

THE BARD FAMILY

A HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF THE
BARDS OF "CARROLL'S DELIGHT"
TOGETHER WITH
A CHRONICLE OF THE BARDS
AND GENEALOGIES OF
THE BARD KINSHIP

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Thomas Robert Bard, son of Robert McFarland and Elizabeth S. (Little) Bard, was born at Chambersburg, Pa., December 8, 1841. He was educated at the Chambersburg Academy, and began the study of the law under the Hon. George Chambers, at Chambersburg. Impaired health led him to abandon his preparation for the Bar and engage in a more active business life. He became a member of the forwarding and commission house of Zeller & Co., at Hagerstown, Md., in 1861; and also served the Cumberland Valley Railroad at that place until August, 1864. During this period he saw some dangerous service as a volunteer scout in the successive invasions of Maryland and Pennsylvania by the Confederates. One day, with a companion, he penetrated the lines of the enemy and was captured. They were on the point of being hanged as spies, when a sudden rush of Union cavalry rescued them from their distressing situation. In the autumn of 1864, Thomas A. Scott, Assistant Secretary of War and afterwards president of the

Pennsylvania Railroad, was in search of a capable young man to take charge of his extensive interests in southern California, which included oil lands that it was believed would rival the oil regions of Pennsylvania. Mr. Bard was chosen for the work, and after spending several months in Colonel Scott's office, was placed in control of his holdings in Ventura, Los Angeles and Humboldt counties, comprising about 277,000 acres. These holdings included 113,000 acres in Rancho Simi; 26,600, Las Posas; 48,000, San Francisco; 10,000, Callegnas; 45,000, El Rio de Santa Clara O'la Colonia; 6,600 in the Canad Clara, and 16,000 in the Ojai. At that time there were not more than a dozen Americans in the entire region. It was not long, however, until squatters began to swarm over a part of Scott's land. In the description of the old Rancho la Colonia one line ran from a certain monument to a point on the Santa Barbara channel shore between two esteros. Lagoons were numerous along that shore, and it was easy for a designing and unscrupulous person to raise a doubt in regard to the two esteros between which the Rancho line ran. A Sacramento lawyer asserted that the line ran to a point near where the Hueneme lighthouse now stands. This was in direct conflict with Scott's claim, and would have deprived him of about 17,000 acres of as rich, level land as was to be found along the coast. The lawyer set on the squatters, who at once began to drop down on the 17,000 acres. Scott insisted on his claim, and Bard was on the ground to defend his rights and to drive the squatters off. The settlers talked "shoot" and "hang," but Bard kept

after them. At the outset, he had a survey made by the United States Surveyor General, and, as the line fitted the Scott claim, he was unyielding in enforcing it. The conflict lasted for years with varying fortunes. The settlers stole a march on Scott by obtaining a decision in their favor from the Land Office at Washington, but Scott succeeded in having it reversed, and it has remained reversed to this day. When Grover Cleveland became President, the squatters made their last attempt to get the Colonia lands, but Attorney General Garland upheld the old Scott line and that was the end of it. During all these years of conflict Bard was on the firing-line. He had desperate men to deal with but he never flinched. He kept the courts of the county busy dealing with the cases of the squatters. After he had won, he dealt so generously with the men who had been his bitter enemies that they became his friends.

While Mr. Bard was Colonel Scott's agent he had some thrilling experiences. The California Petroleum Company was organized to develop the oil on Scott's holdings. Well No. 1 was put down on the Ojai country, and there Bard made his home when he first went to southern California. One night in 1874 he was the victim of an attempted "hold-up" while driving to No. 1 on the Ojai with a large sum of money in his possession. He had forgotten his pistol, but the landlord at the hotel where he received the money, loaned him an old derringer with which to defend himself in case of attack. He was driving four-in-hand. It was not an easy thing to hold up four bronchos on the run, but on an up grade a man

got in front of the leaders, while another came to the forward wheels demanding Bard's money. Bard blazed away with the ancient derringer, missing his man, but hurting himself with the old weapon, the handle of which bursted in his hand. Frightened by the explosion the leaders dashed forward and Bard was out of reach of the highwaymen. Desperadoes among the squatters on the Scott lands and other bad men plotted to take Mr. Bard's life on a number of occasions, but these plots always failed. These antagonisms have passed away, and now he is held in the highest esteem by all classes in southern California for what he has achieved for the development of his section of the state.

When Mr. Bard went to California, Ventura county, in which he lives, was part of Santa Barbara. He was supervisor of the Ventura district, 1868-72, and when Ventura county was formed in the latter year he was one of the three commissioners to set the county government going. In 1877 he was the Republican candidate for State Senator from the district comprising Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties; he carried the first two but was beaten by his Democratic opponent in San Luis Obispo by a small margin. In 1892 he was on the Republican electoral ticket, and was chosen a Presidential elector, although the Democrats carried the rest of their ticket. He received more votes on the close poll than the three lowest of the Democratic candidates. In 1899 the California Legislature failed to elect a United States Senator, and the "dead-lock" was not broken until February, 1900, when Mr. Bard

was chosen. He was not a candidate and his election was a surprise. In the Senate he soon acquired the respect of that august body for his wide knowledge of the interests and needs of the Pacific Slope. He was chairman of the Senate Committee on Irrigation. The term for which he was elected expired March 4, 1905.

Senator Bard has been a successful business man. He has extensive landed interests in Ventura and adjoining counties. At his home in Hueneme, called "Berylwood," after his eldest daughter, he indulges his taste for gardening, and has succeeded in developing two new roses that he named "Beauty of Berylwood" and "Dr. Bard." In religion he is a Presbyterian. He built the handsome little Presbyterian church at Hueneme, in which he is a ruling elder and superintendent of the Sunday school. He has represented California in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church.

Issue:

1. Robert Bard, was born at "Berylwood," near Hueneme, Cal., February 12, 1877, and died December 31, 1878.
2. Beryl Beatrice Bard, was born at "Berylwood," September 19, 1878.
3. Mary Louise Bard ("Kitty"), was born at "Berylwood," January 4, 1883. She was married, August 26, 1905, to Roger Gaythorne Edwards, of Santa Barbara, Cal.
4. Anna Greenwell Bard, was born at Santa Barbara, Cal., October 5, 1884.
5. Thomas Gerberding Bard, was born at "Berylwood," March 7, 1886.
6. Elizabeth Parker Bard, was born at Santa Barbara, Cal., July 28, 1888.
7. Richard Bard, was born at "Berylwood," February 17, 1892.
8. Archibald Philip Bard, was born at "Berylwood," October 25, 1898.