

# PENNSYLVANIA

## A HISTORY

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With Introduction by

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(The Beard Line).

Arms—Ermine, on a quarter sable, a saltire or, charged with five fleurs-de-lis, gules.

Crest—On a chapeau gules, turned up ermine, a tiger couchant or, tufted, maned and armed sable.

It is always interesting to trace the origin of a name. Centuries ago, before the surname had come into common usage, men were designated by their occupations, personal characteristics of manner or physical form, locality, or as sons of their father. In time these various appellations became a part of the name and descended to succeeding generations as a surname. Several derivations are suggested for the family name Beard, which is also written Baird and Bard. According to Bardsley, and also Harrison, it is a nickname meaning "bearded," and often in early Anglo-Norman records is rendered by its Latin equivalent. Thus: Richard and William Cum-Barba (i.e., with a beard) in the Hundred Rolls of Oxfordshire, 1273 A.D.; and Adam Cum-Barba as late as the Poll Tax of Yorkshire, 1379 A.D.

A poor weaver named John Gregor went from house to house, and as he worked he sang the legends, ballads, and events of the time so pleasingly that his coming was always hailed with joy. The people loved him and called him the Bard, and when some property was left to him by one of his rich friends, it was given to him as John Gregor Bard, "in order for him to hold it."

For many generations in Scotland the name has been written Baird, but for more than a hundred years after the Plantation, in Ireland, it was more frequently written Beard. Though the Bairds who were in Ireland for about a century are called Scotch-Irish, they were not in reality natives of Ireland but went there from Scotland, England and France. The American family of Archibald Bard are descended from an emigrant ancestor who spelled his name Beard, and whose second son signed his name to a deed now on record as William Baird.

The Baird family is one of the most talented and cultured in this country, and the name is especially well known in history and theology, being represented in the former field by the Bairds of New York who "have produced the classic historians of the Huguenot race and achievements so rich in memories and in inspiration." The name of Dr. Samuel J. Baird, of Fayette, is recognized as the author of two volumes of especial interest and value in church theology and history, "Eloine Revealed," and "The History of the New School Presbyterian." Of this family also were William Logan and Thomas Dickson Baird who "attained fame in scholarship as educationalists in Baltimore and the South." They were men of broad learning and great intellectuality and representative of "the liberal training and pure culture" of the early days of the Presbyterian Church in Western Pennsylvania.

Prominent among those who spell the name "Beard" is "Dan Beard," artist, author, and founder of the first Boy Scout Society from which the English Scouts and others were modelled, and now National Scout Commander of the Boy Scouts of America. He came of a family of artists, his five brothers and sisters having all been users of the pencil or brush, and his father and an uncle were well-known painters. In the earlier generations John Beard, born about 1716, died 1790, was a popular actor and famous tenor singer in England. Handel composed expressly for him some of his greatest tenor parts, as in "Israel in Egypt," "Messiah," "Judas Maccabaeus," and "Jephthah," and Beard's reputation as a singer was gained in the presentation given by Handel at Covent Garden Theatre of "Acis and Galatea," "Atalanta," and other works. His first appearance as an actor was at Drury Lane, August 30, 1757, and he enjoyed great and deserved popularity. His second wife was Charlotte Rich, daughter of Mr. Rich, the manager of the Covent Garden Theatre. Thomas Beard, D.D., was a Puritan divine, educated at Cambridge University. He was rector of Hengrave, Suffolk, for a short time, then became master of Huntingdon Hospital and Grammar School, and the schoolmaster of Oliver Cromwell. Beard's earliest and most famous book, "The Theatre of God's Judgment," first appeared in 1797, and went through at least four editions.

— Berd, who lived in the reign of Henry VII (1485-1509), had a son, Ralph Beard, whose oldest son, John Beard, had lands in Cowfold, Sussex, England, but died without issue, and his estate was inherited by his brothers, one of whom was William, who had John of Cowfold and Thomas, ancestors of the Beards of Wike in Sussex.

Among the early Bards, Bairds, and Beards who came from the banks of the Foyle, Ireland, and settled in Pennsylvania, was John Baird, a son of James Baird, of Strabane, and the only one of the name whose paternity in Ireland has been positively identified. He settled in Christiana Hundred, New-castle County, Delaware, before 1728, and is believed to have gone later to Chester County, Pennsylvania, as a John Beard was taxable in New Londonderry Township, 1727-44.