Daniels was a vibrant community, with as many as 800 residents, who once worked, worshipped and enjoyed life along the river. The town was built to house operatives of the mill, yet over time it became a strong and supportive community. This community continues to live on in the hearts and minds of its past residents, who celebrated their 25th Annual Reunion in 2012.

By the 1880s the community known as Alberton, was described as a “model mill town”, and boasted a post office, train stop, public school, library, and town hall. While much of the residents’ time was spent working at the textile mill, they also enjoyed life in the sheltered community taking part in the town Cornet band, playing baseball and watching performances at the community hall. As in many company towns, the influence and support of the mill owners extended beyond the workplace. The owners sponsored a company store, company trips, picnics, Christmas activities and supported religious establishments.

Life in this small town was not always easy. Daily life was challenged by harsh environmental conditions such as drought and flooding, as well as tough economic conditions. The Gary family struggled to maintain operation of the mill through the lean years of the Great Depression. Unable to recover from mounting debts, the Gary’s lost ownership of the property. The mill and town were sold at auction on November 23, 1940. C.R. Daniels Company of New York acquired the entire mill,