1903

- Orville and Wilbur Wright's first flight at Kitty Hawk, NC
- Willard and family leave China via the Atlantic Ocean for the U.S. on February 23, 1903 for furlough.
- Willard's grandmother dies March 23, 1903 Phebe Ann Drew Nichols
- Ford Motor Company founded by Henry Ford
- Willard is 38, Ellen- 35, Phebe- 8, Gould- 7, Geraldine- 5, Dorothy- 2

[This partial letter or report dated 1903 was written by Willard. He reports his reasons for the trip and his impressions of the landscape and the work being done there. Location of the original letter/report is not known.]

[from a copy of the letter]

[1903]

..has been to dampen the ardor of many of those who professed to be learned cannot however permanently injure the work. It is an interesting fact that three men who were learners here 19 years ago when the mission had work here, are still interested in the Truth and at once on the reopening of the work attached themselves to the chapel.

Only one Quarterly Meeting was held during the year. This was in May. The drought was very severe. The heathen had raged and implored their idols for two weeks to send rain. At the May meeting all the preachers agreed to pray for rain at the different chapels the next Sunday and urge the church members throughout the field to do the same. On the next day- Monday- rain fell in torrents in the lower part of the field, and on the following days rain fell pleanteously in all parts.

Owing to the Shaowu trip I did not visit the outlying churches during the fall. I attended the Annual Meeting of the station held the first week of the Chinese New Year, - Feb. 1903. This was purposely thus late that I might present after returning from Shaowu.

The residence of Mr. Smith in the station has been of much advantage to the work of great assistance to me personally during the year.

The Trip through the Shaowu Field.

[some words off the page of copy]

The reasons for the trip were (1) Dr. Walker's physician stated before the mission in Sept. 1902 that Dr. Walker ought not to do more country touring. (2) Dr. Walker is the only evangelistic missionary in the Shaowu station, hence if he could not tour this work would be undone unless someone could go from Foochow. (3) There was no unsurmountable obstacle to keep me from doing this work. (4) After weighing the need for another tour thro the Ing Hok field as compared with this tour in Shaowu, it seemed to me Shaowu's need was more .. because Ing Hok had a man on the ground who could do the work du...part of 1903, while the man to tour in Shaowu was not even promised... Board. Hence I volunteered to make the tour before returning to American on ...and was appointed by the mission to visit the country stations of the Shaowu... with Pastor Diong and a preacher from Shaowu as interpreters.

Starting from Foochow Nov. 22nd 1902, I was able to visit all the more important centers of work in the station except one- 28 in all- and reach home ...1903 just before the close of the Chinese Year. It was necessary to use the ...Dialect everywhere, which was translated into at least five other dialects in...parts of the field, by as many different men. Pastors Ieu and Diong however...of the translating. 55 addresses were made. I was fortunately able to be pre...Shaowu Annual Meeting. With exception of 7 days spent in Shaowu- ...Annual Meeting- all the time 63 days was utilized in touring in the

Impressions:-

- (1) Shaowu is a field of magnificent distances, practically 200 long and 100 miles wide, but admirable adapted to touring. The Min river and its Shaowu branch flow for nearly 200 navigable miles thro the field. Altho the country is mountainous, the roads wind thro the valleys so that very little hard climbing is necessary.
- (2) The field is comparatively well dotted with chapels. While on the tour only one night was spent in a Chinese inn. For as large a field and considering the age of the work in this station, this is a remarkable fact, and still more remarkable because,-
- (3) A very large proportion of the chapels are owned by the mission and have been built or purchased by the people themselves. I visited no less than 16 villages in which the chapel was owned by the mission. The advantage of this is two-fold- 1. It gives the impression of permanency to the work. 2. It materially decreases the yearly expenditure of mission and private funds for chapel rents ...

[page change...is (4) missing?]

...??shers to congregations already waiting, and often with a chapel furnished ready ..the work. I found a large, attentive and appreciative audience in every chapel...visited- often with notice of only a few hours.

- (5) The station has a strong band of Chinese workers. Pastors Ieu and Diong ...easily stand at the head of this band. Pastor Gang is quieter and less forceful but he has the respect and confidence of all, and is pastor of a large and important district. Other preachers have had experience and have proven themselves worthy to be ordained as soon as the congregations are ready to support them. Several of these workers are graduates of the First Degree. This elevates the church in the Chinese mind, and draws to it the better element of the people.
- (6) This band of Chinese workers need more foreign assistance. No one realizes this more than do these men themselves. Pastors Ieu and Diong repeatedly said to me "We must have the assistance of foreigners." It is with much pleasure that I learned on my return from the tour that the Prudential Committee had promised one young man. But nothing must deter them from sending two and at the earliest possible date. The work in the country chapels and churches is just now in a critical stage. The numbers of learners is everywhere large. Among them many do not know the true object of the church. They are no looking for material benefits as were the thousands of Christ's followers, yet they have forsaken their idols and are in the way to receive and accept the true Gospel. It is difficult to conceive of a more attractive field of labor for two young men- then this Shaowu station offers now.
- (7) The people have done nobly in preparing their own church buildings. They could profitably give more toward the support of their preachers.
- (8) There is a serious lack of day schools in most parts of the field. Unless this is soon remedied the work of the station in all its departments will suffer.

These last two paragraphs i.e. (7) and (8) cannot be remedied with the present staff of foreign workers. They must have reinforcements.

I have said nothing of the education and medical work because I was sent specially to visit the churches and chapels. Both these branches of work are in a healthy condition and are rapidly growing.

W.L. Beard- Ing Hok Station

[This letter dated **Jan. 9, 1903** was written from Foochow, China by Ellen to the Dear ones in the Shelton Home. Ellen is sending a journal letter of Willard's Shaowu trip. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, Jan. 9", '03

Dear ones in the Shelton home,

Willard probably wrote you in his last letter that he was about to start on a trip to the Shaowu field 250 miles up the river.

He has written a journal letter which he requested me to let the members of the mission read and then send to you.

It has taken a long time to circulate it; indeed I really ought not to have kept you home friends waiting so long for his letter but have been so busy since he left I hardly realized it had been so long.

Dorothy is just recovering from a light attack of capillary bronchitis and is getting along well. Otherwise we are all well except that we have all had the prevalent "cold". There is a great deal of illness about here just now.

I hope you are all keeping well this winter.

It would be a pleasure to me to write more if my eyes were strong enough to bear the strain but I still have to exercise care in the use of them.

With love to all,

Yours Sincerely

Ellen.

[This letter dated **Jan. 11, 1903** was written from Foochow, China by Ellen to the Dear ones in the Shelton Home. She is sending some pages from Willard's diary about his Shaowu trip. Other pages are still being passed among the other missionaries to read. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, Jan 11", '03

Dear ones in the Shelton Home,

I am sending you herewith five leaves of Will's diary and a letter to you which he enclosed in his last letter to me with the request that I mail it. Between these there are about eight more pages of the diary which are still in circulation here among the missionaries. I am sorry they did not return in time for this mail.

We are beginning to look for Will home now. Altho I do not really expect him for three days yet, still I should not be surprised to see him walk in any hour now. We have never been separated so long before since our marriage and it has indeed seemed a long time. It has been such a comfort to receive a letter from him about once in six days during the whole trip. When we first came to China this could not have been, as there were no post-offices under foreign control, so far inland at that time and a native mail went only once in ten days and accommodated fewer towns than the foreign P.O does now.

Dorothy is much better now and all the children are nearly recovered from the colds they had when I wrote you last.

This evening Mr. and Mrs. Hodous and I entertain the young men in the Theological Seminary at a dinner given at the close of the year. We have no class to graduate this year and the dinner this evening takes the place of the class dinner we usually give each year.

We are expecting Mr. Hubbard's people will arrive in a few weeks.

We were glad to receive Flora's good letter a few weeks ago; I sent it to Will with one of mine.

With love to all

Yours Very Cordially Ellen L. K. Beard

[This letter dated **Jan. 23, 1903** was written from Foochow, China by Ellen to the dear home friends. She is sending pages of Willard's diary of his Shaowu trip. He is now on his way back to Foochow. She has heard through messengers that he has safely passed the rapids. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, Jan 23/03

Our dear home friends,

I enclose herewith pages 31-37 of Will's diary of his trip through the Shaowu field. I think I have not sent pages 17-31 but am not certain. I think they (our friends here) have not returned them to me yet. Will forward them as soon as they return.

Will you kindly send the diary to my home after all your friends have seen it.

I am at this writing momentarily expecting Will home. I received a telegram yesterday at 3 o'clock from Cui Kau, at the foot of the rapids, saying "Rapids passed safely Wednesday noon." I was glad to receive this as it had already taken him several days longer than he expected to make the homeward trip and I was a trifle anxious. I began to look for him last Friday; but he is all through with the dangerous part of the journey now and I believe is almost here. Gould and Phebe and Geraldine have their firecrackers all ready to welcome papa.

Yours with love

Ellen.

[This letter dated **Jan. 25**, **1903** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He tells an interesting account of his Shaowu trip. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission. Foochow, China, Jan. 25th 1903.

Dear Folks at Home:-

It has been over two months since I have written you from my desk in this study. You have seen my diary copy I hope regularly, and I have written one letter to you from some country chapel in the Shaowu field. Ellen I think has also written you. I returned from the Shaowu trip this last Thursday afternoon. It was a trip full of interest, such as I may hardly hope to ever repeat. It is by no means often that a missionary in China is privileged to spend two months in consecutive travel in one station visiting a Christian Church nearly every day. From my diary you will see that my work was 1st physical= walking from 6 to 30 miles a day, and 2nd mental and spiritual= preaching from one to four times a day. I have walked 1140 li or about 400 miles. I have ridden in a boat 1500 li or 500 miles. I started from Foochow Nov. 21st and reached home Jan. 22nd, 1903. Fifty one nights were spent in chapels and on boats or in a native inn, - only one night in the inn. This shows how well dotted with chapels the field is. I was quite well during the entire trip. About two thirds of the time I lived on Chinese food. One day only I took three meals at the Chinese table. Many days I ate two meals with the Chinese and the other meal from my basket. Flora will want to know if I got hold of any rats or puppy dogs. I think not, altho I saw many nicely cooked rats and the Chinese relished them. I preferred duck or chicken or pork. A dog in Shaowu died from poison

intended for rats. Miss Walker saw the people preparing it for food, reported the case to Dr. Bliss and he tried his best to make the family desist from eating the dog. I did not learn the result.

Did I write you of the unique New Years evening? I was in a city some 30 miles from Shaowu. The Foochow messenger boat had been expected on Sat. Dec. 27^{th} . It did not arrive. I had planned to start from Shaowu Monday Dec. 29^{th} to spend a week and a half visiting the churches South and West from Shaowu, then take a boat on another branch of the river for home. This plan I could not change. The boat did not arrive at Shaowu till Wednesday Dec. 31^{st} . So Dr. Bliss sent a man early Thursday (Jan 1) morning to take 30 miles to me a lot of Christmas presents. All my presents from Foochow came by him and alone in my Chinese bed room I had my own Christmas tree on New Years night. I had to leave one of my cotton mattresses there to make up for the extra weight in the load of the Christmas things.

The weather after Dec. 13th was very cold. Possibly I never suffered more from the cold than Dec. 13-15. I was in the country north of Shaowu without my winter woolens. Ice was found Dec. 14th. My room was ventilated thro an open space 3 X 12 ft. on one side and a smaller space on the other side. Sunday, Jan. 4th we saw snow about 3 in. deep. The country was beautiful. The snow did not all melt till the next Thursday. It took grit to shave with cold water in the Sunday morning Jan. 4th. But the only cold I suffered from on the trip was while I was at Shaowu in a foreign house with a fire. Living without a fire, practically in the open air, seemed to agree with me.

By far the most interesting part of the travelling came at the last of the trip. I took a boat for home about 800 li or 275 miles from Foochow, quite near the Kiong Si province boundary. Monday Jan 12th. This boat proved bad and the boatman worse. After bumping into several rocks as we tried to shoot the rapids, the old boat leaked faster than we could bail and we left her and took passage on a fleet of 11 boats loaded with rice. On these we arrived safely at Iong Kau, where the rice was sold and then on one I came to Foochow. The scenery up near the source of this river is grand mountains, gorges, rocks, boulders, mountain torrents, wild forests, wild ducks, together with danger accompanying to rushing down the rapids in the boats,- just grazing this rock, which it struck would send you to the bottom, leave not a moment to become dull. The rocks on the sides of the river are decorated with boats of all sizes that have struck, and smashed and after their cargo has been removed, have been left as reminders of the danger. Only one rapid was so bad the boatman made us walk around while they took the boats down.

Dorothy had been quite ill the first week in Jan. with a severe cold and sore throat. Ellen did not go to bed for six nights. She was better before I knew of it and all well when I reached home. Otherwise all have been well since I left in Nov.

We want to take passage on a German Mail S.S. leaving Hong Kong Mar. 4th. But I am afraid she is full. We shall go as soon after Mar. 1st as possible. So you will write no more letters after receiving this- if you have not already stopped.

I must close now with lots of love from all

Will.

[This letter dated **Feb. 1, 1903** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He tells of the plans for the family to return to begin their trip back home to the U.S. in March of 1903. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow Feb. 1st 1903

Dear Folks at Home:-

We have received and read two letters from you since the middle of Jan. These told us that another member was added to Oliver's family. Whether it was a boy or girl we do not know. They also told us about Uncle Charlie's condition and about Edith's wedding. Also that Flora was talking of meeting us at the steamer if we come to New York. Some one else I believe was talking of meeting us also.

The most important part of this letter is to tell you of our plans. We have engaged passage on the German Lloyd S.S. "Preussen" booked to sail from Hong Kong March 4th. As yet I cannot find anything definite about the Atlantic passage. It will probably be on a S.S. of the same line. And as we buy tickets from Hong Kong to South Hampton, it will probably be a German Lloyd S.S. from Southampton to New York arriving sometime about April 10th in July.

Now my plan is to write you and the Putnam friends the name of S.S. on which we land in N.Y. if time allows and it is possible. The agents have written to Hong Kong for this information. If however we can not obtain definite information- or if there should be a change I will cable to Putnam from Southampton as follows

Kinney

Putnam

Connecticut

Preussen= or name of S.S.

This makes four words. Mr. Kinney will let Flora and the others – all know the steamer name. I will also write them to obtain a German Lloyd time table so you can tell the date of arrival in New York.

We plan to go first to the Century Farm for a few days, then to Putnam, and Ellen wants to live near New Britain.

These days are by no means without their duties and demands for all of us. As yet we have done but little packing for home. Last night Ellen and I made a list of the articles we wanted to see and we hope to get this out of the way this next week. Henry Lacy, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Lacy of the M.E. Mission expects to go with us as far as London. Mr. and Mrs. Bland and their children and Miss Bell of the Church Missionary Society are booked for the "Preussen" to go to London. So if all goes well we shall not be lonely.

Tomorrow morning I plan to start for Ing Hok to be gone until Saturday. We will hold a Quarterly Meeting with the workers in that field, and the preacher at Ing Hok City is to be ordained as pastor. It has rained every day this last week, and rains now. There is a flood in the river- not a large one- so I may have fun.

We are all well, and so busy that the thought of going home does not upset us.

With Love to all

Will.

[This letter dated **Feb. 15, 1903** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. Again he discusses the plans for the trip back to the U.S. and the preparations to leave Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China

Feb. 15th 1903.

Dear Folks at Home:-

A week ago I wrote you of our plans for home going. Lest that letter should have gone astray I will just briefly outline them again. We are booked for the German Mail Steam Ship "Preussen" sailing from Hong Kong March 4th. Since writing I have learned that we cannot arrange here for our Atlantic passage. So we will cable from Southampton or London as soon as our arrangements are made as follows:

Kinney

Putnam

Conn.

(Name of Steamer)

The steamer will probably be one of the German Mail Ships which I think start from Hamburg. Mr. Kinney will let you know at once, and you can write Flora- or better send her address to him on receipt of this.

Henry Lacy- second son of Mr. and Mrs. Lacy of the M.E. Mission is to go with us and in our care. Mr. and Mrs. Bland, three children and Miss Bell are booked for the same steamer.

The days fly past very rapidly. I am attaining some success in putting the work over into the care of Mr. Smith and Mr. Hodous. I now have no more responsibility for any of the work. But one cannot refuse to be consulted which is after all an honor and a pleasure. Then one must meet innumerable Chinese and tell them over and over again that the date of sailing is not determined, and then tell them the approximate date, and still listen while they tell him that they are preparing a present for him. Then when a feast or a dinner has been all prepared we have not yet refused to go. Tomorrow we are to have the two pastors, their wives and Ming Uong and his wife to dinner. This we agree is the last of our social duties.

I have packed five boxes of goods- nearly all things that we were using here in the house, but which will be curios when we reach home. Most of our more bulky furniture we have sold already. What is not sold we can stack in the loft of this house I think. Two ¾ beds with mattresses, and two bureaus and a washstand are about all that are left now. Much time is consumed in receiving presents from Chinese and in saying good bye or planning to say good bye with them.

I must close now,- possibly I may write once more before leaving- I presume a letter addressed Willard L. Beard Passenger German Mail S.S., "Preussen" Southampton, England would find us there

With lots of Love to all

[This letter dated **Feb. 22, 1903** was written from Foochow, China to the folks at home. He talks of the upcoming trip back to the U.S. and of all the packing and gifts they have received. The new church at An long Dei has been dedicated. Ellen attended a church service where Min Uong spoke of Ellen's work in China. He mentions how much the trip back will cost. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, Feb. 22nd 1903.

Dear folks at home:-

We are counting the time by hours when we shall start for home. If I have said a bai ek a-dau se-deng ngie-huo once in the past week I have said it one hundred times. The meaning of the above is – next Monday at 4 o'clock in the afternoon from Jardine and Matheson's, that is tomorrow at 4 p.m. we expect to take the "Haitan" for Hong Kong.

The past week has been more than full of packing and receiving presents and saying good bye to friends of three nationalities – Chinese, English and Americans. The packing has been seriously interfered with by the presents with which we have been fairly loaded down. Eight large silk or cloth banners have come in. Paper scrolls I cannot now count. Some eight or ten little boxes of tea. Gould has had given to him a priests suit, a common suit and an officials suit, beside hats and shoes and an umbrella and a rain suit. I have a suit except shoes. We have boxes of fruit and cakes sufficient to keep us from starving for some time.

Yesterday the new church at An Iong Dei was dedicated. I attended in the afternoon and sat on the platform next to a military official. The people have a nice church now 30 X 40 ft. two stories high. The lower used for an audience room. The upper for residence and day school.

Ellen went to Ha Puo Ga to church this morning, and as Ming Uong's father was not well, he himself preached. After the service Ming Uong spoke a little of Ellen's work and the near departure. To quote Ellen's words "It completely broke me up." I judge tears flowed quite freely throughout the congregation. And the church was full. It will not be an easy matter to say good bye tomorrow, if it should be a pleasant day. The landing at Jardine and Matheson's will see a big crowd. Mr. and Mrs. Bland and Miss Bell will be the center of a large crowd of Chinese as they take the launch and if all go who have spoken of going there will be not less than 200 to see us off. I almost wish it would rain so as to make the confusion less, and the commotion less. One cannot help from having a feeling of aversion for these farewells. My work here in Foochow has been so many sided and has extended over so large a field that I had not realized how attached I had become to the Chinese with who and among whom we have been working.

Well this is the last letter that you will have from us, from Foochow for a long time, and I trust it is the last we shall have occasion to write you before seeing you. We have paid for tickets to Hong Kong \$120 mexicans. From Hong Kong to Southampton \$1232 mexicans. This makes \$1352 for the whole family from Foochow to Southampton. This exchanges for \$540.80 gold.

Your last letter brought the news of Uncle Charlie's death. [Husband of Willard's mother's sister, Hannah Nichols.] What changes we shall find in that home! I think more changes there than anywhere else. We are all quite well.

Hoping to see you soon With Love to all

Will

[This letter dated March 5, 1903 was written by A.J Osgoode from Shanghai, China to Willard. He is sending Willard some photos he had taken previously. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

11 Chanfoong Road Shanghai, March, 5th 1903

My dear Mr. Beard:-

Sometime ago you wrote me asking to send pictures of a little group I took of the Pastor's family at Kin Chio Long. I have been a long time finding the film. It was so poor that I was afraid I had destroyed it. I found it the other day, however, and send you two prints, which I wish you would present to the good pastor with my compliments. I am very sorry that the picture was not more of a success. If I find the film I will enclose it.

I hope you and yours are very well. Please give my regards to Mrs. B.

You will doubtless be interested to know that I am moving my business into larger and more commodious quarters at #45 Shiangse Road

Yours very truly, A J Osgoode

[This letter dated **about April 8, 1903** was written from London by Willard to his mother. He had just received her letter telling him of his grandmother's death. He tells of the steamer trip from China to London and of the plans to travel on the new S.S. Kaiser Wilhelm II on April 15, 1903. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

West Central Hotel Southampton Row W.C.

[About April 8, 1903]

My Dear Mother:-

Your letter to London reached me yesterday just before we left the S.S. "Preussen". I was in a way prepared to hear that grandmother had gone [*Phebe Ann Drew Nichols, born May 11, 1819, died March 23, 1903 of "Hypostatic Pneumonia and Bronchitis"*.], because your last letter to Foochow spoke of her not being well and it came over me then that possibly we should not see her again. I had cherished many fond hopes that she might see the children before she died. But this was not to be.

We were on the "Preussen" just five weeks and 19 hours, - the trip was a very comfortable one. With the exception of 15 hours the sea was smooth all the way- an exceptionally good trip. We were pleased with all of our treatment and in fact with everything. Part of the way- while we were near the equator the weather was hot- and it was Sunday when we stopped at Aden and at Colombo so no curios could be bought- otherwise we could hardly complain with justice.

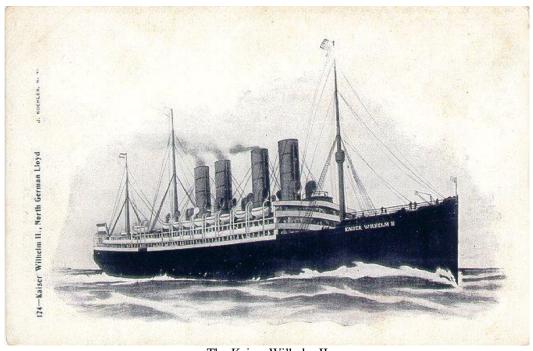
I have received a note from the Agent of the German Mail here in reply to my enquiry of yesterday that we have two cabins on the S.S. "Kaiser Wilhelm II" sailing next Wed. April 15th for New York. This is the largest steamer the company owns, and this is her maiden trip. She is nearly 700 ft. long 40,000 horse power engines, with a displacement of 20,000 tons. This is about 4 times the size of the "Preussen". On the "Preussen" it was our fortune to get the very best cabins really first class- altho we went as second cl. On the K.W. II again they give us best cabins in consideration of our having traveled by their line from China.

We are all well and happy,- left the "Preussen" yesterday at 7 a.m. at Southampton. Arrived at London about 11 a.m. We found a nice hotel with no trouble and all business thus far has been nicely facilitated. We are here during the Easter season so stores are mostly closed. I was fortunate in getting in just in season to find the Bank not closed- for a Bank holiday locks all money tight in England, and this Bank holiday holds till next Tues. morning.

I cannot tell about the arrival of the steamer in New York. As soon as I have the tickets – tomorrow- I will cable Mr. Kinney as I wrote from Foochow, and anyone can find from the Agents of the North German Lloyd in N.Y. the date and later the hour of arrival of the steamer.

With lots of love to all from all

Will



The Kaiser Wilhelm II

Goldman, Gary. "Great Ships". June 22, 2007 < www.greatships.net>. Our new policy on this type of usage is as follows: You are granted permission to use up to five images from the GreatShips Website and to excerpt text from the site as long as credit is given to GreatShips as the source of the material, and the printed URL of the GreatShips Website ("http://www.greatships.net") is included. No additional permissions are necessary and you do not need to contact us to secure use.

[The ship's list for the Kaiser Wilhelm II shows Willard, Ellen, Phebe, Gould, Geraldine and Dorothy traveling from Southampton, England to New York and arriving there April 22, 1903.]

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Ship's Manifest for Kaiser Wilhem II showing Willard, Ellen and children [From Ancestry.com]

[This letter dated **June 10, 1903** was written from Foochow, China by Mr. L. Hodous to Willard. He apologizes for not writing sooner and tells Willard that the mission would like to have him back. He talks about his family and updates Willard of the work being done back in Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, June 10, 1903.

My dear Beard,

Undoubtedly you are convinced that I am an old chump by this time. After receiving so many good letters from you to treat you as I have is shameful, but I am overhead in the work.

The mission decided that you should come back and we want you to come. Of course the final decision of the question is left with you. You are to decide whether you will enter the work or not. The mission cannot decide, nor do I see how the Board at home can settle the matter. From the standpoint of both these bodies, they can only say that you shall do work in which they are interested. Or I should say that they want you to do work in which they are interested. Money compensation from the Y.M.C.A. does not cut any figure whatever. The resolutions passed when Brockman was here simply say all over again in other words what we said last year when the question came up.

Now as to the Seminary- It is to go into the city and the building be located on land below Lonconlin Hall. The site is not bad, but rather removed from the church and on the outskirts of things. The boys are doing fair work. Nieng Yang is doing very well.

There is nothing new about the work- We do the same things in different ways. Next week the preachers will have a quarterly meeting. I trust that they will become interested in the study of Mark. I prepared an outline of the same which I shall give to each of them. Daik Kong's wife died a short time ago, probably cholera. The monthly C.E. union service continues with unabated interest. The Au Ciu church was repainted recently and cleaned up. The members paid 43 of the money.

Dr. Kinnear purchased the row of houses behind your residence for 1530 thousand cash. He is also negotiating for the temple. Probably he will get it. The hospital will probably receive its money soon. Some one died in West Hartford- the heirs of the person are willing to contribute about \$5000 to a memorial in honor of the deceased. I am writing this on my lap. Don't mind the crooked lines. As you know in transferring the property to the hospital there was some loss on the exchange. A committee decided that this loss be shared equally by the hospital and seminary.

Yesterday I took Anna and Jerome up the mountain. Jerome does not think much of Chinese scenery. He slept the whole way. I shall stay down until after the quarterly meeting. I shall board with Miss Garretson.

Miss Newton wrote you about Ming Uong. I do not know whether we can keep him in the mission. He does not want to go to the city. Some suggest that we make him Pastor of Geu Cio Dong, but that has its difficulties. I advised Miss Newton to try to get him for her school.

I am rejoicing now at the prospect of mangoes on the mountain. We shall leave plenty of them this year seeing you are not here. Other fruit is late. Strawberries just coming in. Bi-bas just passed their prime. Oranges all gone.

Jerome is doing well. He is a great comfort to us and especially to Anna. She does not mind so much now when I am gone a whole day at a time or longer. But you ought to see Helen. She is a bright girl laughing and playful, a little witch. She made profuse advances to Jerome, but some way he did not appreciate her kindness. Give my love to all. How we enjoyed all your letters. Several must have been lost judging from the pages. Yours truthfully,

L. Hodous

[This letter dated **June 22, 1903** was written from Foochow, China by Mr. L. Hodous to Willard. He updates Willard of the work in Foochow. Letter donated to Yale from family in 2006.]

Foochow, June 22, 1903

My dear Beard,

Enclosed find a letter from Si Du. It is hot here now. A week or so ago it was 94 degrees. Mrs. H. went to the mountain June 9th. Unfortunately it rained for a week after that time. The Seminary exams are over. We marked the boys and handed to each one his report and also posted the names of the highest. They did well. Mr. Peet was over one day and was surprised and pleased. Mr. Gardner came over for a short time. Both pastors attended. The boys did first rate.

Next fall we shall study Romans, Theology, Seu Cu Go, N.T. [*New Testament*], nineteenth century, Cu Ging church hist., Co Diong, Missionary Pioneers, Mandarin, letter writing, Gu Ung. In preaching U Go and Nieng Gang did very well. They had enough practice being only two of them.

The day schools are all examined. The school at the Upper Bridge is perhaps the best. The boys there pick the classics and have a fair understanding of the N. T. and the Christian books. They also studied arithmetic. Yesterday I examined four candidates at Ciu Mui and admitted none. I told you before that the preacher gave me so much trouble that I decided to have an examination there. The time before we examined six and decided not to admit any. I have hope for the church still. They showed a very good spirit when they were told that none of those examined were fit for church membership. I hope that we can admit somebody the next time, for I do not know how long they can endure the strain.

Did you know that the Mission is going to publish a paper called the Foochow Messenger, Dr. Whitney editor? I'll send you a copy when it appears.

I am going to the mountain tomorrow. We shall occupy Dr. Bliss' cottage.

Ponto is doing very well. The goat is still growing thin on the grass. The cat is a good friend. We are taking care of the pets as well as we can.

I'll write more when I get to the mountain.

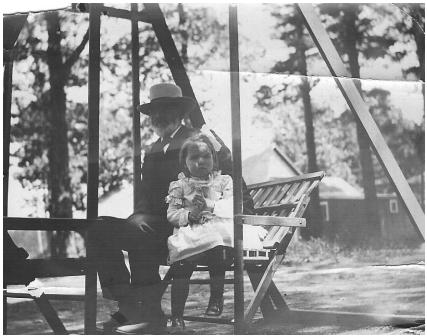
My love to all.

L. Hodous



Standing L to R: Willard Beard, Elbert Kinney, Willis Hume
Sitting L to R: Emma Kinney, Phebe Beard, Ellen Kinney Beard, Dorothy Beard, Myron Kinney, Gould Beard,
Mary Jane Corbin Kinney, Geraldine Beard, Etta Kinney Hume holding baby Donald Corbin Hume

[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



This is probably Oliver Gould Beard Sr. and Dorothy in 1903. Ellen's father has a white beard also, however. [Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



This photo appears to be taken at the ocean –possibly the coast of Connecticut on Long Island Sound near Bridgeport. The man with the white beard pushing the wheelbarrow(?) is probably Oliver Gould Beard Sr. and the woman walking behind him resembles Ellen. Some of the children may be Ellen's and others may be some of her nieces and nephews. Probably summer of 1904.

[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



Children in front row L to R: Geraldine Beard, Dorothy Beard, Olive Beard, Anna Beard.

Second row beginning with Willard L. Beard, Phebe K. Beard, Gould Beard, Flora Beard, Elizabeth Beard.

Third row: Ruth Beard, Bennett Nichols Beard, Phebe M. Beard, Oliver Gould Beard (white hair and beard), Nancy Nichols Beard, Abbie Hubbell Beard holding baby Oliver Wells Beard, Stanley Beard.

Fourth row: Leolyn Beard, James Daniel Beard, Mary L. Beard, Ellen K. Beard, unknown woman.

Back row: Grace G. Beard holding baby Gracie, Oliver Gould Beard, Jr.

[Photo from the collection of Edith Beard Valentine.]



Painting of Century Farm
[From the collection of Edith Beard Valentine.]

a mery Christmas

a Haffy hun Lean

WILLARD L. BEARD

CENTURY FARM
SHELTON, CONN.



Willard's business card [Donated to Yale by family in 2007]



Undated photo with no description [Photo donated to Yale by family in 2007]