



# Arizona Scouting Museum Newsletter

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## "Uncle" Daniel Carter Beard Boy Scout Founder

As the Boy Scouts of America begins its second 100 years the Arizona Scouting Museum would like to feature a "Fathers of Scouting" tribute to those whose efforts helped create the program that we have today. I'm sure they had little concept of what this organization would someday become as they began gathering resources and developing an organizational structure. One of those contributors was Daniel Carter Beard. This article will provide some facts on "Uncle Dan" and also a little insight into how he contributed to Scouting.

Shortly before the Civil War there were only 30 states in the Union and only five west of the Mississippi River. Daniel Carter Beard was born on the frontier, in the town of Cincinnati, OH. The city had only been incorporated for 30 years when Dan was born on June 21, 1850. He had an older brother Frank and a younger sister Adelia. Frank was constantly exploring their neighborhood along the Ohio River and Dan followed his brother. At an early age the family moved to Painesville, Ohio just northeast of Cleveland on Lake Erie. It was here that Dan really lived the life of an explorer. Frank was always into some type of mild mischief and Dan was usually also involved. In his autobiography Dan relates many stories about his recollections of life in Cincinnati and the river boats on the Ohio River as well as life in Painesville learning how boys should act from his brother Frank.

In the mid-1870's Dan started onto an early career as an engineer and a surveyor, but his real desire was to become an artist like his father. He went to New York City in the late 1870's to study art. It was during this stay in New York City that he noted young homeless boys sleeping under a statue of Benjamin Franklin. This had a lasting impression on Dan Beard and was the genesis of his desire to do something to help young boys. During this time he wrote a series of articles for "St. Nicholas" magazine on crafts that a boy might do to entertain himself. These articles later formed the basis for his book "American Boy's Handy Book", published in 1882. In this book Beard arranged the activities into the four seasons, listing various activities which could be undertaken during those times of the year. The book contained detailed instruction on building a variety of kites, making and stocking an indoor aquarium, rearing wild birds, making and using a blow-gun, trapping and taxidermy, snow forts, and a variety of snow sleds. Altogether, an amazing book for boys.

Beard took his ideas for entertaining young boys and formed them into a club and continued publishing information on how boys could form these boy societies. In 1905 Dan formed "The Sons of Daniel Boone" and stated that their objective "was to study woodcraft, outdoor sports, and have fun, along with serious work to save and protect our native wild plants, birds, and beasts". Each member of the brotherhood would be a tenderfoot.



