

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Daniel Carter Beard

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Daniel Carter Beard

1850 - 1941

Founder of the Boy Scouts of America



Daniel Carter Beard, a founder of the Boy Scouts of America, lived an eventful life, as a leader of youth, crowded with adventure and enriched with joys of service. His dedication and consecration to boyhood earned him praise from around the world.

Born in Cincinnati in 1850, his family moved to Covington when Dan was eleven. He spent his boyhood playing in the woods and along the banks of the Ohio River. There he learned woodcraft and many other outdoor skills.

Beard received his education at Wormald's Academy in Covington, graduating as a civil engineer and surveyor. He worked in the Engineer's Office in Cincinnati responsible for the surveys for the streetcar inclines.

His artistic talents came to light in 1878. He was astonished when Alexander W. Drake paid him \$75 for a painting he had done. He then began illustrating many books and magazines. His interest was in the outdoors and places where boys might find thrills and excitement. That imagination enabled him to write "The American Boy's Handy Book," a boy's guide to the outdoors. Dan Beard was the author of twenty books, all reflecting his interest in nature and outdoor life.

In 1905, he founded "The Sons of Daniel Boone," one of the first movements for boys in the U.S.

The Boy Scouts of America was formed in 1910, and Dan was among those few responsible for its formation and incorporation. He became its first national Scout Commissioner.

Dan Beard's influence was felt throughout the land. He was respected by all who knew him. Among his top admirers was Theodore Roosevelt, who supported Dan's efforts to organize programs for the Nation's youth.

Among his many deserving honors was the first medal for outstanding citizenship by the State of Kentucky. One of the highest honors he received during his lifetime was on his ninetieth birthday when 50,000 Scouts gathered at the New York World's Fair in 1940 to shout their greetings to him.

Through his works and deeds, Daniel Carter Beard built a bridge for millions of American boys to cross over into manhood, prepared in mind and body to serve God, country, and their fellow man. Many have benefited from the teachings of this gifted leader by advancing in the ranks of Scouting and reaching fame somewhere on the upward trail. Among them are to be found a President of the United States, a Governor of Kentucky, the first American in outer space, and the first man on the moon.

Daniel Carter Beard was truly a hero of the Nation's youth. His sturdy heart and strong spirit are still worthy of emulation. By example, he taught youth to stand on their own feet and to do things for themselves which he repeatedly referred to as the American way.

He and his wife, Beatrice Alice Jackson-Beard, had two children Barbara Price and Daniel Bartlett Beard.

Nominated by Phil Taliaferro III, and A. Dale Adams, Beard Historian, Northern Kentucky University.