

1892

- Willard graduated from Oberlin College in 1891 and is now in Connecticut at the Hartford Theological Seminary
- Ellen attended Normal School and is teaching in Staffordville, CT
- Willard and Ellen meet at the Staffordville church where Willard is preaching and Ellen is in the choir. They become engaged on October 1, 1892.
- Willard is 27 years old and Ellen is 24.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy
- Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite premieres in St. Petersburg, Russia

[This letter, dated **November 24, 1892**, was written from Putnam, Connecticut by Ellen to Willard. She sends best wishes for Thanksgiving. Letter from the collection of Cynthia Elmer Amend and donated to Yale in 2010.]

[Envelope addressed to: Mr. W. L. Beard, Birmingham, Conn.]

Putnam, Conn.
Nov. 24", '92.

My Dear Will,

Knowing that you have been disappointed in not receiving my letter before you left Hartford, I write this brief note to let you know a letter awaits you there, uncertain however, which will reach you first.

I wrote before leaving home yesterday morning, and by mistake the letter was not mailed when I intended it to be, which accounts for its failure to arrive before you left Hartford.

Although you wrote that "in either case" you should come to Hartford Friday afternoon, I thought it would be pleasanter for you to receive an answer from me before leaving home, if possible.

That letter gives my choice as 7.35 Friday evening if equally agreeable to you, and I think the first familiar countenance you will behold on reaching your destination, will be that of Yours Truly.

In keeping with the spirit of the day, I send you the greetings of the festive season, hoping they will keep good until to-morrow as they cannot be of use to you today, and I trust you will have all you can dispose of without them.

As we lay the heart's fullness of gratitude at the feet of a bountiful Giver, our thoughts turn to those of our friends who have acted as His agents in bestowing the blessings of happiness. Remembering the rich blessings this year has brought to me and the friends associated with them, I gather from a heart overflowing with thankfulness, a wealth of the best wishes for Thanksgiving cheer and gladness, and for the Father's choicest blessings for the years of life to come, and send them to you with my love.

Sincerely,
Ellen.

[This letter, dated **December 29, 1892**, was written from Putnam, CT by Ellen to Willard. She tells about their annual Church Day services. Her family is going to have a family photo taken. Letter from the collection of Cynthia Elmer Amend and donated to Yale in 2010.]

[Envelope addressed to: Mr. Willard Beard, Birmingham, Conn.]

Putnam, Ct.,
Dec. 29", '92.

My Dear Will,

You will expect another visit from me to-morrow, so I'll make preparation to-night.

I entertain doubt of its being very interesting to you for the hour is already late, and you know by experience the effect of late hours.

We have just returned from our annual Church Day services. They are held afternoon and evening of the last Thursday in each year, and consist of devotional exercises, election of church and S.S. officers, addresses by former officers and members, roll-call of members, and music for the evening, with a collation between afternoon and evening sessions. These are pleasant occasions when the church members meet as one family in the church home to review the experiences of the old year and look forward into the new.

My journey home was a pleasant one although I did not see a single acquaintance from the time I stood on the platform of the car taking a parting look at the dear, familiar face leaning from the carriage, till I reached father's office.

I found them all well at home and expecting me on a later train which accounts for not meeting me at the station.

I have decided not to ask Mr. Eaton for a holiday Monday, so shall return Saturday, but shall probably stay at my aunt's over Sunday.

I have at last heard from my optician; so you will probably see me obeying the oculists orders when you come next time.

This afternoon we are going down to have a picture of the family taken, and hope we may be as successful as your people were.

You remember I said to you, "What if you should receive only one page sometime?" Well, I did not expect that time would come so soon, but the mileage book will take some room so will make the letter small. Please remember me to all your people. Love to yourself, Ellen
