

1912

- The Titanic sinks April 1912
- Willard Beard returns to Foochow without his family
November 12, 1912 with Willard as President of Foochow
College of the American Board until 1927. Ellen and the
children live in Putnam, CT (and probably Mt. Vernon, NY
until Willard leaves for China)
- New Mexico and Arizona are admitted to the Union
- Establishment of Republic of China (until 1949)
- Yuan Shi Kai becomes 1st President of China
- Willard is 47, Ellen- 44, Phebe- 17, Gould- 16, Geraldine-
14, Dorothy- 11, Marjorie- 6, Kathleen- 4.



Willard is the man sitting in front, far left.

*[This photo postcard, dated **January 5, 1912**, was written from Mount Vernon, New York by Willard to Flora. He is on his way home from New York. The photo is of the American Board missionaries at the 4th Conference of the Medical Missionary Association of Battle Creek. Postcard from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]*

[Photo postcard addressed to:]

Miss Flora Beard
 105 Mulligan Pl.
 S. Orange
 N.J.

Am. B'd Missionaries at 4th Conf. of Med'l Miss'y Assn Battle Creek
 Jan. 5 – 1912.

I'm off for home tonight.- Cold here 5 degrees below zero this a.m.

With Love

Will

At home 1:30 p.m. Sunday

While Willard is working for the ABCFM in the U.S., he and the family are probably living in Mount Vernon, NY, which is a suburb on New York City. A chopped photo postcard of the Century Farm House sent by Willard is addressed to Mrs. W. L. Beard at 146 Vista Place, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. Words that are still visible on the postcard are "N.Y., by Subway Express, Brooklyn, will be in Mt. V".

The following photos show Gould and Geraldine holding diplomas. They did graduate from Putnam High School together in 1916, but they seem too young in these photos to be 20 and 18 years old that they were. In 1912 they would have been 16 and 14. This might be a graduation from 8th grade- possibly Mt. Vernon, NY.



Myron Gould Beard - about June 1912

Possibly graduation from 8th grade. Photo was taken by Luttbeg, 150 South Fourth Ave. 150, Mt. Vernon. [*Photo from the family of Myron Gould Beard.*]



Geraldine Beard

Written on back of photo: "Rev. W. L. Beard. Foochow, China Merry Christmas from Geraldine"
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



Gould and Geraldine together

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

[This letter dated **Aug 14, 1912** was written from New York City by Willard to daughter, Phebe. He tells of going to meet a steamer that was delayed by the quarantine officials who suspected a case of cholera. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

TELEPHONE: 3159 GRAMERCY

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions

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REV. W. L. BEARD, DISTRICT SECRETARY AND GENERAL AGENT

287 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Aug. 14-1912

Dear Phebe-

Yours was a very interesting letter that came the other day. There was so much news about the hens in it that I have sent it to Gould. That poor old Plymouth Rock mother hen has had

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions
Rev. W.L. Beard, District Secretary and General Agent
289 Fourth Avenue, New York

Aug. 14- 1912

Dear Phebe:-

Yours was a very interesting letter that came the other day. There was so much news about the hens in it that I have sent it to Gould. That poor old Plymouth Rock mother hen has had enough written about her and enough sympathy expended on her to make her quite a noted character. I confess that my sympathies are usually for the younger members of her family whom I have so often seen her abuse. Perhaps her case is that of the Chinese woman. She had her day months ago and now the others are having theirs. Sunday I was in Kent, Conn. with a Miss Hopson. She is raising white Leghorns. The place was full of them. I do not think they look half as pretty as the Rhode Island Reds. That the hens are laying so well proves the good care you are taking of them. How are the little ones at Grandpa's getting on?

Yesterday was very hot here. I had to go way over to South Brooklyn twice- once in the a.m. - got up at 6 a.m. and found my own breakfast and left the house before Uncle Raymond and Aunt Mollie were out of bed,- to meet a steamer. The quarantine officials feared a case of cholera among the steerage and the first and second cabin passengers did not get up to the dock until 9 p.m. I did not wait as a young Armenian was there to meet the missionaries. When I got back to Mt. Vernon I found Miss Gorham, Aunt Mollie's Aunt from Noroton, Conn. There she will remain a few days.

This morning I saw Dr. Chambers who came in on the steamer last night. He told me that this Armenian had an automobile on the dock and took the whole party and their baggage right over to N.Y. to the Seville Hotel- mama will remember that she and I stayed there over night, when John Slemian Jr. was there and we three ate breakfast together,- and this morning he was helping transfer baggage etc. and getting them off on a steamer tonight for Woods Hole Mass. and paying all bills, Auto, Hotel, car fare, etc. Isn't that pretty good? It is a good proof that these young Armenians are grateful for what the missionaries have done for them.

Gould writes that the army is now right on Long Hill. An officer climbed Grandpa's wind mill to see if he could discover the enemy. I think Gould has gone down to Stratford to see the Aviators at work.

Uncle Raymond is an enthusiastic Rooseveltian and I get all the good points of the New Progressive Party. This noon I lunched with Aunt Mary at Columbia. She goes home Friday or Sat.

Please give mama a good hard hug and a loving kiss for – then kiss each of the sisters for me and give them all my love.

Your Loving Father
W.L. Beard

[This letter dated Oct. 13, 1912 was written from on board a steamer off of San Francisco by Willard to daughter, Phebe. He is on his way back to China without the family and he tells Phebe about his fellow passengers, many of them missionaries themselves. He tells a little of his trip across the U.S. to San Francisco. Letter donated to Yale in 2006 by Cynthia Elmer Amend.]

Pacific Mail SS Co.
S.S. Korea
Sunday
Oct. 13, 1912

Dear Phebe:-

Your letter was patiently waiting for me when I came on board yesterday. I have written mamma all about what I did yesterday. The visit with Leolyn and Aunt Leolyn and Dr. Morgan etc. You will be interested in some of my companions. Of course Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard are here. I expected to find Dr. and Mrs. Gillett but they are not here. Miss Brown and Miss Strang are here all right. Miss Strang weighs only about 100, - not as large as you. She goes to Ing Hok- or expects to be with Miss Chittenden. Miss Brown expects to be at Ponasang in charge of the Woman's Training School.

Just now we five Foochowites are sitting on deck on our chairs. First comes Mr. Hubbard- his chair back to the water, facing the middle of the ship. Pretending to read a book of poetry- but he really sleeps about half the time. Next comes Mrs. Hubbard facing the ocean actually reading a magazine. I sit next also facing the ocean and writing- Oh, I have the finest, warmest steamer rug you ever saw- so warm as the darker rug I bought in Shanghai and is now on one of the beds only it is larger. It is gray, black and white. The two sides are different. One small squares, plaid the other layer and the different shades of the stripes and the different widths break the monotony of a regular plaid. Now how is that for a description from a prosaic, matter of fact man? Next me sits Miss Brown back to the ocean like Mr. Hubbard. She is also writing. Next her sits Miss Strang facing the sea also writing. We have just been to the other side of the ship to see the sun set.

Your wishes for a pleasant trip with a smooth sea are thus far successful. I have been all right- taken every meal- slept perfectly last night- nearly 10 hours and today I have been very faithful in walking. It is getting too dark to write.

Tuesday 12:30 p.m. - Another beautiful day. Yesterday I wrote Kathleen before breakfast. All your good wishes for a smooth sea and a pleasant trip are realized this far. I never had such a pleasant beginning to a sea trip. I have felt a few qualms but thus far I have had no trouble in keeping about- at the table four times each day and able to take bullion at 11 a.m. and sleep all night and feel like getting up in the morning. Miss Strang is a good sailor but Miss Brown is not happy. Yesterday there was a little swell on- today more. But the Korea is a large ship and there is not that sense of balancing on the tip of a wave and then gliding down between two waves and almost coming to a standstill while the ship quivers and hesitates. The weather grows warm as we go south.

Now I have your letter before me and am going to try to answer it seriatim [*seriatim*= one after another]. Yes I reached Aunt Ann's at 6:11 Friday Oct. 4. But this harvest is all over, - even their corn was cut and in shocks. Yes you would enjoy this trip immensely- you would like both Miss Brown and Miss Strang. Our five chairs are in a row, and of course I felt it incumbent on me to get up and adjust the rugs for the ladies. I made some laughing remark about the bother it was and Miss Strang declared I would not help her with her rug again, so I just sit still now and let her fix herself and we all have a good laugh about it.

The trip on the train was quite comfortable until the last day. I had 14 hrs. of steady riding that Friday and it got to be pretty tiresome. I had an upper berth all the way fr. St. Louis to Los Angeles and was very comfortable.

I'll try to get some postals in Japan for Artyn and I must get a picture in Kobe that Mama wants me to buy.

San Francisco is building up all the time, but there is a lot of vacant land yet. I had very little time to go about, so did not see it as much as we did three years ago. A hotel agent came on the train just before we reached San F. and I just went with him to the "Dale" where my room was \$1.00 and a nice quiet one.

The Autumn colors were only beginning to appear as I came thru. In one or two places they were fine.

As you will see by the map I sent you that I took the Santa Fe route this time, - south. No I had plenty of time to get each train. You see at N.Y. I had 5 hrs, at Buffalo I had about 15 min. Uncle Willis [*Willis Hume*-

husband of Ellen Kinney Beard's sister, Etta Kinney] went with me to the station- at Cleveland I had an hour- Mr. Tippet took me down in his auto. At Springfield I had only 10 min. but I took dinner only 10 minutes walk from the station. At Chicago I had a wait from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and so it went. The only place that I felt in the least hurried was at Los Angeles. I had to transfer and get b-fast in 50 min. Yes I have a very vivid recollection of running for that train with the pie and wondering at the serenity with which you all greeted me when I came in.

No my train trip was a very quiet one. I just rested and kept still and enjoyed watching people. I had most forgotten how to talk when I reached Los Angeles and had to make inquiries.

Yes, I'll go over to the new house on S. Side and write you how it all looks when I get there. My! but don't I wish I could have you or some of the children at best with me.- If you could know how I read and reread your letters you would feel repaid for writing.

Every detail of the home life that you and all the others write I shall devour with avidity and long for more.

You all seem very near- not in miles but in spirit. May God keep you and give you His best thing because He finds you so completely in line with Him.

Your very Loving father
W.L. Beard



Front row L to R: Marjorie, Dorothy, Kathleen

Back row L to R: Geraldine, Ellen, Phebe

About 1912 or 1913

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



Willard (holding hand of Chinese man next to him) probably 1910s.
 [Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

Foochow College Description

Foochow College is strategically located in the capital city of Fukien province, Between the South Gate and the Water Gate of Foochow, not far from South Street, with entrance on Guang haeng. Most of the buildings are on the slopes of a hill near the White Pagoda, and have good air and drainage. The elementary school is on a separate campus, with ample play grounds.

History of Foochow College

This school was established in 1853, at first only for Chinese studies. Rev. L.P. Peet, an American missionary, became president in 1890, and introduced courses in English. There was a large increase in attendance, and several new buildings were erected; to one of them prominent men of Foochow contributed liberally. In 1899 the school was given a charter by the Legislature of Massachusetts, and added two years of college work. In 1913 Rev. W.L. Beard became president. Six years later, after the establishment of Fukien Christian University, this school, in agreement with other local institutions, gave up its college work, which was transferred to the new university.

[From a pamphlet on Foochow College in the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]
