

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of Dauphin County, Chambersburg, Pa., J. M. Runk and Company, 1896.

**Beard, Robert**, farmer, was born near Hanover, York County, Pa., October 18, 1826; son of **Robert** and **Magdalena (Marks) Beard**. **Robert Beard** (1), his grandfather, had a family of five children: **Robert, Joseph, James, John**, and one **daughter**. **Robert Beard** (2) was born April 19, 1796, and died June 5, 1854. He was a charcoal burner until he was about thirty-seven years old, when he removed to Upper Paxton Township and began farming. His wife, **Magdalena Marks**, was born March 17, 1804, and died March 18, 1872. They had thirteen children, five of whom are deceased : **William**, died aged nine years; one **child** died in infancy, unnamed ; **John**, died aged forty five, leaving a wife and children; **Elizabeth**, wife of **Moses Witmer**; **Sarah**, wife of **Uriah D. Free**, left four children. The surviving children of **Robert** and **Magdalena Beard** are: **Robert**; **Harry**, married **Hannah Overholtzer**, had two children; **Albert**; **Stephen**; **Edward**, married **Catherine Keefer**; **Carrie**, married to **Jesse Seal**, has three children; **Maggie**, married to **Emanuel Witmer**; **Mary**, married to **George Noll**.

**Robert Beard** (3) attended the subscription schools in his native township until he was about twelve years old. The family then removed to Upper Paxton Township, Dauphin County, Pa., where he studied at private schools for several years, and was subsequently in the public schools until he was about eighteen; during this time he also rendered his father valuable assistance in the farm work. He remained with his father until he was twenty-two, and then sought employment away from home. He first worked a few months in the summer of 1849 for **Thomas Feaney**, in Halifax Township, receiving as wages \$9 per month. His father after this proposed to him to work on the home farm again, and offered him \$100 per year. This offer he accepted, and the arrangement proving satisfactory, it was continued until he was twenty-eight years of age. At this time the father died and **Mr. Beard** began farming the homestead farm on shares, continuing on these terms until the autumn of 1856, when he purchased the farm from the administrators of his father's estate. It comprised one hundred and fifty-six acres, of which thirty-six acres were woodland. He remained there three years, and then sold the farm and removed to Millersburg, where he lived one year, and in the year 1860 removed to the farm of **George Marks**, near Millersburg, where he lived one year. After this he bought a farm of eighty-five acres in Perry County, to which he removed, and which he cultivated for twenty years. In 1881 **Mr. Beard** came back to Dauphin County and located on his present homestead of ninety-eight acres, which has been his home since that date.

**Robert Beard** married, February 28, 1855, **Levina**, daughter of **George** and **Elizabeth (Kramer) Noll**, born November 11, 1831. Their children are: **Oliver Franklin**, born November 10, 1856, married **Annie Bernheisel**, of Perry County, Pa., has three children, **Florence**, **Mabel**, and **Ralph**; **John Milton**, born November 6, 1858, married **Ida M. West**, has five children, **Albert**, **Clarence**, **Walter**, **Norman**, and **Annie**; **Charles E.**, born October 12, 1862, married **Clara J. Longabach**; **George Christian**, born April 21, 1866, married **Clara V. O'Neil**, has one child, **Guy C**, born March 22, 1895; **Sarah Emma**, born April 16, 1869. **Mrs. Beard** died November 3, 1882. **Mr. Beard** finds the Democratic Party the nearest right, and therefore supports its men and measures. The family attends the Reformed Church. **Mrs. Beard's** parents had twelve children: **Joseph**; **Emanuel**; **John**; **Daniel**; **Jacob**; **Aaron**; **George**; **Angelina**; **Lavina**, **Mrs. Beard** ; **Polly**; and **two** died very young.