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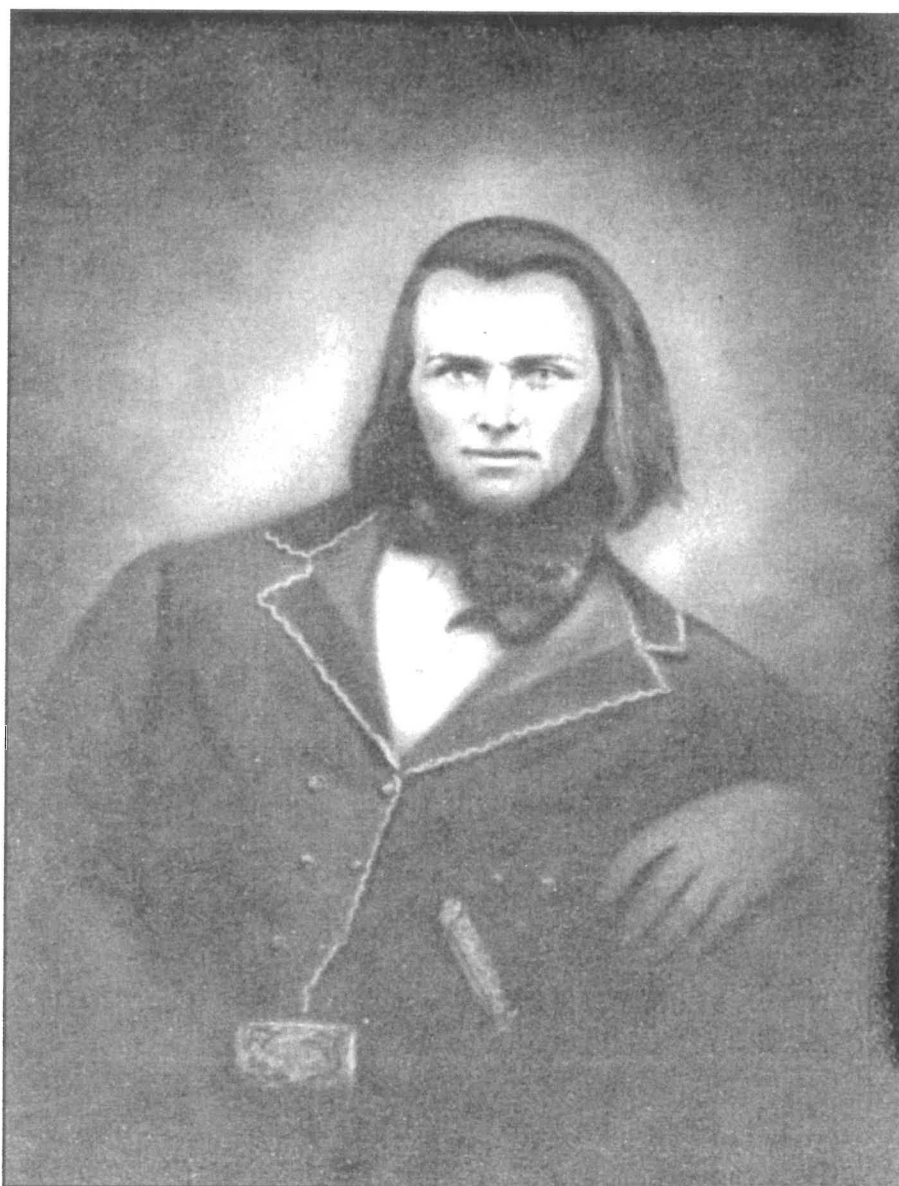
STANISLAUS STEPPING STONES

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2015

The Beard Family of Stanislaus County



Elihu Burritt Beard before leaving for California, circa 1850

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Stanislaus Stepping Stones

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STANISLAUS STEPPING STONES

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Elihu Burritt Beard 1825-1901
Ann Eliza Kennan 1829-1912



Elihu Beard, San Francisco 1885 age 60.



Ann Eliza Kennan Beard, San Francisco 1885 age 56

Most of us are not lucky enough to have ancestors like Elihu (pronounced el.EYE.hugh) Beard, who was one of the less than one percent of white males of his day to graduate from college. Having a very practical bent, he saw no use for studying Latin and Greek, which was part of the usual college education, but he loved the arts, reading and poetry throughout his life. His Quaker parents instilled in him a high level of morality and a love of peace. Reared on a farm, he was taught to work hard and live a humble, industrious, unostentatious life. As a civic leader he held several positions in Stanislaus County and taught his children to be civic minded and philanthropic. None of the early settlers of Stanislaus County did more to exemplify decency than Elihu Burritt Beard. He chose his middle name, Burritt, while attending college, in honor of Elihu Burritt, a Quaker leader in the international peace movement. In his 1849 diary, Elihu wrote, "...

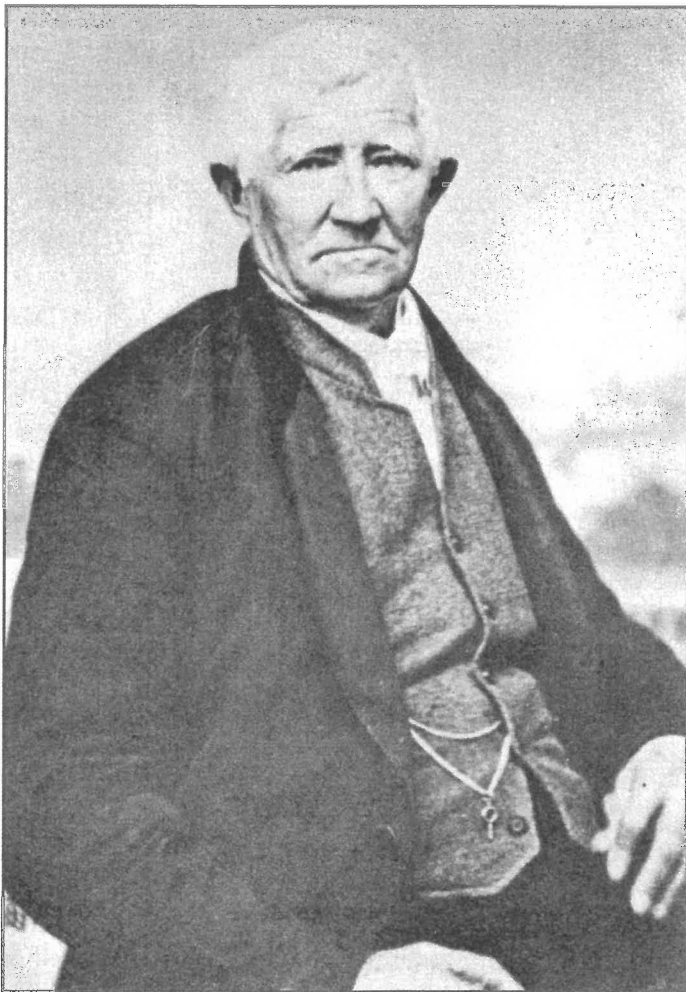
there is but one thing in the world for which I would wish to live, and that is, that I may add something that will benefit the condition of my fellow beings or be of use to future generations." Elihu accomplished that, and, over the years, his descendants have continued his legacy of service and philanthropy.

Ruth Beard McDowell wrote of her grandfather Elihu, "Grandfather was of average height and solid build, stood straight and carried himself with dignity, and was very particular about his dress. He was kind, generous, fair in all his dealings, calm, and a man of good judgment. He had a jolly laugh, smiling dark blue eyes, and a keen sense of humor. He loved to tease grandmother, but always in a gentle way."

The first Beard to come to America was John Beard from Devonshire, England, who arrived on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, about 1710 with his wife and sons Richard and John. The island was populated by

the Wampanoag Indians and many Quaker families who had fled persecution in England. The Beard family, if not already Quaker, soon married into families of that faith that had preceded the Beards by nearly a hundred years. Starbuck, Macy, Coffin, and Gayer are a few of the ancestral names. Still standing today on the island are homes from the seventeenth century that belonged to the Nantucket ancestors of the Beards. The island was a center of the fishing and whaling industries. Its land was marginal for farming, so many of the Quakers raised sheep and planted grain, especially wheat.

As the troubles between Massachusetts and the British arose just before the Revolutionary War, some of the Quakers were in exodus to Guilford County, North Carolina. Richard Beard, Jr., and his family made the move in 1767. Richard's thirteen-year-old son, George Beard (1754-1840), was Elihu's grandfather. The family worshipped at New Garden Meeting House at Guilford Court House.

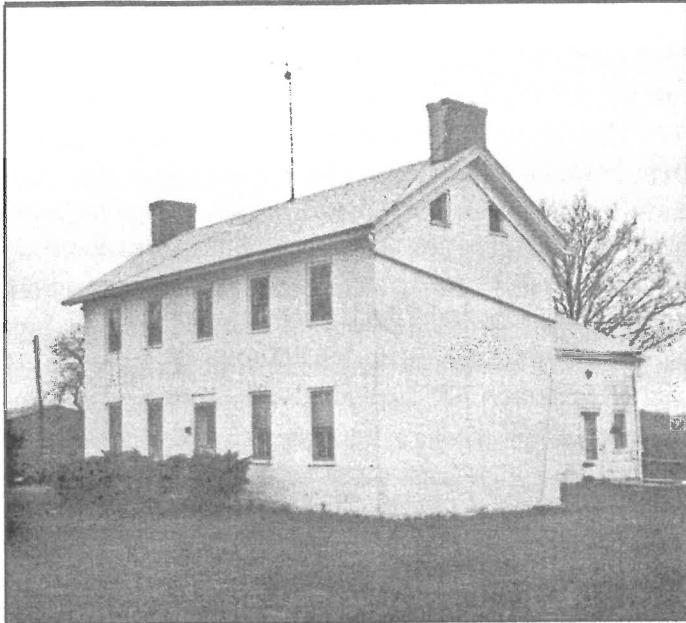


Elihu Beard's father, William circa 1870

When the Revolutionary War broke out, because the Quakers were known for their stance against war, they were not forced by the Patriots or the Tories to choose sides. But war came to the very threshold of the New Garden Meeting House. In the waning months of the war, in March of 1781, the armies of British General Charles Cornwallis and Patriot General Nathaniel Greene clashed at Guilford Courthouse. The armies raided the Quaker farms while they were foraging. After the battle, the Meeting House was used as a hospital, where the Quakers tended to the wounded of both armies. The Beards were, no doubt, among those who helped the injured. If the Beards cannot claim an ancestor who fought in the Revolution, they can swell with pride at their ancestors' struggle for peace.

In 1793, Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin caused cotton to assume at least equal status in North Carolina with tobacco and timber as crops. Because the culture of cotton is labor intensive, its farming caused the planters to depend more heavily on slavery. The Quakers made a strong anti-slavery stance, and they soon became pariahs in the South. They began to immigrate to free states. One location where many settled was along the border of Indiana and Ohio.

Three generations of the Beard family made the move to that area in 1817. George Beard settled in Wayne County, and his son William Beard (1787-1873) settled just to the south near Liberty, Union County, Indiana, in the valley of the Whitewater River. The five eldest children of William Beard and Rachel Pierson Beard also made the move. Their farm hugged the Ohio border. The eastern part of the hilly land drained into Ohio's Miami River while the western part drained into Indiana's Whitewater River. The Beards attended the Friends' Meeting House, which was built of logs, in nearby Salem. William was a preacher in the new church that was built in 1830. He also treated the injuries and illnesses of his neighbors. Having trained as a potter, he probably maintained a pottery business in addition to farming. Most early farmers had additional sources of income other than farming. On their thousand-acre farm, William and Rachel built a large, two-story brick home, which is still in use. On the arable portions of their farm, they planted wheat and Indian corn. On the rest of the land, they raised sheep. It was on this farm that, on October 21, 1825, Elihu Beard was born to William and Rachel. The following year, Elihu's grandfather,



Elihu Beard's childhood home, a station on the Underground Railroad near Liberty, Union County, Indiana

George Beard, moved to Union County to be near his son William.

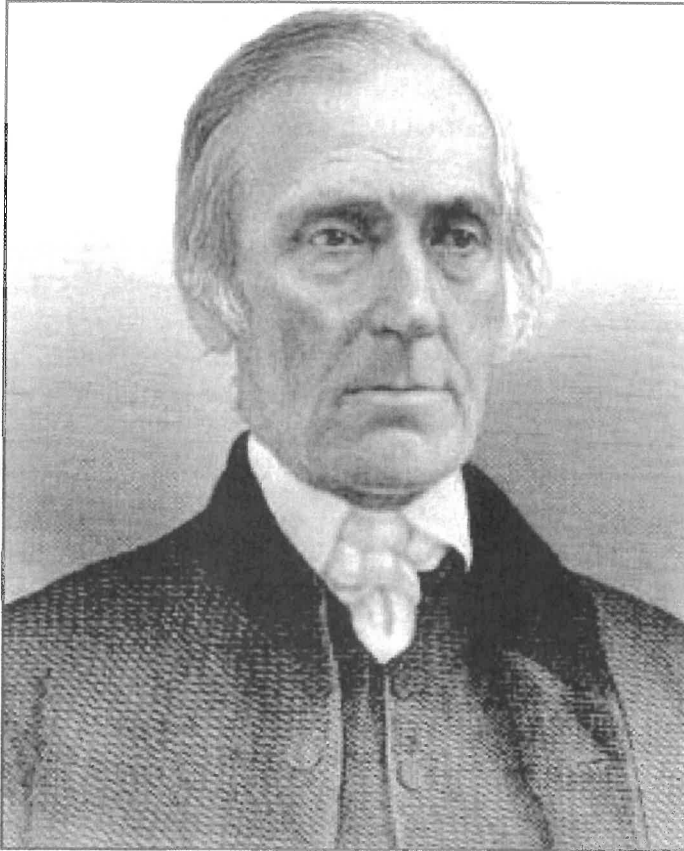
Rachel Pierson Beard (1789-1856), Elihu's mother, had been born in Rowan County, North Carolina, to William Pierson and Elizabeth Chamness Pierson. They, too, were Quakers but had no Nantucket roots. Elihu's Pierson grandparents, like the Beards during the exodus from North Carolina, settled in Indiana, but they lived farther away, two counties to the north, in Cherry Grove, Randolph County.

Cincinnati, located on the Ohio River, was the transportation hub of the Indiana-Ohio border region. The river was also the boundary between slave and free states. With the Quakers' strong anti-slavery stance, it wasn't long until Cincinnati became known as the epicenter of the Underground Railroad, and Elihu's father was in the leadership. In 1826 another young Quaker, Levi Coffin (1798-1877), left Guilford County, North Carolina, and moved to Indiana, settling thirty miles north of the Beards near Newport, Indiana. Coffin was likely a cousin at some level to William Beard, as, probably, was Levi's first cousin, Lucretia Coffin Mott, a famous Quaker abolitionist and suffragette from Nantucket Island. The Stanislaus County Beards are descended from the Quaker Tristram Coffin (1605-1681), who was among the first settlers of Nantucket. Both William Beard and Levi Coffin became leaders in the Underground Railroad. The home of each became a station in the network of safe houses that provided safe havens to fugitive slaves in the North and Canada.

In 1844, William Beard invited Coffin to accompany him on a journey to better understand the conditions surrounding the former fugitive slaves that they had sent north to freedom. Receiving approval from their respective "meetings" (congregations), they set out on horseback on September 25. Arriving in Detroit, the pair visited a Dr. Porter, who took them to inspect black schools and families of fugitive slaves. The following day they crossed over the Detroit River into Windsor and Sandwich, Ontario, where they did the same. From Sandwich they traveled to Amherstburg and stopped at the mission of Rev. Issac Rice, where they made their headquarters. Rice operated a school for black children and a temporary shelter for fugitive slaves. Beard and Coffin visited almost all of the major fugitive slave communities.

Since Coffin lived to the north of the Beards, William Beard would take fleeing slaves from his farm north to Coffin's station. However, because anti-slavery people in the area wished to boycott all goods produced by slave labor, in 1847, Coffin moved to Cincinnati to open a wholesale market for goods produced only by free labor. Thereafter slaves would arrive at the Beards' farm from Levi Coffin's Cincinnati station. Coffin's home in Cincinnati still stands and is an historical landmark. Coffin soon surpassed Beard in prominence in the movement.

William Beard would arrive in Cincinnati in a covered wagon containing produce and perhaps pottery from his farm. When he had sold his produce, he would park his wagon at Coffin's home and, during the night, load it with fugitive slaves to take to the Beard farm, the next station on the Underground Railroad. On one occasion, a slave girl had been tracked to Coffin's Cincinnati home. Bounty hunters had the home under surveillance, making it difficult to move the girl north to Beard's station. To confuse them, Mrs. Coffin removed her conservative Quaker clothing and dressed herself in fancy, fashionable clothing. The girl was dressed in the clothing of a nursemaid and given a doll to simulate a baby. In this garb, the two walked to the station of another Quaker conductor, William Fuller, where Beard came to pick up the girl. There were many ruses used in the trafficking of runaways. Reared in this danger-ridden environment, Elihu would have learned to keep his own counsel and always to think before he spoke. A small breach of discipline could have grave consequences for the slaves



Wikimedia.org

Levi Coffin (1798-1877),
President of the Underground Railroad

and for their white helpers, including his family.

In Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the slave Eliza Harris, who escaped recapture by slave bounty hunters by jumping onto an ice floe in the Ohio River with her baby in her arms, was based upon a real person who had been assisted by both William Beard and Levi Coffin in her escape to Canada, according to Levi Coffin's memoirs. Although Elihu's participation in the Underground Railroad is not specifically documented, it seems almost impossible for him not to have played at least a minor role in the Quaker defiance of fugitive slave laws.

In the spring of 1845, at age nineteen, he enrolled in Oxford College in Miami, Ohio (now Miami University), thirty-five miles north of Cincinnati. He matriculated there for five sessions. Following this, he taught school for six months before enrolling in Farmers' College at Pleasant Hill (now College Hill), about six miles north of Cincinnati. The town is now a suburb. He attended the college for two years, graduating October 3, 1849. He turned twenty-four later that month.

For the next few months Elihu likely pondered what

to do with his life. What motivated him to leave his family and friends in Union County, Indiana, to seek a solitary existence in California can be explained, in part, by the magnetic pull of the frontier on American families to find cheaper land, new worlds, and adventure. The promise of California's gold gave penniless young men like Elihu a chance to reap enough money to finance a business, a farm, or other endeavors, and each person or family had its reasons for immigrating. Perhaps Elihu, a Quaker, sought a world where the strife over slavery did not exist.

Elihu had no money for the several-months journey to California. He had to borrow \$100 from his elder brother, John, to buy a horse and saddle. He hadn't enough money to buy food for the crossing nor to buy a wagon to carry it. Men such as he would assemble at Independence, Missouri, the point of departure for most wagon trains. They would canvass the converging parties of emigrants, asking for work as wagon drivers or tenders of livestock. For their work, they would be provided food carried in a wagon. It appears that Elihu found work tending livestock. The emigrant groups would wait until the grass along the trail was high enough to support their herds of livestock. Usually that was in early May.

His party followed the Oregon Trail through Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Idaho. A short distance beyond Fort Hall (Pocatello, Idaho), the group took the cut-off to California, which followed the Humboldt River in Nevada to the Humboldt Sink. When the emigrants were travelling along the Platte River, cholera infected some in the group. Characterized by extreme diarrhea, this disease leads to dehydration and death rather quickly. By the time they reached Humboldt Sink, eight of the thirty-five had died from the disease. The survivors crossed the Sierras at either Donner Pass or Carson Pass.

Zachary Taylor had been president when Elihu left Indiana. In February of 1849, when Taylor had passed through Cincinnati on his way to Washington to be inaugurated, Elihu had traveled from Farmers' College for a look at this man who would soon be his president. He wrote in his diary "I will not criticize or eulogize this president." Historians are not so charitable in their descriptions of Taylor.

When Elihu left Indiana in the spring of 1850, the Union had been on the verge of dissolution. While he was on the Oregon-California Trail, three grand, aged

senators, Daniel Webster, the dying John C. Calhoun, and Henry Clay, struggled among their intransigent colleagues to find a way to save the Union. President Taylor was against elements of the compromise and promised to veto it, but he died on July 9 while Elihu was well along on the trail. The new president, Millard Fillmore, agreed to the compromise the senators had forged. Just before Elihu arrived in California, Congress passed the Compromise of 1850, which allowed California to be admitted as a free state. While this aspect of the compromise undoubtedly pleased Elihu, another aspect of the compromise would have caused him great worry. The new Fugitive Slave Act promised people like his father six months of imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine if caught helping runaway slaves in any fashion.

With only one dollar in his pocket when he arrived in Placerville in early September, Elihu Beard set out to find the fabled gold of California, beginning his prospecting days in El Dorado County. He may have had to find temporary work at first to buy mining equipment and supplies. For two years Elihu worked as a miner in El Dorado, Tuolumne, and Fresno counties, but he was not very successful. He must have been successful enough, however, in 1852 to buy his first parcel of land on Dry Creek in what was then Tuolumne County but is now Stanislaus County. This parcel is located off Tim Bell Road north of Waterford.

The 1850 U.S. Census, dated 12 April 1851, shows him living at Jamestown, Tuolumne County. Why the census was extended into 1851 is unknown, but the number one is clearly marked through the zero in the date of the census. Also, we know that Elihu did not arrive in California until September of 1850; he was not here on 12 April 1850. Most California miners would never have inhabited a residence with Hispanic miners; few were as open about interracial living as was Elihu. The census shows E.B. Beard, age 25, a miner, living with E. Andrews, 26, miner, born Iowa; John M. Clayton, 35, miner, born New Jersey; W.E. Cutrell, 41, born New York, merchant; Josepha Peralta, 25, born Mexico, no occupation shown; Guadalupe Corona, male, 44, born Mexico, no occupation shown; Clemencia Corona, 20, born Mexico, no occupation shown; Don Manuel, 25, born Mexico, musician. One wonders if Andrews, Clayton, and Cutrell were members of the party that crossed the plains with Beard.

When, in the fall of 1852, at age twenty-seven,



Thomas M. Kennan, brother of
Ann Eliza (Kennan) Beard, 1880

Elihu purchased the land a few miles north of today's Waterford, he planted the more fertile parts in grain and grazed sheep on the non-arable land. In April of 1854, Tuolumne County was split, the western part becoming Stanislaus County. Thus the Beard land became part of Stanislaus County. In June of that year, an election was held to determine the new county's officers. Elihu was elected county assessor, and by virtue of this office, the first county superintendent of schools. One hundred years later, in 1955, Elihu Beard School was named for him.

About the time Elihu won the election, he attended a dance being held at LaGrange. He brought with him a date. Also attending the dance was Ann Eliza Kennan, a young woman who lived with her mother and siblings on a farm on the Snelling Road near LaGrange. Entranced by the handsome, prominent, thirty-year-old bachelor Elihu, Ann vowed she would lure him away from the woman he was seeing. Somehow she

did, for Elihu began finding frequent reasons for visiting Ann's brother, Thomas M. Kennan. Elihu and Ann were married October 7, 1856, probably at LaGrange.

By planting grain and raising sheep, Elihu had a market in the mining industry of the Mother Lode. Some of the grain was used to feed the livestock, and some went to market as flour. The livestock provided meat and wool for the miners. In later years, when the railroads came, he was able to market his products to more distant places. A granddaughter has written that Elihu raised sheep for twelve years.

Ann Eliza Kennan Beard was every bit the pioneer as her husband. A daughter of Thomas Kennan, Senior (about 1795-1850), and Nancy Cave Kennan (1796-1873), she had been born near Columbia, Boone County, Missouri, September 28, 1829. The Kennans had arrived in Virginia from Scotland in the 1600s, and the Caves were also early Virginia settlers.

One Beard family history states that Ann's brother, Thomas M. Kennan, had traveled to California, and in 1850 her father had set out to join his son in the California gold fields and died enroute. However, analysis of the 1850 Census records suggests that a more likely scenario was that father and son set out together in the spring of 1850. The father became ill and died near Fort Leavenworth before the duo ever got out of Kansas. The son then returned home and was shown living there in the 1850 Census. The son, Thomas M. Kennan, then set out again, likely in 1851. Perhaps after trying his hand at mining a bit, he purchased land in what became Stanislaus County. After building a home, he sent for his mother and siblings.

The 1850 U.S. Census of Boone County, MO, shows the family makeup in the year of Thomas Kennan's death. His widow, Nancy, age 56, born in Kentucky, was the head of household, living with seven children on a farm near that of her brother, Benjamin Cave. The eldest, a 26-year-old son, William Kennan, was listed as being insane and having no occupation. The next-eldest son, Thomas (Junior), 24, was listed as a farmer. Next were Ann E. Kennan (Beard), age 24; Louiza, age 19, who married before the rest of her family headed to California; Newton Kennan, age 18, who was shown to have no occupation and who we know from other sources was blind; Frances, 16; and Harriett, 12. Between the time of the census and 1854, when Nancy Cave Kennan came to Stanislaus County, California, her son Thomas crossed the plains and set-

tled here near LaGrange. Her daughter Louiza married Thomas A. Henson and moved to Arkansas in 1853.

When the son, Thomas M. Kennan, communicated to Nancy that he had land and a home ready for the family to come to in Stanislaus County, she sold the family farm and found places for her insane son and her blind son to stay in Missouri. Then Nancy left Boone County driving a covered wagon. With her were her three daughters: Ann Eliza, 24; Frances, 19; and Harriet, 16. The daughters walked most of the way. Frances became ill and died just as the wagons entered California. Harriet also became ill and died two days after the family reached LaGrange. She was buried at the old Horr's Ranch Burying Ground, which is now known as the Roberts Ferry Cemetery. The son, Thomas, later made a return trip to Missouri to bring his blind brother, Newton, to join the family in California.

In 1857 word arrived that Nancy's daughter, Louiza Henson, had died in Arkansas at age 25. Many years later Louiza's daughter joined her grandmother, Nancy, in California. For nineteen years Nancy Cave Kennan lived on her son's farm on the Snelling Road near La Grange. She died in 1873 and was buried in the Protestant Cemetery at LaGrange. Her son, Thomas Marshall Kennan, then moved with his wife and children to Merced County, then to Tulare County, and finally to San Francisco, where he died in 1881.

The first Elihu and Ann Beard home lay on Dry Creek at a location known to the family as "Graveyard Bottom." A road between Stockton and the southern mines ran along their property. It became a stopping place for people traveling to and from the mines. The early family burials were at this site, and some neighbors buried their dead there as well. The eldest two children were born there. One night in 1860 Elihu and Ann awakened to a common terror in those days of woodstoves and heating by fire—their home was on fire. They escaped with their two small children and little else. Neighbors housed them and gave them clothes until they could go to Stockton and buy bolts of textiles to make new clothes. The lumber for their new home, which was built on higher ground, also came from Stockton. The family lived at this location until 1874. The youngest five children were born at the new home. The descendants of Elihu and Ann Beard still own this property; it has been in the family for one hundred sixty-three years, which is likely a record



Elihu Beard, Ann Eliza Beard and children Frank, Ida, and Alice, Thomas not present, 1868

for land ownership in the county. Their annual family reunions are held there.

For a decade that began so tragically, the 1860s, at least financially, would be quite a contrast for the Beards. The 1860 Census showed the Beards owning approximately \$2,000 worth of real estate and \$2,800 of personal property, mostly in livestock. Ten years later, in 1870, they owned \$20,000 worth of real estate and \$12,000 in personal property. In those ten years, the Beards acquired ten times more real estate. Just from the records of the Federal Bureau of Land Management alone, we find that Elihu acquired these parcels of land:

1 Dec 1860, 160 acres from a military land warrant purchased from a former soldier

- 1 Aug 1861, 40 acres
- 20 Nov 1863, 160 acres
- 20 Nov 1863, 40 acres
- 20 Nov 1863, 160 acres
- 10 Jan 1865, 80 acres
- 10 Jan 1865, 160 acres
- 10 Jan 1865, 120 acres
- 1 Nov 1865, 80 acres

- 1 Nov 1865, 160 acres
- 1 Dec 1865, 160 acres
- 20 Jan 1866, 172 acres
- 20 Jan 1866, 160 acres
- 20 Jan 1866, a different 160 acres
- 1 Oct 1867, 80 acres
- 1 Oct 1867, a different 80 acres
- 1 May 1868, 160 acres
- 1 May 1868, 320 acres
- 1 June 1868, 251.60 acres
- 1 May 1868, 80 acres
- 1 May 1868, a different 320 acres
- 1 May 1868, a yet different 320 acres
- 1 June 1868, 320 acres
- 1 June 1868, 160 acres
- 1 June 1868, 240 acres
- 1 June 1868, a different 320 acres
- 1 June 1868, a different 160 acres
- 1 June 1868, 260.40 acres
- 1 June 1868, 200 acres
- 1 June 1868, 480 acres
- 1 June 1868, 240 acres
- 1 June 1868, 320 acres
- 1 June 1868, a different 480 acres
- 1 June 1868, a yet different 160 acres
- 1 June 1868, 80 acres
- 20 May 1869, 320 acres
- 20 May 1869, 80 acres
- 20 May 1869, 90.80 acres
- 20 May 1869, 120 acres
- 20 May 1869, 160 acres
- 20 Dec 1869, 80 acres

These purchases from government sources are in addition to other purchases Elihu probably made from private parties. It appears that he made land purchases after he sold each crop. As the number of acres he farmed grew, his crop proceeds became larger and permitted him to buy larger and larger parcels of land.

In another respect, the 1860s was a sad decade for the Beards—they lost three of their seven children. The infant Anna Beard died 7 November 1863, age 1 year. On 18 May 1868, seven-year-old William Lewis Beard died; and on 20 December 1869, nine-month-old John DuBois Beard died while the family was living in Stockton. He was buried in the San Joaquin Rural Cemetery in Stockton.

Owning large tracts of land enabled the Beards to establish sharecropping contracts with other farmers

or to hire farm managers. This freed them from work and allowed them other pursuits. In 1869 the Beards' son Thomas ("T.K.") had completed the eighth grade. With no high school nearby, the Beards moved to Stockton in 1869 but returned to their home near Waterford the following year; the land surrounding the home was sharecropped, to Dick Bentley at first and later to J.M. Finley. Other farms were leased to families named Funk, Monk, and Baker.

By 1870, all seven children of the Beard children had been born. Living with the Beards were Jerome Strickland, 30, born Ohio, a sheep herder; and Jerry McCarty, 44, born Ireland, a farm laborer. With the first transcontinental railroad having been completed the year before, Elihu set out in 1870 to visit his family in Union County, Indiana. His mother had died in 1856, but his father, William Beard, was in his middle eighties and doing well. Some of his siblings also lived in Union County. This was the last time Elihu saw his father, who died in 1873 at age eighty-nine.

Not long after Elihu returned to California, in 1871, the family moved to San Jose for two years to access secondary education for their eldest two children.

That was the year that Modesto was founded and the county seat moved there. By 1873, the school scene in Stanislaus County had improved. The Beards purchased a quarter-block home site at the northwest corner of 12th and I streets, the later site of the post office. They constructed a home, moving into it in the spring of 1874. That location is just across I Street from the Courthouse. Their property extended all the way to J Street. The back part was occupied by the corral and stable, where the horses, buggy, and surrey were kept. In the same square block, diagonally from the Beard home, was the home of Major James Burney at the corner of 11th and J streets. Burney's step daughter, Grace Ada Lewis, would one day marry the Beards' son Thomas Kennan Beard.

The Beards' colorful yard had a brick walkway connecting the home to I Street. The path was bordered by blue and white violets, peonies, lemon verbena, pink and white oleanders, and a magnolia tree. The yard was surrounded by a picket fence. On each side of the front gate were two tall Italian cypresses. On the west side of the house was a large lawn; separating the lawn from the alley was a fence covered with climbing red roses. Bordering the lawn on the west side was a grape arbor with a "summer house" near the house. This was covered with thick vines and was a retreat where Elihu would read or smoke. Beyond the arbor were orange trees and a large fig tree. Ann Beard would wrap each orange in paper for later use. She picked the ripe figs and laid them out to dry, storing them in earthen jars when dried.

In 1876 the Beards took their surviving four children to Philadelphia, where the centennial of U.S. independence was being celebrated with the Centennial Exposition. They stopped in Indiana



McHenry Museum and Historical Society Archives

Home of Elihu Beard family on 12th and I Streets, Modesto.
Built in 1873 and replaced by the El Viejo Post Office in 1933.

to visit Elihu's siblings and their families and in Missouri to visit Ann's family, the Kennans and the Caves.

In the heat of summer, the Beards would sometimes travel to the Sierras or to the coast. In July of 1877 the family made a camping trip to the Yosemite Valley and the following month to the Calaveras Big Trees. The Monterey Peninsula was another favorite vacation site. In 1880 the Beards purchased two lots at Pacific Grove and built a house there. For decades it was only a vacation home until, in the 1920s, T.K. Beard and his wife Grace made it their main residence. This home in Pacific Grove is still owned by the Beard family.

Elihu did not invest in town property but he continued to invest in rural property. Among the many parcels Elihu acquired was 800 acres in the Westport area. In 1895 he gave this land as a gift to the Berkeley Bible Seminary, a new school located in Berkeley and owned by the Christian Church, which Elihu and Ann had attended ever since their marriage. Another parcel that the Beards owned was 300 acres on Central Avenue south of Ceres. About the same size was a parcel on the south side of the Tuolumne River opposite Legion Park. An additional tract of 160 acres lay near Claus Road; yet another was on the north side of Waterford Road between present-day Riverside Drive and Lincoln Avenue.

In 1883, the Beards' son Frank was attending the university at Berkeley when he developed a severe case of pneumonia and took a long time to recover. Thereafter his pulmonary health was fragile, and tuberculosis was always a threat. For the next eight years, Elihu and Ann searched for a climate that might benefit their son's health. They moved to Yuma, Arizona, when Frank's doctors recommended a warm, dry climate. Despite several moves, Frank's health did not improve, and he died in Pasadena, January of 1892, at the age of twenty-five. The Beards' daughter Ida also had weak lungs, but she was reasonably healthy when she married Walter Drake in 1890. In 1892 she gave birth to a stillborn child and died in San Jose seven months after her brother Frank. Only two of the Beards' seven children were living at this point, their eldest son, T.K., and their unmarried daughter Alice. Alice, too, suffered from the weakness of the lungs that plagued her siblings. The Beards built her a home in Palm Springs about 1890. In 1894 she moved



Ida Sodora Beard Drake 1890

to the Kona Coast of Hawaii, where her parents visited her for two months in the fall of 1896. The following spring Elihu made a trip to visit Alice by himself. He made another trip alone in early 1901. Returning home, he himself developed pneumonia and died May 7, 1901, at age seventy-five.

Ann continued to live in the I Street house with various family members residing with her from time to time. On September 13, 1912, news came from Hawaii that her only surviving daughter had died, leaving only her son, T.K., alive of her seven children. Less than two months later Ann developed pneumonia and died, November 6, 1912, at age eighty-three. The Beards' only surviving child, Thomas Kennan Beard, had always guaranteed his parents that their line would survive, for he had ten children, all of whom lived well into adulthood and survived both of their parents.

Alice Eliza Beard 1859-1912

Second of the six children of Elihu and Ann was Alice, born January 16, 1859, at "Graveyard Bottom" on the Beard farm on Dry Creek. She grew up to be a very devout Christian and never married. Like her brother Frank and her sister Ida, Alice suffered from acute respiratory ailments. Worried about her health, her parents purchased a lot in Palm Springs and built a house for her there. They hoped the desert air would help her. At the time there were only a hotel and a few houses in the town.

While living in Palm Springs, Alice accompanied friends Rev. Thomas D. Garvin and his wife to the Hawaiian Islands in June of 1894. At the time, the monarchy had just been overthrown, but the islands had not yet been annexed by the United States. In Honolulu they passed through slums in which orphans lived on the streets. Some Asian girls had been abandoned by their families because they preferred male children. Alice was deeply moved and decided to make taking care of these children her calling. Communicating her wish to her parents, she urged her father to come and look at the situation. He arrived and bought twelve acres for her on the Kona Coast of

the big island of Hawaii and built her a home there. On December 1, 1899, Alice announced to the people of Kona her decision to take in needy Japanese girls. The girls had no one to care for them during the day. Some lived with her; others came only during the day.

The 1900 U.S. Census shows those living at the institution: Alice F. Beard, age 40, Head, Director and Treasurer; Edward Tows, 38, Officer, Business Manager; Mattie J. Ticer, 49, English teacher; Katiana Maser, 22, Japanese teacher; Keosha Okimoto, 11, pupil; Keame Okimoto, 10, pupil; Masu Okimoto, 8, pupil; and Mia Kioto, 9, pupil. All of the first pupils were female, but that soon changed as the orphanage expanded.

Elihu's death in 1901 forced Alice to make the orphanage as self-supporting as possible. She needed to fundraise to replace the regular donations that had come from him. There were appeals in the Honolulu and California newspapers, and Alice wrote many letters requesting help with the orphanage. Among the archives of the Beard Family Trust are two notes written to Alice by a Hawaiian princess, Kalanionaole, in December of 1902. Another is from a governor of Hawaii. It seems that Alice's efforts had made her well known in the Hawaiian Territory.

By June 30, 1904, when she published a report, she was caring for 35 boys and 24 girls from many ethnic backgrounds. There were a dozen milk cows, 25 bee hives, 150 laying hens, 20 acres in coffee, 5 acres in fruits and vegetables, and 15 acres in pasture land. There were 300 banana trees on the 40 acres belonging to the orphanage, 100 papaya trees, 12 alligator pear trees, 6 mango trees, and 300 pineapple plants. The staff and children harvested guavas from the wild and made 1,500 quarts of guava jelly and jam for use at the orphanage. The children were also allowed to harvest great quantities of breadfruit, oranges, lemons, and other fruit from the lands of the Kona Sugar Company.

About 1907 Alice converted to the Pentecostal religion. She built an elegant home some distance away from the orphanage on the main road from Kona and constructed a chapel on the site for herself and others who practiced the religion. All new employees at the orphanage were selected from like believers. Alice began proselytizing her new religion with the orphans.



Alice Eliza Frances Beard 1886, age 26.



Ann Beard left, at home built for Alice in Palm Springs.

Seeing the children speaking “in tongues” created an outrage among the members of the Board of Directors and the local people. Alice was accused of “fanaticism and mysticism.” Attacking her over a religious issue would go against the American tradition of freedom of religion, so her detractors, mostly male, sought other issues to demean her. She was described as “raggedly” dressed while embarking on a trip to Los Angeles. She was accused of long absences from the orphanage (after a trip to Los Angeles), of locking the kitchen so the workers had to cook over cans of kerosene in the yard, and of depriving the children of proper clothing even though there was a supply of new and used clothing at the orphanage. She was accused of not providing enough food for the children, which necessitated their foraging in the wild for berries, breadfruit, etc. They interrogated the staff and the children to support their accusations. Then they turned to legal means of having Alice removed as director and replacing her with R. M. Overend of the Kona Development Company.

The thought of her anti-Pentecostal enemies in charge of her beloved children drove her to desperation. One evening in April of 1908 at 9 p.m., she awakened the children, who had already gone to bed, and told them to gather all their possessions. The night was spent preparing for flight from the island. The children were fed an early breakfast, and then the older children were led down a two-mile trail where a ship, the Mauna Loa, was due to leave for Honolulu. To avoid detection, the smaller children were taken in a carriage down a backroad to the ship

Alice promised the staff she left behind that she

would pay for their passage back to California. She asked them to find homes in the Kona area for the Japanese children, who were left behind.

On the ship Alice and the children did not have cabins; they were deck passengers. The newspaper account seems slanted against Alice, describing the passage as harrowing, the waves high, the children huddled and shivering on the deck in skimpy clothing as the waves broke over them. Most of the children were said to be extremely seasick. The same account gives the impression that no one in Honolulu had expected her arrival with the children. It states she housed the group in a vacant house provided by a Dr. McGrew. There was no furniture. It stated that she began parceling out the children to anyone who would take them. A furniture store loaned cots for the children, and the National Guard provided blankets.

Alice was a woman in an era when men ruled almost every human endeavor; her enemies were men. Her closing of the orphanage due to the campaign against her leaves many unanswered questions. There was not enough money to continue it, since Alice had provided her own money for its operation.

She remained in Honolulu, dying four years after closing the orphanage, on September 13, 1912, at age fifty-three. Her body was shipped to Modesto for burial with her family.



Elihu Beard in Hawaii visiting Alice.



T. K. Beard Family in 1922. Standing (Left to Right) Walter, Herbert, George, Esther, P

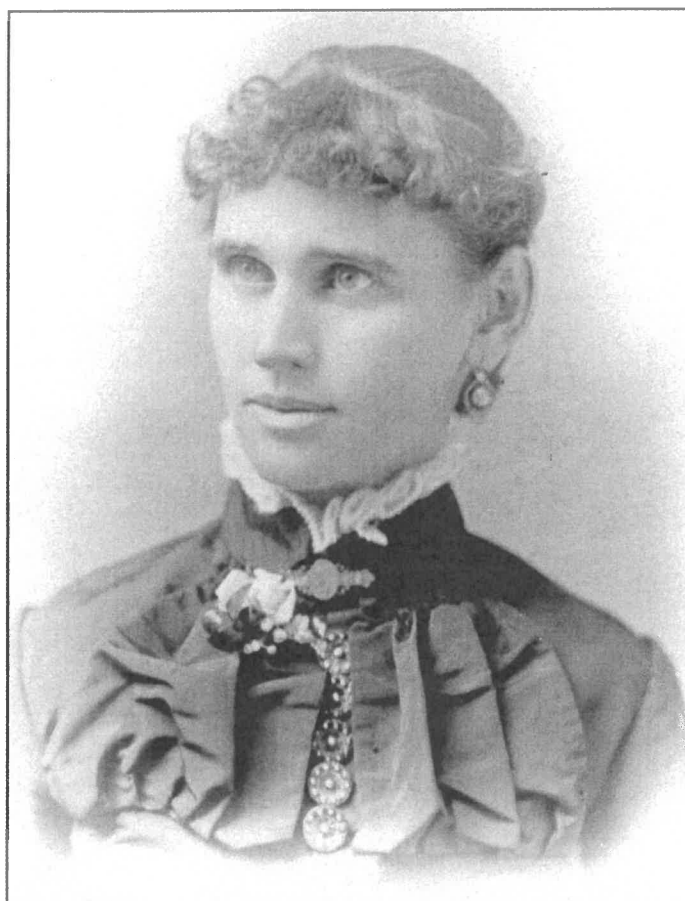


hn. Seated (L-R) Cora, Ruth, Grace Ada (mother) T. K Beard (father), Edna, and Ethel.

Thomas Kennan Beard 1857-1925
Grace Ada Lewis 1860-1957



Thomas Kennan (T.K.) Beard, age 27



Grace Ada Beard, age 23

The eldest of the children of Elihu and Ann Eliza was Thomas Kennan, known as T. K. Beard. Although his life span wasn't extremely long—he died at age sixty-seven—he outlived all six of his younger siblings. For the last thirteen years of his life he had no siblings alive, and none of the siblings left any living descendants. All of the Beards today are descended from T. K. and his wife, Grace Ada Lewis (1860-1957), who infused longevity into many of their descendants.

T.K. was born August 15, 1857, on the first land that Elihu B. Beard purchased in Stanislaus County, near Waterford, surrounded by wheat fields and the sheep that his parents raised during that era of dry farming. That portion of the original Beard farm is called "Graveyard Bottom" by the family because the family dead were buried near the first house. Because farm children need to be introduced at a young age to the hard work it takes to be a farmer, T.K. already had his own flock of sheep by the time he was six.

When Elihu embarked on a trip to Indiana to see his father in 1870, he drove the farm wagon to Stockton to catch a train, taking T.K., then thirteen, with him. He gave T.K. instructions to purchase groceries there in Stockton and then return to Stanislaus County to their farm, forty miles away.

During his early years, T.K. did not receive much formal education. He attended a brick school at Langworth awhile and also the White Oaks School, which sat at the corner of the present Tim Bell Road and Covey Street in Waterford. To provide their children with proper schools, the family moved to Stockton for several months in 1869 and then to San Jose for two years. There T.K. attended the Gates Academy for a year. He then attended the Heald Business College in San Francisco, graduating in 1875. That fall T.K. entered the University of California, attending the 1875-76 school year. One of his classmates was George Pardee, later a Republican governor of California and

ally of the then-notorious Southern Pacific Railroad. A class reunion many years later was held in the Governor's Mansion while Pardee was governor. For his entire life, T.K. was an avid reader, spending two or three hours reading in the early morning before his family arose. His parents taught him integrity and hard work.

In 1877 when T.K. was twenty years old, Elihu and Ann gave him 1,000 acres northeast of Waterford. Included in the gift was a house that Elihu had ordered built, a new well, mules, and seed. After harvesting his first crop, T.K. must have felt it was time to start a family of his own. He had known Grace Lewis at least since the spring of 1874 when the Beards built their home in Modesto and Grace's mother and stepfather were neighbors. T.K. and Grace married in the Stanislaus County Hospital because Grace was living there on the grounds at the time of their marriage, September 17, 1878. He was twenty-one, she, seventeen. They went by train to San Francisco for a three-day honeymoon then returned to T.K.'s farm.

Several successful years on the farm prompted T.K. to take on another 1,000 acres of his father's land to sharecrop; one third of the crop went to his parents as payment. His father had taught him to let the grain land lie fallow during the summer to prevent soil depletion and to create larger crops. The slack time in the summers caused T.K. to become restless. There was something missing in his life. He hadn't the sense of having created his world for himself, and he hadn't experienced the dose of adventure that most young people seem to require. He listened to stories of farmers in Oregon, Washington, and Texas renting school and railroad land for a few cents an acre. He spoke to his father about going to Texas. Elihu realized that he couldn't hold his son in the world that he himself had created, so he compromised by suggesting Oregon or Washington as a better choice. He did not want his son as far away as Texas.

After the harvest of 1883, T.K. sold his mules and machinery and put out his

land to sharecropping. After paying his father, he had \$13,000 to invest in his new life. There was no railroad to Oregon yet, so the family went by train to San Francisco and by boat to Portland. From there they traveled by train to Walla Walla, in southeast Washington Territory. They remained there for about a month while T.K. looked around for reasonable wheat land to purchase. He purchased a house in nearby Pendleton, Oregon, and a half section of land (320 acres). He never farmed that land. He put it out to sharecropping. About 1900 he traded this Umatilla County land for a hotel in Pendleton, but T.K. wasn't savvy about the hotel business and lost money. He sold it after a few years.

That same winter (1883-84) the Beards took up a



Thomas K and Grace Beard wedding on September 17, 1878



Beard Home on the family farm east of Modesto now Santa Cruz Avenue, built in 1888. Photo (L-R) Cora, Grace Ada, George in buggy, Ruth, the "hired girl", Walter, Edna, Herbert and Ethel.

free 160-acre piece of land under the provisions of the Homestead Act in the Horse Heaven Hills of Yakima County in south central Washington Territory. The closest town was Prosser, sixteen miles away. The hills are bordered by the Yakima Valley on the north and the Columbia River on the south. Today this is popular wine-grape country. In the late spring of 1884, the family moved to their newly-constructed home from Pendleton. The lumber for the new home had been ferried across the Columbia River at the town of Umatilla. They used sage brush for heating in the cold winters and for cooking year-round. There were no trees—just prairie land and sagebrush. T.K. cleared the land and planted it to wheat, but the crops were poor. The soil in the hills was good, but there was little rain. They dug a well but couldn't get water. All the water they used in the house and for the livestock had to be carted in barrels from a spring four miles away. The only garden vegetables they could raise were corn and potatoes. They had no cow and used canned milk for the four years they were there. During this time T.K. served as a county commissioner for Yakima County. The Beards began to appreciate what they had

left behind in Stanislaus County.

After the harvest of 1887, they returned to Modesto. Instead of settling on his Waterford land, which a good sharecropper was utilizing, T.K. purchased from his father 400 acres located three miles from Modesto south of Dry Creek. It extended from what is now Santa Rosa Avenue to Spenker Avenue on the south side of Yosemite Boulevard and included about eighty acres of what is now the Modesto Airport. He built a large two-story home on what is now Santa Cruz Avenue. While the house was being built,

the family lived on the southeast corner of 12th and I streets, diagonally across the street from the home of Elihu and Ann Beard and directly across the street from today's courthouse.

T.K. soon resumed farming his original 1,000 acres lying four miles north of Waterford and also farmed his 400 acres near Modesto. Like his father, he kept buying more land. Among the lands he purchased was what is now the Beard Industrial Tract. To bring water to his farms and those of others, T.K. played an active role in the fight to develop the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts.

On his voter registration in 1896, T.K. was listed as a farmer, age 30, 5 feet 8 3/4 inches tall, medium complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, born CA. The 1900 Census, dated June 16, shows seven children; John Burritt Beard would be born later, in September of that year, and Edna had already married and left home. The youngest child, Esther, was still two years away. Living with the family were three employees: Jane Rice, 60, housekeeper; Carrie Merrick, 17, governess (called "nurse" back then); and Henry Barnett, 31, teamster.

In May of 1901 Elihu Beard died, and that fall T.K. went into the excavation-construction business with his eldest son, Walter, age twenty. Walter was the superintendent in charge of the actual construction work; T.K. handled the business end. In 1901 and 1902 they constructed four miles of the main canal of the Modesto Irrigation District west of Waterford on both sides of Albers Road. In 1903 they created the grading for the Sierra Railway Company between Riverbank and Oakdale. In 1904 and 1905 they did projects for the Carson Irrigation Reclamation District between the towns of Hazen and Ft. Churchill in Nevada. In 1906 they were grading for the Ocean Shore Railroad when the San Francisco earthquake struck. Due to the great need for their equipment to clear the debris from the earthquake, father and son leased out their equipment. Once they regained the use of their equipment, they worked on the Modesto Foothill Reservoir, the Woodward Reservoir, and the main canals for the South San Joaquin and Oakdale irrigation districts. They built the Turlock Reservoir and enlarged the tunnel and canals in the Turlock Irrigation District. After building the notoriously perilous 7% Priest Hill Grade (New Priest Grade) for Tuolumne County, they worked on a section of the state highway near Santa Barbara. T.K.'s mother, Ann, died in 1912. As her only living child, he inherited his parents' vast land holdings. T.K. and Walter closed their contracting business in 1915 to

manage their considerable Stanislaus County assets, having in mind the construction of a short-line railroad connecting the Western Pacific Railroad in Modesto to the Santa Fe Railroad in Empire. The completion of this project facilitated transportation in the area and also escalated the value of the Beard real estate along the rail line.

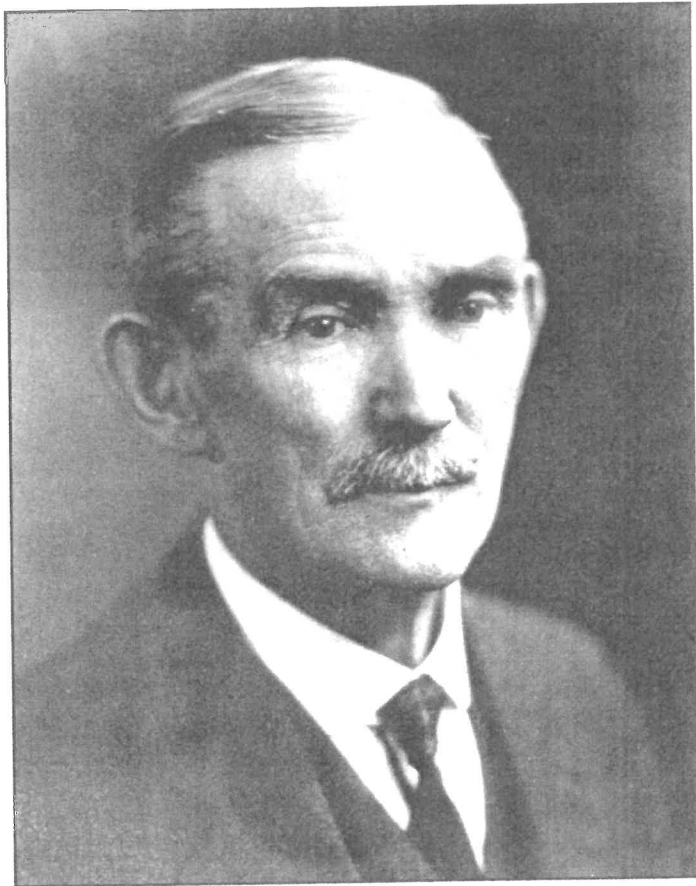
T. K.'s wife, Grace Ada Lewis, was born in San Andreas, Calaveras County, on December 26, 1860. Her parents were Major (his name, not a rank) Alfred Lewis and Diana Brown, who had married May 16, 1849, in Winnebago County, Illinois. Grace was the youngest of four children.

The 1850 U.S. Census shows the Lewis family in Roscoe Township, Winnebago County, Illinois. Head of household was Major's father, Alfred Lewis, 44, a farmer owning \$2,500 of real estate, born New York. The rest of the family were Minerva Lewis, 47, born New York; Martha A., 18, born NY; Emily, 11, born OH; Helen, 4, born IL; Major A., 22, farmer, born NY; Diana, 20, born Michigan [Ohio]. Their neighbors were the Browns, but Diana's father was not listed because he was in California. Major and Diana likely moved to California in 1851 with her mother and brother.

Diana's father, Elijah Brown (1798-1867), appears to have come to California in 1849 with at least one son. His wife, Rebecca Brayton Brown (1804-1886)



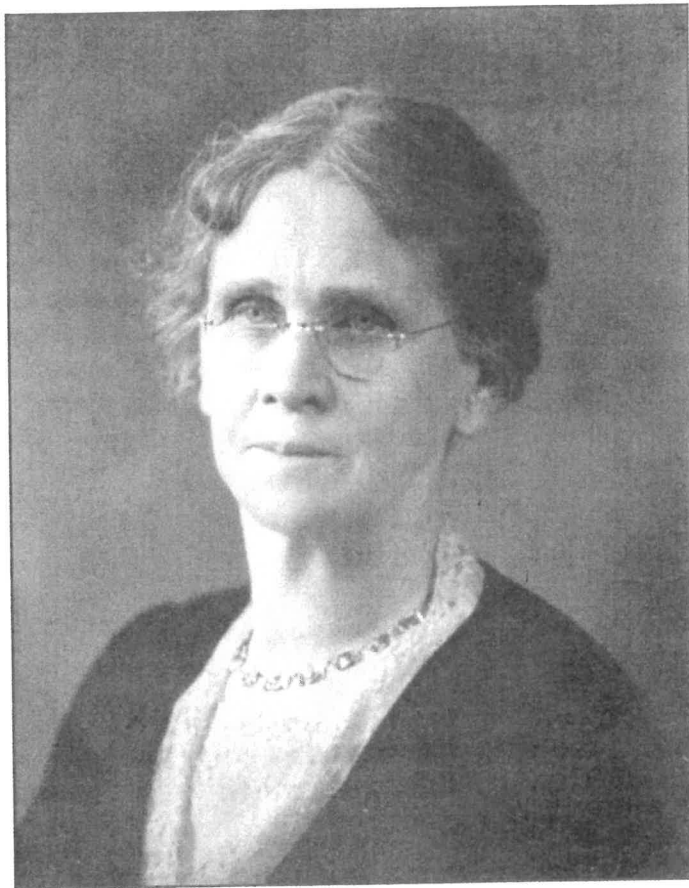
Teams of mules ready for plowing at T. K. Beard farm east of Modesto in 1890s., now Santa Cruz Avenue



Thomas Kennan (T.K.) Beard, age 66

likely crossed the plains in 1851 because she is shown with her husband in the 1852 California State Census living in Calaveras County with a son, Elijah, Jr., age 20. The Browns moved to Stockton in the early 1860s, as did their children. Both parents died there and are buried in the Rural Cemetery. The Brown ancestry includes John Howland and his wife-to-be, Elizabeth Tilley, who arrived on the Mayflower in 1620 to settle at Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts.

Grace Lewis Beard's father, Major A. Lewis, joined the Union Army as a private on December 8, 1864, while living at Auburn, Placer County, and served in Company "D," 7th California Infantry. He died at Fort Mason, near Nogales, Arizona, November 21, 1865, and is buried there. After Grace's father's death, her Brown uncles, who lived in Stockton, purchased a lot there and built a five-room home for their widowed sister, Diana. One of the uncles lived with Grace's family and paid rent. Diana Brown Lewis also received a widow's pension from the government of \$8 per month plus \$2 for each of her minor children. She also took in sewing. Her siblings helped some with expenses.



Grace Ada Lewis Beard, age 65

Grace recalled floods every winter. Her home was on higher ground, but in the next block the children would have to come home from school in boats that awaited them at the flooded section. She saw the first train of her life when it arrived in Stockton in 1869. The jail was across the street from her school, and the gallows, where men were hung, were in view of the school. The teachers allowed the students to go to the school windows to witness hangings. The circus grounds were not far from the school. When P.T. Barnum's circus came to town, Grace saw the famous midget Tom Thumb and his wife riding in a carriage. There were Sunday school picnics every spring in which the children would go on a barge down the San Joaquin River.

When Grace was thirteen, in May of 1874, her mother, Diana, married Major James Burney of Modesto. That was almost the exact time that Grace's future husband, Thomas Kennan Beard, age sixteen, was moving into the family's new home at the opposite corner of the same square block where the Burneys lived (the block bordered by I Street, J Street, 12th Street, and 11th Street). Burney was the Superintendent of

Schools at the time of his marriage to Grace's mother. The teachers of the county gave them a set of dishes for a wedding present. Later, when Grace married T. K. Beard, the Burneys gave the set to them.

The year after Grace's marriage, her mother died in Modesto. The Burneys had just returned to living at their home at 11th and J streets after having lived on the grounds of the county hospital while Burney was employed there.

James Burney had been a Forty-niner, coming to California by ship and crossing the Isthmus of Panama. He later was the first sheriff of Mariposa County. Coming to Stanislaus County, he established a ferry at present-day Riverbank. The town that grew around the ferry was at first called Burneyville. He was later the steward of the county hospital from 1876-1879 and a justice of the peace from 1879-1888. Burney then retired to Del Monte near Monterey, where the Beards would visit him when at their Pacific Grove home. Burney died there in 1901, a few months after his friend Elihu's death.

In 1914 T.K. and Grace moved into a new home in Modesto on the corner of Sycamore and Needham. It was located across Sycamore Street from Graceada Park. The park site had been donated in 1907 by T.K. and Grace Beard and Thomas Wisecarver and his wife Ada. The name for the park comes from the first

names of both wives, Grace and Ada. The Sycamore Street home was the center of Beard family festivities for eleven years until T.K. died, July 27, 1925, in Pacific Grove. He was sixty-seven years old and the last Beard of his generation; his wife survived for another thirty-two years.

Grace held a meeting and encouraged her children to keep the family assets together as a family corporation. This they did, and the Beard family businesses have operated for ninety years. Although the corporation's assets in Stanislaus County are at its core, it does own properties and businesses in Southern California and in Walnut Creek.

Grace and her unmarried daughter, Cora, continued living in their large home for three years before moving into a smaller home on Mono Drive. In the 1940s Grace began spending more and more time at the Beard vacation home in Pacific Grove. It was a home built by Elihu in the 1880s. Finally, she and her daughter Cora lived there year round, but she did return to Modesto for Christmas each year. She died in Pacific Grove at age 96 in 1957.

Today the Beard Corporate Office is located at 530 11th Street. The shareholders now number in the hundreds. In the corporate building is a room designated as the family archives.



T. K. Beard family home on Sycamore and Needham Avenues, Modesto, built in 1913.

Children of T. K. and Grace Lewis Beard

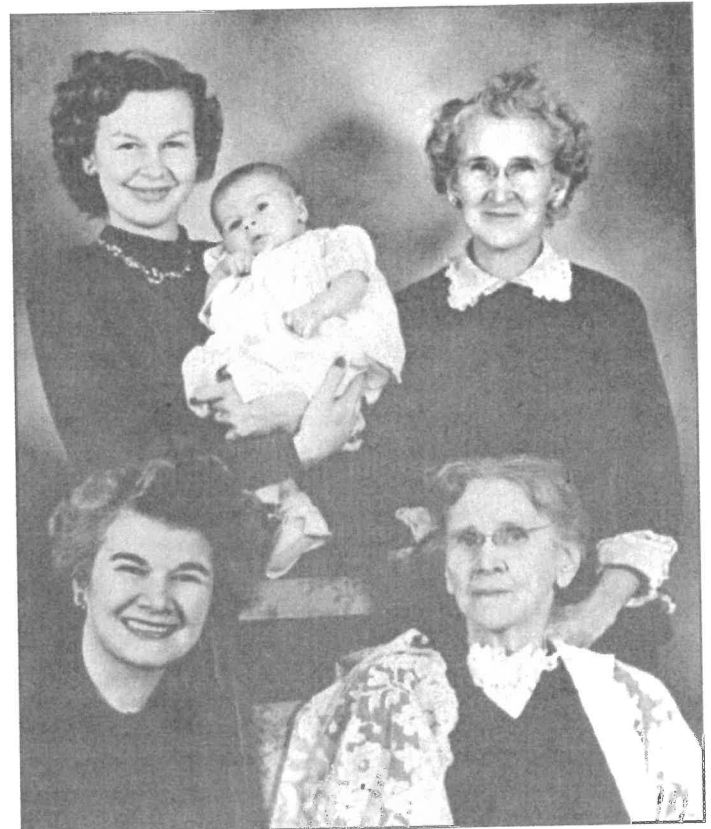
Edna Bell Beard Curtner 1879- 1979 Edna was the firstborn child of Thomas Kennan Beard and Grace Ada Lewis Beard. She was born August 23, 1879, at the home of her grandmother, Diana Brown Burney, in Modesto. The grandmother died when Edna was four months old. Edna repeated the pattern of her father: she was the firstborn and she lived a longer life than any of her siblings. When she died in San Jose on March 29, 1979, she was just five months shy of her centennial.

Edna was four when the family moved to the Pacific Northwest and eight when they returned to Modesto. She came of age while the family farmed in the South Modesto area. She married a farmer, Arthur Dixon Curtner (1880-1957), April 12, 1899.

The Curtners had two daughters: Margaret, born June 3, 1902; and Helen L., born June 26, 1904. Margaret married Paul Curtis Wilbur and died, aged 97, in 1999. Helen Lewis Curtner married Burnell E. Richmond and died, age 94, in 1999, three weeks before her only sister. The Richmonds had three children: Joan Richmond, b. November 13, 1926, d. August 17, 1998, married Ronald Mason Naess; Edmund N. Richmond II, b. 1928, married Evelyn Hertz; and Robert Lewis Richmond, b. March 25, 1930, d. August



Edna Bell Beard, age 17



Five generations of nativeborn Californians, 1948, clockwise from bottom left, Margaret Curtner Wilbur, born 1902; Paula Wilbur Lindsay, born 1926; Joan Lindsay, born 1948, Edna Beard Curtner, born 1879; Grace Lewis Beard, born 1860.

11, 2004, married Elizabeth Finch.

Walter Franklin Beard 1881-1978 Walter was the eldest son of T.K. and Grace Beard. He was born February 27, 1881, at the 1,000-acre farm his grandfather, Elihu, had gifted to his father. The farm lay four miles north of Waterford.

From his father, T.K., Walter learned hard work and business management. From his mother, Grace, Walter inherited longevity. Both he and his mother lived past their 96th birthdays. Walter died a month before turning 97.

Beginning in 1901, Walter and his father worked as partners in an excavation-construction business, employing up to 1,000 people. The construction business was closed in 1917 when all government-sponsored construction came to a halt to channel resources toward the war effort.

In 1926 after Walter's father died, the siblings organized the Beard Land and Investment Company, and Walter was president of the corporation for the next 28 years.



Grading for the Modesto Reservoir, 1909, T. K. Beard and son Walter Franklin Beard

On June 10, 1903, Walter married Zella Hambleton (1880-1960). The couple had three children: Kennan Hamblin Beard, (1906-1967); Walter Franklin Beard, (1910-1989); and Elizabeth Whelan Martin (1920-), who is currently the senior living member of the Beard family.

Walter Franklin Jr., known as “Franklin Beard,” was active in studying the history of Stanislaus County and wrote several county histories including, *The Way We Were Fifty Years Ago: East of Modesto to Empire and Beyond*, *Grain Fields to Green* and *Gold Fields to Grazing Fields*. Franklin’s son Barrett Thomas Beard is also a historian and author, his son Rodney Beard owns the Beard Quality Nut Company in Empire and his daughter Susan is a photographer.

Outside the family corporation, Walter acquired several rental properties in the Monterey-Pacific Grove area and managed these after his retirement from the family businesses. He died January 31, 1978, at Pacific Grove.

Ethel Grace Beard Hoover 1883-1970 Ethel Beard was born March 15, 1883, at the Beard farm north of Waterford. She was the third child of Thomas



Franklin Beard Collection
Walter Franklin Jr. and Kennan Beard, 1912



T. K. and Grace Ada Beard and children in front of house at Sycamore and Needham, circa 1915

Kennan Beard and Grace Ada Lewis Beard. She was an infant when her family moved to Oregon and then to Washington and was four when the family returned to Stanislaus County.

Ethel attended College of the Pacific in San Jose and Stanford University, majoring in Spanish. She then spent a few years teaching in Chihuahua, Mexico. She returned to Modesto, where she became her father's private secretary. In 1912, she was married to Francis O. Hoover (1886-1951), a Modesto attorney who was later in a partnership with Lacy and Bienvenu. Ethel's son Benjamin has stated that his parents were both very Victorian when he was growing up during the restive 1920s and 30s.

In January of 1920 the Hoover family moved into a spacious new home on half an acre at 165 Santa Rita Avenue, where they lived for the next forty years. The lot was part of the Modesto Colony subdivision plat-

ted by Elihu Beard many years before.

The Hoovers had two sons: Robert F. Hoover (1913-1970) and Benjamin B. Hoover (1921-2015). Both sons became university professors. Robert graduated from Stanford University and did graduate work. After military service during World War II, he began a career as a professor at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. There he established the Robert F. Hoover Herbarium. There are several plants named after him. Benjamin Hoover was a professor of English literature, specializing in the study of Samuel Johnson and other authors of the Eighteenth Century. He did graduate work at Berkeley and was on the faculties of the University of Washington in Pullman, Washington, and Brandeis University near Boston but returned to California in 1990.

Herbert Lewis Beard 1885-1970 Herbert Beard was the only child of T.K. and Grace Beard who was

not born in Stanislaus County. He was born April 26, 1885, in Benton City, Benton County, Washington, while the family was living in nearby Yakima County.

Herbert did not work in the family enterprises any length of time although he did service on the Board of Directors. He was bitten by the "gold bug" and was forever investing in mines of various types. He was at one time hailed as the "Mayor of Coulterville."

He married Minerva E. Hargrove (1886-1968), September 13, 1909. They had one daughter, Dorothy Lewis Beard (1910-1985).

He died January 6, 1970, in Modesto, at age eighty-four.

Cora Ann Beard 1888-1983 Cora Beard was born on the family farm east of Modesto, June 22, 1888. She lived ninety-five years. She was a beloved maiden aunt who functioned as the matriarch of the family after the death of her mother. She was an outgoing, warm-hearted person. She never failed to remember a birthday with a card and often with a book.

In her youth she loved horseback riding, tennis, and gathering wildflowers. She attended the College of the Pacific when it was located in San Jose. She majored in music and was an accomplished pianist. She loved books, especially those of classical literature.

From the 1940s until her death, she lived in Pacific Grove with her mother in Elihu Beard's old vacation home but came to Modesto to spend the holidays with her family.

Ruth Beard McDowell 1890-1985 Ruth Beard was the only child of T.K. and Grace Beard who was not given a middle name. Born October 26, 1890, at the family ranch just east of Modesto, Ruth was a shy, retiring child often bullied by her older sister Cora when they were children. She attended Modesto High School, graduating in 1908.

She enrolled at the College of the Pacific, then located in San Jose, and majored in Latin. She later transferred to Stanford University, achieving Phi Beta Kappa. In 1912 she entered a library school established by the California State Library in Sacramento. For four years she was assistant librarian of the Sutro Library in San Francisco. She married Roy McDowell, May 19, 1918.

George Kennan Beard 1893-1979 George Kennan Beard was born February 4, 1893, at the family farm just east of Modesto.

While his brother Walter and their father were en-

gaged in the excavation and construction business, George remained on the family farm and ran the agricultural part of the family enterprises. On December 22, 1914, George married Erma Keith.

In 1954 George succeeded his older brother, Walter, as president of the Beard Land and Investment Company, and in 1959 he became the first Chairman of the Board. Much of his life George concentrated on the railroad company. About 1964 he retired from the Modesto operations of the railroad, but remained Chairman of the Board of the Stockton Terminal and Eastern Railroad, a short-line railroad operated by his son Thomas Kennan Beard. George died October 6, 1979, in San Francisco, at age eighty-six.

George had four children by his first wife, Erma Keith: Betty A. Beard Noisat (1915-1971); Barbara J. Beard Ruddy (1917-2006); Thomas Kennan Beard (1922-2011); and Beatrice L. Beard Brown (1924-1994).

William Paul Beard 1898-1973 Paul Beard was the only son of T.K. and Grace Beard who did not marry. He spent most of his life with his mother and unmarried sister Cora in Modesto and later in Pacific Grove. He was quiet and enjoyed intellectual pursuits and exploring nature. He attended College of the Pacific, then located in San Jose but later in Stockton. His grades were only average, and he dropped out of school after two years.

He seems never to have had career plans, which the family explained by citing health concerns. Paul had problems socializing. His sister Cora stated that a poem by James Russell Lowell, *The Shepherd to King Admetus*, always reminded her of Paul:

There came a youth upon this earth
Some thousand years ago
Whose slender hands were nothing worth
Whether to plough or reap or sow.

They knew not how he learned at all
For idly hour by hour
He sat and watched the dead leaves fall
Or mused upon a common flower.
Yet after he was dead and gone
And e'en his memory dim
Earth seemed more sweet to live upon,
More full of love because of him.



Management team of Beard Land and Investment Co.
From left, John B. Beard, George K. Beard and Walter F. Beard. 1961.

John Burritt Beard 1900-1980 John Burritt Beard was born September 22, 1900 while his parents lived in then-rural southeast Modesto. He attended Modesto High School and then Eureka College in Eureka, Illinois, the same college later attended by President Ronald Reagan.

Returning home from college, John farmed in the Waterford area. In 1925 John's father, T.K. Beard, died, and Beard Land and Investment was formed by John and his siblings. A new venture that the family established the following year was the Modesto Refrigerating Company, located in the Beard Industrial Tract and served by the family's Modesto and Empire Traction Company railroad. In 1927 the company built an ice plant to provide ice for railroad cars shipping produce to the markets in the East. The ice plant was later sold. In 1944 Beard Land and Investment Company built a cold storage and freezer plant in the Beard Industrial Park to serve the frozen food industry. This was sold in 1952 for a healthy profit.

In 1954 John became president and CEO of Beard Land and Investment Company. In that capacity, he was responsible for luring a number of industries to

Modesto, including Tri-Valley Growers, Inc.

In 1952 Beard and his son, Robert, founded Modesto Finance and Thrift Company, which they sold in 1959 to Morris Plan of Stockton. Very interested in promoting local interests, John served on the Board of Directors of Memorial Hospital for many years and held one term as a trustee of Modesto City Schools in the early 1940s. For a number of years he also served as a director for the local Salvation Army. Funding the YMCA was a special project of his. He was a member of the First Christian Church and the Modesto Rotary Club.

In 1962, John's first wife, Helen Bellamy, died, and he married Vada Vernon Marr. From his first marriage, John had three children: Martha Beard, born April 20, 1924, married Robert Bienvenu, died July 5, 1969, age 45; Robert B. Beard, born 1927, married Betty Kurtz, died 2008 (Robert's daughter, Cathie Beard Peck, a retired teacher, assisted in this research.); and James L. Beard born 1939. James married Hebe Annand and is living in San Francisco. He was the last family member to serve as C.E.O. of the Beard companies, holding that position from 1987 until his retirement



The children of T K. and Grace Ada Beard (seated) and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, June 1968

in 2004.

While living in Carmel during their retirement, John and his wife Vada were traveling in Canada in September of 1980 to celebrate his eightieth birthday when he became ill. Upon his return to Carmel, John died October 2, 1980.

Esther Alice Beard Brack 1902-1986 The youngest of the ten children of T.K. and Grace Beard was Esther Alice Beard, born November 26, 1902, on the Beard farm east of Modesto.

Esther attended Modesto High School and graduated from college.

She married Fred M. "Bill" Brack (1902-1986), a Modesto attorney who later represented the Kiyoi family while they were in Japanese internment camps. This story is detailed in Volume 38, Number 2 of *Stanislaus Stepping Stones*.

A lover of nature and backpacking, Esther owned and was the director of a children's summer camp called "Tall Timber" at what is now Miwuk Village. An activist, she was a charter member of the N.A.A.C.P. when a Modesto chapter was started. Later she helped find housing for Japanese Americans who were returning from the internment camps after World War II.

Esther and Bill died three months apart in 1986.

Their daughter, Annabelle Brack, died in an accident at age nineteen in 1958. A son, William Marvin Brack (1939-2015), died recently in Milbrae California.,

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