

# 1906

- Marjorie Beard was born February 17, 1906 in China (The last Emperor of China, Pu Yi, is born the same month and year as Marjorie)
- San Francisco earthquake – April 16, 1906
- September 1906 Flora and Mary Beard travel to CA where Mary stays to teach. Flora leaves from San Francisco for China to teach in Foochow and stays until 1909. She arrives in Foochow in October of 1906. Flora is 37 and Mary is 24.
- Willard takes trip to Shaowu- November 15, 1906 to January 9, 1907
- James Daniel Beard dies December 7, 1906 (brother of Willard, Flora and Mary)
- Willard is 41, Ellen- 38, Phebe- 11, Gould- 10, Geraldine- 8, Dorothy- 5, and Marjorie is an infant

*[This postcard dated Jan. 9, 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks. It is a postcard without a picture and is addressed to Mrs. O.G. Beard, Shelton, Conn. U.S.A. and postmarked Feb. 13, 1906. Willard and Gould have been up to the mountain. Although there is a boycott on American goods, they see American flour and oil everywhere. Postcard donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China. Jan. 9-1906

Dear Folks:-

There is not time to write a letter so I am just sending a postal to tell you we are all well. Gould and I spent Sunday on the mountain at our cottage. The summer residents there give money for the carrying on of Christian work there through [throughout] the year. E. is in charge this year of the chapel, and I went up for her, -preached in the morning and held communion in the afternoon. - The weather has been very rainy and cold, but it changed to clear and warm. We took heaviest clothes but did not need them, -the foreign Week of Prayer began Sunday. - Everyone is talking "Boycott" but Am. flour and oil are everywhere in evidence.

All send love                      Will

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*[This letter dated Jan. 14, 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He has finally heard news from home and he discusses postage costs at length. They have had a Week of Prayer. Flora will be coming to China to teach. They are still living in the old Methodist house and hope to start building their own house on some land soon. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Hunt. SS.- I will look up this. W.

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last mail came in Thurs. evening. There was not a word from either home and we could not understand it. But Friday evening just as we were leaving the house to go over to consul Gracey's for dinner. At 8 p.m. the postman came with four letters, and the pleasant remark that we could have them by paying him 60 cents. The letters were all from our home friends. Two cents U.S. postage takes a letter of 1 oz. to Shanghai, - but it takes 54 to send it to Foochow. I address and stamp letters to the two homes and to the Y.M.C.A. rooms in N.Y., - with U.S. stamps. Then enclose these in another envelope, seal it, and address to the Y.M.C.A. office in Shanghai, paying 2 cents Chinese stamps for each ½ oz. They open the package and re-mail the letters to the U.S. in the U.S. Post office in Shanghai. Letters to strangers I usually pay 10 cents Chinese stamps and send direct from Foochow, because they are sure to reply with a 2 cent U.S. stamp. And then I must pay shortage 3 cents X 2= double the shortage 6 cents X 2= 12 cents mex. Or it costs us six cents gold to get a letter with 2 cents U.S. stamps. Well I am writing this just for your information. When we get such good news and so much of it, we deem it cheap for 60 cents.

The Week of Prayer has been very interesting and helpful this year. In every meeting we have had brought before us facts of the growth of the kingdom of God, in all parts of the world. This growth has been phenomenal in many lands. This fact together with the revivals in Foochow during the past two months has made the meetings very inspiring.

In addition to the union prayer meeting each afternoon, there were exercises in connection with commencements of Boys and Girls schools Mon, Tues, Wed, and Thurs.

I have bought over 2000 lbs. of potatoes- not all for ourselves - some for Flora when she comes [see note at end of letter]. The letters Fri. mentioned the tea for the first time- I am glad it arrived safely, and I hope you will be able to drink it.

We were specially glad to hear that Oliver was so well. Annie wrote Phebe that B-port was building up fast around them.

We hear much about the Boycott, and I see placards up in various places, yet Am. flour and oil are being carried thro the streets continually.

We are still in the old Meth. House. I have a promise of a piece of land on wh. to build. All are well and send love to all                      Will.

["Miss Beard, whose service here began in 1899 and ended in 1926, left her position as teacher of fifth grade in South Orange and from 1906 to 1909 taught in a school for the children of Missionaries in China. Coming back she became principal of First Street School from 1909 to 1914, when she went to China again to establish the North China American School at Tunghsien, twelve miles east of Peking. On her return she was appointed principal of the Montrose School in 1924. The school in China is a union institution founded by the American Board, the Methodist Episcopal Board, and the Presbyterian Board for the children of missionaries in the provinces of Chihli, Shantung and Shansi, as well as for other American and European children. The course of study, textbooks, supplies and the spirit of the school were all American, and, needless to say, directly in contact with the work done in the schools of South Orange." Page 205

Foster, Henry W.. *The evolution of the school district of South Orange and Maplewood New Jersey, 1814-1927.* Geneva, N.Y.: W.F. Humphrey Press, 1930.]

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[This typewritten letter dated **Jan. 19, 1906** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to mission supporter, Mr. E.B. Sturges of Scranton, PA. In it, he goes into great detail about a trip he took to Hing Hua and Ing Hok. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

#### Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>. 1906

Mr. E. B. Sturges,  
Scranton, Pa.  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Sturges:-

Will you accept an invitation to take a country trip with me? We start from our home in Foochow at 9:00 p.m. Thursday. Our outfit is a cotton bed 2-in. thick for a mattress and blankets to keep us warm, some extra clothes for a change when we have to travel in the rain and a basin, towel and other toilet articles. All these must go into a light bamboo basket and the whole must not weigh over 40 lbs. In another bamboo basket we put our food for the journey. This must also come within the 40 lb. limit. The two baskets are carried by one man on a stick across his shoulder.

The first night we sleep on a boat which, while we sleep goes down the Min River some ten miles, and we wake Friday morning to find ourselves anchored at the mouth of a creek leading inland from the river. As soon as the tide rises the boat carries us about ten miles further. Our breakfast is cooked over an earthen ware stove 8 in. in diam. and 10 in. high burning charcoal. By ten o'clock the boat reaches the extreme navigable point in the creek, and we start overland on foot. The bedding and food are carried by one man and three others carry a sedan chair in which we will ride part of the way. We are told that we have 8 puo or 24 miles to make that day in order to reach a certain village where there is a Christian chapel for the night. About noon the coolies are hungry and we all stop at a village where cooking is going on, and with the coolies we buy a bowl of rice and a bowl of sweet potatoes piping hot and taking some bread and jam from the food basket we eat dinner. Our chair is a log of wood or a stone, our table the flat top of the food basket- all out of doors in the open. The Chinese are eager to see the foreigner eat and crowd about on all sides. They are much interested in the bread and even reach to feel of it but are persuaded to feast on it with their eyes only. We are not over 20 miles in a direct line from Foochow, yet the brogue of the people is very pronounced and only a few can talk with us easily. It is pleasant to chat with them as we eat, and we are already accustomed to keeping our elbows in the all to make room to lift the food to our mouths.

Just as darkness comes on we reach the chapel. The "Prophet's chamber is in readiness with the wooden table and the loose boards on the two wooden stools for our bed. The table is not crumbed between courses so we are soon in bed preparing for the next day's journey of 25 miles. About 5:30 p.m. we approach the gate in the wall of Hing Hua City on the coast a short distance South from Foochow on the map. About 100 boys and young men are playing in a field near the gate. As we approach they gather near the road and one of them asks in good English if this is Mr. Beard. They prove to be a delegation of the students from the Meth schools in Hing Hua to welcome us. These hundred boys and young men make quite an imposing procession as they march thro the street of the city in their uniforms of black with yellow braid.

Sunday a.m. we speak in English and Rev. W.N. Brewster, senior member of the Meth. Mission in Hing Hua, translates for us. The church, seating 600 is full. The 160 boys and young men of the schools are there, and the

60 girls and women from the boarding schools are there, beside many business men and farmers from the city and surrounding country. Most of the 40 Theological students are away preaching for the day. In the evening Mr. Brewster translates again. We are only about 40 miles in a straight line from Foochow, yet Chinese from the two cities cannot understand each other.

Monday morning at 11:00 we meet the young men and boys only. The address is in the Foochow dialect and translated into the Hing Hua by a Chinese teacher in the school. The subject is "prayer." All but three of the students are professing Christians. But when asked how many pray each day only about 12 rose. They are asked to seriously think of the matter for 24 hours. Monday p.m. is filled with personal interviews. This is specially encouraging because it has been difficult to obtain these with Chinese young men.

Monday there is another address before the students of all schools. Tuesday until 11:00 a.m. we look over the mission plants: -preparatory school, high school where all students study English, theological school, industrial work, - weaving, printing, soap making, cabinet making, basket weaving (the product on sale at Marshall Field's, Chicago) furnish the means by which 100 students are paying their own way thro school. Then there are the buildings for work among women and girls and the residences for the missionaries.

At 11:00 a.m. the chapel is filled with 200 students and teachers. The Chinese teacher translates again as the address on "sin is" is given in Foochow dialect. At the close of the address 100 boys and young men are on their feet promising to meet God every morning in prayer.

Tuesday afternoon is filled with interviews. In the evening the meeting takes the form of confession and prayer. The worst man in school who has once been expelled, rises and confesses to having cheated in examinations and to having been disrespectful to his teachers, naming the teacher who is present. He himself leads in prayer. Prayer rises in volumes. At least 50 are praying at the same time. This continues for ten minutes. The Spirit is at work in the hearts of these young men and boys. We are confident that it is deep for all tell us that it began in the hearts of a few picked men who attended the Summer Conference held at Foochow in Sept. 1905.

Wed., Thurs., Fri. and Sat, we traveled 100 miles over the mountains stopping at Christian chapels at night and encouraging the workers. At 5:30 p.m. Sat. we reach Ing Hok City, a station of the Am. Board where we have worked four years. Sunday a.m., p.m. and evening we are with the church members the 20 boys in the school the workers in the hospital and the teachers. Mon. at 1:00 p.m. we take the boat down over the rapids of the Ing Hok river toward Foochow. All night the men work at the oars and tie up just as it begins to grow light Tues. a.m. We are six miles from home. At 9:00 a.m. we find the dear ones all safe.

Country touring is the cream of missionary work. The person who visits missions in foreign lands by touching the port cities and viewing the college buildings and other machinery of the work, meeting and speaking to hundreds and possibly thousands of students in these centers, thinks he has seen and knows the work. Never. The real missionary work is done in the quiet country places.

I think of Mrs. Boies and her daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Odell as on their way to China. Please remember Mrs. Beard and myself to Mrs. Sturges, Miss Sturges and your son.

Very Sincerely Yours,-

W.L. Beard

*[The following is handwritten.]*

Dear Folks at Home:-

I am sending you a copy of a letter that I am writing to Mr. Sturges, one of our supporters in Scranton, Pa. You may find something interesting or useful in it. The postman came again yesterday and offered us a letter from Putnam and one from Shelton for 44 cents. We paid it gladly, and got a lot of good news.

All are well and send love

Will.



This may be an example of the bamboo baskets that Willard referred to in the first paragraph of the above letter.  
[Photo from the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]

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*[This typewritten letter dated **Jan. 26, 1906** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to Mr. John R. Mott of New York City. It is a quarterly report of the work he has been doing with the Y.M.C.A. The letter is a carbon copy of the original which was sent to Mr. Mott. This copy he sends to the folks at home with a handwritten personal note at the end. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China Jan., 26<sup>th</sup>. 1906.

Mr. John R. Mott  
3 West 29<sup>th</sup>. St.

N.Y. City  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Mott:-

When my last quarterly report started for New York I was just getting about after a rest of six weeks in bed. It has been interesting during the past three months to watch the steady growth in strength and in weight from 140 lbs. in Oct. to the normal weight of 175 lbs. which was reached only two weeks ago.

We are still living in the Worley house of the Meth. Mission. Altho they expected to need it themselves the mission has kindly allowed us to remain. Archdeacon Wolfe of the C.M.S. has promised us the rent of a new house which he is now building, when it is completed. We hope to move into it before the hot weather next spring. Scarcely a day has passed during the purchasing of real estate. Just as I write I have the promise of a piece of land sufficiently large for one residence. This is only a promise. There is reason to hope the land will become ours, but until we have the deeds it will be unnecessary to report further.

I have already written you somewhat fully of the revivals in the Anglo-Chinese College and in the A.B.C.F.M. College here, showing that God used the Associations in these colleges as the instrument thro which he worked and also that these revivals had their source in the Student Summer Conference held here last Sept. Quite recently I have sent to you a full account of my visit to Hing Hua and the results, - 100 young men pledged to keep the morning watch.

At Christmas time I visited Pagoda Anchorage and two places inland from there, also the Anglo Chinese College in connection with the Foochow Arsenal. This school is entirely under Chinese control, with no foreign influence of any kind as far as I could ascertain. We were very kindly received by two of the Chinese teachers and several of the students. On an invitation to come again I arranged to go the next week with Mr. McLachlin. A Chinese Preacher of a self supporting chapel about half an hours walk from the college was also invited to meet us at the college. The head master of the college met us very pleasantly and showed us over the buildings. There are four Chinese teachers and 44 students. Engineering and Navigation are the two principal courses. Some of the graduates go into the Arsenal, some on board the gunboats. The text books are in English, and the teaching is all in English. Four of the students are interested in Christianity. While distinctively Christian work cannot be done inside the college, yet the chapel referred to above makes a point of contact for such work. We left a few copies of "China's Young Men", accepted the invitation of the head master to go to his house and during tea, looked at his library of English books and left with the hope of following up the opportunity next year (Chinese).

In Oct. I spent six evenings with leading women workers of the Meth and Eng. Missions. These women are the mothers of the young men whom we must influence to enter Christian service. In Nov. and Dec. I was with five churches of Foochow in special evangelistic services for over two weeks. These services and other special occasions have afforded opportunities for over 40 addresses in Chinese during the quarter.

To my mind the most significant step taken by the church in Foochow during the year was the organization of the "Foochow Revival Society" about Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1905. As far as I know the idea was evolved and the society organized entirely by the Chinese the society is one of the fruits of the reports of the good work done in Amoy a year ago and of the Welsh revival. The three missions in Foochow are united in this movement. For the first two months delegates from each church in and about Foochow met monthly, semi-monthly, weekly, listened to earnest addresses and prayed much. About the middle of Dec. the City Evangelistic Band was formed entirely of volunteers. These were about 30 in number, - from all three missions and from all occupations, - pastors, teachers, colporters, carpenters, shopkeepers and other business men. These meet each Sunday afternoon for half an hour's prayer service then go out on the streets and tell men of Christ. The first Sunday they were in front of the Foochow Viceroy's Yamen. Last Sunday in two different places a crowd was seen gathered about a single man who was telling them of salvation. Thus far on conservative estimates over 12,000 people have heard the Truth from members of this band. There has been no opposition and the crowds have invariably been respectful and attentive. When a Chinese business man preaches, with no eloquence, - merely saying over one sentence, as one man did recently, "I am a Christian. I believe Jesus Christ. It is better to worship God than to worship idols", - the charge cannot be made to him that he is talking for foreigner's money. I hope for much from this society.

After much prayer and consultation with missionaries and leading Chinese workers, we have asked two English speaking Chinese to help us in the work next year. Both men are second generation Christians trained in mission schools, and for four or five years have done excellent Christian work, and from all sources we hear only good concerning their character, ability and efficiency. Their salary will be about \$375 mex. each for the year, or \$375 gold for the two. Toward this we have the \$100 gold asked for our personal teachers. The Balance I guarantee. Neither of the men has yet accepted. If one or both do accept, we shall ask the International Committee if they are willing to meet the expense. I do not think it will increase our budget, but it will need a transfer of items.

You will also recall that just before leaving the U.S. I turned into the treasury of the International Committee thro Mr. Wilson of the Washington D.C. Association a check for \$200. from one of the Corby brothers of the Corby Bakery, 2301-2307 Brightwood Ave Washington, D.C. I wrote Mr. Andersen that it would not accord with Mr. Corby's wish to have this used for salary. He desired to give it toward the opening of a chapel or something in that line. It has not seemed to me wise to use it in that way. I am quite certain Mr. Corby would be pleased to have it go toward the support of one of these young men if they accept our proposition.

Very Sincerely Yours,

W.L. Beard.

[The following was written by hand.]

Dear Folks at Home:-

How does it suit you to have me sending copies of these report letters and a word in private at the end like this? I expect you really get more from me than if I did not send these to you. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Chinese New Year. The New Year's day- yesterday was a very lovely day. A crisp air and the sun shone bright all day. Today has been cloudy and it rained this evening. I am wondering what the men think now who told me yesterday that when it was pleasant on New Year's day it would be pleasant for a long time afterward.

This afternoon began the Chinese Week of Prayer. The three missions meet together for this. It was one of the best Chinese prayer meetings that I ever attended. Yesterday we were entirely devoid of servants. We sent them all home on the last day of the Chinese year to stay till today. Ellen asked Mr. and Mrs. Gardner and their six children over for dinner. We had a table full of children- all nearly of a size. The oldest Gardner boy is 14 but he is only slightly larger than Phebe. There were children enough to make a respectable football team. We gave Gould a football for Christmas and they all had a jolly good time with it yesterday. On Tues. evening Ellen had what is called in high Foochow Society a "dinner party," fourteen of us from the U.S. and Ireland and Eng. ate together. On Wed. evening I was one of a "Stag party" of six to meet a young man just out from Dublin University for work in Fu Ning- 100 miles north from Foochow on the coast.

Have I written that Phebe's Christmas presents came all right and we send thanks for them. Just after Christmas until now, I have been too busy to be at all social- except as I was forced into it. This report should have been off Jan. 1-5. Tomorrow I have about two hours more of writing and then I'm going to hold up a bit and help Ellen hang some pictures. We have been thinking we might move almost any time so have not hung many pictures. But now that we have decided to stay here for a couple of months we may fix up a bit.

All are well and all send love

Will.

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[This letter dated **Feb. 11, 1906** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. It is the time of the Chinese New Years vacation and he and the children went to a Chinese Lantern Festival and purchased some. He just had his 41<sup>st</sup> birthday and Ellen had a surprise party for him. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1906.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last two letters from Foochow went as a sort of tail end of reports. They however served to let you know how we were. During the last three weeks the schools have been closed for the Chinese New Years vacation, and week before last many of the foreignized stores, the Printing Press, Banks etc. were closed, so comparative quiet reigned. This gave one time to do some writing that had long been waiting.

A week ago yesterday the children and I went into the streets to see the lanterns. Friday was the day of the Chinese Lantern Festival, and for ten days previous to the festival, certain streets are occupied by the vendors of paper lanterns, made in all conceivable shapes. Each of the children selected a lantern as we walked along. Then we stopped, only for an instant and the crowds became almost crushing. So after the children had made their selection I took them into a shop where I was known and left them in the back room while I went out and bought the lanterns. Here are some of the bargains. The man of whom I bought Gould's lantern asked 45 cents. He accepted 20 cents and carried the lantern - a large one- half way home for me. Another man wanted 10 cents a piece for the round globe lanterns about 8 in. diam. He let me have 6 for 10 cents. When these lanterns had the candles in them and lit they made a very showy appearance in the evening. We talk every year about how we wish it were feasible to take

some of them home to the U.S. but it is almost impossible. They are so fragile. They are intended to furnish a few days or evenings of sport, and then are used up, and next year new ones are made. The lantern Festival was last Friday. That day a few lanterns were displayed. On Sat. you could hardly find one.

Today the Young Men's Bible Class met for the fourth time. There were 12 present.

Last Monday was my 41<sup>st</sup> birthday. The children had conspired with Ellen to have a party. It was very amusing to hear the secrets kept, and to see the expressions when I looked surprised as for instance when Phebe read aloud one of the letters accepting the invitation in my presence before she thought of it.

Last Wed. the missionaries gave up to prayer, -three sessions- a.m., p.m., and evening. Each session was devoted mostly to prayer. On that day Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard, Mrs. Hartwell, Teddy, Nela, and Christine came up. Some of them have been with us until yesterday afternoon. The Am. Board had a business meeting Thursday. The Hubbards started home Friday afternoon but the wind was dead ahead and the waves so fierce that they dared not go on so we had all but Nela, who went to Ponasang, another day. They went home yesterday p.m. The children have made things lively for four days. How is Foochow tea?

An Am. mail has just arrived- No letters from you yet. They may come in tomorrow.

The young man who is to help in the Y.M.C.A. work this year arrived in Foochow from Ku Cheng 100 miles N.W. yesterday. I trust this will mean much for the works here. I'll close this here with - we are all well. - There may be more news before the mail goes.

Lovingly

Will

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*[This letter dated **Feb. 17, 1906** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks in Shelton. In it, he announces the birth of another daughter (Marjorie). He briefly refers to troubles in Amoy, but that all is quite in his region. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Dear Folks in Shelton:-

This morning at 3:30 a little girl came to our home much to the joy of her sisters and brother. Phebe said a little while ago its too bad for Gould tho. not to have a little brother to play with.

Ellen awoke at 2:00 o'clock. The Dr. arrived about 2:30 and left about 4:00. We went back to bed and slept till 6:45. Every thing went as nicely as possible.

We have been too busy to name her as yet. Ellen talked of Marjorie but the children do not like it.

You doubtless hear of the troubles near Amoy. All is quiet as far as [I] know in this region.

All send love to all

Will.

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*[This typewritten letter was written **after Feb. 17, 1906** from Foochow, China. It is from Willard to the folks at home. He talks about a new cousin that was born in Bridgeport, CT (Leolyn M. Seaver Beard). He talks about his own children and how happy everyone is that Willard's sister Flora is coming to China to teach. He expresses concern about his sister Ruth's illness. He talks about some of the Chinese colleges and the opportunities for them to get in them to teach English and Christianity. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[After Feb. 17, 1906]

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last mail brought a letter from you to Geraldine. This told us of the arrival of the new cousin in Bridgeport, and of the illness of Ruth. We trust that Leolyn and the baby [*On Jan. 26, 1906, young Leolyn M. Seaver Beard was born to James and Leolyn Seaver Smith Beard.*] are doing well. And we hope for the best news about Ruth. Flora writes that she is planning to come out in the Autumn. I have just pounded off a few lines to her regarding this. Both Ellen and I tried to write you by the last mail but both of us failed. No news was good news this time however. Both Ellen and Marjorie are doing the perfectly proper things every day. Marjorie does not kick unless she feels badly, not even when I do not bathe her every day, as I am not doing today. She knows that the night is the time for sleep, and she is coming to know that the day is for activity. Ellen has not had any pain since Marjorie came, she sat up about two hours yesterday in a chair. When the children heard of the arrival of the little



cousin we were at the supper table. They made such a clapping and shouted so that Ellen heard them up stairs with the doors all closed. There is also great rejoicing over the news that Flora is planning to come out for the school.

We have one opening into one of the Chinese Colleges in the City, and have entered it. I have the privilege of meeting about twenty five young men one hour a week to use the time as I like. It was given out that I was to lecture to them on Christianity last Saturday. Most of these boys know nothing about Christianity. We have visited the Highest Government College in the City and there is reason to hope that we shall get into it to teach English. Another college wants music and we hope to supply it thro one of our Chinese secretaries. Another Military college wants preaching- at least we are told so, and we are on the watch to get into this college also.

Keep us posted with regard to Ruth.

Very lovingly,  
Will Feb. 1906

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*[This letter dated **March 25, 1906** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He has been visiting the Chinese Colleges to find a way to work in them and have influence there. He talks of his family and of new baby Marjorie. Mrs. Boies is coming to Foochow with a group and wants Willard to find a hotel, but he will have them stay with his family as there are no good hotels worth staying in. Willard, Gould and Mr. McLachlin hiked to the Kushan Monastery on Kushan Mountain to ask if the Buddhist Priests would rent out part of the monastery for their Summer Conference and were told "no". Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China March 25<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Dear Folks at Home:-

During the past two weeks I have done very little writing of any kind. This last week on Tues., Fri. and Sat. I went into the city to visit the Chinese Colleges. This means a long half day each time. We have been doing regular work in two Colleges for over two weeks, and one of the Chinese Assistant Secretaries has preached in another this a.m. We have not yet got into the highest Government Schools.- That is to do regular work and we have been into the colleges and had a pleasant call with both teachers and students, and negotiations are still going which we hope will end in admitting us to the colleges so that we shall have influence there.

Ellen and Marjorie are both doing the proper things every day. Marjorie was five weeks old yesterday. She celebrated her fifth week birth night by sleeping from 9 o'clock Fri. night till 6 o'clock Sat. morning. She seldom wakes more than once during the night and then eats and goes right to sleep with out a word. Ellen is all about just as usual. The other children are well and- tell Flora, are developing fast. This evening the three older ones kept themselves and their parents nearly convulsed reciting the attempts of a carpenter, who has been working for us, to speak English. The children enjoyed using his tools and while they were with him he asked them how to say various words in English- of course he made laughable work on many of the words. We have had three wash stands and two commodes and a cheffonier [*a cabinet with doors for storage of linens or other odds and ends*] and two dressers made of the pine boards that our goods were shipped in from the U.S. Ellen is getting to be an architect of no mean reputation- she has designed the different pieces. When stained or painted these pieces of furniture cannot be detected from good hard wood pieces- unless closely examined.

How is Ruth? We have heard nothing since the letter that told of her operation.

For the past three Saturdays we have spent the afternoon in planning for the Summer Conference. Yesterday we finished the program.

A hard thunder storm is on as I write. We have had several during the past three weeks.

I think the deputation from the Woman's Board of the Interior has come to Foochow since I wrote you. Mrs. Moses Smith, Misses Star and Beebe. They went to Ing Hok last Monday.

A week ago yesterday we received a letter from Mrs. Boies of Scranton, Pa, U.S.A. written at Calcutta, saying that she and her party planned to reach Singapore March 14<sup>th</sup>- spend a few days there and in Hong Kong, and then come to Foochow. She asked me to engage "three double rooms at the best hotel" for them. There is one hotel here which no one allows any friend to stop at. Business men- such as dentists, piano tuners, etc. say it is hard to eat the food and meals are served at any time when the proprietor gets thro playing cards. So we have hired extra servants and plan to keep them ourselves.-good night- while I help bathe the queen of the house, - and get a nights rest- more tomorrow.

Monday a.m. - Last week was very warm- with one cool day- Thursday. Mr. McLachlin, Gould and I started on that day at 7:30 a.m., took a boat down the river about five miles to the foot of Kushan mountain- then

walked up to Kushan Monastery- stopped there an hour- asked them if they would rent part of the Monastery to us to hold the Summer Conference, they said "No." It took only a little "brass" facedness to ask these heathen Buddhist Priests- idol worshippers- to let us hold a Conference of Christian workers in the same halls with their idols. Then we walked on to Kuliang reaching our own cottage there at 1:10 p.m. The way food disappeared when we got to work at the lunch would make the wheat growers in the west of the U.S. happy. Gould did eat as if he was half starved. After lunch we viewed Mr. McLachlin's new house and a hole in the side of a hill, as yet and then started for home reaching there at 6:30 p.m. to find four men in my study to sell land I bought another piece. If all goes well this will make enough for our two houses.

You have not written anything about the troubles in China. Mrs. McLachlin's people are very anxious and many are writing anxious letters, but all goes on as usual here.

All send love to all  
Will.

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The Huntington Hills  
Published Quarterly by Rev. F. A. Holden, Shelton, Conn.  
Volume One, Number 1, pg. 17  
April, 1906

Rev. Willard Beard, a former resident of Huntington, is at Feechow [*Foochow*], China. He was a missionary of the American Board but is now employed by the Young Men's Christian Association in missionary work. He is one of the most efficient of our young men in China. Both he and his family have suffered illness the past year but have now recovered. A welcome letter from him was read at our annual meeting, telling of the marked religious interest there.

Washington's birthday was observed by a tea party at the parsonage. The tea used was sent by Mr. Beard from China.

[*"The Huntington Hills" is from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.*]

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[*This letter dated April 2, 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. It is a brief note saying that they are all well. They are getting ready to host Mrs. Boies and her group in their home for about a week. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.*]

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1906

Dear Folks at Home:-

I can write only a line or two to let you know that we all are well, and happy. We have not heard from any one at home since I wrote last. We want especially to know how Ruth and Leolyn are.

Mrs. Boies cabled that she planned to start from Hong Kong Friday last. This should bring her to Foochow tomorrow. We suppose that in the party are Mrs. Boies, her two daughters, Rev. and Mrs. Odell = her pastor. We hope they may have to stay a week. They wrote asking us to engage rooms- three double suits in the best Hotel. We have hired a second cook and another "boy", and will take the Boies ourself, the Macs will take Mr. and Mrs. Odell.

We are planning to live them out. I do not know whether we shall succeed.

More next time.

Hoping all are well  
With Love  
Will

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[*This letter dated April 15, 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. They are now the owners of a piano and daughter, Phebe is taking violin lessons. Mrs. Boies and her group has come and gone. While there, Willard hired extra people to cook and clean. Willard tells about the various activities during the week of the visit. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.*]

## Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China April 15<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My correspondence register does not tell the truth for it says I wrote last over a month ago. This I am sure is false. I am writing in a room where the ther. is 74 degrees above, - the hottest and sultriest yet. We have had a good Easter tho. with no rain. Ellen and the four older children attended the English service this a.m. Marjorie and I looked after the house. Marjorie wanted a lunch soon after her mother was out of sight. A rag wet in water and a little sugar tied in the rag was an effective charm.

Two weeks ago we became the owners of a piano. The Commissioner of Customs- Mr. E.B. Drew,- an American, is about to leave on furlough and wanted to sell. The piano was made in Chicago and has been in Foochow only about 7 or 8 years,- it is among the best in Foochow. We gave \$300. mex for it. Phebe is taking violin lessons and doing nicely- on the two strings left to her violin.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, Gould, Geraldine and I got up at 4:30 a.m. and took the launch at 6:00 a.m. to meet the steamer on which were coming Mrs. H.M. Boies, her daughters Ethel and Helen, and her pastor and his wife Dr. J.H. Odell and Mrs. Odell. The steamer arrived about 8:30 a.m. We found all the friends all right, and between 10 and 11 o'clock we all reached home. Mr. and Mrs. Odell were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin. The others by us. While they were here life was rather strenuous for us. They had written me to engage for them three double rooms in the best Hotel in Foochow. Well Foochow people never allow their friends to go to the Hotel. So we engaged the best cook we could find in Foochow and an extra man to wait on table etc. and an extra man to do rough work and promised our own servants tips and told our cook who was to do all the purchasing of food that we must have things right without regard to cost. So we had a bevy of six men and two women to keep straight all the time and for some of the dinners there were three or four extra men. Oh yes there was another woman to wash the house all the time.

Tues. p.m. Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin and Mr. and Mrs. Odell came over and had afternoon tea with us and we decided on the program for the time the friends were with us. Wed. a.m. Mrs. Boies wanted to see some lacquer work and the Bank. In the afternoon the monthly Concert of Prayer was held at our home. I was to have charge. Mr. Odell spoke of the revival in the Punjab, India. There was a very large attendance. After Mr. Odell's talk Dr. Wilkinson (C.M.S.) spoke of his work among opium smokers.

Wed. evening we invited the Presidents and their wives and some of the foreign teachers of the Colleges in which there are Y.M.C.A.s, to dinner. There were 19 at dinner.

Thurs. a.m. all the friends Mr. Mac and I went into the city. Before starting Mr. Odell addressed some 600 students of both sexes in the schools of the M.E. Mission. They met in the large church for morning prayers at 8 a.m. After Mr. Odell, Mr. Boies spoke a few words of greeting to them. Thurs. p.m. Mr. Odell addressed an audience of 600 young men at Gen Cio Dong= Dudley Mem'l. Thurs. evening all took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin and some friends.

Friday a.m. Mrs. Boies visited the Girl's schools of the M.E. and C.M.S. Missions. Ellen went with her. In the afternoon a reception was held for the friends of Mr. McLachlins. In the evening we had invited eight of the representative young Chinese men to dine with the friends. At this dinner Mrs. Boies met the leaders in Christian work in the College and outside of the colleges. She was much interested with a young physician who is Dr. Rennie's assistant in the native hospital. Monday a.m. she visited the hospital and left \$50.00 gold for it.

Sat. Mrs. Boies, Mr. and Mrs. Odell and I went into the city to see the Am. Board col., took lunch with the friends there, stopped in the p.m. at a fan shop and bought \$25.00 of fans,- then visited the Blind Sch. for Boys and Men's Hospital under Dr. and Mrs. Wilkinson C.M.S.

Sun. Mrs. Boies spoke to M.E. Girls at 2 p.m. Mr. Odell preached in English at 3 p.m. At 4:30 p.m. the Y.M.C.A. bible Classes met (33 present). Mr. Odell talked with the class which uses the English language, and then spoke thro an interpreter to the combined class.

This finished the work. Monday at 5:30 p.m. we i.e. the five friends, Mac and I started for the steamer. Some 20 young Chinese men waved the chataqua salute [*the waiving of handkerchiefs*] to them as the house boat swung out into the stream. Just at 12 midnight we said "good bye" to them on the steamer and the house boat hoisted sail and we were on our way home.

After looking over the property which we have bought and seeing the house now standing on it which we had thought of repairing and changing, Mrs. Boies handed me a check for \$1000 gold and said the house must be torn down and a brand new one built.

Last Monday was Easter Monday, and there was the usual long service- the large church was crowded-packed at both a.m. and p.m. sessions. The ther. stood at 78 degrees in the evening. Yesterday Wed. it dropped to 60 degrees. The service of Monday was very inspiring. Everyone was happy and pleased.

Tues. Mac and I went to Kuliang. He is building a cottage.

We are all well. Marjorie was vaccinated last Sat. and feels a little punish. Mac and I start for Shanghai- I take Gould along to visit with Mr. Lyon's little boy, - about April 28<sup>th</sup>.

All send love to all

Will.

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Written on back of a copy of one of these photos: "Two months old Marjorie Taken in Methodist"  
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

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*[This letter dated April 29, 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He has met with the Y.M.C.A. Constitution and Bylaws Committee and with the Commissioner of Education and of Rail Roads. Willard's house plans are ready and he includes a little sketch in his letter. Word of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake has reached China. Willard is taking Gould with him to the Y.M.C.A. Secretary's Conference in Shanghai. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China

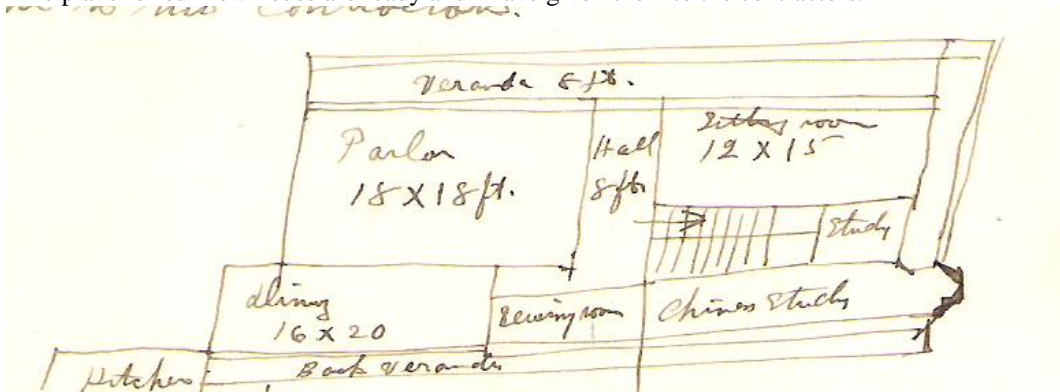
April 29<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Dear Folks at Home:-

It seems that I wrote you two weeks ago. The past two weeks have gone as usual very swiftly. Last Sunday at 3:00 p.m. a Comm. met to talk about the Y.M.C.A. Constitution and Bylaws. The Bible Classes meet at 4:30 p.m. At 4:10 we had not finished the first article of the constitution. I began to wonder what we should do for when the young men came for Bible Study the Comm. would have to stop its work. But just then it began to rain torrents, and this kept up for two hours. The Comm. sat straight thro till seven o'clock and finished work. I did not feel much like writing letters that evening.

A week ago yesterday Mr. Arnold the new acting Vice Consul (Consul and Mrs. Gracey have gone home on furlough) and I went into the city to see Ding Baik Cieng the Commissioner of Education and of Rail Roads in Fukien Province. Mr. Arnold took Mr. Ding's photo. We had a good audience over two hours with the Commissioner.

The plans for our new house are ready and I have given them to the contractors.



That is a very poor drawing but you can get a little idea of the plan. The room 12 X 15 above the sitting room will likely be Flora's.

I took Marjorie's photo the other day and am sending you some of them, the one with Marjorie's face close to Ellen's is very bad. I send the other just as a sample- altho it is very poor. Will you give the one marked to Ben and Abbie.

A week ago today we heard the first news about the earthquake in San Francisco. It shocked the whole community. Dr. and Mrs. Whitney of the Am. Board have two sons in the city. But I think they feel somewhat relieved about them. Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Wolfe have a son there also. They are much exercised.

The Y.M.C.A. Secretary's Conference for Korea, China and Hong Kong is held in Shanghai May 4-10. Mac and I plan to attend and we are planning to take Gould with us. Mrs. Lyon has invited him to come to see their son David- about Gould's age. The woman folks will thus be left alone in the house.

Shanghai May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 p.m.

Gould and I reached here last evening at 10 o'clock- slept on steamer- got up this a.m. and found breakfast. Then found our rooms etc. Gould is at Mr. Lyon's with David, their son about Gould's age. Gould had a great time on the steamer. I did as I usually do on this trip- went to bed when the steamer left the river Min and got up when she entered the Yangste [Yangtze],- yesterday p.m. Gould had the run of the ship to do as he liked, and he thoroughly enjoyed it.

We left Ellen and the girls all well last Monday evening.

All send love to all

Will.

I send only two photos this time.

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[This letter dated **May 14, 1906** was written from Shanghai, China by Willard to the folks at home. He and Gould are there for a Y.M.C.A. Secretary's Conference. Gould gets to visit with Mr. Lyon's son, David. There are now 25 secretaries for the Y.M.C.A. in China and an interesting part of the work is with the Literate problem. The man who is the Chinese Literate has gone from being old fashioned and proud to wanting to know everything foreign. The old Confucian Examination system is gone. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China May 14<sup>th</sup> 1906. [Letter written on Y.M.C.A. Stationary that is pre-printed with "Foochow, China".]

Dear Folks at Home:-

Gould and I have been in Shanghai since Wed. 10 p.m. May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We slept on the steamer that night, - took breakfast on shore in the morning. The Y.M.C.A. Secretaries' Conference began Friday morning May 4<sup>th</sup> and closed at 10:30 last evening= May 10. Any kind of a Convention or Conference is hard work and this one has been no exception. I have found it very difficult to get time even to write two short letters to Ellen during the time we have been here. Gould is getting tired too. He and David Lyon have visited rather hard- at night when they should have been asleep. One night they returned with the promise of or rather to take a cold plunge in the morning. At 3:30 a.m. Mr. Lyon was wakened by noise and on getting up found the two boys up and preparing to jump into the bath tub. Of course they went back to bed but I am afraid not to sleep.

I have just heard that a steamer is likely to leave for Foochow on Wed. morning, so there is hope that we may get home sometime. The Conf. closed last Thurs. evening. It is now Monday. Time does not hang heavy on our hands but one had much rather be at home.

Yesterday I preached in the Foochow dialect to about 40 Foochow speaking people. Today I plan to go out to see Gilbert Reid and his International Institute, and get if possible 2 photographs for Miss Newton which she sent to the St. Louis Exposition and which were in some way diverted from their intended destination in the rooms of the Woman's Am. Board in Boston. Then I plan to go on the Nang Yang College take tiffin and after tiffin meet some of the Foochow boys in Nang Yang Coll. I plan to take Gould with me. It is a ride of 5 miles in a richsha. We will likely take two men- one to pull and one to push. This Coll. is entirely under China's control. They have two or more foreign instructors, one of whom is Lacy M. Sites Ph.D. - son of a former Foochow missionary. He and his sister- both born in Foochow live in a nice house adjoining the Coll.

In 1901 there were 4 Y.M.C.A. Secretaries in China. There were present at this Conference 20, four did not come. One is at home. So there are now 25. One of the most interesting parts of the work is that in connection with the Literate problem. In 1901 the International Comm. were asked to find and send out several men to make a specialty of the Literate problem. At that time the Chinese Literate was a conservative, proud, long-gowned, round-shouldered man always having a know-it-all air about him, and always disdaining anything foreign. But this man has gone thro a complete revolution during the last 5 years. He has not yet stopped revolting. He has put on gold-bowed spectacles for his tortoise-shell goggles; he has pulled his head up on top of his shoulders; he is progressive, less proud, and anxious to know things foreign. 10,000 of them are today in Japan, -with the determination of learning all there is to know of western knowledge in two years!!! And this thro the medium of the Japanese and English languages- not a sentence of which they understand when they leave China. The old system of examination is all gone [*Confucian Examination System*]. The old examination Hall in Foochow with its 13000 stalls is slowly disappearing. No one yet knows on what basis degrees will be given.

All this changes the problem of the men who were sent out especially for work among The Literate. But it makes the problem much less technical. In Foochow we are now actually working among these people in the College in Foochow city.

Well it is most breakfast time and the mail for the U.S. closes today here in [*unreadable word*] so I must close and seal this.

The word from Foochow was a good one- all were well.

We are looking for word from Flora giving something definite about her coming out next fall.

With love to all

Will.

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[This letter dated **June 9, 1906** written from Foochow, China by the China Merchants S.N. Co. to Willard refers to a trip that Willard and son Gould made. Gould truly was 9 years old, his birth date being Nov. 13, 1896. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

#### Memorandum

From

China Merchants S.N. Co.

Foochow, June 9<sup>th</sup> 1906

Mr. Beard.

Dear Sir,

We just received an instruction from our Shanghai Office Stating that they have been informed by the Captain that the child who took passage with you in Shanghai on the 28<sup>th</sup> April per S.S. "Fungshien"[?] has been proved to be 15 years old instead of 9 years old. But in the return ticket which we gave you we charged the child only half fare. We are therefore instructed to collect \$22.50 from you again. We shall feel obliged by you forwarding the amount to us.

Yours faithfully  
[unreadable]

P.T.O.

P.S. Children under 12 years old are allowed half fare according to this Company's rules.

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*[This letter dated **June 17, 1906** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He went for a brief visit to Ing Hok the previous week. He expresses concern for two of his sister's health – Ruth and Elizabeth. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China June 17<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The penciled letter enclosed was written a week ago but I wished copies made to send to Putnam and to Dwight Goddard. I was in Ing Hok during the week and after the copies were made the letter still remained and I am sending it in tomorrow's mail.

I was off for Ing Hok last Monday at 7 a.m. Reached there to take dinner with Mr. Smith Tuesday noon. The heat was not very bad and the weather was endurable all the week. I spoke at the Conference of the workers of the field, on Tues., Wed., and Thursday evenings beside attending all the sessions (5) of the Conference. We started for Foochow by boat from Ing Hok about 2:30 from Friday and I reached home yesterday about 10 a.m. and found all well. How Marjorie does grow!! She is now practicing for an oration- she has not divulged the topic or the occasion on which it is to be delivered. I can hear her talking up stairs now,- and from the noise I know her talk is very amusing to her mother, sisters and brother who are with her.

The mail which came last week brought news of Ruth's convalescence, and of Elizabeth's going to the Hospital or Sanitorium. We are praying God to very graciously heal both these dear sisters. The same mail told us that Flora's resignation was accepted and her face was China ward.

For two weeks now we have had quite steady hot weather. The family have however stood it pretty well. Marjorie and Dorothy have a little prickly heat. We hope to be on the mountain a week from today. Phebe is 11 yrs. old tomorrow. Leolyn's letter came by last mail.

I am to deliver the address at the Graduation of the students at Dr. Woodhull's Hospital day after tomorrow.

May God be merciful and comforting to you all, and keep you Lovingly Will.

*[Flora graduated from the State Normal School (now Central Connecticut State University) in New Britain. After graduating in 1890, she taught for 2 ½ years in Talcottville, CT.]*

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*[This letter dated **July 1, 1906** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He left Foochow by houseboat to go to Hok Chiang for two trials. He describes one of them and how he intervened. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Young Men's Christian Association

Ngu Cheng  
Foochow, China, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1906.

Dear Folks at Home-

Last Monday Ellen, the children and I went to the mountain. I got things fixed up that day and went back to Foochow Tuesday a.m. Wed. about noon the Am. Consul wrote me that the Chinese Deputy who was appointed to

go with me to Hok Chiang to investigate some charges of persecution was coming at 2:30 p.m. to meet me and arrange to start. The same letter asked me to take dinner with him in the evening.

At 9:00 p.m. I left the Consulate and at 10 o'clock I was going down the river on a house boat. The next morning at 7:00 we left the boat and got breakfast and started for the 18 mile journey. For the first two hours it was very hot, but about 10:00 a fine breeze came up and it was comfortable the rest of the way. We reached Hok Chiang a little after 5 p.m. I went to the home of Mr. Carpenter. He was planning to start early next morning for Kuliang, but left the house for me to live in while in Hok Chiang.

Friday I called on the Hok Chiang magistrate and the Chinese Deputy and arranged for trying the cases- put two on for Saturday afternoon. They tried to bring them on Sunday, - then put them off till Monday. But a little insistence placed them for Sat. - The Hok Chiang magistrate takes so much opium that he has no conscience and little mind or body left for any work.

At 2:00 p.m. yesterday I was on hand but had to wait till 3:00 before all was ready for the trial. It is not pleasure, looked at from any view point. The poor people who are questioned kneel on the stone floor- this was a little more than I could stand and after a quarter of an hour I told them to sit on the floor. Then the official (Chinese) cannot speak the dialect and a yamen underling does the translating. He yells at the side which he does not favor and asks the questions in an insulting manner, but is very suave toward the side which has put \$10.00 in his hands. Well I called him down. A woman said she had been beaten and cut by one of the persecutors. I called her to me and looked at the scars and made the Deputy look at them. Then I asked her why she had not shown them to the official, who sat nearby. She said she had done so. I asked if the official had not punished the man who beat her she said "no." This was tough on the opium sort of an official but he had to take it.

We did not finish this first case yesterday. We sat there from 3-6:30 p.m. and it was hard work. I then took a Chinese supper and Mr. Caldwell and I started at 7:15 for Ngu Cheng 14 miles distant. We arrived at 11:15, - this morning I preached here in Chinese. Tomorrow plan to start for Hok Chiang at 5:00 a.m.

Love to all            Will.

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*[This typewritten letter dated **July 14, 1906** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at Shelton. It is a brief letter and mentions that it is probably the last letter Flora will receive before she leaves for China and he hopes that sisters Ruth and Elizabeth are doing better. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China

July 14<sup>th</sup>. 1906.

Dear Folks at Shelton:-

I have been trying to get a letter in the post for you all the week. The mail goes in half an hour so I can only write enough to tell you that we are well, and most interested in the letters that come from Connecticut. Oliver wrote recently. I mailed the letter to him on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Shanghai. He answered it on June 4<sup>th</sup> and I received his reply July 10<sup>th</sup>. This is very speedy work.

I suppose this is about the last letter Flora will receive from us before she leaves. I am looking carefully for the date of her sailing and the route she plans to take. We have not burdened her with things to buy for us. The fact is we have too many things now. And we know what it is to be loaded down with a lot of errands for others. It is nice to be helpful tho.

I hope Ruth is continuing in the good road to strength and that Elizabeth is doing well. When Ben [Willard's brother] gets all his business so systematized that it will run itself and he finds nothing to do and his bank account is so large that the vaults are in danger of bursting, he and Abbie and Wells must take a trip around the world and stop a time with us.

The mail is closing so Good Bye.

With lots of Love from us all,

Will

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*[This letter dated **Sept. 5, 1906** was probably written from Foochow, China and was written by 11 year old Phebe Kinney Beard to her grandma. She mentions that her papa (Willard) has been sick for four weeks but is getting better, as are Geraldine and Dorothy. She talks about a pretty moth in Gould's room. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*



Sept. 5, 1906

Dear grandma,

Papa has been sick for four weeks today and he has seemed to be gaining five days and is getting well all the time. Now, Geraldine and Dorothy are getting better, too. Today is papa's and momma's eleventh wedding anniversary.

Last night papa heard something fluttering and did not know what it was. This morning we found out. Gould this morning on the windowsill which his cloths were, he saw a beautiful yellow moth. At the top of his wings he has a kind of gray priest color, then two kind of maple leaves in the middle of the whole moth. Then there are spots which are black, then "Dorothy's Writing" so, mmmm. Only a little more spread out.

Mamma is going to ask Doctor for some medicine to put him to sleep with, when she comes to see papa.

With much love,  
Phebe K.

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*[This letter dated Sept. 9, 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. The Summer Conference has been going on for two weeks and ends that night. He mentions many of the difficulties that affected the conference that year. Willard's house is nearly all walled in. They expect to hear that Flora has left the U.S. and look forward to her arrival in China. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China.  
Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Dear Folks at Home:-

It has been a long time since I have sat down to write a leisurely letter to you. I am at that task now, with a feeling of pleasure. All summer long I have been trying to catch up the correspondence that had been put off during the spring and early summer because I was away from home. The last letter of that work I mailed Friday- day before yesterday- nine pages of answers to questions for a paper on "Education" to be read at the "Centinery Conference" in Shanghai next Apr. and May. My work in the Summer Conference for students here was finished today at 11:00 o'clock. I hope for a vacation of almost two weeks now with only two spots to write during the time.

Friday Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> I came down from the mountain for the Conference which began Sat. evening and which closes this evening. God has been working in ways that none of us could have thought of during the week and indeed during the year- in ways that materially affected the Conference.

1. The Anglo-Chinese Coll. of the M.E. mission had trouble between the Pres. and the students in May. Students all left, and the Coll. closed. We were to hold the Conference in one of the buildings of this Coll. and the heads of the entertainment Comm. were students of this Coll. When they went home, these important Comms. also went home and we had to plan to borrow, rent or buy such things as mosquito curtains, pillows, bed coverings, lamps, tea pots and cups, etc.

2. We had counted on one of Secretaries coming from Shanghai to help in the Conference. No one came.

3. A typhoon Aug. 27-29 hindered nine men from one delegation- Hing Hua from coming. Three men from there walked overland and have been at the sessions of the entire Conference.

4. Monday evening a note was received while we were in session- at about 7:30 o'clock from the mountain saying that Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin's boy was critically ill and that he must come up immediately. He started and reached his mountain cottage at 11:30 p.m. - about 40 minutes after the little boy had passed away. He woke in the night and refused to nurse, but about 4 o'clock in the morning he took a cup of Mellin's food and milk and seemed all right. About 1 p.m. he had a convulsion, the Doctor was called immediately - two of them and a trained nurse. Other convulsions followed. He was not himself again, and passed to his new home at 10:45. Tuesday they brought him down in a little coffin made of boards from home boxes. Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin arrived about 4 p.m. We had the little grave all ready. A short service had been held at Kuliang before they started. At the grave I offered a prayer and it was all over only 27 hours after the Dr. had been called. Mrs. McLachlin felt it very deeply but bore up bravely. This of course took McLachlin away from the Conference and added to my work.

5. Friday noon a note came to me from Uong Siong Dek who is leading one of the Bible Study Classes saying that his wife who was on Kuliang with their children had just sent down coolies asking him to come immediately. This took away the leader of one Bible Class and he was also to give the address this morning. But we have had a good conference. This afternoon every man testified to the help he had received and every part of the Conference came for its share of giving blessing. I have conducted each day a class in Personal Work- one hour a day.

Ground was broken for our new house during the week. The property is nearly all walled in. We hope to be able to use the new house next January.

It has rained much during the week, and on Friday and yesterday the weather was much like a typhoon but it has today settled down with a good steady rain. I expect this may be called the Equinocial [*Willard may mean an Equinoctial storm, which according to Dictionary.com is a storm of violent winds and rain occurring at or near the time of an equinox and popularly, but erroneously, believed to be physically associated with it.*]. I hoped to get back to Kuliang tomorrow.

We are looking anxiously for Flora's letter telling us the date of her sailing. Five pupils that we had not counted on have spoken to us about coming. Many are glad of the prospects of a teacher. I have had a letter from Ellen most everyday. She and the children are well. I am afraid they are longing for sunshine. Rains are so very wet up there. I enclose one of her letters to me which you may send to Putnam if you like. I think of you are all scattering again- This time for very remote fields of work. But how small the world is getting, and the same Father cares for us all.

With lots of Love to all                      Will.

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A paragraph in the Annual Report of the Kuliang Council report dated August 17, 1936 tells some of the history of the bathing pool on Kuliang..

"This pool was built before 1900 by Messers. Ramsay and Schlee, merchants in Foochow. In the fall of 1906, after the owners had left Foochow not to return, the pool was offered for sale for \$50.00. Rev. W. L. Beard purchased it for that price. Not wishing to keep it privately, he offered to share it with a few friends, and it was agreed to form a stock company, limiting the share holders to 20. The official name was: "The Kuliang Bathing Club". On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1914 this club passed the following vote: "That the Club should hand over its balance, and its responsibilities to the Public Improvement Committee."

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*[This letter dated Tuesday, **Sept. 1906** was written from the S.S. Siberia on the way to Honolulu by Flora (37 years old) to the folks at home. She and Mary traveled across the U.S. to San Francisco and Flora left Mary in Oakland. (Mary will stay in California to teach.) Flora tells about ship life and how everyone dresses up for dinner each night. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[September 1906]  
Tuesday-

Pacific Mail SS Co.  
S.S. Siberia

Dear folks at home:-

We have traveled so fast that I have had no time for letter writing. Mary and I had a pleasant trip all the way across. Perhaps she has told you of our pleasant acquaintance with Dr. Maloy of Riverside. I left Mary in her care from Oakland. I stayed in Oakland over the first night in company with a young lady who was on our sleeper. The next morning we went over and saw what is left of San Francisco. I spent the rest of the time until the sailing of the Siberia at the Y.W.C.A. of Frisco. My bill for two nights and meals came to \$1.20, so you see I was not fleeced. I got fleas(ed) in the bargain. They made me scratch for a day or two but I think I have lost them now.- The ocean has been most beautiful and as smooth as one could wish. There is a long swell here which has upset a number but I have been unusually hungry for each meal and have eaten the menu end to end. It has been so dry that my shoes keep a fine polish and to-day the passengers are out in the thinnest of dresses. Each night we go to dinner in full dress. The men appear either in full evening costume of tuxedos. I rather like it. The dinner hour is one of much mirth for every one comes in the best of good feelings. There are all sorts of people on board. Cook and Raymond and Whitcomb have each a 'round the world' party on board. There are missionaries, tourists, business men, and people returning from the "States" to Honolulu. I am sitting next to a very delightful little Honolulu woman, who has enlightened me much on the points of interest of her island home. One of the young ladies of my cabin is a part native. She bears the New England name of Adams and is returning after a summer's visit to Maine. The other roommate is a little girl from Tennessee who is going out as a missionary to Osaka. She wears her dress to her ankles and her hair down her back, and looks like a sweet girl graduate from a high school, instead of a B.A. from college under appointment for missionary work. She has just been in swimming in the tank on board, and the only reason she doesn't dance is for fear of shocking the other missionaries- of where there are quite a few.

Next day- I had a very pleasant talk yesterday with a young Englishman who (in company with another gentleman of his own country) making a tour of the world. I was much interested in his description of U.S. and Canada. He had spent 47 days in sightseeing. I wish he would tell me his impressions but his English breeding does not seem to allow him to do that.

I am going to mail this in Honolulu and will write again from Yokohama. With love to you all and hoping you are all better.

I am yours lovingly

F. Beard.

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*[This letter dated Oct. 18, 1906 was written about 15 miles north of Amoy, China by Willard to the folks at home. He missed his boat and has some time to write. He is concerned that he may not make it back to Foochow in time to greet Flora. He also has heard that his sister Phebe is in critical condition. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Chioh Be-or in Foochow Dialect Sioh Ma.

Dear Folks at Home:-

One of the very few times in my life I have missed the boat and am compelled to lie idle for a time. My work at Ciong Ciu or as the people here call it Chiang Chin was finished last evening at 11:00 o'clock. I should have taken a boat at once, gone to bed on it and let the men tow it down to this place to be here at day light this morning. But Mr. Boot with whom I have been staying for four days persuaded me to stay the night with him. We ate breakfast at 5:30 this a.m. started at 6:15. But the wind was very strong up river, and the tide turned against us about 9 o'clock and when we reached here the launch had gone and our only way to make Amoy today was by paying a special launch \$50.00. I think we are about 12 miles down river from our starting point and about 15 miles still above Amoy. This must teach me to be on the safe side- I should have insisted on taking a boat last night. I started from Foochow last Wed., came to Amoy, reaching it Fri. at day light, went to Mr. Pitchers for breakfast- started with a 5:30 breakfast Sat. a.m. for Ciong Ciu and reached there at 2:30 p.m. Sat. I have had four days of very strenuous work here. A city Y.M.C.A. has been organized. I have already written out a full report wh. I shall try to send to you.

Just before we reached here this morning I met Mrs. Kip, an elderly widow- missionary of the Reformed Ch. in Ciong Chu. She had come from Amoy this morning and said the steamer for Foochow was in Amoy harbor. This steamer would naturally leave this p.m. But there are three steamers on the Hong Kong- Foochow run and the trip is eight days, so I shall hope to get out of Amoy Sat. or Sun. and reach Foochow Sun. or Mon. Flora is due in Shanghai today, so I am a little anxious for I want very much to be back to meet her.

I forgot to say that I am here with 4 small slices of bread, 3 pieces of cake and 4 little crackers. This morn I took dinner with the newly elected first President of the Ciong Ciu Y.M.C.A. He has a store here and came down this a.m. to see about it. I am to have supper with him also. As it is 5:30 p.m. I'll plan to finish this later.

S.S. "Haitan" Amoy Harbor Oct 22 Monday - noon.

I reached Amoy Friday at 1 p.m. to learn that I must wait till today for a Foochow steamer. I have been busy all the time. But it has been hard work. I found letters fr. Foochow on Fri. with Flora's letter of Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> telling of Phebe's [Willard's sister] critical condition. I can only leave it with God and hope for better news in [the] next letter. Then I learned that the "Siberia" was ahead of time, and if Flora came on her she is, in all probability, in Foochow before this, and I am not there to meet her. By not going up last week I escaped a very rough passage. The weather is delightful today. Trusting all to God's wisdom and love. Will.

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*To meet Miss Beard*

*Mr. and Mrs. Willard L. Beard*

*At Home*

*Tuesday, October twenty-third  
four to six thirty*

[Donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

# EXPRESS.

No. 651

Published at the Foochow Printing Press.

ESTABLISHED 1864.

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FOOCHOW, 25th OCTOBER, 1906.      Send out at 12.45 P.M.

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The School for Foreign Children will open Monday October 29th at 9.00 a.m. in the school building in the Methodist Mission Compound.

Miss BEARD will be at the residence of W. L. BEARD, near the Methodist Press on Friday afternoon, October, 26th, and on Saturday October, 27th until 11:00 a.m. to confer with any who wish to send children to the school.

Miss BEARD.

[Donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

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*[This letter dated Oct. 26, 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Flora to the folks at home. She arrived in Foochow a week ago and tells about her trip from Yokohama to Foochow. Ellen and the children were there to meet her but Willard did not make it. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China  
Oct. 26, 1906.

Pacific Mail SS Co.  
S.S. Siberia

Dear Folks at Home:-

I have been in Foochow for nearly a week. Don't think I have forgotten you because I have not written. The truth is that it has taken all this time to get landed- not my effects- but myself. It is only yesterday and to-day that I have been free from the boat motion.

I have written you nothing since I left Yokohama- although it was my plan to mail a letter at each stopping place. We left Yokohama just at night and met a rough sea which rocked the boat badly- so the passengers said- I slept through it all. The next morning we awoke in a beautiful water with sloping mountains each side. Our ride through the Inland Sea kept us busy spying out each new scape before it was gone. We wound about through the islands in a very crooked path and one spot had to turn almost a right angle. We went through the strait of Shimonisaki just as the sun was setting- most gloriously. After dinner we looked out and the lights were so numerous on each side in the distance that we were sure we must be passing some Japanese villages- but they were really the lights of the fishing boats which must have been literally hundreds, in number. We anchored early on Sunday at Nagasaki, and got on shore about 9 A.M. We went to church on land and our first entrance was in a Japanese service. Here I found Bessie's friend Mrs. Heicher. We went on to an English Church and after the service I went to tiffin with Mr. and Mrs. Heicher. They had been on land only for two weeks but were most cozily fixed in a little house with a beautiful view of the harbor and its surrounding mountains. As I ate I could see that most wonderful feat of coaling- going on in the harbor. It is one of the sights of the world. There were at least eighteen huge lighters of coal which attached themselves to the sides of the ship. There must have been fifty men women and children on each. Some large steps made of bamboo were hung to the sides of the Siberia and then the people went to work with small soft baskets- possibly holding six quarts. Some shoveled the coal into the baskets others piled them others formed a living chain and passed the coal up and into the bins of the boat. They must have gotten to work at 9 A.M. and at 5 P.M. we were moving out of the harbor with coal enough to last for the trip to Hong Kong and return.

On Tuesday early we were piloted in over the reef to Shanghai. We were anchored several miles from land but our boat was surrounded by beggars asking for a "cash". We were taken off in a launch and landed when a train was waiting for us at the mouth of the river. The ride of twenty minutes took us through a low country full of rice and cotton fields. Everywhere we could see the coffins of the Chinese dead waiting for the auspicious day for burial. They were covered but some of them showed a long waiting.



Chinese coffins.

*[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]*

Shanghai is a very cosmopolitan and up to date city. They are putting in a trolley line and when I went to bed I turned out the electricity. The building in which I was entertained is a part of a block which is a part of a section, owned by Li Hung Chan's son. It was a most attractive part of the city- really on the very edge and in the country. I was met by some of Will's friends and was housed and cared for by them as though I were an old friend. It was really very novel and decidedly pleasing and comfortable.

Fortunately there was a boat going out to Foochow the next morning so I embarked in a tiny steamer on a very choppy water. Things were decidedly rough but we did not reach the ocean until after tiffin. There were just six cabin passengers- three of us women. Our little steamer rocked and rolled so that it almost took water, and - I took one meal out side in a hurry. All night it was rough but after an hour's discomfort I slept and thoroughly enjoyed the next day's even rougher weather. The Chief engineer told me that the engineers were seasick so I thought a land lubber had a right to feel a little upset. Just at night we anchored in sight of Sharp Peak and waited for dawn and a pilot to help us over the reef and up to the Anchorage. We were kept in suspense for more than two hours waiting for medical inspection because some poor wretch of a Chinese had taken an over dose of opium and in consequence had "shuffled off this mortal coil" during the voyage. As soon as the doctor came on board we were allowed to get off. In the distance I saw a house boat flying the U.S. flag. It contained Ellen and all the children, Mrs. Hubbard and her children, and Mr. McLachlin. Will was to arrive in about an hour on a steamer from Amoy. We went on shore and climbed- as steep an ascent as I ever went up- to Mrs. Hubbard's house. The view from the top was beyond describing. We could look for miles in every direction. Across the river I counted four chains of mountains one back of another. From the window we could see the river for miles and by the sloping of the mountains we could follow the windings of the river much farther, so that the smoke from the steamer was discerned for some time before she came in sight. We all went down to the house boat and were ready to welcome Will but he hadn't come. Afterwards he explained how he had gotten left away up in the country and had to live on Chinese food for two days. Well, disappointment is a feeble word to express our feelings. However there was nothing to do but go home. By this time the tide had turned so that Mrs. Hubbard made arrangements for us to stay all night. However the boatmen were willing to risk going with the strong wind in our favor so we finally sailed away at 4 P.M. We flew along for about half the distance and then we had to put up with occasional bursts of wind. The scenery along the river is very beautiful. In some places I could count five chains of mountains in view- one back of another. Ellen had her cook and table boy along with her so we had a most delightful picnic supper on the boat- eaten off of a real table, and sitting on chairs. She also had bedding along so that we could have slept comfortably if it had been necessary. However we reached Foochow at 8 P.M. and in half an hour my trunks were up and we were soon in bed.

I would give a good deal to hear how you all are and to know if Phebe has gone to Framingham yet.- I shall be sending home before long for supplies. My cards have already gotten to an alarmingly small number. I cannot remember where I left my plate but if you find it will you please have a hundred cards engraved.- I reached here with \$50 in gold in my garter purse so you see I was hardly a spend thrift on the way.- Will Phebe send me a sample of her linen dress? I cannot find the one I cut- and there are so many qualities here that I do not dare to trust to my memory. Lovingly- Flora

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*[This letter dated Oct. 26, 1906 was written by Willard to one of his brothers. It is brief note letting the brother know that sister, Flora made it safely to Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 1906

Flora arrived all hale and hearty last Friday. I had not yet returned from Amoy to Ellen and the children- even Marjorie went down to the Anchorage in a house boat to meet her. Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin also went and the Hubbards also join in the fray.

On Friday of this week a big reception was given- worthy of a big gun just come to town. I got home just an hour before the people began to come. School begins next Monday.

How I would like to drop down on Aunt Louise for just one week of solid rest! Give her my love and the love of all the rest of us.

Your Loving brother  
Will

Give Marjorie's last picture to Aunt Louise for me

W

A reception card for you and one for Aunt L. *[Willard's mother's sister, Phebe Louisa Nichols.]*



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*[This letter dated Nov. 3, 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Flora to the folks at home. Flora is telling them her first impressions of Foochow. She talks about being a little frightened going for a ride in her own chair with coolies. She found the city crowded, dirty and very smelly. Her school will be opening with eight students. Willard has just started on his six week to two month trip through the Shaowu mission field. She talks about the curio vendors. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Nov. 3, 1906.

Dear folks at home:-

I think my last letter stopped with my reaching Foochow. I had reached the 2 cent limit so waited to tell the first impression later. I do not know whether it is wise to tell them all or not- I am really getting my nose deadened a little.-Perhaps I said it once- but it is worth repeating- Foochow has a most charming natural setting. In whatever direction we look there are mountains and then the river is always an additional beauty. The trees are nearly as picturesque as those of Japan- so there will be a pretty little spot- even in a grave yard.

I already own my chair and have had one ride. Had I been alone I should have been frightened beyond measure, but I calmed myself that others had been that way and survived. We went for two miles through the chief streets of the city. They were crowded, narrow, shiny, dirty, and smelly beyond words. They kept growing more and more narrow until I wondered how my chair would ever run a corner, or get by another chair if we met one. Besides, our coolies were in a very great hurry to get back so they were hurrying and in order to facilitate matters were continually calling loudly for people to get out of the way. We really went in very good time but as we were to attend a prayer meeting the poor coolies were disappointed in getting back early. It is really very much better to go through the streets by chair than walking. The other day Will and I took a short walk and I found the shiny stones rather dangerous. We went into a silk shop and I came rather near getting a dress but finally put off the day. I am making inquiries for Phebe's embroidery and hope soon to be ready to place it when the sample reaches here.



Written on back: "This is a very good picture of a street in the city of Foochow".

[Photo purchased from ebay by Jana L. Jackson and donated to Yale in 2007.]

My school opened on Monday with eight scholars. Two more will come next Monday. The M.E. Conference is in session now and it is possible that their changes may bring still more children. I rather hope to have a few more. I expect to start a class in calisthenics or "drill" as the English call it. That sort of thing appeals to the people here.



I have just been with Will to see the boat which is to take him on his Shaowu trip. We took a sampan which was rowed by two jabbering women- telling their marine neighbors about the children with us. We crossed the river and after bumping into some of the boats we finally found Will's boat. There was little besides boat about it but it seemed clean. I think if I had to live in Chinese houses I should chose the river boats. They seem quite clean and entirely free from smells. The sampan we were on is the house of a family. There was a small shrine in one end and some Catholic beads and a tiny cross hanging on one side so it looked as if they were divided in their religion.

Will expects to be away for six weeks at least. His new house is growing quite fast these days. He is hoping to get into it by February.

You should see the curio vendors! We had not finished breakfast of the first morning I was here before a woman was here to sell me some Chinese dolls- in costume. Ever since they have not ceased to come. Today, when we came back from the river there was an idol about 18 in. high standing on the front piazza staring at me to be bought. I declined and just a moment ago I was interrupted to go to look at some articles of drawn work.

There is one dainty thing here in China on which there is no blemish- and that is little Marjorie. She is the plumpest, pinkest, happiest little piece of humanity I ever saw. She is also an independent youngster- and her smiles are few and as fine as one can wish- when she does get gracious. I wish you could see her eat! She prefers her amah except when she can get her mama and papa.

I am enclosing some of the announcements concerning my advent into Foochow life and society. I have met nearly every one now, I think, but they are no where nearly straight in my mind. I am an Episcopalian or rather, a Church of England attendant. King Edward is prayed for every Sunday and Roosevelt is not even mentioned. But, don't worry for fear that I forget my own country.

Will you see if you can find my card plate and have a hundred cards engraved for me? I would like them as soon as you can send them to me. My cards are getting very few in number, and I shall need some here. I wish I could remember, where I left it, but I can't. It is in a bluish gray envelope and has my name engraved on it. It is folded to be nearly the size of the plate- and you will find the envelope rather heavy as the plate is copper.

We are all well and happy and hope this will find you so.

I received my first home letters this week. A letter from Phebe and Ruth and one from Leolyn forwarded.

Lovingly- Flora.



On back is written in Willard's handwriting: "Miss Newton's chair. These men have carried Ellen and me often."  
[This is a closed chair. Flora doesn't say if her chair was open or closed. Photo from the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson]

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*[This letter dated Nov. 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Flora to her brother Stanley. She is glad Stanley is back at college. She tells him that it seems they are living in luxury because of the servants, but she said servants are needed to gain respect among the Chinese. Will left for an eight week trip to Shaowu. Flora describes some of the Chinese construction process of Willard and Ellen's new house. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Nov. 1906]

Dear Stanley:-

Your postal reached me on the steamer at San Francisco and was a real comfort for it let me know of your safe extrication from the great New York maze.

The last letter from home told of your return to college and I was rather glad to hear that you are out of the way of farming utensils for they seem bent on finishing you. I only hope that your summer's strain of work has not used up too much of your energy. There is one comforting thought about it and that is that it can't be repeated for a while. I was relieved to hear that the fireplace had really become a thing of enjoyment. I did not know but that it really meant to smoke. Anyways I wish you could see the kitchen stoves out here. They are made something in the style of a blacksmith's forge only much smaller and everything is cooked over charcoal. The cook produces the most delicious bread and pastry so I can recommend them but for myself I think I prefer one of our home stoves. There is too much planning and rigging up to suit me. There are very many things very agreeable to living here but with all the seeming luxury of servants, all of them put together are not good as one efficient one in U.S. People here do not think of lifting a finger about their house work -except the missionaries- and they do not do much. Such mode of living is almost imperative in order to be respected among the Chinese. They are a servile people. - Well, I want to tell you of a conversation on the steamer coming across the Pacific so I'll leave China for this time. There was a very fine young doctor and his wife going to some station in northern China. He was a graduate of John's Hopkins and seemed to know quite widely about medical colleges. He said he chose that school because of the special advantages for hospital work. He had - and the best half of each class has- two solid years of hospital practice after one year of observing. The first year is pretty generally given up to study. He says the criticisms given that it is mainly for research work is the result of immature knowledge of what they are doing. He says that nothing is done to spur a man on. He is free to go his own gait but so can do little or much as he wishes- and so work out his own bent. Yale sends every year next the largest number of men. I think the University of Wisconsin leads. Certainly if he is a product of what they turn out I should choose that first. He was quite an all-round man. He could sing and play, was an athlete and I feel sure was a good physician. He is going as an assistant to some doctor (missionary) and is to spend his spare time studying the diseases of China. I really hope that you will decide to go there- to John's Hopkins.

On Thursday, Will left for an eight week's trip to Sha-o-wu. It seems to me a long time to be away from one's own family. It is leaving his new house in the care of Mr. Maclachlin also. The house is going up quite fast. You would be interested in the material and the building. The bricks here are more like tiling quality but are less breakable. They are wider and longer than ours and not so well shaped. They are liable to be warped. They are laid in mud made from the earth about the house. The foundation walls up to the living floor are two feet thick the rest of the way is to be 6 in. less. There are to be enclosed verandas on two sides of the house. The house in which we are living now has them all the way around the house in both stories. It is a necessity if one stays in the city through the summer because of the intense heat. Will does not like the gloom coming from the constant shade of them, so he is not having as much piazza put on. He has made a plan of his compound which I think he intends sending home so I'll not tell you of its ramifications. There is no such thing as a well proportioned compound. One buys a small piece from one source and by getting several adjacent ones gets his compound. It is full of graves and the heaps of bones or decayed coffins are lying about to be reinterred somewhere else. When that place is bought the same process is repeated. There is no such thing as 'rest' here. One is impressed with the ancientness of the country for every available spot is bound with graves.

Wishing you a Merry Xmas.

I am

Your loving sister

Flora.

Nov. 1906.

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*[This letter dated Nov. 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Flora to her sister, Ruth Beard. She tells Ruth about the children in her school and of all the people she is meeting. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[November 1906]

Dear Ruth,-

Your letters have been like apples of gold in pictures of silver. The others are too busy to tell all the details- which are very important by the time they have traveled to here. It sounded rather good to hear of "fall weather" for there is no such thing here. The cold days seem dreary but do not make one think of winter. I wore my winter hat this afternoon, but it felt too warm and I shall give it a rest before I get it out again. I wish I had brought the one Helen had of mine.

You wanted to know about my school. Well, it is rather small at present and I am living in 'hopes'. I have nine children- Will's four, two Hubbards, two boys from the community by the name of Segerdal- nice little fellows - half Irish and half Sweede, and one Eurasian. Dr. Kinnear's family is expected back soon and the Main family which will probably mean four more. The French Consul would have sent his boy only that he leaves port for good this month and it would not pay to begin school. I should like more children but I guess I'll have to wait and let the people see what I am able to do. Mrs. Segerdal knows the community people very well and has been very kind about advising me towards what they would like in a school. She likes what I am doing and perhaps it will be as good an advertisement as I can have. Several ladies have called on me and tomorrow I shall return my first call- at the German Consulate. His wife is an Eurasian but a fine woman. I am told that her husband has the finest grounds in the place. I'll tell you in some of my letters about what I see. I have met- at my reception- the English Consul and Vice Consul. None of them have their wives here so I shall probably get to know them very little. The Eng. Consul's wife does not live with him. She and their daughter are living somewhere in Europe. He is a queer little man and does not inspire one with confidence. Consul Gracey's wife was not well here so she is at home. The Vice Consul is a young man with a wife. He is a Californian. I have now met all but the French and Japanese Consuls or some of their families. I have a few small remembrances which I am going to send home when Will ships Mrs. Boies' tables- some time in February. They were meant to be your Xmas presents, but it seemed best to wait till that time for sending- for safety. Yesterday Ellen received word from the Chicago firm from which they expect a shipment soon that they should omit the order for salt as the Chinese government was confiscating all salt that enters the country. It has a government monopoly here and is very expensive- that is any imported salt. One does not feel like eating any more of the Chinese food than necessary- after taking a trip through the streets.

I was delighted to think of you actually going out into society again and I hope you will continue to go at least once a week for it is a good thing to have some new sight to think about. I wish you could see a few that I can't get time to put in. Will would be delighted to have you accompany him on his up country trip. It takes three weeks to get there. Things move slowly here. Time is of no account to the Chinese. If they would only use it to produce a perfect article one would rejoice but perfection is a thing they do not know. "Seven truths right" is their standard. If seven cash out of ten are good they will accept the three spurious coins. It seems emblematic of their lives in all ways.

Write every time you don't know what to do and I'll be glad to read it. With a Merry Xmas  
I am

Yours

Lovingly

Nov. 1906.

Flora Beard

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*[This letter dated Nov. 30, 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Flora to her sister, Phebe. She tells Phebe that there are more engagements in Foochow than in Shelton. When Phebe sends a sample of linen, Flora will have it embroidered for her. Flora tells Phebe a little bit about baby Marjorie who would be nine months old by now. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Nov. 30, 1906

Dear Phebe:-

Your letter was a grand surprise on the steamer and again when I had been here for a week. It was good to get letters but I hardly dared to open the Shelton letter. It was so good to hear of everyone's being better. I am hoping to hear that you at last have a good woman in the kitchen to help you. I am rather glad that you are having the longer vacation, but sometimes wonder which would really be the harder. At any rate it will be a comfort to mama to have you at home for a while and Ruth will enjoy it.

I am an old stager here now for there is a newer one- a Dr. Draper I met her last night. She came all the way from Seattle with a Dr. Williams who is returning from his first furlough. It looks to me as though cupid had

been shooting and had bagged his game. I have heard of more engagements and weddings in this place than Shelton could get up in the same time. Mary's friend Miss Worthley has just come out with a sparkler and the announcement that she is to be married in April. Don't worry about me for there are none left now- except the vice-consul and he is several years too young.

It is the 16<sup>th</sup> of Nov. and I am writing with the windows all open. I wonder if you can say as much? We have had delightful weather since I came- only one rain. I have been so busy that I have not done much sightseeing but I am getting in what I can. Sometime this week we are going to take a walk across the rice fields to the foot of the mountains where there are two villages in which nothing but flowers are raised. It is just the time for chrysanthemums and they are beautiful.

I hope before this you have mailed your sample of linen. How would you like wisteria? I saw a beautiful waist embroidered in that flower with the spaces filled in with drawn work. It was arranged thus [*sketch*] 1,2,3, and 4 are wisteria and 5 and 6 are drawn work. Please spare my crude drawing. Last night I saw one of chrysanthemums like this [*sketch*] with drawn work in the middle. It was very pretty. If you will let me know at once which you want, I will be ready by the time your answer comes to have it done.

Will you tell me the name of the people in Shanghai where you told me to go- a sister of the lady with whom you boarded in Framingham? I have in some way gotten the name Low in my mind and am not sure.

I am sure that the person in the Sentinel article is Miss Gausman. It tallies in every particular. I am sending the article on to Miss Palen. I do not think she has the reading of the Sun and I know it will interest her.

I had nearly left out the most interesting bit- and that is Marjorie. She is the dearest little girl that ever lived. She said 'pa' the day that Will went away. She is as happy as a queen and as fat as a little pig. (Will doesn't like me to say 'pig' because he has forgotten how pretty the little pigs used to be at home.) I just wish you could see how cunning she is. Some day Ellen and I are going to take some pictures of her in her cupid costume. She is the straightest little creature. When she has her back turned she is exactly like that little bas-relief of a baby that every one likes so much.- Do you suppose you will have the time to make out a list of hand work that could be given to small children and kindergartners to do. It is proposed that I have a morning class next summer on the mountain and the work will be principally manual training. I can use any of all of the reed and raffia in the attic but do not send it just yet. In a month or two I shall be sending for some things and will tell you more explicitly.

Wishing you a Merry Xmas- Yours lovingly  
Flora

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*[This is a carbon copied travel journal dated Nov. 15, 1906 by Willard on his Shaowu trip. The last entry is on Dec. 11, yet his trip continued on into January of 1907. Journal donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

*[Written on the back of one of the pages: "Will Mary Beard please forward to Mrs. W. P. Hume Meridian, N.Y. and she to Mr. Myron Kinney, and he to Mr. O. G. Beard."]*

Trip to Shaowu. 11/15, '06- [1906]

Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>

Five different interviews were held with the broker and boatman before the price (\$65.00) was agreed upon for a boat to take us to Shaowu, - 250 miles up the Min river from Foochow.

Thursday at 10:20 the boat swung into the river against a strong headwind out with the tide in our favor.

Mr. McLachlin and Ellen went with us to see us start. Mr. Hodous- Am. Board-, Uong Kaik Gieng- one of the Y.M.C.A. teacher-Secretaries- and myself are the only passengers. Muk Hauk is the cook and servant. There are several boatmen. The captain promises to join us at Ciu Kau= the village at the beginning of the rapids 70 miles above Foochow. There will then be 12 men on the boat. We eat, sleep, cook- live in a space 20 ft. X 9 ft.



Written on back of photo: "Foochow, China. Nine men pulling the boat up rapids. Shaowu method of climbing the river."

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Magnified

Thurs. at 1 p.m. we were at Hung Sang Giu- 5 miles above Foochow. At night we had made another five miles. Friday the south wind blew softly and we anchored at Ming Chiang Kan 45 mi. fr. Foochow.

Hodous is behaving fairly well. I made him take a swim before breakfast both yesterday and today- Sat. He growled a little because I routed the boatmen out at daylight yesterday, and he thinks I have more floor boards under my bed than he has under his, but we got on fairly well together. Kaik Gieng shames us by studiously reading zoology, and asking such difficult questions as the explanation of "I am that I am."

We have read two chap. of "Coniston". Kaik Gieng will reserve his review of the book until he has heard more. To him the language of these first two chap. is suggestive rather than lucid.

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at Ciu Kau.

Yesterday the wind blew down river all day. 1 ½ hrs. at noon were spent in repairing the rudder. We anchored at night about 2 miles below Ciu Kau. Just as we were going to bed the S. wind sprang up and some 30 large boats- empty, going up after wood, came up the river. They bumped into us and made an interesting half hour.

This a.m. at 7:30 we were at Ciu Kau. There is no chapel here now. But we have met one man who says he is a Christian and we are going to his shop this p.m. for a prayer meeting. It is a lovely Sunday morning and we are having a real day of rest. The purple asters are beautiful, they are about the only flowers we see.

Tues. Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>

Last night we stopped about 2 miles below Sang Du Kau. In the a.m. Kaik Gieng, Hodous and I left the boat a little after 8 and walked till after 11. We found the road difficult [to] follow and got into rice fields and forests and on rocky places, but came out all right at last. I wrote Brockman, Hinman and Arch. Wolfe yesterday, and will mail the letter when an opportunity presents itself.

Last night was cold but as I jumped into the water this morning it seemed warm and the day has been beautiful. This is an ideal life for rest. We get up about 7 a.m. - half an hour after the boat starts. There is over us- after the men get up one bamboo mat, about 12 ft. long- open at both ends. When the wind blows down river the air is perfectly fresh in our "bedroom" and sweeps thro it so as to almost take the hair off our heads.

Our first move is to watch for a good place as the boat moves up the river, and jump in for a swim. Then there is a quiet time after dressing and then comes our breakfast, - a banana, pumelo, peanuts and oatmeal or parched rice with bread and a cruller. Then we watch for an opportunity to get on shore and walk till 11 o'clock- unless we get lost when the walk is extended. This breaks the monotony- as it did yesterday. Today we saw two small boats swing out into a long rapid and tie up to a raft of logs as it was going down. Only 4 men on the raft and the raft in a rapid needed the full attention and strength of each of the four. The 2 boats carried some 12 men. The raft had some 200 bundles of wood on it. That wood seemed to be in the air in a jiffy and then it fell into the boats and the boats pulled ashore and the rafts went down the river- lightened. Query- what was the provocation that made the men steal the wood? Will there be a law suit?

Wed. Nov. 21.

This a.m. we were moving at 6:30. It was cold last night, but the cool air only made the water all the better for our plunge this a.m. We were moving along a large lake below rapids. The water was deep-so deep that when we jumped in we could not find bottom. After breakfast we got off and walked to Hu Lu Sang and bought some potatoes and hung gang. The boat reached us at 12:30. Four yrs. ago I reached Hu Lu Sang at 1:00 p.m. so we are 30 min. ahead this time. The owner of the boat caught up with us and came aboard as we left the boat this a.m. Kaik Gieng got scared at the long tromp Mon and has not left the boat since.

For dinner we have rice- taken fr. the general store, potatoes, bread and meat. The meat will last up this week. It is very nice- used as puoi= a condiment.

The day is a perfect one- at 2:30 now it is quite warm with no overcoat. We plan to take dinner at Iong Bing tomorrow.

Our afternoons are spent in "resting", reading writing, and "Coniston"- Its great. For super we have rice with milk and bread and jam and cake. Bananas, peanuts and pumelo are a delight. At 7:30 the boatmen are snoring rapturously and Hodous begins his solo about 8:00.

Friday- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> at Sa Ka Kau

Yesterday Nov. 22 we left the boat about 10 o'clock and walked to Iong Bing reaching Dr. Skinners about 12:30. The M.E. Mission have here on the highest hills in the city three residences, a Boy's Sch. and a Girl's Sch. and a Hospital,- all of brick. Also a brick church. The buildings are ready for the work. At present there are 12 boys in the school- many of these from Ku-Cheng- the hospital and schools must be filled. There are probably few better plants in China. About 4 acres of ground are owned. Iong Bing is important politically- Here are the Do Dai, ruling Shaowu, Gien ning and Iong Bing prefectures. Then the Prefect, Gaing etc. from Literary standpoint Iong Bing is not important. There is one Normal School with 19 students and 4 teachers and three smaller schools with about 56 pupils- No Eng. is taught and there is evidence that these schools are only the old Colleges with a new sign hung over the door. Iong Bing is not important- commercially. We plan to start for Ka Bang tomorrow morning.

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Nov. 27.

Sat. found an empty boat at Sa Ka Kau that took us up to Ching Chin. 2 puo for 80 cents. We then walked to Ka Bang 3 puo, arriving at 5 p.m. Preacher Uong and preacher Lek of A Long met us about 5 li 1 ½ miles fr. K.B. I led prayers Sat. evening, preached Sun. morning and Sun. evening. Hodous preached and conducted Communion in p.m. Great changes have taken place at Ka Bang since I was there 4 years ago. There is a nice clean, new chapel there now owned. Then we worshiped in the room with idols and incense was burning as we worshipped; most of the people have Bibles and can read them and find passages. The women are especially proficient and the children are learning; then only a few of the men had Bibles- the women did not know a character. Sat. evening 6 of the women repeated Rom. 12. One of the women played the organ and the singing is good- wonderful for a country chapel. This came fr. the organ we gave to the young preacher at Uong Dai who is a musician by nature. He spent one of two summer vacations at Ka Bang and took his organ up and taught this woman and 1 or 2 others. Sunday evening we had a good prayer meeting at the close- all the women and little boys prayed. Hodous and I did not touch our own food till mor. For breakfast- accepted invitation to the tables of different ch. members.

Monday at 8:30 we were off for Mok Dai reaching it at 5 p.m. = 6 puos = 20 miles. Dr. Walker met us just as we entered the village, having arrived that morning. We ate supper with preacher Guang in honor of the birth of his third son. Then we had a nice sermon. The people here have just purchased a nice location in the heart of the village- the place is all walled in - about 125 X 175 ft. with the frame of a house and good roof with one room

finished. There is the middle suite- wide and two suites on each side, - good post and roof with nice space in front and rear. Also two large gardens outside walls. \$200 will make of it a fine chapel and parsonage.

This morning we are again slowly climbing the rapids which are steep- numerous. If I come this way again I must go from Dong Bing – 9 puo to Sa King. Then 4 puo to Ka Bang, while the boat moves up Mok Dai and wait. This saves a day.

Dec. 1- Sat.- Just above Sung Chiong. Last Tuesday we reached A Iong just in time for super. Then went in to the chapel and had a service with the Christians – about 15. There is little change in this place in the last 4 yrs. Slept on the boat at night, and the next morning walked in toward Li Dong arriving at 5 p.m. 15 miles. The service was held in the same Ancestral Hall as we used 4 yrs. ago. They still have the same little 10 X 10 chapel which does not appear to be much used. There were only 6 or 7 of the members present. They expected us three days before and had got tired waiting and were scattered. There are about 10+ members here. Thursday we walked to Iong Kau, - 15 miles. Thurs. evening I conducted a street meeting. There are 3 Western medicine shops on the street at Iong Kau. Two are kept by C.M.S. young and one by a Meth. The C.M.S. men invite the Am. Board pastor to hold preaching services in their shops. The speakers stand behind the counter and the audience fills the street and door steps, while the *[word unreadable]* sit inside the shop. At the time services which we held on Thurs. and Fri. evenings about 130 were present at each service. The best of attention was given. Both the Foochow and mandarin were used and as far as I could observe were equally understood, - the mandarin better the first night and the Foochow better the next night. Friday morning we all attended the funeral of preacher Knok. He was the preacher at Iong Kau for many years till his age made it wise to place another man there. He was in the Tai Bing *[T-Ping was written in green ink below the name Tai Bing probably by Don MacInnis]* rebellion and always carried an ugly scar on his forehead received when Sung Chiong was taken. In the afternoon a service was held in the church, - about 100 present. The service was 2 ½ hours long, 5 speakers. In the evening another street service. Haik Gieng has made good friends with Lien Sieu Sang of Shaowu. He captured the audience yesterday p.m. and evening also. On the street at I.K. are purchased condensed milk, canned plums and pine apple,- we could have bought foreign straw hats, pins, thread, enameled ware utensils, flour, ETC, ETC. The drug stores were well stocked with foreign medicines – in well labeled bottles. I also found a good photographer there.

This a.m. we rode as far as Sioh Ka Kau, stopped and sent the boat on while we held a service with the members and learners – about 15,- then we walked 6 miles to Sung Chiong where the boat was waiting. At Sioh Ka Kau we saw a man dressing a dog- what for?

Tuesday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>

Sat. night we stopped 20 li above Sung Chiong. Sunday morning we three foreigners walked back to Sung Chiong for service. The Chinese, Kong, Lik, Li, Sien stopped at Sung Ch. Sat. evening. The service at Sung Ch. Sunday morning was attended by about 70 men and the interest was very marked. Knok S.S. was here and died here. The station will plan to put another man here. In the afternoon we preached to a crowd on the street till 3:30 p.m. and then walked 6 miles back to the boat.

Yesterday, Monday. We stopped at Cui Kau Cai. The boat moved up 10 li = 3 miles. We took supper with the preacher Haeng – 5 Chinese and 3 foreigners- He has a wife and 6 boys and 2 girls and cannot attend the annual meeting at Shaowu this week lest his family should receive an increase while he is absent. Four years ago a son was 19 hours old when I reached his house. I gave this little fellow \$1.00. It seemed pretty tough for 8 of us to pounce on to and eat him as we did.

In the evening we held a service at which five of us spoke to about 100 listeners. Then we eight walked 3 miles up to the boat. We in this way should reach Na Kau to night. There are only 25 miles to make between Na Kau and Shaowu.

I can see a great change in the number of people all thro here who understand the Foochow dialect. Four years ago I spoke once in Iong Kau without an interpreter. They asked to have an interpreter after that. This year they have asked both Hodous and me not to use an interpreter in every place above Iong Kau.

At Sung Chiong we visited the official school- some outward signs of new learning but no English and little of modern books.

Kaik Gieng walked some 12 miles yesterday. He did not walk with us this morning. The weather is perfect- warm, pleasant and the water continues good for the morning dip- only it is getting more and more difficult to find deep water.

Friday at Shaowu. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday evening the boat had to tie up about 2 miles below Na Kau. The rapids for about 4 miles below Na Kau are very steep and numerous. We walked in to Na Kau, took supper at the pastor's house and held service in the



evening, then walked down to our boat. Dr. Walker engaged an extra man for his little boat and planned to go thro Shaowu Wed. We stuck to our boat Wed. pretty tightly. We had been in bed late every night since we reached Ka Bang, and had spoken at one or more services, beside doing a lot of walking every day for 11 days and we rested Wed.,-the boat made only 12 miles.

Thursday we left the boat at 9 a.m. walked up to the coal mine, and climbed to the mine itself. Hodous, Sien S.S. and I went in. Kaik Gieng went in a little way but it was dark, damp, hot and then we struck water some 75 ft. from the entrance. Kaik Gieng turned back at this. The rest of us took off our shoes and stockings and waded thro to where the man was digging the coal. I have a piece of the coal that I saw fall after one of his blows. No machinery is used. A passage way about 5 ft. high and 4 ft. wide is made by supporting timbers 6 in. in diameter. At the end of this the miner uses a common pick and the coal falls. When he has dug about 5 ft. ahead of the retaining timbers, he puts up more timbers and continues the process. The water is pumped out with common field pumps- foot pumps. Only 2 men are now digging and the coal is all carved out by three men with dang sticks. A little over a ton is mined in a day.

Tuesday Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at Shaowu.

We reached Shaowu last Thurs. a little before 2 p.m. Found all well. Took dinner with Dr. and Mrs. Bliss. That evening most of the workers in the field had already reached Shaowu. A blind preacher had come over from Kiang Si with Pastor Ieu's nephew. He preached in the evening. Friday we visited the different buildings in the mission here. They have a fine working plant. There are now 1 brick residence, occupied by Dr. and Miss Walker, 1 brick residence nearly completed, one fine brick building for the Boy's School, occupied with 60 boys, one brick building for the Girl's Sch. nearly completed, 2 good brick churches, one men's and one women's dispensary, beside the old East Gate residence and three old wooden buildings used for Theology, pastors residence etc. They need 2 hospitals, ladie's residence, and woman's sch. building. The most imperative need is for another missionary family at once.

Friday evening the Annual Meeting proper began. I spoke - using the Foochow dialect, Pastor Ieu translated. Sat. a.m. Mr. Hodous spoke, after which Ieu Si Ung, nephew of Pastor Ieu asked to speak. He has been living over in Kiang Si 5 days journey from Shaowu, where he has a drug store. He told his Christian experience while at Kiang Si he was asked to preach. But not being at all fluent he did not wish to. Being urged he consented then began to fear lest he should have nothing to say. All Sat. p.m. and all that night he prayed. He went into the pulpit with fear, still praying, just before he was to speak. Suddenly all became bright, something within him seemed to give way and great joy filled his heart. He wept for joy. This experience was twice repeated during the week that followed. He started a prayer meeting in the early morning. Some 20 men became filled with the Spirit. For some months he has been much concerned for a deeper spiritual life among the workers in the Shaowu field- which is his home field. At his own expense he has brought over with him a young man who has lost his sight, who has learned to read the raised writing and who has power as a preacher. For one whole hour Si Ung spoke- of his own experience and of his desire for a deeper spiritual life among the believers in the Shaowu field. He got the people to gather daily at 6 a.m. for prayer. I attended three mornings. It is still dark at 6 o'clock. You go thro the silent street to the church. As you enter all is quiet and dark except one small lamp on the table in front of the pulpit. You think no one is present, but as you go up the aisle nearly every seat is occupied with men kneeling in silent prayer. This continues for 10, 15, 20 minutes. Then someone prays audibly, another prays, two, three are praying at the same time, one sings a hymn- if it is not known to the others he sings it alone, then repeats one time, ten, fifteen times. This continues till 7:15. We have been kneeling for an hour and a quarter. When we rise- as with common consent, for no one is leader, it is daylight, 75 men are present. Most people all have offered prayer. Some have broken down. It is a strange experience, and proves that there is a spiritual power in prayer. For we cannot understand more than now and then a word of any of the prayers uttered yet this was the place of prayer and naturally so- understood to be so thro the medium of spiritual language. At 9 a.m. Mr. Hodous spoke on "Our Father who art in Heaven."

No session had been arranged for Sat. afternoon. But just as some of us were starting for a walk Pastor Ieu came from the church to tell us that the people were all assembled and waiting for me to speak to them. I went with him and found the church filled with men and women. Ieu Si Ung, who had told his experience in the morning asked if they might have a session of prayer first. He said a few words and then men began to pray, - some standing some bowing in their seat, some kneeling. He asked them to pray earnestly for the filling with Holy Spirit. One man prayed with much feeling for those present and for the unsaved in China. The sobs of men were heard. Men were weeping in different parts of the house and crying to God for mercy. Then Mr. Ieu Si Ung sang a hymn one line of the refrain Kaing literally translated "Use Lord's precious blood wash clean my heart." The whole audience joined in this with groans and loud weeping for some ten minutes. After this there were prayers and confession of sin. One



of the pastors tried five times to announce a hymn but was interrupted as many times. Strong men wept aloud. All of this consumed an hour and a quarter. They asked me then to speak but I refused. The Holy Spirit was in charge. For another half hour men spoke or prayed with a quieter emotion. Then, being requested a second time I said a few words and the meeting closed.

The session Sat. evening was marked by earnest attention. Sunday a.m. the church was crowded. 225 people partook of the communion. Sunday afternoon services were held in these different places, Mr. Uong Kaik Gieng a young man who is with us on this trip- a Foochow man in training for the Y.M.C.A. Secretaryship- in one place, Mr. Hodous in another and I in another. Sunday evening Hodous spoke again followed by Pastor Ieu. Mon. morning Mr. Hodous spoke on "Hallowed be thy Name." Mon. afternoon the dedication services for the new Boy's School were held. The Annual Meeting closed in the evening. Mr. Uong spoke, thru an interpreter, for nearly an hour on the heinousness of sin and the necessity of getting rid of it.

*[The following was written on the back of the last page.]*

Will Mary Beard please forward to Mrs. W.P. Hume, Meridian, N.Y. and she to Mr. Myron Kinney and he to Mr. O.G. Beard.

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A view that Willard probably saw on his trip up the Min River to Shaowu.  
Written on back: This picture is taken about two hundred miles up the river above Foochow.

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*[This letter dated **Dec. 4, 1906** was written from Foochow, China by Flora to the folks at home. She has ordered some school supplies and requests that her father pay the bill and she will settle up with him. Willard's house is growing quickly. She tells of an Anti-opium league meeting but will not be able to attend. Flora wishes she could have gone to Shaowu with Willard. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Dec 4, 1906]

Dear folks at home:-

I am mailing at the same time two orders for books that will amount to about \$3.50 from The Macmillan Co., for some (6) Geographics, and not more than ten dollars from Buy H. Sanborne and Co., Boston, Mass. for twelve arithmetics. I have asked them to send the bills to papa as it will save exchange and a lot of other bothers. I will give Will the money and he will give papa a check for the amount. I am ordering a few more books than I need as news has arrived here that three families are returning, which probably means four more children for me.

The days are whizzing by although it does not seem as though I did so very much. Not having books to help me out, I have to spend a lot of time on my school, so I am waiting impatiently to get my books.

We have been having two weddings for excitement this week. At the American wedding the Consul gave the bride away, and at the English wedding, today, the rector gave the bride away. He said he was perfectly willing to give her away as he didn't want her himself. I thought he was quite witty for an Englishman. Both bridegrooms were ill. One of them is just recovering from typhoid fever and the other is suffering from too strenuous a summer's work.

I wish you could see the beautiful flowers here. I had some chrysanthemums given me the other day that measured 15 ½ inches around. They were perfect balls. Mrs. Hodous gave me seven poinsetta blooms that measured 10 or 12 inches across. They grow six feet high here. All one has to do is to stick a stalk in the ground during the rainy season and nature does the rest. Heliotrope grows in great bunches and is beautiful.

Will's new house is growing quite fast. It is now up to the second story. It begins to show what it is to be and I should think when it is done that it will be one of the most up to date buildings here. Ellen and I were over to see it this afternoon. The steps and trimmings are a lovely gray granite, which looks very fine with the brick. The pillars are of brick and are circular. A special mold was made to have them that shape. All this may sound rather extra but I do not suppose that it adds much if any to the cost, as labor is so very cheap here. However, they will be the only ones of the kind in Foochow.

To-morrow there is to be a big meeting in the city of the Anti-opium league. There is a very large one here and several of the members are officials, who are much interested. I shall not be present but have already heard of the remarkable qualities of the principal Chinese speaker. He has been educated in Europe and is now back in his native land for the first time in over 40 years. He has a son who has been educated in Oxford.

Will is still on the way to Shaowu. He has been gone not quite three weeks. It seems a very long time to me and he will not be back before the middle of January. We hear from him two or three times a week-glowing tales of autumn leaves, the fine weather, scenery, etc. There is a deal of pleasure in such a trip. I should have liked to have gone with him.

With love to all-  
Flora Beard.

Foochow, China,  
Dec. 4, 1906.

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From: The Evening Sentinel, Shelton, CT – December 7, 1906

#### NEAR DEATH'S DOOR.

James H. [should be D.] Beard [Willard and Flora's brother] Undergoes Operation for Spotted Fever and Is in Very Critical Condition

J. H. Beard, son of O.G. Beard, of this place, who is now residing in Bridgeport, is very ill, and last night underwent an operation, which it was hoped would result in final restoration to health. The disease was diagnosed as cerebral spinal meningitis, and his condition was very critical when the operation was decided upon. The operation was entirely successful, and over an ounce of superfluous matter was removed from his head, which seemed to give him almost instant relief. Early this morning word was received that the patient was rallying from the effects of the operation, and it was hoped that he would eventually recover.

At noon again the condition of the patient was inquired for and it was learned that he had grown much worse, and at the present writing it is believed that he will not live the day out. His condition became worse during the morning, and the patient sank rapidly. Mr. Beard was married about two years ago to Miss Leolyn Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Smith, of this place. The young couple have a host of friends in these associated communities who will regret to learn of Mr. Beard's serious condition, and will hope that the life of the young man may be spared.

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From: The Evening Sentinel, Shelton, CT – December 8, 1906

## JAMES D. BEARD SUCCUMBS TO CEREBRAL MENINGITIS

### TAKEN SUDDENLY ILL WHILE TEACHING BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL.

Well and Favorably Known to Shelton People- Graduate of Amherst and Was Winning Golden Opinions as Educator

As was foreshadowed by reports from the bedside of James Daniel Beard, Friday noon, death ensued early in the afternoon, in spite of all that medical skill could accomplish. The news of the death of this young man, following so closely the first tidings of his illness, was a distinct shock to this community, where he passed his early years, and where nearly all the people were personally acquainted with him.

He was apparently seized with the disease only a few days before its fatal termination and few of his friends here knew of his illness until a short time before death ensued. He was attending to his duties as supervising principal of the school in Bridgeport, of which he has been in charge for over a year, when he was attacked by what seemed to be neuralgia, his head aching violently, and as this continued he decided to remain at home and send for a physician. The trouble was diagnosed as cerebral meningitis, and every device known to medical science was employed to combat the terrible disease. While the disease was confined to the head, and the spine was in no way affected it was impossible to check the trouble, and although the operation performed seemed to mitigate the severity of the disease, the patient was unable to rally and death ensued early Friday afternoon.

The deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Beard, of this place, and was born in the homestead of Long Hill avenue, receiving his early education in the local schools, and later taking a course at Amherst college. He was graduated about four years ago and took up the work of teaching, in which he was very successful and bade fair to rank high as an educator. He taught in Litchfield for nearly two years and resigned from that place to accept the position of supervising principal of the new school erected in Bridgeport about two years ago, being its first principal. He won golden opinions for his work in that city and was looked upon as one of the most promising young men in the profession.

Two years ago last Thanksgiving he married Miss Leolyn Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Smith, of this place, and to them was born a child some few months ago, and with a beautiful home and promising outlook in his chosen calling it seemed as if a happy future was in store for him. He was but 28 years old and until the fatal seizure seemed in good general health and vigor. From all classes of people are heard expressions of sympathy and sorrow for the untimely end of this young man while those who were personally acquainted with him and his family are grief stricken by the sad catastrophe.

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From: The Evening Sentinel, December 8, 1906

BEARD- In Bridgeport, December 7, 1906, at his residence, 471 Stratford avenue, James Daniel Beard, aged 28 years, 9 months, 17 days. Funeral at residence of Aaron R. Smith, 25 Grove avenue, South End, Shelton, Conn. at 2 p.m. Monday, December 10, 1906. Burial private.

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*[This letter dated Dec. 19, 1906 was written from Foochow, China by Flora to her mother. She has found that time doesn't mean much to the Chinese. She has some fun plans for Christmas. She has ordered more school supplies and now has nine students. She updates the letter on Dec. 26 and tells about the various Christmas activities and includes a menu with the letter. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Dec 19, 1906]

Dear Mama:-

Where time is of little value it is hardest to get. There is no such thing as "time" to these Orientals. The other week I went over to spend Sunday with Miss Newton and left word with my coolies to come for me so that we could start for home at 7:45 A.M. I waited until 8 o'clock and then started, with a coolie, to walk. When I was within five minutes of home I met them just starting- at 8:30 A.M. They went on and got my chair but got no pay. I wonder if it will do them any good? I cannot get used to treating them like children and punishing them as though they belonged to me. However, Ellen does it, so I get out of that disagreeableness.

Last Saturday we took a walk to the Flower Village across the plain at the foot of "The Alps." It was a very pretty view as we looked down upon it from the hillside. We took afternoon tea and spread out dainties on the broad stone of one of the huge horse-shoe graves and literally picnicked in a grave yard. - There really is no other place for one, for every available spot above tide water is covered with graves. We bought forty beautiful huge chrysanthemums for thirteen cents gold. They would have cost twenty times as much in New York. These villagers refuse to sell the plants but I found a root with two nice young plants on one of my flowers, so I am letting it grow. When we came to pay for the flowers we could not get money enough among our whole crowd so one of the villagers volunteered to walk clear over here for his pay.

Well, Xmas promises to be quite gay. Next Saturday we are all invited to the dinner given to the kindergartner's and orphans. It will be a'la Chinese and I think rather interesting. On Xmas day we all go to the home of President of the college. The next Saturday we go to a Christmas tree at a large school under an English woman.

I am sending for six histories from Ginn and Co., New York City. The bill will be somewhere near four dollars and I have asked him to send a copy of the bill to me (if he wishes to keep the receipt) so that I may know just what to charge the children here. In February I am planning to send a draft which will help to equalize myself a little on my home debts.

So far I have nine children. I laughed when I read your query about my 'assistant.' However, after Xmas I am to have a little boy for private tutoring and I expect two more children- at least- from the four families who are returning from America. Besides, I am organizing a class in "drill" (calisthenics) which will mean a little more money. I did so want to pay up the whole \$300 this year.

It is getting late and I must go to bed. I am feeling not very kindly toward Taylor and Gregory to-night because my watch has gone back on me and it is now in the hands of a Chinese jeweler.

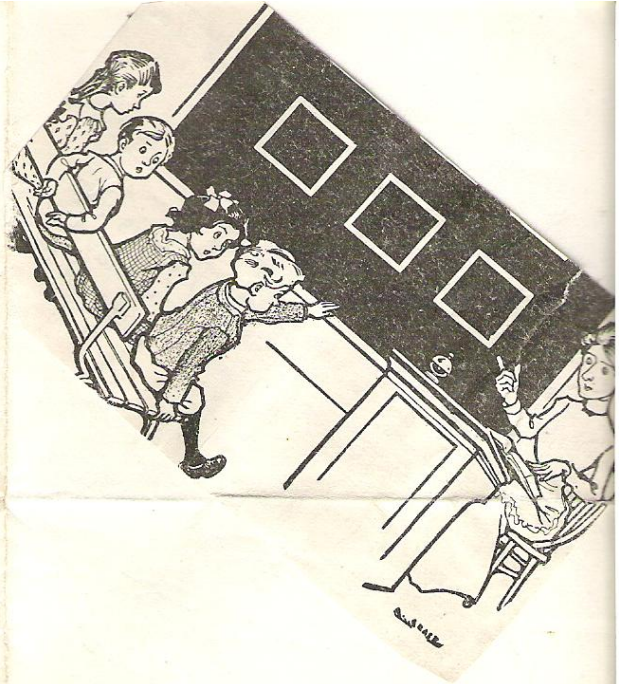
Lovingly- Flora. Dec. 19.

Dec. 26. - In the stress of getting ready for Xmas these letters got stranded in my pigeon hole, so I'll tell you of our Xmas Day. Our children are the only ones in the mission group here so they got very generously remembered. It took over an hour yesterday to open the gifts and get them all duly examined. Then it was time to get ready for the dinner. At 1 P.M. we went to Mr. and Mrs. Gowdy's. (By the way Mrs. Gowdy was a classmate of May Palmer's in Wesleyan). There were thirty three people at the long table and a jolly company it was. My seat was next to the U.S. Consul, so it was without saying that I had a good time. I am enclosing my menu so that you can see what we did. Each one had to find his or her place by finding a picture which illustrated something about oneself. The rest of the card explains itself. The table looked very pretty and quite Christmassy. There were strewn over the table little bunches of banyan leave- the straight edged leaves- and clusters of bright red berries that grow on branches of the scalloped leaf- enclosed. One of the ladies had brought out a Holly decked set of paper napkins and tumbler doylies so we really had everything but mistletoe- and there wasn't need of any of that. Cupid has been very busy and has literally worked himself out of material for targets.

1906

Program

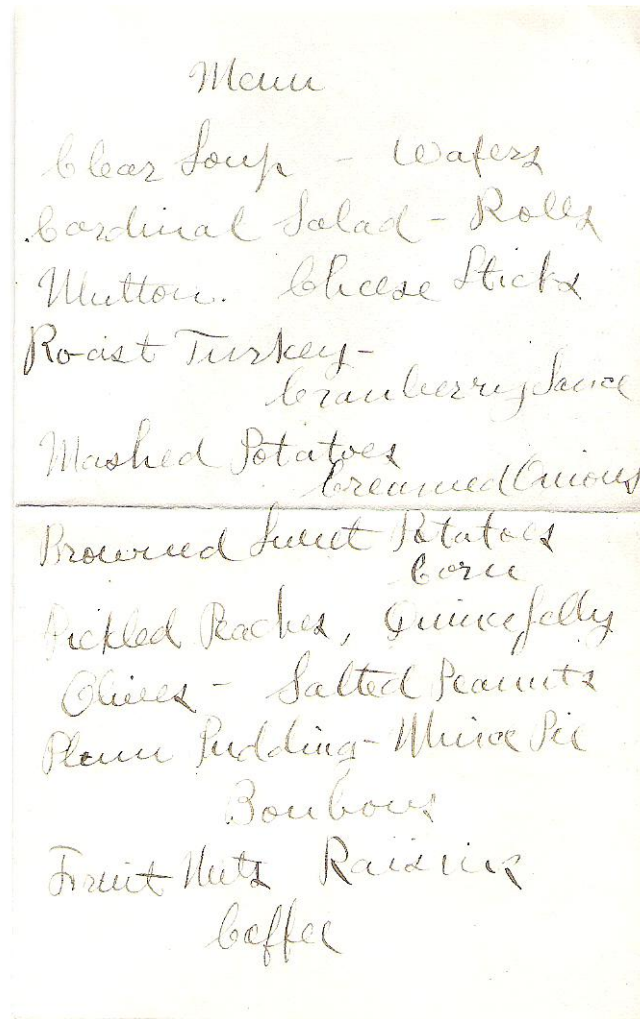
Song - - - by children  
Recitation - Dorothy Beard  
Solo - - - Mrs. MacLachlin  
Reading - - Miss Beard  
Solo - - - Mr. Jones



1906

Program

Song - by children  
Recitation - Dorothy Beard  
Solo - Mrs. MacLachlin  
Reading - Miss Beard  
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Menu

Clear Soup - Wafers  
 Cardinal Salad - Rolls  
 Mutton. Cheese sticks  
 Roast Turkey - Cranberry Sauce  
 Mashed Potatoes Creamed Onions  
 Browned Sweet Potatoes Corn  
 Pickled Peaches, Quince Jelly  
 Olives - Salted Peanuts  
 Plum Pudding - Mince Pie  
 Bonbons  
 Fruit Nuts Raisins  
 Coffee

In the evening I took Mrs. Maclachlin's place and played for her class of girls to sing at the Christmas exercises. They sang very well, but I wish you could have heard an anthem sung for a dozen young women trained by a Chinese teacher. The Tower of Babel could not have been more of a jargon of voices, and they sang on in all the bliss of no nerves. But the prettiest and loveliest thing of all was the little orphans- about a dozen and a half had a little bird game. It would have wearied the little Americans with its length but these little girls acted it all the way through totally unconscious of their audience. It was a game gotten up by their Chinese teacher by just seeing pictures in Kindergarten magazines. (By the way Foochow enjoys the distinction of having the only Kindergarten training school in China. Young ladies come from all over the empire to train here. The school is in some way connected with Miss Newton's school). To go on with the game- several little girls made a nest and two of the

tinest were birds. The father and mother birds flew about getting nouns and would return with a long piece of vermicelli on their mouths. They would go up to the baby and literally drop it into its mouth- It was so cunning. There the babies had to be taught to fly. I could have watched much longer. We stayed an hour and a half and then Dorothy's eyes began to get very droopy so we departed.

I think we have had fire crackers enough to celebrate the Fourth of July for the whole of Shelton. We were wakened yestermorning by bushels of them going off all at once and the boys at the college are still at it to-day. They have their races and the shouting would indicate a fierce tussle between Yale and Harvard at home but here it is nothing more serious than some potato, egg, or three legged race. The result is all the same for it meant outdoor exercise.

Tell papa to let me know the exact amount of each of my bills as they come in for I want to keep my accounts straight.

Hoping to hear from you all soon I am-

Yours lovingly-

Flora Beard.

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*[This letter was written **about Dec. 1906** by Flora to her sister, Mary. She tells Mary a little about her trip from Yokohama to Foochow. She mentions how smelly she has found Foochow and talks about her school, fruit in China, and lacquer. Mary mentions being lonesome with Willard being gone to Shaowu. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[About Dec. 1906]

Dear Mary:-

Your letter was most welcome and I wish I could have had one to reach you as soon as yours came to me. Yes, I had just as lovely weather as you. The ocean was fine all the way. The night after we left Yokohama the ship rolled very badly so that several were seasick again but I just slept through it. Friends of Will met me at Shanghai and took care of me but I only stayed 24 hours when I took the little coast liner down to Foochow. We were out in very rough weather. The waves tossed us about like a cork and I imagine the supper dishes went into smithereens for I heard them slide onto the floor. I was in bed with my first attack of seasickness. It was quite a successful attack for the next day I felt fine and was able to enjoy a whole day of the roughest water I ever saw. We were in the edge of a typhoon but fortunately we were going with the wind so that we were spared some of the worst features of the storm. Even the engineers were seasick so I guess I had a right to be. The sea was beautiful. We would go away down in the trough of a wave and then climb to the top and all the time we were rolling sideways. It was fine and if I am never any more seasick than I was I shall not mind such a little thing, - I am glad that you like California and that you have such a view for every day living. I, too, look out onto a range- in fact several ranges- beyond the city. From our back windows we look over the city of Foochow. We are about four miles from the walls. I have not yet been into the city, for the streets are so smelly that it is sickening to me to go through them even in my chair, - I was interested to hear about your school and hope you will tell me some more when you write again. Do you enjoy the work with the girls or is it a grind? My school opened with 8 scholars and now I have one more. Three of the families who send children are in America and today I heard that they are really returning which will probably mean four more children for me- which will make me feel much better, for I did want to make my expenses out here this year. Mary, they have asked me to start a class of calisthenics- which, I suppose, must be carried on something in the style of a drill. Do you know of any exercises that would be pretty with fans or hoops, or anything else? Do send them to me if you know of any- when you tell of the fruit you have it makes me think of our own- only ours do not grow in our yard. Will buys persimmons, oranges, pomelos and bananas in quantities as large as bushels. We have for breakfast and tiffin [*lunch*], two kinds of oranges, bananas, pears, pomelos (rather just one) persimmons (sometimes two kinds), dates cooked in honey, chestnuts (boiled) and peanuts. If you could see the children's plates piled with one of each of these you would wonder how they could eat them. But we do. I do not like to drink any more of the water than is necessary so I am glad of the juices of the different fruits. There are so many beautiful places to go to, and so many pretty things in the shops to buy that it is almost beyond endurance to not buy. I am just biding my time before I begin for I want to know when I can get the best. The carved tables and screens are beautiful and very reasonable. The lacquer shops are about five minutes walk from here, but the [*letter ripped*]- gold lacquer, is made only in the city. Foochow lacquer is the first in the world- even surpassing Japanese lacquer. I am surprised how much a box 15" X 6" X 2" would cost and the man said \$10 gold. He finally came down to \$8, but I did not give him the order. They put in real gold and there are about 18 coats of lacquer put on it, - I am sending in this same mail a small silk covered card case. I think the bridge is the sacred one at Nikko. I did not see it. We went to Tokio, and to Osaka but had to take up the rest of the time in seeing the ports. I took lunch with Bessie's friend in

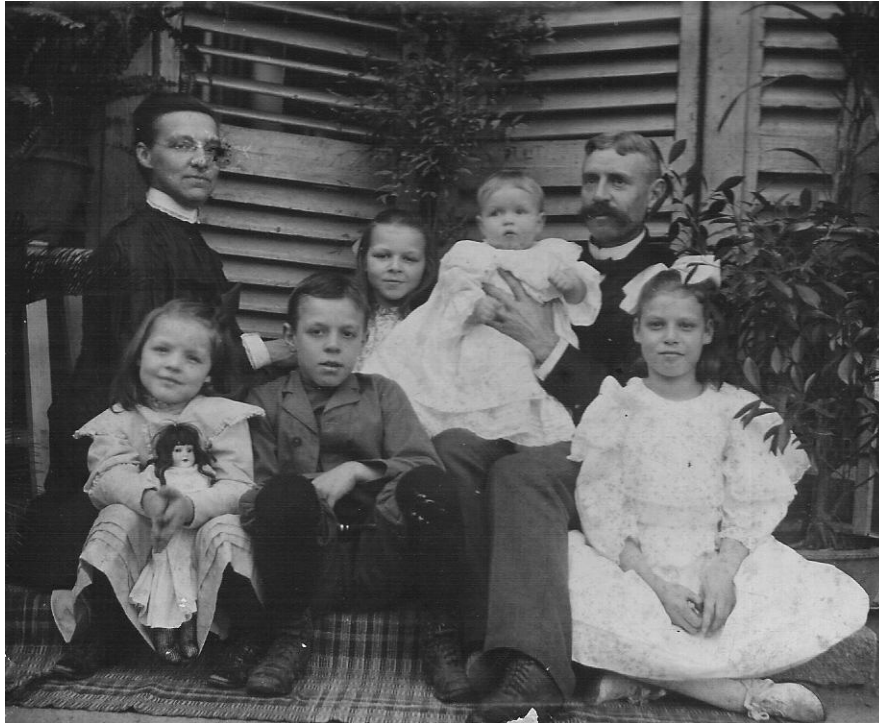


Nagasaki. They had been there just two weeks. It is a most beautiful spot- mountains all around. - The engagement of Miss Worthley here to Dr. Sites of Shanghai was announced about two weeks ago. I had the opportunity to wish them well. They both look surprisingly happy. - Keep my fan. I was glad to know where it is. It may stand you in stead and I can replace it for I am in the land of fans. - I hope this reaches you for Xmas. The little trick of sending mail to Shanghai is all up, so now I pay my 5 cents gold as all the rest have to do. - Give my love to Miss Wright and her friend and keep a lot for yourself as well as all my best wishes for a happy Xmas.

Very lovingly yours- Flora.

P.S. We are all well. Will is off on a six or eight week's tour and it is rather lonesome without him. However there are lots of nice people here who have been very good to me so with Ellen and the children I am not stagnating. - F.B.

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November 14, 1906

L to R back row: Ellen, Geraldine, Marjorie, Willard

L to R front row: Dorothy, Gould, Phebe

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

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Mary Louise Beard – photo from the 1906 Mt. Holyoke College “The Lllamarada”  
[Photo and information following provided by Mt. Holyoke College.]

May 26 [*birthday*] – Mary Beard

“Do you pronounce your name Ba-ard, Bayard or Beard? Thank you.”

“And your major subject?  
, of course.”

“And your pet abhorrence” Gym work?”

“Shall you teach? Your matrimonial preferences, if any? Do you think the majority of Mount Holyoke girls marry?”

“I’m getting statistics for the Ladies’ Home Journal and was directed to ask you a few questions as you always give unbiased opinions. Good bye, Miss Ba-ard”

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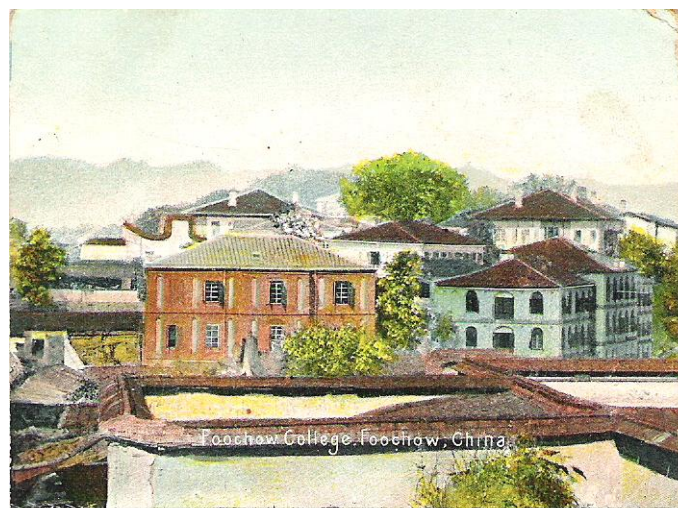
Mary Louise Beard- about 1906  
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

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The postcard on the following page is addressed to Mr. O.G. Beard, Shelton Conn. U.S.A. It was postmarked as being received in Shelton on January 21, 1907.

Foochow, Dec. 2/06.

Many a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you. These houses on front of this picture are our College buildings. I have one room in the red building for the Seminary work. Miss Beard is here now it seems good to see her again. Mr. Beard is now on his way to ShowFu. [*Shaowu*] We are pretty well and want to send our best wishes and kindest regards. Yours, M. U. Ding [*Ming Uong Ding*]



FOOCHOW, CHINA.

Fochow, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> 06.

Many a Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year to you - These houses on  
front of this picture are our college  
buildings - I have one room in the  
red building for the Seminary work  
Miss Beard is here now it seems  
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