIZONA, ESTABLISHED JUNE 14, 1921. See Figures 1 and 2 for pictures of the claim marker. A number of other claim markers were installed throughout the claim in the vicinity of the various lodes. The majority of these markers were made of 1 inch iron pipe 4 feet long with a claw base, set 1 ½ feet in the ground and surrounded by a monument of stones (See Figure 5). A marked brass cap was secured to the top of the pipe attesting to the specific location of the marker. The top of each of these brass caps was marked “U.S. Mineral Survey No. 3747” (see Figure 4). The specific location of the lode marker was marked on the edge of the brass cap. For example, the edge of the brass cap of the lode marker at Corner No.4 of Daniels No. 4 Lode was marked “4 Daniels 4 (see Figure 5). The survey also made use of what were called “bearing” trees. A bearing tree is any tree in the vicinity of a survey marker whose relative location is used to help define the location of that marker. According to the documentation pertaining to the survey there were three bearing trees that aided in the definition of the location of the primary marker for Claim No. 3747 on Hill 5463 (two Juniper trees and one Oak tree). The documentation describes what information was associated with each of the trees but it is not clear as to whether that information was contained on markers attached to the trees or actually inscribed onto the trees themselves.

Until 2024, none of these lode claim markers or bearing tree markers had ever been spotted by GVR Hiking Club members traversing the general area of the lodes. Then in late March of 2024, lode claim marker 1 Daniels 10 was spotted in a wash area near the Kent Springs Road. The finding of this claim marker spurred an energetic interest in locating additional markers associated with the claim. Well-organized searches conducted by GVRHC Hiking Club members had located a total of seventeen lode claim markers and two General Land Office markers (Figures 7 & 8) associated with Annie Daniels claim by the end of July 2024. Figure 6 depicts the tree upon which the GLO Bearing Tree Marker is located. There are probably additional markers pertaining to the claim that are still waiting to be spotted. A plat of the claim was obtained from the BLM and is depicted in Figure 9. It can be used in the search of additional markers. For those interested in reading the entire report click on the following link – https://www.blm.gov/az/surveys/Mineral_Survey_Field_Notes/MS-3747.pdf If the link is not working, paste the url into your browser: It is quite interesting and you might find enough clues to be able to find some additional claim markers.

Daniels has been identified in western history as a “colorful Arizona pioneer”. That is an understatement. Ben had many careers: cowboy, buffalo hunter, lawman, gambler, mule thief, prisoner, saloon keeper, murderer, soldier. You name it and Ben probably did it. Click the following url for a detailed summary of Ben Daniels life.

<https://www.gvrhc.org/Library/BenjaminFranklinDaniels.pdf>

Summarized by T. Johnson from material contained in U.S. Mineral Survey No. 3747, the Mining Act of 1872, the Bureau of Land Management website and Wikipedia. Updated in February and July of 2024. Photos 1, 2 and 3 by T. Johnson. Photo 5 by Terry Ferguson, Photos 4 and 6 thru 8 by Barb Fleshman. Figure 9 from BLM Files.



Figure 1. Annie Daniels Claim Marker



Figure 2. Marking on Claim Marker



Figure 3 Marker Overview



Figure 4 Marker Top View



Figure 5 Marker Edge View



Figure 6 Bearing Tree



Figure7 GLO Marker



Figure 8 GLO Marker

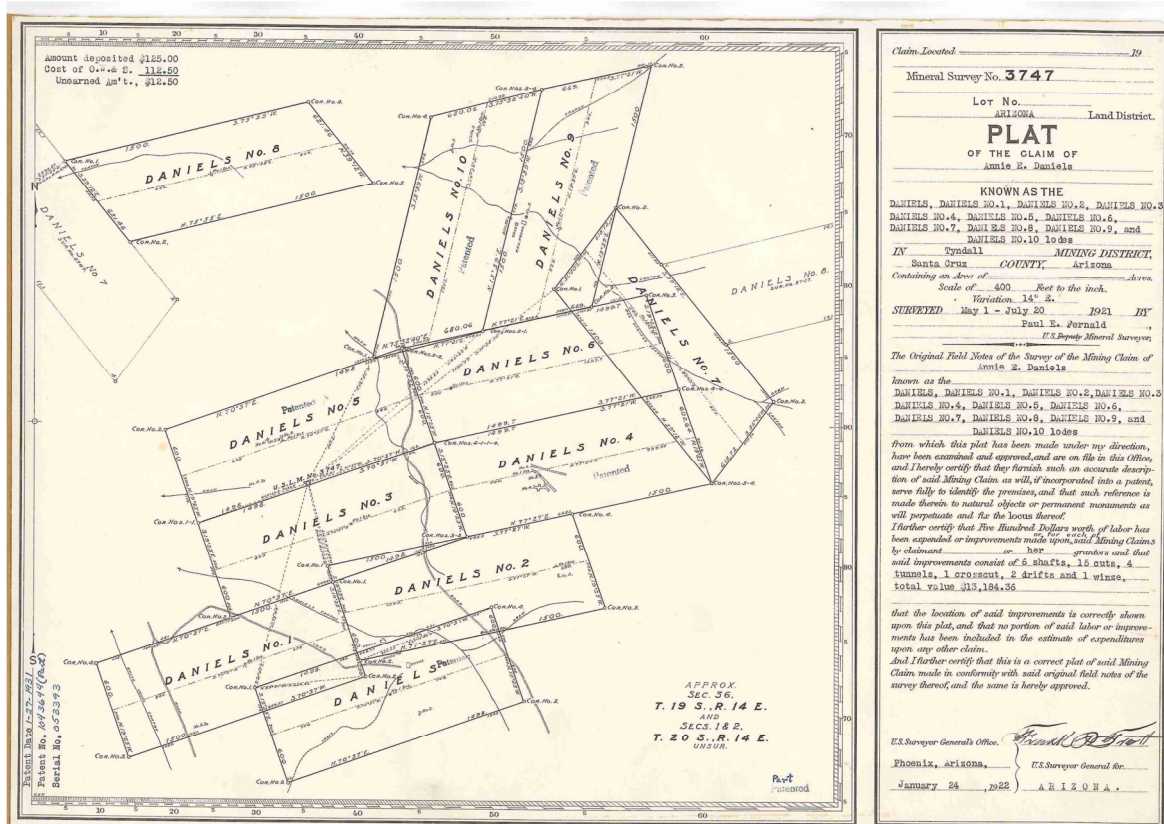


Figure 9 Plat Map of Mineral Survey 3747