

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

BY
G. O. SEILHAMER, Esq.

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Cephas Little Bard, son of Robert McFarland and Elizabeth S. (Little) Bard, was born at Chambersburg, Pa., April 7, 1843, and died in San Buenaventura, Cal., April 20, 1902. He was educated at the Chambersburg Academy. After leaving school he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Abraham H. Senseny, in Chambersburg, but his studies were interrupted by his enlistment in Company A, 126th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, August 11, 1862. He participated in the sanguinary battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, and the battle of Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863. Upon his being mustered out with his regiment, May 20, 1863, he resumed his medical studies and was graduated M.D., at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1864. Soon after receiving his degree he was appointed assistant surgeon of the 210th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served until the close

of the war. After the war he began the practice of his profession in his native county, but, in 1868, he left Chambersburg to begin a new and remarkable career as a practitioner in southern California. Dr. Bard was the first American physician, with a diploma, that settled in Ventura county, of which he was one of the pioneers. He became an integral part of the county—a fixed figure in its social and civic life. With him the hardships that befall a country physician with a large practice, had no power to draw him to a large city, where the routine of his professional life would be easier and the emoluments greater. He found his reward in the gratitude, love and esteem that the people he served so unselfishly, bestowed upon him. It was a common occurrence with him to risk his life in the roaring Santa Clara when the summons came to him from a patient on a winter night. “Oh, I have to do it,” was his own comment on his unselfish devotion to duty. He always felt the keenest satisfaction in the success of his professional efforts. For more than thirty years there was no public highway in Ventura county so long, or mountain trail so distant, that it was not traversed by him again and again on his errands of mercy. He knew nearly every man, woman and child in the county; knew their names, their dispositions, their ailments and their limitations. The tenacity of his memory was as marvelous as the accuracy of his knowledge. His quick intuitions made him a leader of men as well as a skillful and unerring physician. After his death, the Ventura Society of Pioneers, of which he was the virtual founder, un-

veiled a bust of the popular physician, in the beautiful Elizabeth Bard Memorial Hospital, in San Buenaventura, founded by Dr. Bard and his brother, Senator Bard, in memory of their mother.

Dr. Bard held many positions of honor and trust. In the early days he was coroner of Ventura county. He served as Health Officer of his county, and as County Physician and Surgeon for many years and as a member of the Board of Pension Examiners. He was president of the State Medical Society of California, and of the Ventura County Medical Society. For over ten years he was president of the City School Board, and he was also president of the Society of Pioneers. In the Grand Army of the Republic he was always an active, zealous and patriotic comrade. His last achievement was the completion of the Elizabeth Bard Memorial Hospital, which was finished only a short time before his death, and in which he was the first patient.

Dr. Bard was married October 25, 1871, to Clara Winter Gerberding, daughter of Christian Otto and Mary J. (Hempson) Gerberding. She was born September 5, 1847, and died January 12, 1905.

Issue:

1. Mary Blanche Bard, was born at San Buenaventura, Cal., August 22, 1872; living at Chambersburg, Pa.
2. Albert Marius Bard, was born at "Berylwood," Hueneme, Cal., August 4, 1879, and died at Brussels, Belgium, in 1905.