The U.S. Census Bureau is proud of its history employing people with handicaps and disabilities. Prior to the establishment of a permanent Census Bureau in 1902, many disabled war veterans received appointments as assistant marshals, census superintendents, supervisors, and enumerators. As the census became more complex in the late 19th century, a larger office force became necessary to compute and compile census reports. This led to more openings for people with disabilities that did not inhibit office work. Eventually, the Census Bureau fell under several mandates, such as the 1947 Executive Order 9644, which facilitated the hiring of disabled veterans, well before the national implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Daniel Ellsworth Taylor was born on June 23, 1845, in Granby, New York. Daniel’s father, James, was a farmer while his mother, Rosina, kept house. In 1853, the family moved to Cayuga County, and by the age of 15, Daniel worked as a laborer on a neighboring farm. When the Civil War embroiled the nation, Daniel enlisted in the 75th New York Volunteer Infantry on September 21, 1861, at the age of 16. Just a few months later Daniel’s unit deployed to Florida, where the 75th saw action across the entire Gulf region. In 1863, outside of Pattersonville, Louisiana, a Confederate round struck Daniel’s right arm during a skirmish as he took water to a wounded comrade. Surgeons later amputated Daniel’s arm, and he received his discharge from the Army on August 22, 1863.

While still recovering from his wounds, Daniel enrolled as a student at the Falley and Cazenovia seminaries, in Oswego and Madison counties, respectively. Following graduation, Daniel taught at the same seminaries for 10 years. In the spring of 1870, the people of Granby elected Daniel as collector, and that summer he received an appointment as assistant U.S. marshal for the taking of the ninth decennial census.
The Census of 1870, under Superintendent Francis Amasa Walker, who had also served in the Civil War, marked the beginning of a statistical revolution in the census office. Assistant marshals filled out five schedules for "General Population," "Mortality," "Agriculture," "Products of Industry," and "Social Statistics." Beginning on June 1 and finishing on September 10 for the population, and October 1 for the other schedules, Daniel enumerated 3,972 people in Granby, in addition to the local agriculture, manufacturing, and industry.

Under the leadership of Walker, who consolidated schedules and hired census clerks through tests rather than patronage, the Census of 1870 saw several innovations. In 1872, census employee, and future Census Bureau Superintendent, Charles W. Seaton developed a new tabulating device that greatly increased tabulation efficiency and allowed the production of more than just aggregate statistics. Additionally, in 1874, the publishing of a Statistical Atlas based on census statistics provided a quick and easy way to interpret comparative statistics on a national level, and ushered in a new age of finding creative and useful ways to interpret census data.

Following the census, Daniel continued to serve Granby as collector and taught at the local seminaries. In 1876, Daniel ran for and won the position of clerk of the court, which he held for many years. Daniel became most well-known for his longtime position as secretary of the Dime Building and Loan Association, a Granby bank which he helped organize in 1890, and where he worked for several years. Daniel remained active in veteran’s affairs as well. In 1877, Daniel served on the transportation committee for a reunion of Oswego veterans. Daniel also claimed membership in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization composed of Civil War veterans that functioned as both a social club and a political machine. Overwhelmingly Republican, the GAR exercised considerable political power in their fight for the rights of all veterans, including black Union troops. Additionally, the GAR started the celebration of Memorial Day as we know it today, in honor of their fallen comrades.

Growing up in New York in the 1850s, Daniel lived in the generation that saw baseball rise to become the national sport. In 1890, Daniel and several associates formed the Oswego Baseball Association, which organized a stadium and team for the town. The team constantly struggled for funding and a league berth, undergoing several incarnations and name changes, with the one constant being Daniel’s support as the baseball association’s secretary.

In 1910, Daniel moved to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he remained active in local politics. Although he did well in the party primary elections, Daniel unsuccessfully ran for Harrisburg supervisor multiple times, either under the Republican banner, or for the Bull Moose (Washington) Party, when it split from the Republicans in 1912. Daniel passed away in Harrisburg on September 17, 1924.

The Census Bureau is thankful for Daniel’s many years of service to both our agency and the American people.