Daniel and Victoria Wakefield earned bachelor of science degrees in Wisconsin and began their careers as teachers in rural Wisconsin schools. They were married in 1941. Dan operated a fixed-base flight operation in Wisconsin. In 1946, the growing family moved to Devils Lake, North Dakota, where Dan founded Wakefield Flight Service, which is operated by his sons to the present day.

Through the years, Dan and Vicki had eight children, six boys and two girls. Robert is an employee of the U.S. Postal Service in New York; Richard, Grand Forks, owns Wakefield Hearing Center; James died of injuries suffered in a plane crash in 1968 (The family established the James D. Wakefield Memorial Scholarship in his memory.); William operates Wakefield Flight Service in Devils Lake; Tom and two of his children died in a tragic automobile accident in January 2005 (The family established the Thomas Wakefield Family Memorial Endowment to honor their memory.); and Daniel works with Wakefield Flight Service. Mary is administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration in Washington D.C., and Jacqueline practices law in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Their mother, Vicki taught for twenty years in the Lake Region. Their father, Daniel, Sr., died on October 3, 1995. On March 3, 1998, he was inducted into the North Dakota Aviation Hall of Fame. “Over the years, we’ve had a lot of tragedies, but we’ve also had a lot of achievements. It would be really interesting to add up the number of things the family has achieved … the number of hours in flight, the number of years in college, the number of years of teaching, and so on.”

The Daniel and Victoria Wakefield Family Scholarship has been established so that this family, which has accomplished so much, can further the achievements of others.