

# DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS

JANUARY 18, 1856-AUGUST 4, 1931





BIRTH  
DANIEL HALE  
WILLIAMS 111 WAS  
BORN ON JANUARY  
18, 1856, IN  
HOLLIDAYSBURG,

## CAREER

Daniel Hale Williams had a pioneering career in medicine. He was an African American doctor in 1891, Williams opened Provident Hospital, the first medical facility to provide an interracial staff. He was also one of the first physicians to successfully complete surgery on a patient. Williams later became chief surgeon of the Freedmen's Hospital.





# THE FIRST INTERRACIAL HOSPITAL

Williams created his own practice in Chicago's South Side and taught anatomy at his alma mater. Williams became the first African American physician to work the city's street railway system. Williams — who was called Dr. Dan by patients — adopted cryopreservation procedures for his office informed by the recent findings on germ transmission and prevention from Lois Pasteur and Joseph Lister.



# SUCCESSFUL OPEN-HEART SURGERY

In 1893, Williams continued to make history as he operated on James Cornish, a man with a severe stab wound to his chest who was transported to Provident. Without the benefits of a blood transfusion or our modern surgical procedures, Williams successfully sutured Cornish's pericardium, the membranous sac enclosing the heart. Williams became one of the first people to perform open-heart surgery.





## MARRIAGE

Williams departed Freedmen's Hospital in 1898. He married Alice Johnson, and the newly married couple moved to Chicago, where Williams returned to his work at Provident. Very soon after the turn of the century, he worked at Cook County Hospital and later at St. Luke's, a large medical institution with ample resources. Beginning in 1899, Williams made annual trips to Nashville, Tennessee, where he was a voluntary visiting clinical professor at Meharry Medical College for over two decades. He became a charter member of the American College of Surgeons in 1913.



# DEATH

Williams experienced a debilitating stroke in 1926 and died five years later, on August 4, 1931, in Idlewild, Michigan.



R.I.P.