

Daniel Beard

Daniel Carter Beard, the father of the Boy Scout movement, died on June 11. He would have been 91 on June 21.

Dan Beard is best known for his work in boys' welfare. It may surprise many of his admirers to learn that he started life as a civil engineer, and later became an artist. He was a friend of Buffalo Bill and Mark Twain, and drew the illustrations for the latter's "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court." Philosophers may derive instruction from the fact that Beard, who became the idol of the nation's boyhood, was boycotted as an artist by several magazines because of moral scruples concerning his drawings. This, of course, was in the Virtuous Nineties.

Beard was a friend and admirer of Henry George. In his autobiography, "Hardly a Man is Now Alive," he says:

"Henry George not only possessed a great soul and a great mind, but he was a man who hesitated at no personal sacrifice for the cause he considered just . . . When I read 'Progress and Poverty' for the first time, I could not read it rapidly enough. I eagerly devoured it, page by page. I had, and still have, great reverence for the truths contained in Jefferson's wonderful Declaration of Independence, truths which for some reason could not be realized or made practical because of some great obstacle. I never realized what that obstacle was until I read 'Progress and Poverty.'"

If to live and die beloved of more human beings than any other man be a criterion of felicity, then Dan Beard's was a happy life and a happy death. His work will leave an impress upon all American manhood in all time to come. Good bye, old friend!