

THE BEARD FAMILY  
A BUNDLE OF RELATIONS, A KNOT OF ROOTS

The Ancestry of  
THOMAS KENNAN BEARD  
and his wife  
GRACE ADA LEWIS BEARD  
of  
Stanislaus County, California

With Genealogical Supplement

By  
RUTH BEARD McDOWELL

A man is a bundle of relations,  
a knot of roots."

—Emerson

### III

## OUR BRANCH TAKES ROOT IN CALIFORNIA

### PART I: ELIHU BURRITT BEARD, 1825-1901

Beginning with Elihu, the history of our family consists mainly of personal recollections.<sup>1</sup> Seven of his ten grand children remembered him well, and the story of his earlier years was related to us by him and by our grandmother who survived him by eleven years. A diary which he kept when he was a senior in college has filled us in on his boyhood in Indiana.

He was born near Liberty, Union County, Indiana, on October 21, 1825, just eight years after his father had settled in the new territory.<sup>2</sup> He grew up in a Quaker home, and as a boy helped with the work on his father's farm. In his diary he mentions planting corn, helping with the threshing, repairing fences and white-washing buildings, caring for stock and driving them to market in Cincinnati, fifty miles distant. It was valuable experience for the time when Elihu would have his own sheep and grain ranch in California.

But in his boyhood, his interest in the farm was second to his interest in books and study. In his paper on the Whitewater Valley, he wrote that the Quakers were strong believers in educating their children, but that their children were seldom educated in college. Elihu was more fortunate than most. In the spring of 1845, when he was nineteen years old, he enrolled at Miami University located at Oxford, Ohio, about fifteen miles from Liberty. Here he spent five sessions. Beginning with the fall of 1847 he taught school for six months. Then followed a trip to Iowa to visit an older sister and her family, going by water and returning by land.<sup>3</sup>

In 1846, Farmers' College was founded at Mt. Pleasant, six miles north of Cincinnati, and about fifty miles from Elihu's home.<sup>4</sup> It was a new type of college—in addition to cultural courses, which were the entire curriculum of most colleges of that day, it offered courses of practical value to farmers and businessmen. Elihu entered this college in the spring of 1848. He had not chosen a career, but had in mind something other than farming, so rather than take advantage of the courses in agriculture, he took the more conventional courses in literature, history, religion, German, geology and astronomy. On October 5th, 1849, he received a diploma admitting him to the "Rank of American Scholar." We have the diploma, along with several themes he wrote while a student there, and the diary written in his senior year.<sup>5</sup> This diary covers the day by day happenings at school, and at home during vacations, and gives his thoughts and reflections. It is a most interesting picture of Elihu as a young man of twenty-three, with his wide range of interests, his love for his family, his enjoyment of meditation and reflection, his pleasure in his friends, his delight in poetry, and his views on slavery and religion and education. I will quote a few entries later in this chapter, along with a paper which he delivered at his graduation. He usually included in his daily entries a quotation or poem which suited his present mood. If he could not think of an appropriate one, he would compose one of his own. This love of poetry stayed with him all his life. I can still hear him greeting me with "The Lark is up to greet the sun" as I went down the stairs in the morning at the house in Pacific Grove during summer vacations in the nineties. And I can hear him reciting "The Stag at eve had drunk his fill" as I sat with him in the "Summer House" at one end of the arbor in his Modesto home. He had a large storehouse

of poems to draw from that he had memorized in his youth.

A cholera epidemic spread through much of the country during 1849 and 1850. It struck at Farmers' College in the late spring of 1849 and the school closed for several weeks. Elihu returned home only to find that it had struck in his own town. His mother became ill and he nursed her back to health—fortunately for him he did not contract the dread disease.

In his diary, Elihu often expressed concern over the state of the country, and uncertainty about his own future. He ended his entry for April 18th, 1849, with the following lines: "What of the future? It is dark and gloomy. Many are starting to California to dig for gold, but I have little taste for such employment. There is enough gold in our own country. Why should we go thousands of miles for gold, and forget that bleeding humanity demanded our aid at home!" One year later he was on his way to California "to dig for gold!"

Many of Elihu's Quaker Indiana relatives from Union County and nearby Wayne County left for the West during 1849 and 1850. I tried, but without success, to find a newspaper account of the departure of a party which listed him as a member. Articles on several parties leaving in the spring of 1849 appeared in the Richmond, Wayne Co., "Palladium." As Elihu left from this area just one year later, I believe the preparations for his trip and the route followed would have paralleled those of earlier parties. A 100th Anniversary edition of the Richmond Palladium, 1831-1931, published Jan. 1, 1931, quotes from some of these early papers.<sup>6</sup> "Feb. 7, 1849—Several meetings .... have been held, the names of some 15 adventurers enrolled, rules and regulations for the march have been established, wagons are being made, and all preparations are in a state of forwardness. Each person who joins is required to pay in \$250." "The company is composed exclusively of moral and upright men." A Company from Hagerstown, Wayne Co., left by canal boat for Cincinnati on March 19, 1849. There they boarded a steamboat for St. Louis where they took another steamboat for Independence, Missouri, the outfitting point for most of the 49ers. They were joined here by two other Whitewater companies, and all started their journey west on May 3. The train consisted of 10 wagons, 57 men, 81 horses, mules and oxen. They traveled up the Kansas River, followed the Big Blue River, and reached the Platte on May 29th. From there they followed the road to Fort Laramie in Wyoming. Then following the North Platte and Sweetwater Rivers to South Pass, they turned northwest to Fort Hall in Idaho. From there they turned south into Utah Territory and on into California.

An account of parties leaving in the spring of 1850 was published in the Indiana True Democrat of Centerville, Indiana, a town only a few miles from Elihu's home at Liberty.<sup>7</sup> According to the paper of April 4, 1850, "Several of the citizens of Centerville and vicinity set out Tuesday last for California. They go the overland route. A company from Richmond started on the same day. A company of 30 go from Newport of this county, 15 of them started with their teams March 30, to go through by land. The balance start next Wednesday via Cincinnati, and will meet the others in Independence." On May 5, 1850, the same paper carries this item: "The Independence (Mo.) 'Intelligencer' of the 5th inst. says that there are about 800 persons in that neighborhood ready to start for California as soon as the grass on the plains is up sufficiently for the mules. These are but the advance guard of a vast army destined to cross over the continent this summer to the shores of the Pacific." Somewhere among this advance guard was the group of which Elihu Beard was a part. According to his biography in the History of Stanislaus County, he left Independence in May of 1850.<sup>8</sup> He told us that his group brought horses with them, and that he earned his expenses by caring for the stock and helping with other chores. An older brother had loaned him \$100 to purchase his own horse which he rode. There were evidently 35 in his immediate group, as the same account in the Stanislaus County History states that "On the Platte River, the cholera appeared in the company and eight out of 35 died from it at the sink of the Humboldt." The epidemic which had been so bad in 1849 struck again in 1850, and the toll among the emigrants was heavy. It was said that the trail was marked by the graves of the cholera victims. Elihu's party arrived in Hangtown, now Placerville, just in time to celebrate California's admission into the Union on September 9, 1850.

For two years he tried his luck at mining—in Eldorado, Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties—but with little success.<sup>9</sup> By this time many of the miners were coming to the realization that more could be made by supplying the prospectors with meat and flour than in mining itself. The spring of 1852 found Elihu in what is now eastern Stanislaus County. His natural love of the land which he had inherited from his New England forebears must have come to the front, for he decided to give up mining and devote himself to farming. He took up government land as soon as it was available and began to raise sheep and plant grain. He added to his holdings over the years by purchase, and eventually owned about ten thousand acres in the Waterford area.<sup>10</sup>

Stanislaus County was organized in 1854, and Elihu was elected Assessor, a position he held, except for 1856-57, until 1861. For the first term he also served as County Superintendent of Schools. He served one term as County Surveyor in 1862-63.<sup>11</sup>

On October 7, 1856, Elihu was married to Ann Eliza Kennan who was living at that time with a brother, Thomas Marshall Kennan, near LaGrange. Born in Boone County, Missouri, September 28, 1829, she had come to California with her mother, Nancy Cave Kennan, by covered wagon in 1854. Her father, Thomas Kennan, had started west four years earlier to join his son, but had died on the way and was buried near Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Nancy Cave Kennan continued to live with her son near LaGrange until her death in 1873. She was buried in the Protestant cemetery in LaGrange, and her tombstone still stands. The Kennans and Caves had settled in Virginia in the late 1600s, the Kennans from Scotland and the Caves from England. Like the Beards they moved west as new land opened up—from Virginia to Kentucky, on to Missouri, and finally to California.<sup>12</sup>

Elihu and Ann Eliza's first home was on Dry Creek at the spot we now call Graveyard Bottom. A well-traveled road between Stockton and the Southern mines crossed the creek at this point, and their house became a stopping place for miners and teamsters traveling to and from the mines. About four years after their marriage this house burned down and another was built on higher ground about three-fourths of a mile to the east. Still later they built a third house on the outskirts of Bakersville—the name of the town was changed to Waterford in 1870.<sup>13</sup> The 1870 census lists the family in the Branch Township, with the Post Office Horr's Ranch. It consisted of "Elihu B. Beard, 44, Farmer; Ann E., 41, Keeping house" and four children, Thomas K., Alice, Frank C., and Ida S. Four other children had been born to them and three were buried on the hill overlooking their first home—William, aged 7, Anna, 13 months, and one of a set of twins who died at birth. Newton Kennan, a brother of Ann Eliza, who had come from Missouri after his sister's marriage, was buried on the same hill, and over the years a few nearby settlers. Gradually the home-site below became known as "Graveyard Bottom." The remains of the three children and of Newton Kennan were later removed to the family plot in the Modesto Cemetery. The second twin died in Stockton in 1869 and was buried there in the Rural Cemetery.

The family spent a year in Stockton in 1869 and two years in San Jose from 1871 to 1873. The town of Modesto was laid out in 1870, and in 1873 Elihu purchased lots from Major Burney on the corner of 12th and I Streets and built his home there. During most of the years Elihu farmed near Waterford, he raised sheep and planted grain. When he moved to Modesto, he leased out his ranches to grain farmers on a sharecrop basis. He added to his farming operations by purchasing several hundred acres east of town along the Waterford Road (now Yosemite Boulevard), another piece of land between the Tuolumne River and what is now Hatch Road, opposite the present Legion Park, another south of Ceres on Central Avenue and still others in the Westport District and Claus area.<sup>14</sup>

At this time their family consisted of four children, aged seven to sixteen. But in addition to their own children, their house was a home over the years to several of Ann Eliza's nieces and nephews. The wife of her brother, Thomas Kennan, died in 1872, and Thomas died in 1881. Their daughter, Ellen, came to live with Elihu and Ann in 1874, the year they moved into their new home. Except for an interval of three years, she lived with them until the early 1890s. Two sons

of Thomas Kennan made their home with their aunt for three years until their sudden death from typhoid pneumonia in the spring of 1883. Laura Henson, a daughter of Ann Eliza's sister, lived with her aunt for five years, until her marriage to Newton Jasper Shadle in 1884. After the death of Laura in 1895, her daughter, Blanche Shadle, came to Modesto, to make her home with her aunt and uncle. She lived there for ten years, moving to Lodi in 1905 to be with her father and two brothers.<sup>15</sup>

In 1883 Elihu again entered public life, and served two terms in the California State Assembly, but as illness had struck the family he did not run for a third term. In 1883 their second son, Frank, then a student at the University of California, had a severe attack of pneumonia from which he was slow in recovering, and his parents spent years searching for a favorable climate.<sup>16</sup> They traveled with him up and down the state—south to San Diego, Los Angeles, Sierra Madre and Pasadena, and north to the Oregon border—but to no avail. He died in Pasadena in January of 1892. Their daughter, Ida, contracted the same disease—probably tuberculosis—and died in San Jose in August of the same year.

Their son, Thomas, married in 1878, farmed near Waterford and in the State of Washington for ten years, and settled on a ranch near Modesto in 1888. Their daughter, Alice, went to the Hawaiian Islands in the middle 1890s and established a school and orphanage at Kailua, North Kona, on the Island of Hawaii, which she operated for about ten years. She died in Honolulu, September, 1912. When John Beard was on a trip to the Hawaiian Islands in the spring of 1966, he located the site of the orphanage and school, was shown through her home which is still standing, and visited with a woman who remembered Alice well.<sup>17</sup> Elihu passed away May 7, 1901, at the age of 75. Ann Eliza survived him for eleven years, passing away November 6, 1912. Their house was torn down in the fall of 1922 and a temporary Post Office was built on the site by a group of Modesto business men. The Post Office there now was, according to its cornerstone, built ten years later. In 1956, an elementary school in Modesto was named the Elihu Beard School, honoring him as the first County Superintendent of Schools in Stanislaus County.

Grandfather carried himself with dignity and always commanded great respect. At the same time he was very sociable, with a jolly laugh, smiling eyes, and a keen sense of humor. A man of good judgment and fair play, his Quaker upbringing stood him in good stead, as he was often called on to settle differences. He enjoyed conversation and was a member of a group of teachers, lawyers and other interested persons who met regularly for friendly discussions. He was fond of reading and especially enjoyed poetry—he knew many of the Psalms and much of the Lady of the Lake by heart, and he spent many hours in the “summer house”, a rose-covered bower at the entrance to the grape arbor, reading a book, or just sitting idly, smoking a cigar and meditating. Nothing pleased us grandchildren more than to find him there and be entertained by him.

He was very generous, not only to his family, but also to causes in which he was interested. To each of his four children he gave a ranch of a thousand acres in their early twenties; he gave land, which was later converted into cash, to the Berkeley Bible Seminary, a Christian Church school of which he was a trustee; and he gave Alice financial help in establishing and running the orphanage.<sup>18</sup>

When the Christian Church moved into Modesto from the Jackson School in 1873, he was elected an elder. His father had been a Quaker preacher in Indiana and Ann Eliza's grandfather, Richard Cave, had been a Christian Church minister in Kentucky and Missouri in the early day of the Church. The new preachers who came to the Modesto church always found a welcome in their home, and, if they needed it, a place to stay while they were getting settled.

Elihu was fortunate in having obtained a good education as a young man, and he wanted his children to have this same opportunity. The moves to Stockton in 1869 and to San Jose in 1871 were made so that the children could attend city schools. Later, Father had a year of business college in San Francisco, and a year at the University of California in Berkeley; Frank attended the University of California until his illness; Ida studied at Washington College in Irvington; and Alice

studied music.

At his death, Grandfather left all his property, except for a small bequest to one brother, to Grandmother, stating in his will, "I am mindful that I have a son T. K. Beard living near Modesto and a daughter, Alice F. Beard living in Hawaii near Kailua North Kona—but I am mindful that I have already provided for them both liberally in time past."

There is an interesting story in connection with his will. In November of 1900, Grandfather made a trip to the Hawaiian Islands to visit Alice. He had not been feeling well that fall, and evidently decided to put his affairs "in order" before leaving. In San Francisco, staying overnight before sailing, he wrote out a short will on the stationery of the Grand Hotel, dated Nov. 9, 1900, and mailed it to Grandmother for safekeeping. On his return voyage in February 1901, he booked passage on the Pacific Mail Steamer, Rio de Janeiro, sailing from Honolulu. But the boat he took from the Island of Hawaii where Alice lived failed to make connections, and he was forced to take passage on another steamer leaving a week later. Fortunately for him—for on that trip, on which Elihu had first booked passage, the Rio de Janeiro was wrecked in a heavy fog in San Francisco Harbor on February 22, 1901, with a loss of 128 lives. Grandfather passed away in Modesto a little over two months later, at the age of 75.

## OUR BRANCH TAKES ROOT IN CALIFORNIA

### PART II: THOMAS KENNAN BEARD, 1857 - 1925

Thomas Kennan Beard, son of Elihu and Ann Eliza, was born August 15, 1857, only a few miles from the present town of Waterford, in the family's first home beside Dry Creek.<sup>19</sup> With the exception of four years between 1883 and 1887, when he farmed in Washington State, all his life was spent in Stanislaus County. The County had been formed in 1854, just three years before his birth, and during his lifetime he was closely associated with almost every phase of its development—economic, social and cultural. The sheep ranches of his boyhood gave way to the large grain ranches. Irrigation came, and with it the small orchards and vineyards and dairy farms. Dams and canals and reservoirs had to be built. The County changed from a purely agricultural to an agri-business economy that provided industries to process the products of the farms. This called for the laying out of an industrial area, the construction of canneries and packing plants, and the building of a railroad to carry the products to market. The small towns grew into cities, and this called for land to be subdivided for orderly growth and for parks to beautify the cities and provide recreation for the people. As the cities grew still larger there were community problems to be solved. In all these changes, Thomas Beard had a part.

As a boy he helped on his father's ranch—at the age of six he had his own small flock of sheep. He attended the brick school at Langworth for a short time; also the White Oaks school which was built in Bakersville (the name was later changed to Waterford) in 1866. In 1869 the family spent several months in Stockton, and in 1871 moved to San Jose, where Thomas attended Gates Academy. In 1873 they built in Modesto. Thomas went on to graduate from Heald's Business College in San Francisco, and attended the University of California in 1875-76.<sup>20</sup> Returning to Modesto, he took up farming. His father gave him a ranch of one thousand acres, on the road between Waterford and Oakdale, and built him a house and barn.

On September 17, 1878, he married Grace Ada Lewis—he was just twenty-one, she not quite eighteen—and they went to live on his ranch near Waterford.<sup>21</sup> The first child of Thomas and Grace Beard—Edna—was born at her grandmother Burney's home in Modesto. Walter and Ethel were born at the ranch home.

In the fall of 1883, the family moved to Washington and Thomas took up land in the Horse Heaven country of Yakima County, built a house, and planted grain. The winters were severe; all water for the house and stock had to be hauled in barrels from a spring and from the Yakima River four or five miles away; rainfall was scanty and crops were poor. They returned to California in December, 1887. Herbert was born while they were in Washington, and during the time they lived there, Thomas served a term as County Commissioner of Yakima County.

Back in Stanislaus County, he decided to live near Modesto instead of on his ranch near Waterford. He acquired land from his father east of Modesto, just across Dry Creek, and built a house on what is now Santa Cruz Avenue. While it was being built, the family lived on the corner of 12th and I Streets, diagonally across from his father's home—Cora was born in this house. The new home was completed in the fall of 1888; it was the family home for the next twenty-five years, and here the five younger children were born—Ruth, George, Paul, John and Esther. In January, 1914, the family built another home, on the corner of Needham and Sycamore Avenues in Mo-

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desto. In 1928, three years after Father's death, Mother and Cora moved into a smaller home on Mono Drive. The house on Sycamore Avenue was sold several years later, and was torn down by the new owner in 1957. It had been built to last for generations—it stood for less than one.

In 1888, Thomas planted his new ranch to grain, and continued to farm his ranch at Waterford. He became interested in local affairs—from 1898 to 1901 he served as a trustee on the Modesto Board of Education and from 1901 to 1906 as a director of the Modesto Irrigation District. It was at a crucial time when the District was just getting its affairs straightened out after fifteen years of litigation.<sup>22</sup> Now his activities began to branch out in several directions; he seemed to have inherited qualities from several of his New England ancestors—the love of working with the soil from Thomas Gardner; love of a land deal and land development from the Coffins; and the instinct for business from the Starbucks.

He continued with farming for the rest of his life, but it occupied less and less of his time. From 1901 to 1915 he was in the contracting business with Walter, and together they built some of the main canals in the Modesto, Turlock, and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts, the Modesto Foothill Reservoir, the Turlock Reservoir, the Woodward Reservoir, and the Goodwin Dam. Other work included grading for the Sierra Railway Company; work for the Carson Irrigation Reclamation Project and the Southern Pacific Railroad between Hazen and Ft. Churchill in Nevada; grading for the Ocean Shore Railway out of Santa Cruz; grading the Priest Hill Road, and a section of the State Highway near Santa Barbara. They discontinued the contracting business in 1915.<sup>23</sup>

In 1909 he helped a group of Modesto business men promote the Modesto Interurban Railroad which would connect Modesto by rail with the Santa Fe at Empire. Tracks were constructed and passenger service began in April, 1911. But the company ran into difficulties, and in July of that year he offered to lease the right of way and railroad property and form a new company to operate the railroad. His offer was accepted and the Modesto and Empire Traction Company was incorporated. Its first trip was made on November 1, 1911. He developed an industrial area to locate industries which the railroad could serve, and in 1920 organized the Modesto Terminal Company.<sup>24</sup> Over the years he purchased land surrounding Modesto, and much of this he now laid out in residential subdivisions. He organized the Del Este Water Company to serve them with water. This Company has grown steadily over the years and now furnishes water to many other areas adjacent to Modesto, including the Beard Industrial District, and serves several of the towns in the County. He joined a group of Waterford citizens who were working to form an irrigation district, and in 1913 the Waterford Irrigation District was organized.<sup>25</sup> Much of his own land near Waterford, including land which he had recently inherited from his mother, was now in the District, and all this had to be developed for irrigation. He was a busy man—but business was not his only interest.

Forward-looking, he was always planning and building towards the future; a perfectionist, thorough in all that he did, he wanted the future to be the best possible; an optimist, he believed that the best was possible. Sol Elias, in his "Stories of Stanislaus", paid tribute to father's "optimism, faith and energy" which buoyed up the others who were growing discouraged in the crucial days of the Modesto Irrigation District reorganization.<sup>26</sup> These qualities played a strong part throughout his whole life. His faith was not "faith without works"; he applied all his energy towards accomplishing his goals.

He wanted the best for his city, and anything that would help it economically, socially, culturally and morally could count on his support. He was generous with his time and his money. He gave parks to beautify the city—Beard Brook and West Side Parks were gifts from him, Graceland Park was given jointly with T. J. Wisecarver and named in honor of their wives, Grace and Ada. The streets in his subdivisions were lined with beautiful shade trees. He worked for the youth of the community through the Y. M. C. A., through providing recreation in the parks, and through his interest in education. He worked for moral betterment through the church—he was an active member of the Christian Church, and served as trustee and elder—and he worked for

temperance through the Prohibition Party.

His concern extended beyond his family and his community. He was a member of the State Y. M. C. A. Board; he served on State and National Committees of the Prohibition Party, and was a delegate to the National Convention of the party in Columbus. In 1921, he took a trip to the Orient with Dr. B. F. Surryhyne and visited church schools and medical missions in the Philippines, Japan, and China.

Father had need of his "optimism, faith and energy" in his later years. Taxes on land in the Irrigation Districts rose terrifically, and there was little income coming in from the land to meet them. Depressions followed the first World War, there were few sales for property, loans were hard to get, mortgages were difficult to meet when due. But he managed to weather through, though not without sacrificing a great deal of land, and at a probable cost to his health. He was never a robust man, but he had boundless energy and never spared himself. He was not well after his return from the Orient, then he developed heart trouble and was forced to curtail his activities. He passed away in Pacific Grove, July 27, 1925, less than a month before his 68th birthday. Mother lived 32 years longer, passing away in 1957 at the age of 96. Among several bequests in Father's will were one of \$10,000 to the Modesto Christian Church, and one of \$25,000 to the City of Modesto. Both were dear to his heart. At the end of this chapter I have quoted from tributes paid to him following his death.

## IV

### THE EIGHTH GENERATION

Thomas Kennan Beard was of the seventh generation in our line of descent from our immigrant ancestor, John Beard. Thomas and Grace Ada had ten children—Edna (Mrs. Arthur D. Curtner); Walter, who married Zella Hambleton; Ethel (Mrs. Francis O. Hoover); Herbert who married Minerva Hairgrove; Cora, who did not marry; Ruth (Mrs. Roy F. McDowell); George, who married (1) Erma Keith, (2) Constance Carroll, (3) Eileen Wheeler; Paul, who did not marry; John, who married (1) Helen Bellamy (2) Vada (Vernon) Marr; and Esther (Mrs. Fred Marvin Brack). At the time of this writing (December, 1978), these ten have had 124 descendants, of whom 119 are now living. They are listed in the Beard Genealogy in the Supplement. All of these descendants have the same ancestors through the seventh generation. But our line branches out in the eighth, and for each descendant in later generations, his eighth generation ancestor will be the particular one of the ten children from whom he is descended. All of the ten but Herbert were born in Stanislaus County; he was born in Yakima County, Washington. All but Edna lived the greater part of their lives in Modesto. After her marriage, she lived in Warm Springs, California, for thirty-five years before moving to her present home in San Jose in 1934.

The ten members of the eighth generation have many characteristics and interests in common. Elihu wrote in his diary that his ancestors were rather famed for industry. The same could almost be said of his five grandsons. All ten children have led active lives, full of enthusiasm and optimism, and although each has been a person of great independence, all have shown a very cooperative spirit in working with others. All have loved the out-of-doors, and enjoyed gardening, and books and travel. And all have had a deep love of family.

Father, like his Quaker ancestors before him, was a strong believer in education and urged his children to continue their studies beyond the local schools. And all did. Edna attended Stanford before her marriage, and Ethel and Ruth graduated from that university. Walter received a diploma from the Commercial Department of the University of the Pacific, and Ethel, Cora, Ruth, George, Paul and Esther attended that university for varying lengths of time. Herbert and Walter attended the Lick Polytechnic School in San Francisco; George, the University of Nevada; Paul, the California Polytechnic School in San Luis Obispo; and John, Eureka College in Illinois. Esther graduated from Mills College.

All of the five brothers worked for family companies most of their lives. Walter was engaged in construction work with Father from 1901 to 1915, when he went to work for the Modesto and Empire Traction Company. Father died in 1925. The following year his children organized the Beard Land and Investment Co., and all the property in his estate was placed in this company. Today over fifty years later, it is still a family-owned company, and the stockholders now include children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren of the ten original owners. Walter was elected president upon its organization and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1954. Herbert farmed on a grain ranch near Waterford for almost twenty years. Then in 1925 he began working in the family companies. In his later years much of his time was given to his personal interest of mining. After farming for about ten years, George moved to Mo-

desto in 1925 and went to work for the Modesto and Empire Traction Company and the Modesto Terminal Company, later becoming president of each company. Paul whose full name was William Paul, worked on the family farms, John farmed about five years, then moved to Modesto and upon the organization of the Modesto Refrigerating Company he became manager, and later president, of that company. It was sold in 1953, and a year later, after Walter's retirement, John was chosen as president of the Beard Land and Investment Co. He retired in 1966.

Of the five sisters, except for three years during which Ethel served as secretary to her father, and a few months when Cora worked at the Custom House in San Francisco, during World War 1, only Ruth and Esther had careers outside their homes. Ruth was a librarian at the Sutro Branch of the California State Library in San Francisco from 1915 to 1918, and at the McHenry Public Library in Modesto from 1928 to 1947. Esther had a summer camp for boys and girls in the Sierras, first at Long Barn, later at Mi-wuk Village, for almost forty years. Edna had many interests, the main ones books and gardening. She gave many years of service to the Home of Benevolence (later Eastfield), a home in San Jose for deprived orphans. She served as President and as a member of the Board of Directors for several terms. For Ethel, her home and family came first. Her two sons and one grandson became university professors. Cora's life has been full of many interests. In her earlier years music was the foremost, and she gave piano lessons to her nieces and nephews. In her later years books and reading have been her chief interests, and these, too, she has shared with others. For more than thirty years after Father's death, she was a devoted companion to Mother. Esther's interest in young people has extended far beyond the camp she operated for so many years. She has assisted many in their efforts to get an education, and has helped foreign students who have come here to attend college.

"The story of the Eighth Generation is the story of a close and happy personal relations during childhood that continued throughout the adult years....of Thanksgiving dinners, with the house overflowing with children and grandchildren; of Christmas Eve gatherings at Mother's with programs put on by the grandchildren; of picnics at the "Gobin Place", a family-owned ranch, in the 1930s and 1940s; of annual family picnics at John's home near Modesto through the 1950s and early 1960s, and since 1964 at "Graveyard Bottom" near Waterford, the site of the first home of Elihu and Ann Eliza Beard after their marriage in 1856. In 1975, 149 attended the picnic, 119 of these were "family."

The story of the Eighth Generation is also the story of a business relationship in which ten brothers and sisters have worked together as a unit through a family company for fifty years. Some have thought it unusual that a family of this size could work together in harmony, and maintain such a close personal relationship for so many years. Perhaps our Quaker ancestry has contributed to this; also the fact that we grew up in the country, depending upon each other for companionship, learning to work and play together, and that as children we were taught fair play and cooperation. I feel that Mother's relationship with her family was largely responsible. She lived for thirty-two years after Father's death. She never took any part in the family business, but the personal life of the family as a whole revolved around her. She was absorbed in her family, though she never interfered in their private lives in any way. She loved them all dearly, and each of them—down to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren—had a deep affection for her. It was this love of Mother for her family and of her family for her, added to the affection and respect we brothers and sisters had for each other, which held us closely together.

This bond between Mother and her family is referred to by Mr. Herbert Lapham of the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company in a letter he wrote to her shortly after his retirement in 1947. "Although it is quite a number of years since I've seen you," he wrote, "it has all that time been a decided comfort to me in my work with your family to know that you were there—the proudly acknowledged head of the Beard clan. ... I take this opportunity to tell you of the helpfulness of your influence on the family affairs with which I have had contact. It was noticeable there whenever any number of them were together although you were far from the Board room and their

daily work. They must love you very much indeed, as I well know they do, and you them, to create a bond so strong and enduring.”

At this writing, six of the ten members of the Eighth Generation are living. Edna is 99; Cora, 90; Ruth, 88; George, 85; John, 78; Esther, 76. Walter passed away in 1978, aged 96; Ethel in 1970 at the age of 87; Herbert the same year, at 84, and Paul in 1973 at 74.

Another record of longevity which includes the descendants of the Eighth Generation should be noted. After the marriage of Thomas and Grace Ada Beard in 1878, not a single death occurred among their descendants until 1958—a period of almost 80 years. At that time the number of descendants had reached 83. In the past 20 years there have been only 9 deaths, and the descendants now number 134.