

Lanyon, Richard (Dick) Norman

Item	Data	Reference	Notes	
Person	Richard (Dick) Norman Lanyon	1		
Date of birth	27 January 1852	1		
Location of birth	Mineral Point, Wisconsin, USA	1		
Fathers name	Josiah Lanyon	1		
Mothers name	Esther Lanyon nee Brenton	1		
Married to	Harriet (Hattie or Hat) Emma Buck	1		
Marriage date	29 September 1873	1	1	
Marriage location	Caledonia, Haldimand County, Ontario, Canada	1	1	
Date of death	1935 September 27	1		
Death location	Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, USA	1		
Burial location	Mt. Hope Cemetery, Chicago	1, 2		

Reference

1. Documents in Richard Fred Lanyon's possession and interviews with descendants.
2. Mount Hope Cemetery burial information.

Notes

1. Howard family data via Ancestry.com shows the date as 22 September 1873. Richard Fred Lanyon has a handwritten certification of the date and location.

Little is known of the early life of Richard or how he came by the nickname, Dick. Since there were other Richards among the several Lanyon families in Mineral Point, this Richard sought to identify himself differently and will be referred to as such. Two photographs on page 3 show Dick to be a handsome youth. He undoubtedly found employment as he matured among the several Lanyon businesses but he eventually set off on his own to Rockford, Illinois, and was employed as a sign painter.

He may have established his own sign painting business, typical of his independent character. He stayed in Rockford for 12 years during which time he married and fathered four children. Page 4 shows Dick as young man in Rockford.

In May 1875, he and a business partner, Ebenezer A. Sanders, applied for a patent for an improvement in the manufacture of paint brushes. The patent was granted on 25 January 1876. See page 1 of the patent document. It is not known if the patent was ever commercialized.

The reasons for his relocation to Chicago in 1886 are unknown but it may be speculated that he found better business opportunities and fulfilled a desire to be nearer family. He continued in the sign painting business as shown by his business card on page 5 and by the second patent granted on 1 October 1889 for improvement in letters and numbers for signs. He also leased and managed the Englewood Opera House in 1889 and 1890 as shown by the Lanyon Opera House document. Note that he often referred to himself as D. N. Lanyon.

Family lore also suggested that he became a landlord, owning and renting residential properties. Page 6 shows Dick in his early Englewood days. Being a property owner/manager may also be the reason for the other five patents, granted in 1892 through 1897 for improvements in tile work. Glazed tile was used as a veneer for the exterior or interior of wood-framed buildings.

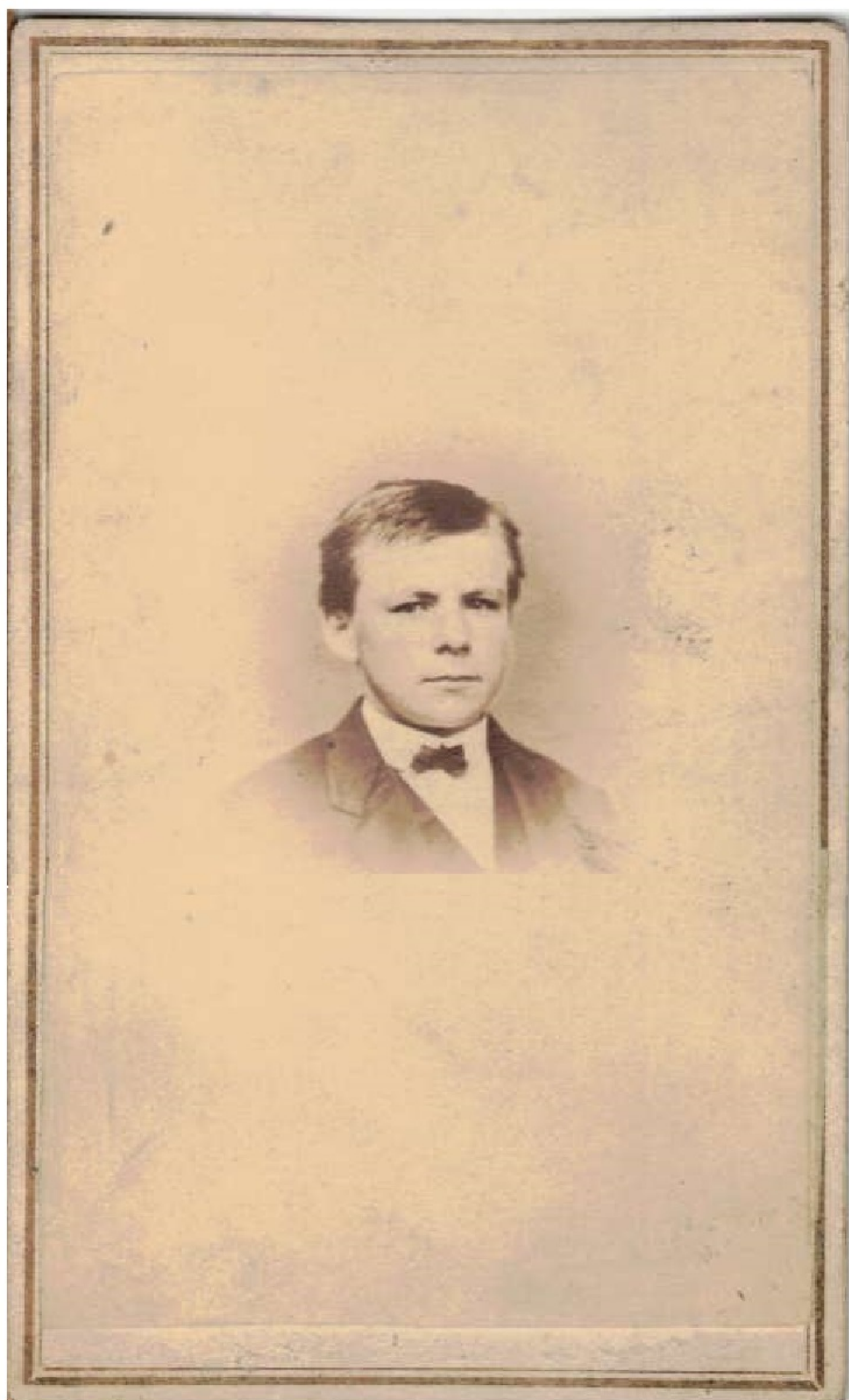
From its opening on May 1, 1893, until its closing on October 31 of the same year, The World's Columbian Exposition was staged in the area that became Jackson Park. It drew visitors from around the world. Forty-year-old Dick was probably employed as a sign painter. He also helped organize neighbors to participate in Chicago Day at the fair, October 9, 1893, observing the 22nd anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire as explained in the opera house and world's fair document.

In 1900 and 1901, Dick purchased property in Vermillion County, Indiana. Whether he started the business or bought out an existing business is unknown. As the business card shows, Dick, or simply D. N., mined, ground and shipped clay and shale. Family lore suggest the product was used in the open hearth furnaces used to refine iron ore for the manufacture of steel in plants in the Chicago and the Gary, Indiana area. US Steel's Gary Works began production in the early 1900s but use of the open hearth furnace process was being replaced by more efficient methods of steel making. Family lore also suggests that Dick was not an astute business person in that he didn't get along with his Indiana neighbors, causing frequent litigation. See the Indiana Business document.

Dick is pictured driving his 1903 Rambler on page 7, displaying his pioneering spirit. Dick's ninth child Howard, born in 1895, frequently accompanied Dick on trips to the Indiana business. Hence, little Howard became known as Little Dick, sustaining the family's traditional use of Dick as a male nickname. That may be Little Dick standing behind the vehicle.

The five Lanyon brothers are pictured circa 1910 on pages 8 and 9.

Dick was approaching his 78th year when the Great Depression struck in October 1929. Dick was affected by the hardship of others and it affected his health. Although he looks jovial in the photograph on page 10, his health was in decline. Many attended his memorial service in October 1935, pages 11 and 12.



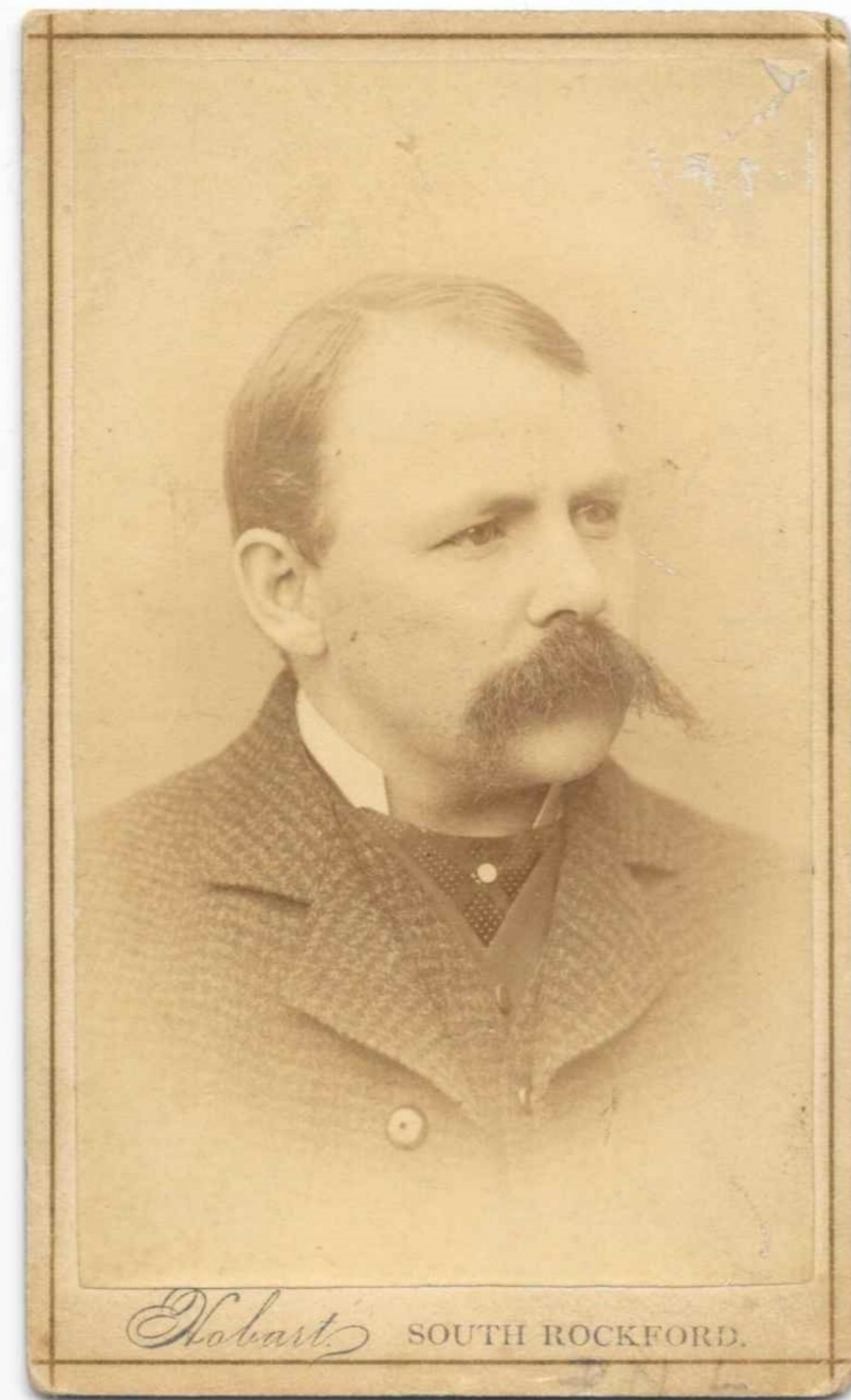
Adolescent Dick Lanyon in Mineral Point

On the reverse side is printed:

R. A. Kendall
PHOTOGRAPHER
Corner High and Chestnut Streets
Mineral Point, Wis.

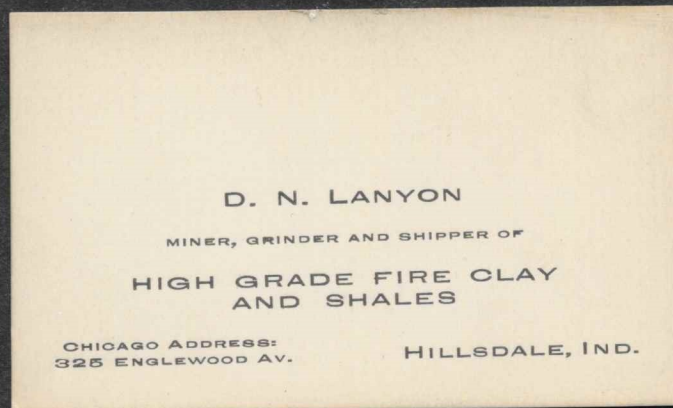
Duplicates can be had
at any time

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Circa 1880 Dick Lanyon
About 27 years old in Rockford, Illinois

Both photographs by Hobart in South Rockford

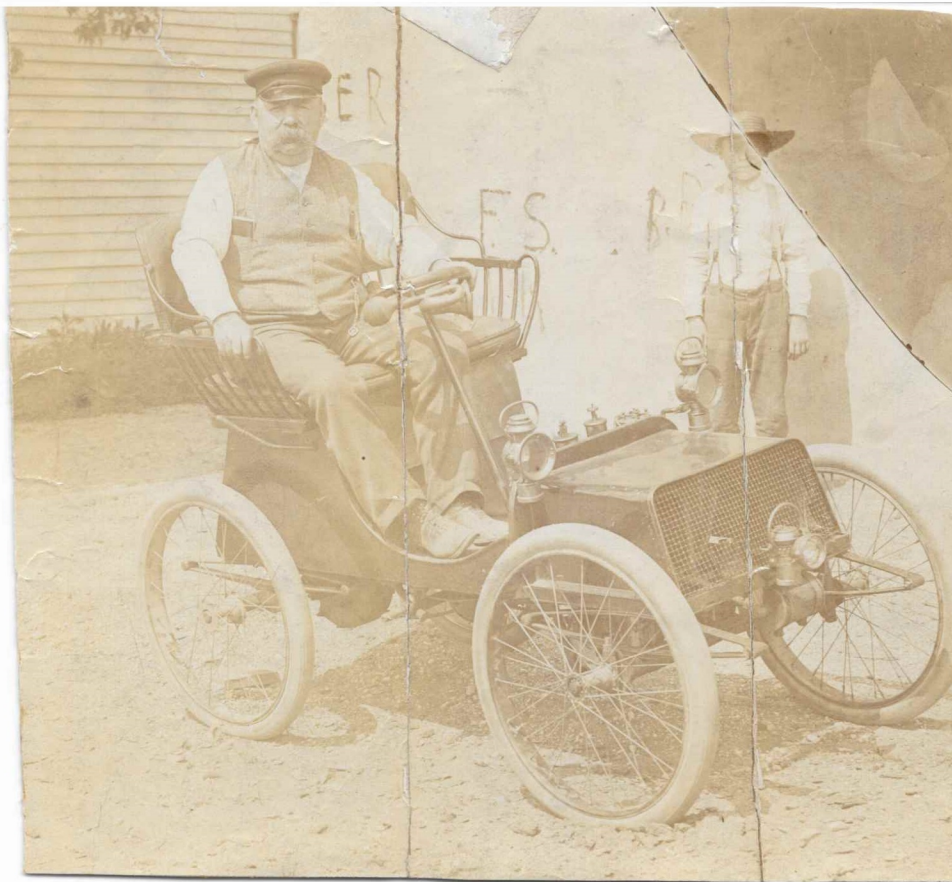


Lanyon the Sign Painter in Chicago was probably Richard's business from his arrival in 1886 up until the turn of the century. After purchasing property in Vermillion County, Indiana, in 1900 and 1901, he was mining, processing and shipping fire clay to the steel mills in the Chicago area up until World War I. Richard was also a landlord, owning several residential properties.



Circa 1895 Dick Lanyon
about 43 years old in the Englewood
neighborhood of Chicago

Embossed on the matt:
Wood 6250 Wentworth Chicago



Above right, Dick in his later years standing in the sideyard of the house on 61st Place .

Above left, Dick may be at the property in Indiana.

At left, Dick is driving what appears to be a 1903 Rambler manufactured in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Five sons of Esther and Josiah Lanyon

Byron, b. 1854

Dick Norman, b. 1852

Frederick William, b. 1856

John Brenton, b. 1845

Charles Henry, b. 1849



T. E. W. & Co.
1250 W. NORTH AVE.
CHICAGO

Dick Norman

Byron

Frederick William

John Brenton

Charles Henry

T. E. WILSON
STUDIO
6250 WENTWORTH AVE.
CHICAGO



Dick on January 17, 1935, 10 days before his 83rd birthday and nine months prior to his death.

IN MEMORY OF

Dick N. Lanyon
Name

Place of Birth

Mineral Point Wis.

Date

January 27 1852

Deceased

Sept 28 1935
Date

Age

83 - 8 - 1
Years Months Days

SERVICES

Lanyon's Chapel

415 N 63rd St Chicago Ill.

Place

3 P.M.

Oct 1, 1935.

Hour

Date

Officiating

Rev. Harold L. Bowman

Rev. Hayes

of the 1st Presbyterian

Church of Chicago Ill.