



46 Duncott Road, Fairport • New York 14450
585-746-7239

Jeanne@verbalimagespress.com
<http://SusanBAnthonyFamily.com/>
<https://www.Facebook.com/DauntlessSeries/>

Book Club Questions

The Truth About Daniel, by Jeanne Gehret

1. What truths surface in the book besides Daniel's involvement with R.R. Satterlee?
2. How does D.R.'s behavior with Annie compare with the way he acts in Leavenworth?
3. What disadvantage(s) do each of them have for getting married?
4. Comment on these themes in the book: a) intimacy and vulnerability b) Underground Railroad c) different kinds of strength
5. How important the Captain's logs to the plot? (They were added after the first draft.)
6. How would you characterize the relationship between D.R. and Susan?
7. Daniel insinuates himself into the Osborn family. How do you think Annie will fit in to the Anthony clan? (Get ready for this development in Book 2!)
8. How does the Civil War serve as a backdrop for this book?
9. How do the settings in Martha's Vineyard, Saratoga, and Leavenworth add to your understanding of the characters?
10. Discuss the significance of dancing well in Annie's society. How important is it in Daniel's background?
11. Daniel goes to Kansas to fight slavery in 1854, but the Civil War does not start until 1861. Discuss the role of Kansas in the "War Between the States."
12. How would you explain the book's dedication page—"to family, who pester you until you get it right"? Do you know families who do that?

Be sure to check out the blog for historical tidbits and updates on the next book in the Dauntless Series about the Anthonys.

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I hope you have enjoyed *The Truth About Daniel*. Please review the book on Amazon.com to help other readers decide whether they are interested in it. This really helps me as an author, too!

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/188428101X>

Jeanne Gehret

WAS SUSAN B. ANTHONY'S BROTHER A BLACK SHEEP?

Many Rochesterians are familiar with Susan B. Anthony, but how many know about her rabble-rousing younger brother Daniel? Some hailed him as “Moses” for freeing African-Americans from slavery in Kansas, while others condemned him as a murderer and horse thief. With so many conflicting reports, just who was the real Daniel Read (D.R.) Anthony, and how did his Wild West lifestyle sit with his sister Susan? That’s the subject of the new historical novel entitled *The Truth About Daniel*, by Fairport writer Jeanne Gehret (Verbal Images Press, 2017).

“The first few years after D.R. moved to Kansas in 1857, he was detained at least twice following a court-martial and civil arrest,” says Gehret. “The Rochester Quakers raised an inquiry about a man he killed in Leavenworth. This must have stretched family bonds rather thin, but throughout this and similar incidents, the correspondence between Susan and D.R. showed love and mutual respect. I can only wonder what she thought when he married a wealthy girl twenty years his junior from Martha’s Vineyard.”

Following threads of conflicting, little-known, or forgotten stories, Gehret combed the University of Rochester Rare Books and Special Collections and made a series of research trips to cities and towns in Kansas and Massachusetts. Since 2014, she has been sharing her discoveries online at:

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Rochester teachers and history lovers may recognize the author’s name from her 1994 book *Susan B. Anthony And Justice For All* as well as her 20 years of living history performances in Susan’s persona. Gehret has also been a featured presenter in Kansas and Massachusetts. She served in the 1990s as a docent at the Susan B. Anthony House in Rochester.

This first novel in *The Dauntless Series* introduces Daniel through his activities as a Civil War colonel and abolitionist involved in the 1860s-era struggle to make Kansas a “free” state as opposed to a slaveholding one. Other chapters highlight his family’s first homestead in Gates and explore his future wife’s upbringing as the daughter of a whaling captain in New England. Letters and visits between D.R. and Susan occur with frequency in the book, as they did in real life.