

1942

- Ellen and Willard are living at Century Farm
- Gould and Virginia are in Great Neck, New York
- Geraldine is in Seattle, Washington then Berkeley, California
- Dorothy and Harold are in Saginaw, Michigan
- Marjorie is in Canada and then Century Farm
- Kathleen and Hugh are in St. Petersburg, Florida
- Willard is 77, Ellen- 74, Gould- 46, Geraldine- 44, Dorothy- 41, Marjorie- 36, Kathleen- 34.

[This letter dated Jan. 9, 1942 was written from Putnam, CT by Emma to Ellen. Emma thanks her sister Ellen for the Christmas gifts. Their nephew, Fulton, a doctor, was called to the scene of the Pearl Harbor attack to assist with the wounded and he was shocked at what he saw. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Putnam, Conn.
Jan. 9 1942.

Dear Ellen,

Another surprise parcel was delivered at my door recently which contained a beautiful bureau scarf, which I think must be the most beautiful design you brought from China.

It is the choicest linen article in design and workmanship that I possess. I value it highly. The napkin ring is also very pretty and I assume was intended for Elbert.

We thank you for both gifts. I think we received much more this Christmas than we deserve. I wonder how you enjoy? the weather conditions this morning. You will remember that we have two thermometers hanging outside our south window which do not agree as to temperature. This morning the temperature by one was 20 degrees below zero and the other 24 below. Take your choice.

We are hibernating in the kitchen this morning since it is the only room in the house which is warm enough to sit in with comfort.

We have wondered this morning how Marjorie could endure the low temperature in Labrador. We heard from Stewart a few days ago, as possibly you did, that a cablegram had been received from Fulton that all our relatives in Hilo and Honolulu were safe. A few lines since from Myron states that in a letter from Fulton and Helen, Fulton said that when he was called to the scene of the attack at Pearl Harbor to assist in caring for the wounded, he was "shocked" at what he saw.* Fulton's note was short and added to a letter written by Helen.

I am enclosing two letters received from Etta on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Both are censored but nothing crossed out except the street and number in one letter.

Mr. Robinson has recovered from the mumps so that he was able to occupy the pulpit last Sunday.

Our annual church day exercises next Thursday evening, with supper and church reports. No speaker this year.

I called on Mrs. Robinson recently and saw the new baby.

He is a sturdy little fellow and is the idol of the Parsonage.

Elbert is nearly ready to go down to the Bank meeting and will take my letter so it must be brief.

With love

Emma

[The following written in Ellen's handwriting]

Am sending these two letters as there are one or two things in them that you will be interested in. Forward to Dorothy and Kathleen when you are writing either of them. Do not return to me when they have made the rounds. Destroy them.

I am enclosing a receipt from your Insurance Co. which came here in care of father so he opened it to see what it was as he said you had told him of your connection with this Co. and we are forwarding the contents of the envelope in this letter, - just the receipt only.

Love

Mother.

*[*In an article dated July 27, 1939 from The Chronicle Telegram (Elyria, OH), "Dr. Fulton Hume has been physician and surgeon in the Hospital at one of the large sugar plantations on the Hawaiian Islands, and is enroute to Beirut, Syria, where he will be head of the Medical Department of the American College there, under the Rockefeller Foundation." Since this was 1939, Fulton must have eventually gone back to Hawaii to have been there for the attack on Pearl Harbor.]*

[This letter dated January 10, 1942 was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Aunt Mary to Jerry. Mary talks about her Christmas gifts. She mentions the scouting planes that fly over the farm and the Red Cross work for the war. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Century Farm
Shelton
Connecticut

January 10 [1942]

Dear Jerry-

Too bad you had to forego the visit in Berkeley! But as you write perhaps a less strenuous vacation was more useful and a better ?? for the new term. How do you like your College work? It must be rather fun to be a student once again. It sounds like a more carefree life without the responsibilities of a job.

We started to burn your pretty candle New Year's Eve but could not sit up long enough for it to burn out. It is a good candle and a slow burning one so we will save the rest for next Holiday season. Thanks a lot.

Santa was very good to us. Phebe probably has told of her gifts and so have Will and Ellen. I got an umbrella (Mine broke a rib in October so I needed it.); a summer night gown; a box of Corn Products (all kinds); a outdoor letter and note box which is now by the south door; a wooden case for my pelicans; one ?? ??; several handkerchiefs with my name ?? . Together we have an engagement calendar, a set of bath towels, a bath mat (badly needed as ours are getting old) a ?? jar, a snap shot album, the Reader's Digest, an electric clock, a ??? etc. Yes I had a work basket made in China and some nice envelopes for protection of delicate underwear etc.

We had parsley from my garden for decoration of a New Year's salad that I picked that morning. But now the last parsnips and parsley are under a cover of snow and ice. Winter came with a vengeance last Saturday and has stayed. Our lowest temperature was zero Wednesday morning. Tonight it is low and somewhat windy so we feel it.

We have scouting planes in 3's or 4's going over frequently in clear weather. With the Sikorsky plant so near we hear most of the testing of planes from there. Also at Lordship and in New Haven are schools of Aviation. Last year the New Haven students often ??ted over us but with the 10 mile limit they stay closer home. The Bridgeport ones are over us though.

We have all the Defense workers all over? town to but neither Phebe nor I are signed up. We have been sewing for Red Cross about one day a week and bringing unfinished garments home to finish. Our Missionary Society made about a dozen new garments for the Congregational Children of England and collected second hand clothing that weighed about 150 pounds for the same.

Our campaign for United China Relief started last May with about \$650, but gifts keep coming in so it is at or near \$1000.00. There were \$100 gifts and many of \$1.00 or less to make this up.

Will and Ellen are gaining ground every day in endurance and vitality. Both say the winter has not seemed as hard to bear as they had feared. This week has been the first real test for it is our first real cold. Zero is cold enough.

How grand it was that you could greet them in San Francisco! Kits [*Leolyn Jr. or 2nd*] has been urging Phebe and me to come west until this war broke. But we did not feel that Will and Ellen were equal to carrying things here yet. Both can fall asleep if they sit still too long, too easily.

Write us a line one day. I hope you do not have to have too many black outs. They sound not too good. The refugee from Spain in town has dug himself a bomb shelter just off Canter Street.

May 1942 bring you some measure of pay and happiness.

With love

Aunt Mary.

[This letter dated Jan. 1942 was written from Tampa, FL by Kathleen to Jerry. Kathleen is now living in Tampa to be closer to Hugh's work. She urges Geraldine to come back east once she's earned her librarian degree. She expresses hope that Ellen will come to FL for a while in the winter. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

2403 Azeele St.
Tampa Fla.
Jan. 1942

Dear Jerry:

By the heading of this letter you can guess what we have been up to lately. Our move wasn't as far as we expected it to be for Hugh was not transferred, but since we don't want to wear Father's tires out we are going to eliminate the drive to Tampa by living over there. We have a nice five-room apartment out on the edge of town and a very nice landlady and landlord. I am not sorry at leaving Safety Harbor for the house there was dark and cold and I didn't like using Father's car so much.

Your Christmas box came at a very good time, after the excitement of Christmas day had worn off and the children were wondering what to do with themselves. Jill washed her little mat all by herself and uses it for Patsy's table cloth. Cynthia likes to take her book to bed and look at the "pichures". Those candle holders are lovely and how clearly the grain of the wood stands out. They will be lovely for our mantel when I get some candles to go in them. I got Hugh some leather slippers with your check (the soft travelling kind) and he likes them a lot. Thankyou, and much, from us all.

I hope my five spot reached you safely. Hugh thought me very foolish to send it in that form but I have done it so many times without it being lost that I guess I have grown careless. Tell me if you didn't receive it. I was sorry afterwards that I hadn't put it into fruit, for you would probably have enjoyed that more even tho two-thirds of the value would go to the Express Co. But seeing as you are studying instead of getting paid I figured you might have use for a little spondelux (if that's the way you spell it.) I suppose by now you are hard at the books again and I do hope you got a real rest during your vacation. Perhaps it is just as well you didn't take that long trip to Berkeley even tho no bombs have dropped. As for that I guess Seattle is just as dangerous as San Francisco. I read that all sorts of key businesses were owned and operated by Japs there and the 5th column was well organized. Well, get back East as soon as you can, and South too. We have some lovely Libraries down here you know. Just what type of work are you going to head for when you finish there?

Mother intimated that she would probably be down sometime this winter (she had better hurry up for spring hats are already in) even if Father hugged the Farm, and I'm glad we have a place where we can entertain her. I think she will love browsing around the stores here and the Tampa Fair will be on next month.

I haven't told you anything about Christmas here but it is so far in the background and was so hectic that I would just as soon forget it until it speeds around again. Hugh had to work awfully hard and his train was late every trip, Cynthia was sick the week before so I couldn't do any shopping and I was all alone Christmas eve- so enough said. We did get loads of gifts "an embarrassing wealth" of them as Mother puts it, but things just get so rushed that I don't get the feeling of it the way I used to in the days when we trekked to Saginaw in your Ford. Oh to be a child- no life begins at forty doesn't it?, but Christmas is for children at any rate. I'm getting so sleepy that this sounds muddle-brained so love till next time- Kathie

[This letter dated Jan. 12, 1942 was written from Tampa, FL by Kathleen to Dot and Harold. She and Hugh have moved to Tampa. Jill broke her arm and it has been in a cast but it is alright now. Kathleen tells about her Christmas and remembers last year when they visited her. They have had to practice black-outs because of the war. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

2403 Azeele St.
Tampa Fla.
Jan. 12, 1942

Dear Dot and Harold:

Here it is Jan. 12 and I am still not finished with my post-Christmas letters. I must confess that I got the difficult ones out of the way first this year and then we have been busy finding the above new address- but more of that later.

That Raggedy Ann book you sent Jill while her arm was in a cast made a big hit and has been read and reread. Both the children love those stories and I believe it was about the first book that Cynthia really listened to with interest. Jill's arm is alright now and she can straighten it out all the way. For weeks she has been exercising it daily and carrying my heavy iron around to get it back to normal and she has done most of the treatment by herself showing us her progress proudly every few days. It still does not bend up as close as the other arm but that will come. Cynthia loved those little snow men and played with them all the rest of the day. I have put them away for Christmas tree decorations now. They had lots of fun with those balloons for a couple of days too and I think they get just as much pleasure out of things like that as they do out of expensive toys. For C's birthday I had Molly and Sally down here for supper and the night. The four of them had such a good time and the next morning we all went to the school Christmas party. But I guess it was too much for C. That night she had such a high fever I got scared and called the local Doctor thinking it might be pneumonia. It turned out to be the flu but she was delirious most of the night and spent the next three days in bed. It rather messed up my Christmas shopping but I finally got it done the day before Christmas and she could be up for Christmas day. Hugh had to work so I spent Christmas eve alone doing up last presents and fixing stockings. I remembered a year ago when Christmas eve brought you two in and what fun we had over the tree next morning. Well, this Christmas I was tired and slept late, awaking to find the children already at the tree all by themselves and jubilantly bringing in things for me to see (I having no idea where

they were from). Off to a bad start- but I finally got them straightened (I hope). We had dinner with the Elmers and McNutts and spent the afternoon there until it was time to go to Tampa for Hugh. He had his dinner heated over and when the children were tucked in we had our tree late at night. I was very thankful that yours, Jerry's and Mother's packages came the week before New Years for they helped to fill that awful vacant let down after Christmas and for a while we were getting something every day. Jill would ask "what present is there today?" It was like having Christmas extended for a week and I think the children really enjoy having them come that way. From the shouts of joy when Jill opened the box of dollie clothes I take it she liked that the best of her presents. Anyway she made the most noise over it and Patsy had to try on everything right away. She is a bit stout for one dress but I think I can fix it and everything else is just right. Cynthia got a little vanity set (from Sally) in pink just like Jills so they were both pleased. And those little China dolls are darling. C liked them and took them every where with her. I am not familiar with the story they represent but they certainly are cute.

Where did you find that nice measurement chart? I used to keep Jill's height on the door casing but C. has "just grewd". Now we will keep a record of their progress upward. Thanks so much for all the things. I was interested in your banquet program and it must have been quite an honor. I would like to have seen it. Cynthia immediately appropriated the "little book" and took long looks at Auntie Dot kissing the picture and talking to it in the car going to Tampa for Daddy. She still has it among her treasures which she wraps up and puts carefully away. I find things in the funniest places, things I had long given up as lost. Once I picked up a missed newspaper and before throwing it away looked at a picture only to have a nickel fall out. Upon further shaking I got three more pennies from the folds of it. When she put them there I have no idea. Was she singing songs last year? She knows quite a few now. Besides "Jesus loves me" in Chinese and English she sings "My Country tis-a-dee, Sweet land-a-livatee" so that you can recognize it and "God Bless America" with variations. But the one that slays me is "HELP-Somebody today" which she got at Sunday School I guess. The help comes out like an SOS. She also knows Hut Sut.

Hugh did not get transferred as we thought he might but we have got to move anyway because we are wearing out Father's tires too fast driving to Tampa every day and spending too much money on gas to get us there. Yesterday Hugh and I looked around Tampa for a house or apartment. We found one that suited in every respect in four hours so we felt pretty lucky. It is a five room apartment on the ground floor of a four-apartment house just being redecorated inside and is on the edge of the city where there are a few open spaces. There is a pretty little school four or five blocks away and stores and bus service near. We move in next Sunday Jan. 18, so from then on our address will be as I have written at the head. There is enough room so that Mother and Father can stay with us if they come down. Mother said in her letters that she would come anyway even if Father didn't. I think she will enjoy being so near the city where she can browse around the stores and do what she likes. I am not sorry to be leaving Safety Harbor for there isn't much going on here and as any schedule was arranged I spent almost half of every day going to Tampa and back. Now perhaps I can get some reading and sewing done and even knitting for the Red Cross.

Mother wrote that she sent a letter to you about the family presents which you were to send on. Of course I had already decided to send the fruit so probably could not have gone in on them anyway but if you still have they letter I'd like to see it. What did you go in on for Mother?

(I'm getting so sleepy I can't write clearly. Good night!)

Jan. 13 Is Saginaw doing anything for civilian defense? You are located in quite a central position so shouldn't have much to fear at present. We had a practice blackout all along the West coast area a week or so ago for half an hour, but it was moonlight outside so it really wasn't so dark. I guess Jerry is in the most dangerous spot (of our family) just now, but she leaves Seattle in the spring doesn't she? I guess Aunt Etta may see some action. I heard over the radio that Hilo was bombarded by a lone submarine not long ago. Fulton must be pretty busy since Dec. 7.

Was it thrilling to hear about our defense bonds from Father, and he gave the children each an addition to their bank account. Mother gave us each some Chinese linens. Her sewing women did lovely work didn't they? I especially like the water lily pattern in appliqué.

We have just had a cold spell with a light frost which spoiled most of the poinsettias and papayas. Until now we have hardly needed fires or winter clothes but we surely are glad of them these days, and Cynthia wears the blue leggings you sent Jill all day long. And can you imagine it? - Cynthia is now wearing those all wool socks you left with us. If they keep on shrinking we'll have to give them to Gidge's baby. I am very glad of that green dress of yours too. It serves as my best now. I got lots of compliments on the play suit last summer, and you might be surprised to see some of your dresses still walking around on me.

The Saws were over from Haines City just after Christmas and Lois was with them. She drove clear down from Minneapolis with some relatives. Winnie Soll Webb (my chum in Logan whom you saw play basket-ball in Saginaw) just had a baby boy. She is married and lives in Tuscon Arizona.

Have you received one of those defense stamp chain letters yet? Hugh got one from a friend of his. Lots of love and don't let "Ruth" keep you too busy to write once in awhile. Kathie

[This letter dated Jan. 18, 1942 was written from Saginaw, Michigan by Dorothy to Jerry. She sends thanks for the Christmas gifts. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

I've forgotten whether or not I sent you one of these programs and clippings. I had just enough for my family and I have one left and I think I sent all the others but yours.

Dorothy Newberg

Saginaw, Mich.
Sunday-
Jan. 18, 1942

Dear Jerry:-

Such a time as you and I have over Christmas gifts! I'm just plain ashamed of myself- I haven't sent Gould's family's gift yet, nor yours, nor Hugh's and Kathie's. I did get something off to the youngsters.

I don't get any discount at Worely's after I stop working there. I priced skates there yesterday. They don't carry Johnson's, but have another \$7.50 skate. However, it will cost about .75 to send them, so I am enclosing a check for \$2.50 from Harold and me toward your skates or whatever else you want for your Christmas present.

Harold very much appreciated your gift to him. He needed a new shirt, and used that to get it. Please don't send me anything this year. I know you need it very much more than I do right now. I feel as tho' I had lots more than my share this year with the many congratulatory gifts. Just how are you fixed for finances, now? Are you having to skimp terribly?

All this week I have been spending all possible time on contacting some 30 chapters for dates to give them their School of Instruction. My schools are all up in the thumb of Michigan, so I ought to know that part of my state after this year is over, anyway. I just finished my last letter today. Now I'm waiting for answers confirming dates. I start on my Schools Feb. 2.

Next week the Grand Officers are in Detroit for five or six days. We are all going to the Ford Hour, in a body, next Sunday, so if you listen, think of me there.

I'm sorry the enclosed card from Eleanor got lost for awhile among my other cards. It came before Christmas.

We had a solid week of sub-zero weather and were all nearly congealed. We have put in gas heat, and the gas furnace seemed to be going all the time- the way the ice box does in 90 degree weather.

Am enclosing my last letter from Kathie. Harold and I had a good laugh over the new repertoire of songs, especially the "Help"- one.

Congratulations on your good marks! You're doing finely.

We did just about as near nothing as was possible to celebrate the holidays. During the vacation we started remodeling our bathroom. Put down new linoleum and put in a new lavatory.

Do you have any idea where you'll be next year?

Love from
Dot.

[This letter dated Jan. 20, 1942 was written by Ginny (Virginia Beard) to Willard and Ellen. She will be taking Hazel to Chicago for a check up regarding her accident. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

VSB

Tues. Jan. 20, 1942

Dearest Father and Mother-

As far as I know now my plans to take Hazel to Chicago will carry through. I'm just waiting word from her Docs saying they will be available at that time.

The present plan is that we leave Wed. afternoon the 11th and hope to get back by Sun evening the 15th.
Mother Dear I suspect you would prefer to be here a few days in advance of my departure to get the feel of our routine.

As far as Gould can see now, he expects to be here while I'm away but he won't be able to guarantee it.

Thurs. Jan 22, 1942

This came this A.M.

"Thanks a million for Christmas gifts, they fit perfectly. Please tell Father and Mother we were overjoyed to receive their message Jan. 16th. Glad they got ours. Had grand Christmas. Ralph went North after New Years.

Love to All
Monnie Butt
Davis Inlet"

It's so good to hear from her.

Gould says if it is convenient for you to come back with us and the travelling is not too bad, we will come up Sat Feb 7th and bring you back Sun. nite the 8th.

I hope to hear from the Chicago Doctors by this Monday at the latest and then you'll hear again from me.

Your lovely Christmas presents to all of us made us so happy. We're all delighted with them. And we still haven't quite recovered from the generousness of the extra special gifts. Words of mere Thank you no matter how sincere are quite inadequate to express our appreciation.

The last couple of days here have been almost like the beginning of Spring so that it seemed almost foolish to continue hunting for a ski suit for myself. However there is much snow ahead of us I'm sure.

The youngsters had such good fun coasting in this last snow for it stayed good several days.

I got some good color pictures of it the 1st morning also my pictures of our Christmas tree turned out well.

Father since I have a lovely new slide projector, you'll have to let us peek at your slides. It is such a joy to be able to get a good look at them anytime we want to without planning to borrow a projector first.

Gould is very busy taking a course in celestial navigation which means much studying at home.

Love from us all
Ginny

[This letter dated Jan. 31, 1942 was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Ellen to Geraldine. She asks Geraldine if they have to practice blackouts because of the war and inquires about the general feel on the U.S. West Coast. She talks about the call for citizens to volunteer for defense service. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Since writing the major part of this letter, your letter to us has arrived which answers some of the questions I have asked here.

Mrs. Willard L. Beard
Century Farm
Shelton
Connecticut

Jan. 31", 1942.

Dear Geraldine,

It seems a long time since we last heard from you, but we suppose that implies that other members of the family and other deserving friends are getting their share of your interesting letters.

We wonder what the war conditions out in your section are; whether you have the practice blackouts occasionally and the warning signals for practice, and the wardens on duty in the streets thru the whole 24 hrs. each in his own appointed beat and for certain hours each day, as a defense measure against incendiary bombs, as they are doing in N.Y. City.

What is the attitude of the people out there, toward the war in general, toward the Japanese who are resident on the Pacific Coast and particularly in your immediate vicinity; and toward the military group in Japan who are perpetrating this aggression; and toward the rationing of food, especially sugar, but now any and everything that is sold in stores if it is in any way needed in defense measures?

How have you been as to health these past weeks since we have heard from you? And are you enjoying your work as much as you anticipated? Do you feel that you are getting out of it all that you hoped and will this one year of study there give you the highest library degree?

Is your work very strenuous or do you have time for sufficient rest, relaxation, recreation, and social activities and contacts? Have you found a church home where you are meeting pleasant and friendly people?

Has your rainy season come to its conclusion yet, or have you still some weeks to go?

I suppose you are having all the California fruits, - oranges, tangerines, grape-fruit, grapes, persimmons, dates, papaya, avocado, bananas, as well as those wonderful apples and pears grown right there in Washington State, and perhaps other local fruits.

How has the temperature been thru January in Washington? I suppose it never snows there except on the mountains.

We have had a very mild winter here, our only really cold weather being the week of Jan. 11-17. There were several days of zero weather in that week, but most of the winter thus far has ranged from 28 degrees to 56 degrees. We have had snow only three times, two of those falls being very light, and the heaviest one only three inches. Traveling in autos on the roads has not been interfered with at all by the snow, or ice, down here, but they have had much more snow in northern N.E. and some more even in Putnam. The aunts had some trouble starting their car during that cold spell and we all missed going to church one Sunday because they couldn't start it. Two other times we four had to push it all the way down the lane to the road before it would start.

But neither father nor I have felt the cold as keenly as we thought we should coming home after two years in a milder climate, - at our age. But I think they have really kept the house warmer this winter than they did the three years we were here before. And we have a warmer room this time, for they insisted on our taking the room over the living room, which Phebe used to have. I didn't feel that we ought to take it but they insisted and so we did. We really have been more comfortable.

Have you received an announcement of the arrival of Nancy's and Fred's little son Stanley Owen Forbes? I suppose you have. Nancy was supposed to have come home to Holland from the hospital in Holland Virginia, last Sunday when the baby was only ten days old. Seems rather rushing things to me. Stanley and Myra went down to see her. They also went down about two weeks before the baby came. The aunts say Nancy wanted a girl.

Wells and Marian are soon to become parents. They were invited here for dinner last Sunday. Father thinks they are destined to welcome a son. I am guessing, a daughter. We'll see who is the better judge, - or guesser.

People out this way are doing quite a bit of organizing and preparing for defense; and we hear a great deal about it over the radio, especially addressed to New York people, as of course that city is the most likely point of attack on this side of the continent. Buy defense bonds and stamps, and give to the Red Cross are almost hourly calls over the radio. Also calls for young men to sign up for airplane training as pilots, volunteers for the navy, for technical service, engineering service, radio service, nursing service (women) dieticians etc. etc. Everybody must sign up for some form of defense service. Father and I signed a blank specifying what we were fitted to do, but we have not been regimented yet.

Some people are buying cloth for black-out curtains and are planning the proper lights to use in such and emergency. At the King's Daughter's meeting last week, we were told that every women's organization or society was asked to send two of its members to a class which is to be put on hereabouts, to train leaders in preparing for large quantities of food for refugees in case of an emergency.

These things show how the war is touching us here and I suppose it is very much the same the country over.

Well, we presented the dictionary to Emma and Elbert with its table, and they were evidently much pleased and surprised. I am going to circulate a copy of my presentation note, and a copy of their notes of thanks to Etta's family and to you all. Em. and Elb. just couldn't guess what was in those two mysterious packages which they were not permitted to open till Christmas Day.

Virginia is taking Hazel to Chicago to have a checkup by her Dr's on Feb. 11 and has asked Father and me to come down and keep house while she is away about 4 days. They will drive up here the Saturday before, and take us back with them Sunday evening.

When Wells and Marian took dinner here last Sunday the 26th, Marian said that Edith and Seymour's older boy Wynn who has had to have so much surgery done to his face also has imperfect hearing. I understood her that he heard very little in one ear and that the other was not very good. That is an added tragedy. She said the Dr. said perhaps if he could be taken up in an airplane it would help his hearing. And Seymour spoke of getting Gould to take him up. I think he has not yet contacted Gould on the subject.

Tonight, Jan. 31", we are having a thunder shower, two claps of thunder came in the midst of a rain storm that has been falling since noon today. The springs that feed wells need the water but not much of it will soak in as the ground is frozen. The snow from our last 2 inch snow fall, is going fast in this rain. The radio tonight over all stations warned drivers that roads all over the state are slippery, icy, but are being sanded. Motorists were warned to exercise extreme care.

We were glad to get your letter and hope you'll write again soon. With much love from us both,
Mother

[This letter dated Jan. 31, 1942 was written from Great Neck, NY by Virginia to Jerry. Virginia is expressing thanks to Geraldine for the Christmas gifts. Gould is taking a course in celestial navigation. Virginia updates Geraldine on how her children are doing. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Mrs. M. Gould Beard

255-25 Iowa Road Great Neck, New York

Sat. P.M. Jan 31, 1942

Dear Jerry-

I'm determined that all my Christmas Thank yous shall be on Jan. dates so now I'm working overtime.

On your slim budget we think you were mighty generous with this branch of your family. Willard loves his little deer and Hazel completely delighted with your H. pin and the lapel pin knitting. The latter I was more intrigued with than she for I was more than able to appreciate the work involved in making one of those little things. Her initial pin she has worn a great deal.

Our Indian mat exactly matches our Indian blanket so I'm putting it away with that. When we have a cellar game room we are going to use them there if Willard doesn't demand them before that. We're really pleased [to] no end and we all say a great big Thank you.

We had a grand Christmas in Seymour, having stopped at Farm on [the] way up Christmas Eve. You knew of course that we spent Thanksgiving at the Farm. The kiddies and I stayed up home a couple of extra days but Gould came back with Fred Christmas night, since we had taken our vacation last summer and had no extra days coming during the holiday season.

Hazel picked up a mean little cold during Christmas due to too much pre Christmas activity and not enough sleep and it went right through family catching up with me last (New Years Eve). Gould and I found it hardest to shed. Probably because we couldn't give up to it so completely and give ourselves the necessary rest.

Gould especially for he has been so very busy since Christmas. He's still home and has not been called to colors yet, but never can tell- I'm just very grateful for each new day he is still here with us. Of course he is in the Army Reserve Pool but can be taken out of it if conditions deem and tho he is pretty important right where he is. He has been to Washington several times.

Right now he is very busy taking a concentrated course in celestial navigation along with his regular work.

I plan now to take Hazel to Chicago Feb. 11th for a complete check up by her various Doctors out there. Mother and Father are coming down to look after their son and his son while sister and I run away. So if Hazel is O.K., the weather good, and two empty seats available on the non-stop we will be all set.

It was so good to have Father and Mother with us after Thanksgiving. I don't think I have ever seen Mother so consistently happy nor laugh anywhere near as much.

Isn't it grand about Nancy's young son. Hazel is so excited about it. We haven't heard a single detail as yet though. But trust that everything is fine.

My it is hard to believe that the month of January is gone already. The youngsters have had several days of good coasting this month. Thought we adults might get in a good evening of it tonite but it has poured whole water all day and removed almost every sign of snow.

Hazel played in her music teachers recital this afternoon. She still doesn't like taking lessons tho. She's been taking them since last May. We are storing Roberta's baby grand for her. Aren't we fortunate.

This year is proving to be very much Hazel's best year scholastically. She has at last come too and realizes that you have to buckle down and pay attention and work, if you expect to make the grade. So with the new attitude she is completely happy in school for the 1st time.

Willard hasn't come too yet. I think we'll have to let him repeat a year much as it would hurt his parents pride. He is just too much of a dreamer. His mind is a million miles away and nothing Gould and I, and his teacher and principal have tried have managed to help materially as yet.

They are both growing so fast. Hazel stands as tall as my collar bone and Willard about 5 inches shorter. In another year or so Hazel and I will be able to wear the same clothes in just different sizes.

I hope your winter work is coming along O.K., but that your not over doing for it just isn't worth it. Let us hear from you when you have a moment.

Love from us all-

Ginny

The Evening Sentinel, City of Ansonia, February 12, 1942

Rotarians Learn Much About China From Missionary

Dr. Willard Beard of Shelton Gave Highly Informative Talk at "China Day" Luncheon.

Members of the Ansonia Rotary club were given an interesting picture of the tremendous strides taken by an awakened China during the past 50 years in an address by the Rev. Dr. Willard Beard of Shelton, a retired missionary, at the "China day" luncheon of the club at the First Methodist church yesterday noon. Dr. Beard was presented by the Rev. Robert L. Weaver, pastor of the First Baptist church, and after his talk answered many questions concerning the Far East. A tasty luncheon was served by the ladies of the church. Ralph Van Arman presided at the meeting at which Frank Getlein and Dr. Irving Yale were inducted into Rotary membership by John J.F. Ruddy.

Dr. Beard spoke in part as follows:

"Circumstances have forced the United States to be the leading world power. Until two months ago China, Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, Malaya, Burma, Australia, were of secondary importance to most of us. Our primary interest was in Russia and before that in Europe. Today Singapore, Rangoon, Macassar, Borneo, stare at us in large letters from the front page of most every paper. The radio shouts 'Singapore' with the first breath. We are studying geography as never before. All of us are trying to say Chiang Kai-shek. And we know who he is. Every school boy and girl knows who MacArthur and Wavell are.

"What has caused this great change in our attitude toward the Far east? A very easy reply is: Pearl Harbor on December 7th. But that is a lazy answer. The events that occurred at Pearl Harbor last December were only logical results, (I do not say conclusion) of the history of the past century. The story of our relations with China and Japan began 100 years ago when the British took Hongkong. Admiral Perry steamed into the harbor of Nagasaki in 1852 and fired a gun and Japan opened up, and agreed to do business with Uncle Sam. She was to allow her people to go to the United States and our people to go to Japan and do business. In her own mind she made another decision- if gunboats and cannon made one nation powerful over another, she would have these. Japan's one aim since the morning when Perry said: "we would do business with you" to Japan, she has steadily pushed forward to becoming a first rate world power. How well she has succeeded is told in Pearl Harbor and in all of her steady advance in the southern Pacific since that day. In prosecuting this ideal of becoming a first rate world power she has used her business, her eugenics, her education and her treaty making. Look up the story of her treaties with other nations. She today signs any treaty that will be to her advantage. Tomorrow she tears up the same treaty if she thinks it will be to her advantage.

"In the treatment and rule of her colonies, Korea, Formosa, Manchukuo, she has made many promises that today seem to her advantage. The papers are weary of printing her promises that she did not want and would not take any Chinese territory. She would guard the open door policy for China and for Manchukuo. But look up the records and see that all other nations have been pushed out of Korea, Formosa and Manchukuo.

Things to Make War.

"Another part of the question of why we are interested in the Far East is that we have done a big business with Japan in selling to her all kinds of material with which she has been killing the civilians in China for more than four years, high test gasoline, scrap iron, airplanes and parts, and we have sent over mechanics to help use these and to teach the Japanese how to use them. You may have seen the account of a man who found the plate from one of the bombers downed at Pearl Harbor. The name on the plate was '_____ Co., N.J., U.S.A.' Doctors in China have found on pieces of bombs which they dug out of wounded Chinese, marks that indicated that they come from the U.S.A. When we went to China in August, 1939, we saw scrap iron loaded on our steamer marked for Japan. Yes, we made a lot of money selling materials that were used in killing Chinese. What we did not see was that those materials would soon be used to kill Americans.

"China reacted differently from Japan when the west forced her to open up and do business and give of her territory for concessions and even turn it over to the foreign nations as Hongkong. She was rather lethargic for

years. China followed her, bent as a literary nation. It took her a long time to wake up, but when she did awake she made swift progress."

Great Changes.

Rev. Mr. Beard said there was no great change in China until 50 years ago. In China there is no department in the life of the people clear back to the backwoods farmers whose life was not changed. "Forty seven years ago," he said, "I first walked down the main streets of Foochow, and it was 12 feet wide. Not a wheel turned in all Foochow, nor was there a pane of glass in the entire city.

"I have seen that street widened to 35 feet and to 50 feet with five foot sidewalks on each side. The same is true of all China. Roads were built all through the country. Building went higher. Education in China started from scratch. There was no public school. Today her public schools are as well organized as those of the U.S.A. and they have their own normal schools. Woman, 50 years ago, was a plaything and a slave. A Chinese told me of selling a lazy wife for \$90 and buying a new one for \$120 as casually as if he had bought a cow. Today that is changed. Today the little Chinese girl sits beside her brother in kindergarten, school and college. You have no idea what United States diplomats, business men, missionaries and Chinese students have done. Woman has taken her place in the life of China and perhaps the most outstanding woman of them all is Madame Chiang Kai-Shek.

"In forestry tremendous progress has been made with acres once utterly unproductive. The bubonic plague and cholera have been practically eliminated. Even the language of the country has changed as I learned when I returned in September, 1939, after being absent since 1936. China formerly had a written language and a spoken language, which were distinct. Today she has a national language that is read as it is written, and the people are proud of their national tongue which has done much to dispense with the need for interpreters among people of far distant provinces.

"Japanese aggression has affected China in many ways. Before it the Chinese were so many grains of sand. Today they are a united people.

"Taking the advice of Horace Greeley, China has moved west, she moved back. Chiang Kai-Shek foresaw that Japan would take the coastal cities, and so people moved back, hundreds and thousands of tons of machinery moved back. Education followed them.

"The church in China is feeling the effects of the war, but is still holding on."

[Newspaper article from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

*[This letter dated **February 19, 1942** was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Willard to Geraldine. He has given many talks since the beginning of the year. He tells Geraldine what some of the family members are doing. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Willard L. Beard
Century Farm
Shelton
Connecticut

February 19th 1942

Dear Geraldine:-

Your last letter brought good news- of time used to rest, and of feeling good over it. After the fall term of my sophomore year in Oberlin, I slept all the time when I was not at meals. I had worked very hard all the term- getting only 5 or 6 hours a nite in bed. I believe that as long as one can sleep in this way he is safe= he is able to revive himself.

Since the beginning of the year giving talks all about has been my business, - a bit too much some of the time. It pleased me to receive an invitation from the Woman's League of the Flatbush Church in Brooklyn to speak for them last Tuesday February 17. And in reply to my request that they write me directions to go from Grand Central Terminal to Flatbush, they replied, "Two ladies- one of who you know will meet you at G.C.T." I left Derby at 9:54 a.m. arrive G.C.T. at 11:58 and there was Miss Belle Preston who I have known since 1912 and Mrs. Burn who corresponded with me. She was born in Sendai Japan. It took a big load of nervous strain off me to have them show the way to Flatbush. We three had lunch at Miss Preston's home then I had 15 min. to rest before going 5 min. to the church. I became their missionary with Mother in September 1912. Dr. Lewis T. Reed was pastor and he and the whole church were always most cordial and after he left Dr. Wm. Dudley was pastor. He always asked us to come when we were home. In 1936 we took our letters from Flatbush to Shelton church. I expected they would forget us. But they have not. A lady teacher in the primary department of the S.S. got her youngsters to give money to buy me an eversharp, - stiner, monogrammed. I carried it for about 22 years. I forget the exact date but

not less than 22 years, and took it with me day before yesterday. The lady who gave me the pencil is dead but others remembered her.

Mother and I spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Bassett and Miss Preston, Mrs. Bassett's sister in 1936 soon after coming home that year. Mrs. Bassett died recently- in January.

After the meeting Dr. Dudley came in and greeted me very cordially and said he was going on business by way of the subway station that I should take to get to G.C.T. with only one change and that just across the platform. I reached Derby at 7:57 p.m. walked over to Shelton got a light lunch, walked to the parsonage where Aunt Phebe and Mary were and came home with them,- after a very satisfying day.

Mother went by train to Great Neck Monday, Feb. 9th to be with Gould and Willard while Ginny took Hazel to the Chicago doctors for a check up. They left Wed. Hazel came home Sunday alone. Ginny could not get on the plane- which came to La Guardia field non-stop- Gould, Willard and Mother met her. Ginny came Monday morning- had to change planes at Detroit. The doctors do not want to see Hazel again for two years. They have written New York doctors. The bone in the hip is not growing satisfactorily. That is all I could get from Mother's report. Mother and her son and grandson drove down to see the Normandy Sunday.

We= Mother and I saw "One Foot in Heaven" and enjoyed it. Some time we will see How Green is my Valley. I read the book a year ago in Ing Tai.

The Aunts are planning to start for Holland Virginia day after tomorrow February 21st. They will stop for a nite with Uncle Stanley and Aunt Myra- and stop in Baltimore and see friends. And they go to see of course Stanley Owen Forbes. Aunt Myra was down for two weeks after Nancy came from the hospital and I judge she had to work, - to care for the baby and kept house. Uncle Stanley has been down two or three times already. They drove up here Sunday for lunch and left about 3:30 to go to New Haven to see Stephen.

The month of February has been cold but both Mother and I have not felt the cold. I am still wearing fall underwear.

Monday Feb. 23.-

The Aunts left about 10:30 a.m. last Saturday as planned and we have heard nothing yet. Today's a holiday and no delivery. Saturday was a very disagreeable day. A strong, keen west wind that went right thru the house and thru all the clothes I could put on. The furnace did valiantly but the wind took the heat out of the rooms and to the East. It froze most of the day. Yesterday was much pleasanter. Uncle Ben took Aunt Abbie to church and then came down for us. He first took Aunt Abbie home and then brought us home. In the evening at 6 there was a reception for Dr. and Mrs. Russell McGown, a former pastor and after that at 7:45 a Union George Washington's Birthday service in which the four Protestant churches united. The four pastors and Dr. McGown made an imposing sight as they, gowned, mounted the pulpit. Dr. McGown preached a sermon appropriate for the birthday of the "Father of our country".

I wish I could get you some of the delicious Florida oranges and grape fruit Kathleen has sent us- two bushels and another bushel came from Uncle Elbert and Aunt Emma sent by a M. Yates whom they became friends with last year when they were down there.

Last Dec. early I ordered 100 lb. of pecans from B. Llogats[?], Barnesville, Georgia. I received a post card saying they were shipping C.O.D. But nothing came. I wrote again. They replied with several questions that showed they had lost the correspondence- but last week they came and they are good- real paper shells= Schleys.

I believe there is no business to write about this time.

I hope you keep up skiing= just enough to put a blush on your cheeks- and that your study continues to be pleasant.

Tomorrow evening we have a Black Out,

Lots of love

Father

*[This postcard dated **March 1, 1942** was written from Seattle, Washington by Aunt Etta to Jerry. Etta had to leave Hawaii six months earlier than planned because of the war. Post card donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Postcard of a Hawaiian fish postmarked San Francisco, Mar. 1, 1942.]

Miss Geraldine Beard
5035- 18th Av. N.E.
Seattle, Washington.

Convoy of 8 boats. Going to Alliance.

March 1st/42

Dear Jerry-

Am on my way to Ohio. The Hilo paper, in an editorial, asked all people who did not live in Hawaii and could be cared for elsewhere to evacuate. Fulton and family came also. They had their tickets to the Mainland. Helen will be in Wisconsin with relatives until Fulton locates. The voyage has been smooth, but felt miserable. Was sorry to lose 6 mos. of my visit.

Aunt Etta

*[This letter dated **March 9, 1942** was written from Tampa, FL by Kathleen to Jerry. Kathleen's family has adjusted to their new location. Kathleen is recovering from a case of Bell's palsy. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

2403 Azeele St.
Tampa Fla.
March 9, 1942

Dear Jerry:

We have been here over a month now and feel quite at home in Tampa. We are glad we moved for many reasons and altho we miss the use of a car we wouldn't want to take on the responsibility of another one now if we could. The other people in the apartments are very nice and now that I am acquainted with some of them I have all the sociability that I need. Jill didn't think she liked her new school at first but now she is fully adjusted I think and is getting along nicely. The school is higher in its standards than the Safety Harbor school which had one teacher for every two grades, and we have heard that the one Jill is now going to is the best grade school in town. I have talked with her teacher, who retires next year, and am convinced that she knows her children tho seems a bit of a crank in some ways. Jill was scared of her at first but now seems to feel that she is in Mrs. Harter's good graces.

Hugh had his vacation last week. We were much surprised to get it so early this year since he had one only last October, but they are very arbitrary about such things so we must take them when they are assigned and be thankful that we have one at all. It (the vacation) came in most opportunely just then for I was under the weather in a peculiar way and was glad of his help and comfort. The Sunday before, we had entertained Hugh's whole family for Sunday dinner and the anticipation of feeding twelve in this little dining room with my limited facilities set me in somewhat of a dither, so I worked pretty hard the day before and got nervously tired, and it was cold. So on the day of the dinner I awoke to find I couldn't move the right half of my face. The family told me it was a cold settled there and would be alright in a few days. But it persisted and I had pains in my head so finally went to a Dr. who called it Bell's Palsy and said I should take Vitamin B, concentrate by hypo. And that's where Hugh helped so much for he gave me one every day. Other wise I would have had to do it myself and from my one try at it I didn't relish the idea. But now activity is coming back in my cheek and I can blink my eyelid again. The pains are gone too and I feel fine after taking it easy for two weeks. Hugh went back to work today and is in Jax now. The Dr. said today when I went to see him that it was the quickest recovery of that trouble that he had known of so I feel that the money spent was worth while and the discomfort of the hypodermics isn't so bad.

We are daily expecting some word from Mother saying that she is coming. I thought she would be here long before this but I guess something has held her up. Maybe the recent railroad accidents have made her loathe to step aboard a train for such a long journey, but we are still hoping she will get here before hot weather does. This winter, especially February, has been particularly cold and rainy, and it is still cool.

I hope the long silences that greet us from your direction mean that you are busy having a good time and not that you are working yourself ragged. Remember we all love you very much and enjoy even a postcard occasionally. Love- Kathie

*[This letter dated **March 10, 1942** was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Willard to Geraldine. He and Mary are Air Raid wardens and must see that houses are blacked out and all are safe in an air raid. He has had no correspondence with Foochow lately. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

March 10th 1942
Tuesday

Dear Geraldine:-

Your good letter came Saturday- I guess. I enclose my check for \$100.00.

The Aunts got home from their visit to Stanley Owen last Tuesday about 4 p.m. We all went up to the Lenten Supper at the church at 6:30 and Aunt Phebe was one of the hostesses for the supper. A full house was there and staid for the talk by Eilsen[?] Daniels= Assistant Superintendent for the Cong'l- Christian churches of Conn. Friday Mother, Aunt Mary and I went to town. Aunt Mary to deliver eggs, and do errands for the household, Mother to see Dr. Curtiss and have a treatment. While the Aunts were away she ran into an iron peg that stuck out from the clothes pole and hurt her chest bone. It was causing her pain. Dr. Curtiss seems to have fixed her up. I went with mother and to get my hair cut. Saturday we sort of staid at home and entertained our pastor and his wife and daughter Bonnie Ann. They walked down- or the parents did – and were here for lunch.

Sunday we all attended church. In the afternoon Aunt Mary took me over to Coram to attend a meeting of Air Raid Wardens for Long Hill Ave from Viginnas to Pine Rock Park [*near the intersection of Long Hill and River Road*] and Coram. We got home about 5:30 = 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday nite I phoned Dr. Hodous that Mother and I would call on them in Hartford 2:30 -3:30. Aunt Mary was driving up to attend a meeting and we would go with her. But yesterday morning it rained. There was fog and the wind blew. Mother decided not to go. Aunt Mary and I went and had a pleasant call. Hodous is still teaching altho he retired last June. He is now staying on a year at a time. Defense has made teachers scarce. On the way up we had one shower. Then no more rain. We came home in sunshine.

In the evening Aunt Mary and I attended an Air Raid Warden's meeting in Shelton. There were about 70 there. I am to look after the school house, Mike's house and our house. See that they are blacked out in the signal and see that they have a proper refuge room and render any assistance in case of raid in which bombs are dropped.

Aunt Mary has the key to the Beacon light so she can shut that off if necessary. I did the past week while she was away.

Two letters that I mailed to Foochow and to a place up in the country have come back to me marked "Service Suspended". We have heard nothing from Foochow since the beginning of the year.

It is amazing the way the Japanese are forging ahead in all the Pacific- except the Philippines.

Mother plans to go to see Kathleen soon. I am booked here for March 21 to marry Eunice Beard of Milford in the Milford Church that day. Also I have promised two dates for talks which are as yet not definite. You know Kathleen has moved over to Tampa.

This morning a letter came from Miss Elizabeth Chase, Larchmont N.Y. She had lost your Seattle address and asked me to put it on her envelope. I hope it reaches you all right.

Yesterday Dan came down and pumped the water out of the cistern, 23 ½ inches. It bothers while the frost is coming out with a hard rain.

May God keep you and giveth you

With love Father.

*[This letter dated **March 28, 1942** was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Willard to Geraldine. Ellen left for FL to visit Kathleen. He has kept busy with baptisms and weddings. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Willard L. Beard
Century Farm
Shelton
Connecticut

March 28th.1942

Dear Geraldine:-

I have written a check for you for \$100.00. I will not now take the time to look up the account. It is all in my checkbook. I think you may cross off one check for \$100.00. I think it was before January 1942 that I sent you a check for \$200.00. I thought I wrote that one hundred of it was a gift, not to go on the account.

Mother started for Tampa March 28th; One letter has come from her saying that she arrived all right. She did not mention Kathleen's trouble,- like yours in 1916. So I took it that she was better.

I talked to the Rotarians in Waterbury last Tuesday. Mr. Frazier was in bed day before yesterday and after the Lenten service in the evening Mrs. Frazier asked me to come over to see him. He told me the doctor said he should not plan to preach on Sunday. So I am to take his place tomorrow and have two babies to baptize.

A week ago last Saturday I married Eunice Beard of Milford to Edward G. Bailey of Meriden. Rain began about 2:00 p.m. and rained all the time till after dinner Sunday. Gould and his family were here when we got back from the wedding, and stayed till after dinner Sunday. They then went to Seymour and stopped in Derby to see the

doctor just for a check up on the children. Marion, Well's wife went to the Hospital in New Haven yesterday, -no it was Thursday. We have not heard since. Edith came Wed. to take Winn to New Haven for another operation- this time on his nose. His doctor is soon to go to the war, and wants to finish up on Winn before he goes.

I am about decided not to go to Tampa. It will mean \$100 and with conditions as they are. I have not yet decided that it would be right.

Give my love to all the people in Berkeley, Leolyn and Fred and Nancy, Elaine and her family, Gwendolyn and her family and to Leolyn and William, Polly and Billy and the baby.

With love

Father

[According to his Biographical Sketch, Gould was in the crew as pilot and flight engineer of the first four-engine survey flight flown across the North Atlantic with a C-87 cargo plane in April of 1942.]

*[This letter dated **April 29, 1942** was written from Tampa, FL by Kathleen to Jerry. Geraldine is in Berkeley doing some practice work. Ellen has been visiting Kathleen in Florida. Fulton's family and Aunt Etta are back from Hawaii. Willard has a new car. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

2403 Azeele St.

Tampa Fla

April 29, 1942

Dear Jerry:

We were glad of the condensed information about you packed onto the postcard that came this morning. Father wrote some weeks ago that you were in San Francisco but we did not know for how long so were awaiting some word from you. Just what did your practice work consist of and how did it happen that you were sent so conveniently to Berkeley? When you get settled in Seattle again let us know all the interesting details.

You probably know that Mother has been down here with us for the past two months and is now planning to go back to Conn. next week. Father didn't come at all this winter but says he may come next winter. We haven't done a great deal while Mother has been here for we are handicapped without a car and rather confined by Jill being in school. But we have managed to get Mother to church every Sunday but one, and we took in the Easter Sunrise service here in the Park. Did you go to the Berkeley one? We heard it being broadcast as we were eating breakfast that morning. We also went out to the air base (largest in the southeast) on army day to view the flying fortresses and air field. Mother took in the St. Petersburg festival of States parade by herself the week after that but doesn't try to go down town here by herself at all. Of course we have been shopping several times and went to a school entertainment at which Jill and Cynthia sang "Jasu tiang nguai." Cynthia had a great time that night and loved every minute of it. This past week we have been rather tied at home by Jill's measles. Half of her class has been out with them for the past ten days and she blossomed out a week ago tonight. They were the regular measles this time (she had three day measles in Savannah last spring) and she was a pretty sick girl for four days, and was she red!! By now the spots are fading and she is wanting to be up as much as I will let her. I only hope that Cynthia doesn't follow suit.

You heard of course that Fulton's family and Aunt Etta came back from Hawaii in March. Fulton, Helen, and two children drove across the country and left the children in Wisconsin coming on to Bradenton, Fla. where her parents live. They had an accident in Georgia which demolished their car, and it's a wonder the same didn't happen to them. They came up here last week and had lunch with us one day. They looked alright but Helen's back has been bothering her and it may have to be in a cast for several months. Fulton says he wasn't hurt at all but maybe he is just modest. I liked Helen a lot. She seems very capable and has lively, dark eyes. She looks about the same age as Fulton but of course looks can be deceiving. We are hoping they may come up again if he gets his new car here. He talks of getting a job as physician in some big defense plant or naval station but their plans seem to be very uncertain. Fulton was his same reticent self and didn't tell nearly all we wanted to hear about their exciting trip home.

Hugh has been transferred again, this time to St. Petersburg but since it may not be for more than a few weeks we are not moving for awhile. We want Jill to finish out her term here anyway, and by that time we should be able to tell how permanent it is likely to be. Meanwhile he is going back and forth by bus across Gandy bridge and he has much more time at home than he did on the Jacksonville run.

Did Father write you about his new car? I do hope he doesn't smash it up and himself with it. Mother is glad he is practicing up on driving before she rides with him. Love from us all- Kathie

*[This letter, dated **May 4, 1942**, was written from Naugatuck, Conn. by H.M. Billings to Dr. Willard Beard. He requests that Willard come and talk to the Naugatuck Rotary Club about China. Letter from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]*

PETER PAUL, INC.
Naugatuck, Conn.

May 4, 1942.

Dr. Willard Beard,
Shelton,
Connecticut.

Dear Doctor Beard:-

We have heard do many good reports concerning your talk on China that the Naugatuck Rotary Club would like very much to have you come and talk to them.

We meet each Wednesday at 12 o'clock noon and we set aside about one-half hour for our speaker.

We have June 3rd and all of July open at the present time and, if convenient, we would like to have you with us on any one of those days.

Very truly yours,
PETER PAUL, INC.
H.M. Billings
Program Committee

*[This letter dated **May 26, 1942** was written from Florida by Kathleen to Jerry. They are moving to St. Petersburg because of Hugh's job. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[postal addressed to:

Miss Geraldine Beard
5035- 18th Ave. N.E.
Seattle Wash.

Postmarked May 26, 1942

Dear Jerry: We have to imagine what you are doing these days. Your letter to Mother had to follow her North unopened so we didn't get the benefit of it. How about a card? You can well imagine what we are doing when I say we move this Friday to St. Petersburg. Our address there will be 2551-15th Ave. N. Jill's school ends this week and Cynthia for one will be glad to have her home all day. She has done very well this year and her teacher would promote her to third grade if she were staying here, she said. She loves spelling and reading and often spells instead of saying words in conversation. Hope she keeps up her good work. Any lines leads or contacts on a new job yet? Love- K

*[This letter dated **May 28, 1942** was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Willard to Geraldine. Because Willard is a clergyman, he gets an "X card" and can buy any amount of gas. Ellen enjoyed her stay in Florida. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

May 28th. 1942.

Dear Geraldine:-

Time has rushed by so fast that I was surprised to find it had been two months since I wrote the last check to you. I have not heard that you received it but it has come back to the Bank so I judge you got it all right.

Your letter to Mother and the one to us both are here. If you do not find a ranch to your mind, perhaps the Aunts would consider hiring you on the farm for the summer. I see by the papers that many girls are on farms. I wonder how much real work of a producing kind they will do. Or will they do as Monnie and Kathie did in 1928. They got their farm hats, overalls and had their pictures taken with each a fork of hay holding it as no farmer could possibly hold it and THEY WERE FARMERS.

I am inclosing the Oberlin Commencement program, for you to look back onto, and a card for you to vote for an Alumnus Trustee, this must get to Oberlin before June 30.

I have been so full of things to do that I have not written saying I was not coming to the Commencement. Mother and I did go up to Hartford last Tuesday May 26th, Aunt Mary's birthday. She had to go for a State Committee meeting and we took two other ladies from Shelton and New Haven so I thought I was justified in driving up. I am a "Clergyman". I have an X card, which means I can buy any amount of gas. Aunt Mary has been talking of this meeting in Hartford for months. And Mother and I went to the Hodouses at once. We drove into Hartford by the Seminary and I gave the wheel to Aunt Mary. She drove down to the chapel of the Center Church, put the car into a parking place and attended her meetings with the other ladies and drove back to the Hodouses and we drove home. Mrs. Hodous had fallen several days ago in her pantry and bruised herself badly. She was still in bed but sitting up seven or eight minutes a day. She had just taken a course in First Aid and directed Dr. Hodous as he strapped her up and then got her on to a blanket and on to the bed. He brought the bed from upstairs into the dining room where she is now.

Aunt Mary and I have been driving about between Hartford and South Norwalk quite a bit the last month.

There does not seem to be much I can do to help you in deciding what to do for the summer. I would like to suggest that you might be as likely to find what you are looking for here in the east as in the west. If so and you want to come, drop me a line at once and I will forward you the money to come. If you want to come here and just rest for the summer come on.

Mother had a great time in Tampa and has seemed very glad that she went.

I am enclosing a little piece of paper with the amounts that my check book shows I have forwarded to you since last September. If it is not correct let [me] know and I will rectify it.

Next week I speak in Naugatuck to the Rotary Club and Mother speaks in Madison the next day I believe. Let us hear from you soon.

Very lovingly
Father

*[This letter dated **July 15, 1942** was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Willard to Geraldine. He is glad to hear that Geraldine is located near her work. Ellen is visiting her siblings in Putnam. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Century Farm, Shelton, Conn. 15/7/42 [July 15, 1942]

Dear Geraldine:-

Your letter is just here. I congratulate you on the way all things have worked together for your good. I'm glad you are so pleasantly located – so near your work- yet far enough to give you a little exercise walking to and from. I trust your companion will be congenial. The fact that she was William's Secretary argues well. Your view during the day is all right. And you have an incentive to walk to get the view at other times. I'm glad your room has three windows.

Mother is still in Putnam. I have a hunch that she will stay there until Aunt Etta comes to Putnam. The three sisters and their brother will have a good time together.

Uncle Stanley and Aunt Myra, Nancy and Stephen [Stanley] Owen, Stephen and Ruth and Mack were at Mr. Palmer's and here two nites. Most of them spent nites at Mr. Palmers. They were there for dinners both Sunday and Monday. Nancy's baby is a fine boy. - She is justly proud of him. It looks as if Stephen was going to marry a Catholic girl- but not until he is out of college. She seems to be doing most of the courting.

Aunt Mary has not sold much of her hay- only what is north of the house and about 4 acres south. But Mike Stobursky rented 7 or 8 acres to plant corn and potatoes on. I mowed by hand the pear orchard and got it in well made.

You will recognize an old friend in this paper and envelope. I found quite a bunch in your desk.

I enclose my check for \$25. Your letter sounds as if you were quite sure this would be enough to carry you thru. How would it do to send me a check for a certain amount per month? Then both of us could know how to plan. If it had not been for payment on some of the Wh. Hills property I should have been hard pressed some of the time the past year. But, with these I have made ends meet. I saved \$100. by not going to Fla. Love Father.



Abbie and Bennett Nichols Beard's family- 1942. Oliver Wells Beard, Dan Beard and Edith Beard Valentine are the children of Ben and Abbie.

Left to right standing in back: Marion and Oliver Wells Beard holding baby Marion, Beatrice and Dan Beard, Edith and Seymour Valentine.

Front left to right: Abbie sitting next to (from top to bottom) Danny Beard Jr., Winifred Valentine, Beverly Beard. Bennett Nichols Beard is sitting holding Jay Valentine.

[Photo from a negative in the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

from Jacksonville will take a notion to roll Hugh and we will be on the move again. We are enjoying it while we may, going to the Gulfport beach and playing Badminton in our back yard during Hugh's evenings off. Cynthia stirred things up a bit by coming down with cough about a month ago but is nearly over it by now. Her two-way meals left her thinner than she ever has been before but she is as lively as ever. We found some friends from Safety Harbor living here and we are next door to a middle-aged couple who grew up in Oberlin. The man also works for the Exp. Co. in the office here so they are a great help as our information bureau. They have two sons in the army and a third nearly of age.

Hugh's family has been down twice and Molly and Chickie have each had their turn visiting us for awhile. I don't remember having as much fun with any of my cousins as Jill and C. seem to have with Enid's children. They are simply on top of the world when any or all of the three come to visit. Of course you had Uncle Oliver's girls when you were small and they were the right ages for you three, so maybe you can share the feeling of my two.

By chance I happened to run into the Christians downtown several weeks ago and had a nice little chat with them. They were leaving next morning so that I couldn't have them out to our house, much as I would like to have seen more of them. They both looked grand! They are speaking at conferences all over the South and middle West this summer.

Last month during one of Hugh's days off we went up to Safety Harbor by train for a visit and came back next day. The children were thrilled with the train ride and I must admit I wanted to stay right on the train all day and enjoy the cool air conditioning. We found the family as well as usual but Rollin Sr. was away doing defense work. He couldn't get anything around here after private construction came to a halt so he found work up in Mobile Ala. I guess he may be back here in the winter.

Monnie's last letter to me was written in April and said nothing about coming out. Have you heard anything more recent? I wonder if the war will cause any change in company transfers up there. At any rate I guess you and I are doomed to miss seeing them if they do come down. Hugh has had his vacation this year (in March) and there isn't a chance of my leaving with travelling conditions so uncertain. Many people are staying down here for the summer who never stayed before.

Lets hear from you soon.

Love from all- Kathie

*[This letter dated **August 12, 1942** was written from Florida by Kathleen to Jerry. She relays a message from Monnie that she will be coming home from Canada later in the month. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Postal addressed to:

Miss Geraldine Beard
c/o Dr. Wim S. Morgan
1683 La Loma Ave.
Berekely Calif.

[marked and forwarded to:

2508 Parker Street.

Postmarked Aug 12, 1942

Dear Jerry: Thanks for your Birthday telegram. My birthday does me some good anyway for I got a good haul of mail- among it a telegram from Monnie which you will be glad to hear. I quote- "Am leaving from Hopedale about Aug. 24. Will wire again from Bay Roberts. Please notify family pronto. Ralph following later. Many guests and packing have made last few weeks very busy. Both send love."

I wonder why Ralph can't come out with her. I take it that she will wait in Bay Roberts for him, don't you? I'm glad she is coming down. Love Kathie

*[This letter dated **August 26, 1942** was written from Florida by Kathleen to Jerry. Kathleen tells Geraldine that she is once again moving, this time to Ft. Meyers, FL. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Postal addressed to:

Miss Geraldine Beard
2508 Parker St.
Berkeley Calif

[postmarked:

Aug 26, 1942

Dear Jerry: Last week I notified you of Monnie's moving and more of our own. Hugh was displaced on this run by a man with more seniority who wanted it so we will be going to Ft. Myers – heading south for a change. It is a better paid job so I guess we should be thankful but I hate to move when we were so nicely settled and we can take only half our things. I'll be going early in Sept. so don't address me here after Sept. 1. A cousin of Mother Elmer's works in a Berkeley library but is now out with a sprained ankle I think. Her name is Olive Burrows. Have you heard of her? What do you think of Monnie's surprise? Will you be able to get East? Don't think I can. Love
- K



Willard and Ellen probably in the 1940s
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

*[This letter dated **Sept. 16, 1942** was written from Derby (Putnam), CT by Ellen to Geraldine. Ellen relays Monnie's message that she will be in Boston within a few days and Ralph's message that he will be coming soon afterwards. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Postcard addressed to:

Miss Geraldine Beard,
2508 Parker St.
Berkeley, Cal.

Postmarked: Derby Conn. Sept. 16, 1942.

Sept. 16". 1942

Dear Geraldine,
News! News!

A Night letter today from Marjorie, for Truro, Nova Scotia said "Arrive Boston Thurs. Visiting Putnam couple of days. Will notify you from there when coming to Shelton. Enjoying trip immensely. Grand getting back to civilization. Can't wait to see you all."

An hour later a night-letter to her from Ralph came saying "Expect leave end this week. Will wire upon arrival. Please give my love Mother, Father, aunts and Family." And very tender personal message to her.

Father is in Hartford attending Conn. minister's meeting Mon, Tues, and Wed. this week. And Mary and I go to Hartford Thurs. and Fri. to attend Women's retreat.

We have been looking long for Marjorie's radiogram telling us of her starting from Davis Inlet last of Aug. But infer military reasons prevented her sending any message over wire. Love from Mother

*[This letter dated **Sept. 27, 1942** was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Monnie to Jerry. Monnie is back at Century Farm and expects Ralph to arrive soon. Monnie is pregnant and will have the baby in the U.S. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Got your letter in Bay Roberts. You were the only member of the family who wrote. Thank you.

Century Farm
Sept. 27, 1942

Dear Jerry,

Just a note this time because there are so many folks to write and it's so hard to find time to write around here.

Mother said she wrote you when she got my message from Truro. I got to Putnam on the 17th. Mother and Father drove up on the 19th and we stayed until the 22nd, when they drove me down here. That drive was such a treat because I'd made up my mind to expect no car rides at all. Besides, it was a perfect day.

Any day now I expect a message from Ralph saying he has reached Bay Roberts. He will take the first half of his furlough there- 3 weeks- then come on here for about 3 weeks. Then he goes to Winnipeg to be assigned to a new post. Some people say he might be sent to Montreal for a six- month course in fur grading. I hope he is, for then I can go and live with him there and have the baby there. But if he is sent straight to a post, we'll wait to find out what sort of a place it is before I decide whether to join him immediately or not. If it's isolated I shall stay here to have the baby, then go to Ralph in March. It's so inconvenient not to be told your future plans so you can make arrangements ahead of time. But that's the way of the Company.

I'm glad you've got such a good job, and in such an interesting and lovely place. But it's a darn nuisance to have you so far away. I'll tell you- plan to come and stay with us for your vacation- we'll probably be somewhere in Western Canada, probably a rather nice post. Ralph has done so extraordinarily well at Davis Inlet that he has made a name for himself in Winnipeg and both uncles say that the big shots there have something really good in store for him. Uncle Ralph and Uncle Hayward were very much pleased with his work too, and also with the way we had fixed up our Davis Inlet house. So I guess both of them approve of me now.

I had a lovely time at Bay Roberts during my ten-day's stay. They all asked about you and wanted to be remembered to you. Uncle Jack Hambling especially. Their hospitality was lavish as usual and they all seemed to take me right in as one of the family. I got to know them all better visiting alone as I did than as if I had been with Ralph.

There won't be any family reunions I guess. Kathie can't get up- you can't get here; Dot hasn't written whether she's coming or not. If she doesn't, Ralph will stop there on his way to Winnipeg. Gould will be the only one who's near enough to come. I'd sent Kathie the money to come myself if it weren't that I shall have to live and have my baby on my \$500. because Ralph is paid in Canada and Canada allows none of her currency to be sent out of the country. I was allowed to by only \$25.00 in U.S. money to get home on. Had to leave all the rest of my money in Nfld. Of course I bought my ticket to Boston, there.

Thanks so much for those books. Had no time to get them but will send for them or Ralph will pick them up. The bed-jacket will be just the thing for when I'm in the hospital. More later.

Love, Monnie

[This letter, dated Oct. 4, 1942, was written by Gould to Willard. He discusses buying a new house and borrowing money from Willard as an investment for him. Letter from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

Oct. 4, 1942

Dear Father:

We were so very glad to have you and Mother with us again and to have Monnie down was a thrill. We hope we can be all settled in 6 Martin Place when Ralph comes with Monnie and when you and Mother come again.

As to the finance on the house, I was going to borrow about \$2250.00. Some of this sum was to have been as a second mortgage and the rest on one of my insurance policies. If you want to take a second mortgage on the house for \$2250 at 3% per annum, I think I can pay it back within four years in semi annual installments without skimping the families activities beyond a healthy amount that will give them an appreciation of the home they are helping to earn.

We had planned to take title to the house on or about Oct 15th and will need the money then. If this is ok, please drop me a note rite away as if it is ?at I will write out a loan on my Mutual Benefit Annuity which will take about 6 days to complete. You can mail the check anytime and reach us by the 15th of this month.

I want to thank you with great appreciation for this offer. I remembered that you had said you had some money you would like to invest, but I did not know how you were fixed at present. And as my credit is good for several times the amount necessary and as Cullen[?], the ??, would take a second mortgage for more than half the balance of the sum necessary I decided to do it that way and not embarrass you in case you had already planned for the use of the money. The house will be good for the sum I am paying for it \$14,350.00 for some years to come as it is the last house available in any development around there and there will be no more building until after the war. Several houses around here and around that development have sold for a thousand dollars over that price without half the property around them. If I fix the place up as I hope to is should be worth \$15,500 anytime within the next two years. I think your money will be safe in a second mortgage if anything ever happens to me and Virginia has to disperse of the house. The total carrying charges will amount to about \$95.00 a month which is \$15 a month more than the rent we are now paying. I can deduct all the interest on indebtedness out of my income tax unless that is changed next year and that will help. I feel that I am getting nothing for the rent I will be paying on the house as a good proportion will be going into an equity in the property.

I am going on a military mission Wednesday to be gone about 10 days and hope to be able to move into the new house when I get back.

The little sickle pears are delicious and the grapes don't keep around this house. I hope Virginia will have an apple pie with the apples before Wednesday.

Guess I will have to put the boat away without another sail. I had to work all yesterday and today on plans and could'nt get a sail in the afternoon. The club, shore boat stop runs to the fleet very soon and I will not be able to sail the next two weeks.

With love to all from all here.

Your son,

Gould

[This letter dated Oct. 12, 1942 was written from Fort Meyers, FL by Kathleen to Jerry. She thanks Jerry for a sweater. They are now living in Fort Meyers and she talks about their place and living there. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

c/o Railway Express Agency

Fort Myers, Fla.

Oct. 12, '42

Dear Jerry:

What a surprise your package was- and its contents even more so. I do like the sweater and it is a shade that I haven't worn much so it will add variety to my wardrobe (if my heterogeneous assemblage could be called that). It is still too warm to wear wool but in another month I should be able to strut downtown in it, and considering how far south we are I may not feel the need of anything heavier most of the time. Thank you loads for sending it. I am just wearing out that blue print dress that you and Monnie gave me two birthdays ago and am so sorry to see it go. It is such a good style for my "maturing figger" and comparatively cool for summer. However the relentless sun down here had already robbed it of its azure and left it a misty gray so I couldn't wear it for good anymore. You might laugh too, to see your red striped beach P.J.s still flopping around. The top disintegrated last year so I cut it off and made them into full slacks with the belt as band. Now I am considering hacking off more, for

strangely enough the pockets are the next to shred. The lower legs are full enough for a skirt so it may yet last the duration. Anyway I always liked the gay stripe.

Well, we are now in the city which Edison claimed ninety million people would discover, as he did. His winter home is still here, next to Ford's, and Mrs. Edison comes down every winter we are told. There are many luxurious estates here but most of them are quite far from town and we only saw them because our landlady was kind enough to take us for a ride one Sunday. We are nearly a mile out ourselves (in another direction from the wealthy) and we get plenty of walking just to keep us fed. Our house is very much like a summer shack up north but it does have an electric ice box, gas stove and water heater so we can be fairly comfortable despite no closets and other features which keep it from seeming like home. We fight ants constantly in addition to roaches and have to walk two blocks in deep sand before we can walk on a hard road. Our landlady seems nice tho and had taken the children to Sunday school every Sunday and me once to her class in the Methodist church. She is also an ardent Eastern star and Red cross worker.

Jill takes the school bus to school and I put her in third grade at the suggestion of her Tampa teacher. She seems to be keeping up alright but her teacher tells me she can see the lack of familiarity with words in her work. I think I can help her overcome that handicap. She loves spelling and goes around spelling out her conversation at home. Cynthia, not to be outdone tries to do the same with amusing results. She will say "Mamma, give me a m-i-o-t—drink!" She plays pretty well by herself and rides her tricycle when we go shopping. Hugh's work is awfully heavy with the town so full of soldiers and he has to sleep all the day after he gets in- works every other night.

It is good to think of Monnie back in the States again and I hope she doesn't have to go out into the sticks again right away. We won't be able to see her this time, I guess, or Ralph either, but maybe next time she gets down this way we can go up for a visit. I know you must feel very far removed out there too, and I don't suppose you can get a vacation so soon. By the way, when do you get one and how long is it? Have you met Olive Burrows, Mother Elmer's cousin, yet?

I want to mail this uptown today so more next time.

We all send our love

Kathie

[This letter dated Oct. 19, 1942 was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT. by Monnie to Jerry. She is waiting for Ralph to arrive from Canada. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[Postal addressed to:

Miss Geraldine Beard
2508 Parker St.
Berkeley Calif.

[postmarked:

Oct. 19, 1942

Sunday

Dear Jerry,

I had planned to go to Putnam yesterday to be there when Ralph was to have arrived tomorrow. But yesterday morning a message came from him saying he had been unavoidable delayed and would start today, probably reaching Putnam Thursday. We think it was the sinking of the Caribou last wed. in Cabot Strait that made it impossible for him to come. For altho that might not have been the boat he would have taken, it will have to be replaced quickly to take care of the greatly increased passenger traffic across there nowadays. That happened only 2 nights before he was to have crossed! How thankful I am! But I shan't rest easy until he's here. More later, when he arrives. Love, Monnie

[This letter dated Oct. 29, 1942 was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Ellen to Geraldine. Marjorie and Ralph are now out of Canada and visiting . A baby shower was held for Marjorie. Ellen comments how times have changed since she had her children. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Altho most of this sheet is rather old news I will send it along for some possible side-lights which you may not have gotten from other sources.

Mrs. Willard L. Beard
Century Farm
Shelton
Connecticut

Shelton, Conn.
Thurs. Oct. 29th, 1942.

Dear Geraldine,

How we all wish you could be here the next few weeks while Marjorie and Ralph are here. You and Kathleen are in unfortunate corners of the continent, viewed from the scene of home activities. This is one of the times when we wish we were worth half a million so that we could transport all the family home for a reunion.

It is still uncertain how long Marjorie will be with us as we have not seen Ralph yet to hear his report of the location of his next post. Marjorie went to Putnam last Wednesday night to be there to welcome Ralph coming down thru Truro to Boston, as she did, expecting him to arrive in Putnam Thursday p.m. at 2:30. This is still true as Ralph will not know till he goes to Winnipeg. She hadn't rec'd the telegram from him which she expected all day Tues. and Wed. and was very uneasy and anxious, - so much so that she called Putnam by phone to ask if it had come there. It had not. Nov. 8- This letter has rested over a week so I'll try to take up the thread and finish it. Much has happened in the ten days that have intervened.

Marjorie went by train via Waterbury to Putnam to meet Ralph who eventually came via Montreal buying a round trip ticket from Montreal to Boston so as to use all the Canadian money he could before leaving Canada as when money is exchanged to U.S. money one always loses considerable by exchange; moreover the Canadian Gov't. won't let any more Canadian money go out of the country than what is absolutely necessary to the person traveling there. They asked Marjorie what she estimated were her absolute needs then granted her \$25.00 and she had to send the rest of her Canadian money back to Ralph to be deposited in his Bank acct. there.

Ralph arrived in Putnam either Thurs. or Fri. (I forget which now) and they staid over Sunday there then went to Long Meadow just out of Springfield to see Fulton and Helen, staid over one night there then came to Shelton. Ralph spent two days, after arriving here, visiting his father alone.

On Saturday, Oct. 31st, Dorothy arrived in New Haven. Stephen had secured tickets to the Yale-Brown Football game for Father, Ralph, Marjorie, Dorothy and me, and he offered to meet Dorothy at the N.H. station, take her to lunch and take her to the ball field where we were to meet them at 2 p.m. at gate 15. So that is where Ralph and Dorothy first met. As for the game it was mostly tumbling down and getting up so far as I could see. Yale won 6 to 0; and I heard over the radio yesterday when the Yale-Harvard game finished that Yale had won every game it had played this season. Harvard 3, Yale 7; but Yale didn't score at all till the 4th quarter.

Sunday, Nov. 1st was the big family party which included all of Ben's family thru 3 generations, Annie, Edythe Fairchild, Theodore and Ruth. Dinner was served on the long picnic tables bro't into the living room, and on the dining room table full length.

After dinner they gave Marjorie a baby shower, at which Ralph and all the men were inveigled to be present. Ralph went thru it bravely. Every lady brought something so you know about how many gifts she received. And Dorothy bro't on all the baby things I had given her 15 yrs. or so ago. Just as Theodore and Ruth were getting into their car to go home Ruth announced that it was his (T's) birthday. They presented, at the shower, money, a bill \$5.00 in one of those presentation cards for cash gifts, - for "baby's first bank account." Marjorie now has 3 beautiful blankets, one full crib size, all pink from Mother Butt, and one small size pink on one side and blue on the other from bassinette size. Phebe and Mary; and another same size and same colors I guess. She has plenty of socks and stockings for the first year, plenty of hoods and several jackets or sweaters; one complete layette from Montgomery Ward's and a part of another she bought before she went up to Davis Inlet (she has given away some pieces of it to friends up there). Virginia gave her the baby sleeping bag she used for Willard; and she has one wrapper.

I have never seen any prospective mother so enthusiastic and so overjoyed as she is, or one that anticipated her prospect with more real deep pleasure than she does. When she was looking over the Montgomery Ward catalog making out her order, she would chuckle "My! it's such fun!" After "quickenings" began she has been tremendously interested in the movements of the little one. For three weeks after she arrived here she talked a great deal about the coming event and asked information of all her young friends who had had babies recently, Edith Valentine, and our pastor's wife, and a whole group of young married women who meet at the pastor's house weekly and Marjorie has met with them for one supper. I guess she has about all the necessary information now, about hospital regime etc. - more than I could give her as they do things so differently in these days from what they did when my babies were arriving. We never went to the hospital then but had the delivery in our own house.

Times certainly have changed! People talk much more freely about this matter than they used to when I was young. Then it was more or less of a secret between husband and wife and the wife's mother and sisters, and the Dr. If a woman was "expecting" it was spoken of in whispers just between two women. Now it is common talk in the family "when the baby comes" unless there are young children present, - before the men relatives too. Marjorie said her relatives in Bay Roberts while she was there visiting on her way home, talked very freely about it and told her all their experiences, giving her quite an education.

Her size astounds her and almost alarmed her at first, it increased so rapidly the first two weeks she was here. She has kept perfectly well, and exercises freely in house work, walking, etc. and only has a little back ache, occasionally and a little "heart burn" when her food does not agree with her. She has visited her Dr. three times and had free talks with him and the second time had an examination after which he told her he tho't she was one month farther along than she had estimated, bringing delivery the last of Jan. instead of Feb. as she had tho't. Now she does not know when to write Ralph to come down. He said he would come for Christmas anyway.

She tho't some of going to Montreal with him and have it born there but apartments were not to be had. Dr. Edson always takes her blood-pressure, her weight, and examines a sample of her urine, all of which is well so far.

She hopes it is twins! And tried to have the Dr. discover in his examination the confirmation of her hopes, but he reported only one little heart beat.

She has reached the stage where the weight is somewhat burdensome but her carriage is very well-balanced, athletic, and as graceful as possible. However, she is beginning to wish the time would hurry along to the event. She will go to the Griffin Hospital and Dr. Edson will attend her.

With much love
Mother

W.P.A. activities are stopped now. Where would you be now if you had not resigned a year and a half ago?

We all appreciated your good long letter about your defense work, and the photos. They are very good of you. Isn't Dr. Morgan much thinner? I am glad your work and your responsibilities are not quite so heavy as in Chicago.

*[This letter dated **October 29, 1942** was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Willard to Geraldine. Monnie and Ralph are now in the U.S. Gould has a new house. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Willard L. Beard
Century Farm
Shelton
Conn.

October 29- 1942

Dear Geraldine

Your letter asking for another \$100.00 came yesterday. It decreases my favorable balance in the bank more than I enjoy, but I can stand it if you are not calling for more. The only factor that enabled us to finance you this year was that Aunt Mary sold some of the White Hills property and got cash for it. I put that to your help. That source is now exhausted and I have only our normal income.

Monnie has made us all glad by arriving safe, sound and happy. Ralph came Tuesday of this week with us from Putnam via Springfield, Mass. where they spent one nite with Fulton and Helen. Fulton is leaving now for work as doctor for the Standard Oil Co. down near Venezuela- a hot country. Helen goes to see him off - in Florida I believe. Aunt Etta goes to Springfield = Long Meadow to care for Helen's two small children- 12+. Today Ralph took the 9:54 a.m. train for N.Y. He plans to come back tomorrow on the 3:44 p.m. at Derby. Mother, Monnie and Ralph and I want to attend a football game at Yale Sat. p.m. Yale vs. Brown- if the weather is good and we talk of going to a "shore dinner" tomorrow evening I believe- somewhere.

Plans are maturing for the Beard clan to gather here for Thanksgiving. There is also to be a party of those who can come this Sunday- specially to see Ralph.

It is most too bad to write this to you, for you can't possibly be present. We will think of you.

Mother and I plan to drive to Putnam next Tues. after rationing here - to speak in the p.m.- Women's Miss'y Meeting and come home Wed. or Thurs. The gas rationing Board gave me a special 16 gas to go.

Have we written you that we saw Gould's new house- about 3 miles from their Great Neck home? It is a new house- just finished- 3 bathrooms- on a corner. Ginny had the pleasure of choosing her own paper for the walls. Shrubs are planted, grass is green on the lawn. This is the last house of a "Development". The company used it for a year as an office.

The frost held off till three nites ago- Cosmos is still all right and Chresanthemums are not yet in bloom. The garden is all cleared- except celery and parsnips.

Ralph does not yet know where he is to be located. But somewhere in Canada- not in Labrador.

Did Berkeley deposit any of the Japanese? What is the reaction in this action of the government, that you hear?

Gould seems to be on the go much of the time. He was off for a week or ten days two weeks ago. We have not heard where he went. Ginny wrote that he was home-very tired. They should be in their new house. But we have not heard from any of them for ten days.

Lovingly
Father

Fri morning-

Dot has just wired that she is leaving this afternoon for N.Y. Takes trains tomorrow morning for New Haven to attend Ball Game- Brown-Yale tomorrow afternoon with us.

Father

[This letter dated Oct. 30, 1942 was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Monnie to Jerry. Ralph is now in the states and they have been visiting. Her cousin Fulton, is now working in a hospital for Standard Oil in Aruba. Monnie is excited to have her baby due in January or February. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Oct. 30 [1942]

Dear Jerry,

Just a note to put in with Father's letter.

Ralph arrived last Friday via Montreal and Boston. I met him in Putnam and we stayed there until Monday. It was so good to see him and it is so good to have him here. Funny- but after you are married, even home isn't the same satisfying place any more unless your husband is there with you. Ralph is heavier than ever before in his life- 170 lbs. - but he can carry it and he's not fat. Ralph took the folks out to dinner Sunday- we went to the Gen. Lyon Inn in Eastford. There we saw Miss Chapdelaine now Mrs. Benoit- and her brother, - Chapdelaine, who was in yours and Gould's class. Both wanted to be remembered to you. Mrs. Benoit is still very attractive and vivacious.

Monday night we spent with Fulton and Helen in Longmeadow, just outside of Springfield, Mass. Day before yesterday Fulton started for his new job- as one of seven doctors in the Standard Oil co. hospital on the tiny island of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela. The largest oil refinery in the world is there with 7000 employees. It's a grand job and Fulton is looking forward to it except that Helen and the children can't go with him and are staying in Longmeadow in their newly-bought house. Did you meet them? Isn't Helen a dear and so charming. It is the family's gain that Fulton married her.

Tuesday we came to the farm. Dot telegraphed that she was arriving in New Haven tomorrow in time to go to the Yale-Brown game with Stephen, Mother, Father, Ralph and me. The aunts are getting together as many of the relatives as possible Sunday. How we shall miss you and Kathie!! We shall go to Gould's sometime next week, also Ralph's father's in Cedarhurst. Ralph has to leave Thursday the 12th. Ralph sends much love as do I and we both wish so much we could see you.

Dr. says I'm 6 months along instead of 5 1/2 so baby may arrive in Jan. He could hear the baby's heart beating yesterday! It's all so exciting.

Love, Monnie

[This letter dated Nov. 4, 1942 was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Ellen to Geraldine. Ellen starts this letter in November and finishes it 8 months later in June. She, Dorothy, Willard and Etta were all in Putnam at Emma and Elbert's home. Dorothy got to meet Ralph. Ellen sends a No. 17 ration stamp for shoes to Geraldine. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Mrs. Willard L. Beard
Century Farm
Shelton
Connecticut

Putnam, Conn.
Nov. 4", 1942.

Dear Geraldine,

You will naturally infer that I am visiting Emma and Elbert, which is correct. Father and Dorothy are with me too. Aunt Etta is here for the winter and so we make quite a party.

It all came about this way.

I was asked months ago to speak at the Thank Offering meeting here on Nov. 3" and promised that I would, or would get Father to take my place which he did yesterday afternoon. It rained, - and it was voting day, so there was not a large audience out.

Dorothy came east last Friday leaving Saginaw about 2:30 p.m. by train and arriving in N.Y. about 7 a.m. Saturday. She came on to New Haven about 10:30, and telephoned the farm. Stephen had telephoned out a few minutes before, about tickets for the Yale-Brown game in the Yale bowl which Marjorie had asked him to secure for us, as she wanted Ralph to see a big game while he is here. Hearing that Dorothy was arriving soon he offered to meet her and take care of her till we came in for the game. So he took her up to his room and to lunch and we met them at portal 15 at the bowl at 2 o'clock. And Dorothy met Ralph for the first time, and Marjorie and Father and me.

Hunting for a piece of paper to write to you on, (from my suit case) I came across this, written 8 months ago. And as the first sentence is true now, I thought I would use this to write my brief message today on, also to prove to you that I have had some good correspondence intentions toward you altho you have never received my letter.

June 12", '43

Dear Geraldine,

Your letter to Father and me was forwarded to me from the farm, but Father did not write whether he sent



you the ration point "No 17" or not.

I suppose he did, unless he had already given away to Ben's family both his and my No. 17. He knows that I have all the shoes I shall probably need for the rest of my life (7 prs.)

But in case he did not send you a "No 17", Uncle Elbert is sending you his, as he and Emma both have a good supply of shoes and after June 15th will have a new point, No. 18 on which they can buy shoes if they need any. If this does not arrive in time to use by the 16th and if you received no other, just drop us a card and we will send you a no.18 to use after the 15th of June.

Father and I attended a Foochow reunion at Geo. Newell's in Oxbridge on June 5", - came down here that night and I have been here since; Father went home Monday and I shall have to go Wednesday of this week.

Write us again, - we enjoy your letters.

With love, Mother.

Will send you Marjorie's letter soon and Johnny's picture. I think you received 6 or 8 photos of him and others some time ago.

[This letter dated Dec. 5, 1942 was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Monnie to Jerry. She discusses Christmas gifts and talks about niece and nephew, Hazel and Willard, and their accomplishments. Ralph will return from Montreal, Canada for the baby's birth. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

I'll send you some silver spoons etc. after Christmas. Remember you lent them to me when I went to Labrador?

Century Farm
Dec. 5, 1942.

Dear Jerry,

Your letter of the 29th came this week. You really have done nobly on correspondence lately. Keep it up. And it's good to hear news of the Morgan family. I've not even been sure of all their names before.

About the lamp: I'm going to look around here an N. Haven first. We are going to N. Haven Monday Christmas shopping, so I'll look then. Meanwhile, just hang on to your dollars until I find out whether it is as much as \$3. Thanks you for the \$1.

Everyone is going slow on gifts this year I guess. I know we are going to have to budget. You have already given us our Christmas gifts for this year and next. That gift of books was very generous and we shall enjoy them for years to come. Thank you again ever and ever so much for them. You have already given me a baby shower gift, too. That pink wooly bed jacket, which I am planning to wear in the hospital. Winnie gave me a blue silk one, so I'm all fitted out.

I can't give you any suggestions for the aunts. You always have such good ideas anyway. No idea for Dot, either. Which Edith did you mean- Edith Valentine? I wasn't planning to go outside the family. We have all Ralph's family to buy for, too,- and more than \$100 to pay for a brand-new baby about a month after Christmas.

For Thanksgiving we had 20 - 5 of us, 4 of Gould's family, Uncle Ben's, Well's and Edith's families, Stephen, Aunt Annie and Cousin Edith. Gould had to leave that night for Long Island, but the children and Ginny stayed till Sunday. Ralph sent me a dozen roses that morning. I've never received so many flowers in my life as within the last month. It's very thrilling to get them from one's husband.



Written on back: "Thanksgiving 1943" although it is probably 1942 judging from the age of Oliver Wells Beard's daughter, Marion, and, in 1943, Stephen was in California.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Previous photo magnified

Standing left to right: Willard Beard, Seymour Valentine, Ellen Kinney Beard, Oliver Wells Beard holding baby Marion, Beatrice Beard, probably Stephen Beard, Marion Beard, Virginia Space Beard, Phebe M. Beard, Gould Beard, Abbie Hubbell Beard, Mary Beard, Bennett Nichols Beard, Dan Beard.

Sitting left to right: Hazel Beard, probably Winifred Valentine, probably Beverly Beard, Edith Beard Valentine holding Jay Beard – Willard Frederick Beard and Danny Beard, Jr. are probably the boys.

The elderly lady seated in the middle may be Anna Beardsley Beard, 2nd wife of Oliver Gould Beard, Jr.

Hazel took quite a walk all by herself one morning when Ginny took Willard to the dentist's. She went down thru the back pastures to Coram Lane, and down that almost to the river road! I never would have taken such a walk alone when I was her age. Neither child made any comment on my size even tho I'm quite big now. Neither seemed to even notice anything. Ginny said she had told them about it, so they evidently take it quite as a matter of course, which is very wise, I think. While we were down at Gould's, Willard read us a story he had written and was to hand in at school Monday. It was some story- about 8 or ten pages long, and written with all the sound effects and more exclamation than you could shake a stick at. The spelling nearly convulsed Ralph who looked over Willard's shoulder as he read. It was all about the adventures of a little crocodile who finally ended up at their school. Evidently both children loved camp last summer and Willard is very proud of the fact that he was awarded a prize as best all-around boy or something like that. They both did well, especially in handcrafts and nature, and from their accounts and enthusiasm over the trophies and samples of work they brought home, they got a great deal out of it.

Hazel says her favorite reading is a sort of Child's Book of Knowledge she has, and Ginny says both of them love the National Geographic and Life Magazine. They certainly are alert and wide-awake children with much wider interests than we ever had at their ages. You wouldn't guess from the way Hazel handles herself that there was anything wrong with her leg. She still wears a half-inch lift on that heel.

Winifred isn't having anything more done for a year. But then he will have to have his mouth sewed up until it can grow together (isn't that horrible?!) and then it will be cut apart again, evidently to try to make his upper lip, which is all drawn tight, the same width as his lower lip. He still talks as if without a palate and I can hardly understand him. Jay is a little darling and just as cute as Cynthia. I guess everyone got fed up with Edith's and Seymour's staying so long. Father used to take Winifred's discipline into his own hands sometimes. And E. and S. used to go out more than the older people here thought they should. Uncle Elbert first told me a few of the complaints against E. and S., but very little has been said since I got here. Mother always shuts Father up when he begins.

Ralph is coming down both for Christmas and when the baby is born. I'm so glad he was kept in Montreal first instead of being sent right to Winnipeg. I'll give him your address so he can write you. Lots of love from us all,

Monnie

That note of Trudie's was most interesting. Thanks.



November 1942

Gould's children: Hazel Ellen (11 years old) and Willard F. Beard (almost 9)

[Photo from the family of Myron Gould Beard]

[This letter dated Dec. 10, 1942 was written from Florida by Kathleen to Jerry. Kathleen is doing some Christmas work for the Express Company. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Dec. 10, 1942

Dear Jerry:

We enjoyed your letters about picking fruit and taking trips so much. Now we joke about passing "Jerry's prunes" and getting some of your walnuts. The groves will be short on pickers here too but women could hardly climb ladders with heavy canvas bags on their backs and wield clippers too, so I have turned to lighter work for the Christmas rush.

The Exp. Agent is very short of help and my! what a business they are doing with the army posts and the added Christmas rush. Hugh offered my services so I'm a working girl, and when Hugh is away the landlady's daughter cares for the children. It has worked out fairly well for a week but the housework is piling up on me and everything is dirty. Hugh has to do his own cooking and he does wonderfully keeping things straight despite his own heavy work. He is gone from 5 P.M. until 10 or 11 A.M. every other night. The agent's daughter and I are sent by the company to a packing house across the river in a taxi every day and we bill out about 1000 pieces a day. Maybe I can hold out until Christmas but I don't envy the working "gal" at all.

The enclosed money order is not all a gift so don't think I am blowing you to anything. I owe you \$5.00 (is that satisfying to you?) for that boy's bicycle that was at Dot's. That's what she said she paid you for the girl's. Sorry it's so late but we are just beginning to feel flush for the first time since we lived in Savannah. Moving always sets us back. The remainder is for your gift if you can find anything these days for so little. We are letting most of our folks get their own presents this year both to save mailing and because I can't do any shopping while

working. But we are thinking of all of you wherever you are and our love is not rationed or diminished by war or distance. Thank you for the socks (to be) and stamps. I'll get them when I can. The sweater is most useful and I get lots of compliments on it when I take it. Most of the time it is still too warm to wear it.

Hugh was interested to know that Miss Burrows was in your library. Father E. stopped to see her a few years ago when he took his bus trip around the country. Please give her our regards.

I will write again and more when this hectic rush is over. I fear my cards will not get off this year.

Merry Christmas and heartfuls of love from us all- Kathie

*[This typewritten letter dated **December 25, 1942** was written from Shelton, CT by Willard to Geraldine. He tells of what has been going on at the farm. Ralph came down from Canada for Christmas. He tells about Christmas and gives an update on some of the relatives. He feels there is hope in the news of an end to the war. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

This is a hodge podge letter but it has some news and bears love and best wishes for a whole year of usefulness.

Father

Shelton, Conn.

December 25th. 1942.

Dear Geraldine:-

Your good letters to Mother and myself with the cards came a few days ago. I know I have not been a good father during the past two or more months. I leaned somewhat on the letters that I knew Mother and Dot and Monnie were writing. I was busy with many things, - some meeting Dot and Ralph and Monnie and taking them to trains and elsewhere. Uncle Ben has two heifers here and they require some attention. He bought them last May because he had an idea that beef might be hard to get this winter. One is nearly ready to convert into beef now. The other is due to freshen next February, and he plans to see what kind of a cow she will make. Then the problem of getting wood for the kitchen stove is some problem. It is not possible to hire a full grown man. Aunt Mary has thus far been able to find a high school boy who will come in the afternoon and help some. But it is necessary for me to be with him to haul up wood and to saw it up in the woods. Well beside this I have preached or spoken on China once or four times a week until recently. You know how that eats up time. This is enough to prove that I have been on some job if not the job.

Ralph came to New Haven last Wednesday morning. Mother, Monnie and I got up at 5:15 and drove in for him. His train was due at 6:28. It arrived at 8:10 a.m. I had phoned the Y.W. to see if they served breakfast. Yes until 8:30. We got there just five minutes early and had a good feed. Ralph did not sleep at all the night on the train. Everything was full, - only a seat with a woman and two small children. I guess he helped her more than he rested. Sunday was a very cold day, below zero most all day. Uncle Stanley and Aunt Myra came here Friday afternoon to attend Stephen's graduation Sat. a.m. It was pretty cold then. And Sunday morning not one of our three cars would budge. Marion was to be baptized at our church that day, so we all wanted to go. Monnie was to play her saw also; I called Steller the service man in Shelton. He came right down but could not stir any one of the cars.

Sunday Dec. 27th.

Monnie got into his car and went to church. Stephen did the same but he went to meet Wells after the service and go to New Haven to get Stephen's couch for his new home. Seymour and Edith came down Sat. evening to see Stephen about a stuffed chair he had and which he had brought home from his room that day. Seymour and Edith have moved into the second storey of the house next to Uncle Ben's, he also owns this house, - a double house. Wells and Marion are to move into the ground floor as soon as it finished. The whole family will then be living next door to each other. Ben and Abbie and their three children with their families within a stone's throw of each other. It was a hard job to get the furnace into this house but it was a bigger job for uncle Ben to get the furnace and the new floors and the water system and other things into the double house for Edith and for Wells. Our furnace did fairly well last week then it was so cold. Last Monday when it was coldest the carpenters came down and patched the floors where the registers were, for the old furnace. This should make quite a difference with the warmth of the house. A week ago Friday Aunt Mary and I went over to the woods and got all the laurel we could back home. The snow was nearly a foot deep and it was cold. The wind was blowing hard from the north. We counted on having an easy time coming home in the path we had made on the way over. But the wind had covered our tracks. Last Thursday we went again to the pastures to get a Christmas tree. The snow was pretty deep then, but we found a very pretty one and it is in the corner of the living room, with tinsel and the string of electric

bulbs. The packages of presents were piled at the foot of the tree. I could not tell of all the presents. We undressed the tree and picked its roots just after breakfast Friday morning. Your big carton was unpacked then. The cups and saucers brought a big laugh from all. Mother has used them on every possible occasion since. We ate our crackers and milk from them this evening. This was written with Dot in mind. She saw Mothers big cup and saucer and found two even larger and sent to mother and me. Whether she intended it as a joke or not, it was a huge joke.

Today has been warmer. To conserve oil we met in the Sunday School room this morning for worship. It was cosy, the room was nearly full. After service we six all went to Ruth and Theodore's for a turkey dinner. We were surprised to find Joanna and her daughter there. Joanna is the adopted daughter of Ed Beard. Ed was the brother of Theodore's father. They live in New Jersey. Ed and his wife May nearly adopted Joanna when her mother died. She was 2 years + old. I think Ed died before the papers were completed. But she continued to live with May, and in time married, secretly I think. Her husband left her when Rita her daughter was young. I do not know what became of him. She teaches school. She teaches and her daughter works on a paper, - an advertising paper. She arranges all the advertisements for the paper. She is a very interesting girl of twenty. I have seldom talked with a girl that knew more about China than she did. She asked very intelligent questions. We sat next each other at dinner and had very interesting converse.

Ralph plans to go to Long Island tomorrow to see his father, and will return Wednesday. He was leaving for Montreal next Sunday morning but he says on looking up trains, there is no Sunday train. So he must go Saturday. We plan to take him to New Haven. Thus far the rationing of gas has not seriously inconvenienced us. The Aunts have a B card and have thus far gone when they wanted to. I have only an A card which gives me 16 units, 3 gallons for unit. Until Nov. 22 each unit was good for 4 gallons. The papers say they may be for 2 months worth only two gallons soon.

Marjorie is well and happy. She gets about with agility and out for a good long walk when the weather permits. She and I have been several times over to the east woods and once we went clear down to the old Coram road east of the farm and came back up the road all the way. I doubt if you ever went that way. I had not been over this way for 50 years. We explored Rocky Rest, which I had not seen for years. Tonite she and Ralph have gone to Edith and Seymour's for the evening. Seymour came down for them and will bring them back. He left the Southern New England Ice Co. last June and was working for the Crucible Co. but went back to the Southern New England the first of December. He seems much happier there.

I did not tell you all about our troubles last Sunday. As I came into the kitchen that morning Margaret blew in with, "Come out Mr. Beard. The cows are mixed up, stanchions [*stanchions*] all broke. Annie will not let me milk. Come out." So I donned my working toggs and went out and found a mess. Annie and the large heifer were loose and their stanchions broken. Annie was excited, I at last got a rope on her and quieted her and Margaret milked her. It took me all the morning to get the stanchions righted, with some help from Uncle Stanley. Dan brought Monnie home from Church. And he brought Stephen home after lunch when he came down to plow the snow out of the lane.

Dot and Monnie made the home here a very pleasant place while they were here, and Monnie and Ralph have helped to keep it so. Ralph came again as I wrote above and this morning Monnie and I took him to the 11:14 a.m. train to go down to see his father. He plans to return Wednesday p.m. and his boss says he may come again when the baby comes. I judge he has made good and then some at Davis Inlet, and he is reaping some reward. Monnie is very well and very cheerful. She looks forward to becoming a mother with much pleasure.

Your \$25.00 check came all right. There should be some rule by which a debt of this kind could be paid off before the income tax was levied. But, - we are so slightly inconvenienced, compared with the life and death struggle that so many of the people of the world have to endure that it is not right to complain.

The news of the past two weeks has been such as to give hopes of an end to the struggle some time. I am afraid the militarists of Japan must be exterminated. It looks as if they were of the same mind and had decided to die rather than become prisoners of war. The Christian constituency is the one hope of Japan, as it is of Germany.

Monday morning Dec. 21 Uncle Stanley left his home for the New York bus. He stopped and fell on the steps on the side walk. Aunt Myra saw him and rushed to help. She also fell and both lay there. After a brief time they got up. Uncle Stanley went into N.Y. Aunt Myra said he broke a rib it was later found. Aunt Myra was only bruised. Uncle Stanley cannot endure adhesive plaster so he was only strapped. But he has kept going. Went to Bessie Havalind's for Christmas dinner.

With much love

Father

*[This typewritten letter dated **December 31, 1942** was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Willard to Geraldine. He reminisces over the past year. Ralph is due to go back to Canada for work but will return when Monnie's baby is due to arrive. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Century Farm
Shelton
Conn.

December 31st. 1942.

Dear Geraldine:-

That date looks as if I should not write many more with those figures. The old year is just passing over the top to go out of sight, but not out of memory. There is the full year of war effort. There is your settling in a new work and I judge with quite some degree of satisfaction. Mother and I both started the year rather "seedy" as the British would say. We both have decidedly pulled up. Personally I shall remember it as the year in which I purchased another car and drove it from Putnam to Pearl River and to Great Neck with pleasure. Thus far I have gone when and where necessity, and pleasure sometimes, called. And I have been able to work about on the farm with increasing ease and pleasure. I judge you have been pretty well during the year. I have had all the invitations to speak that I wanted. I must expect these to stop soon, due to my age and to the longer time since I came from China. Monnie's coming home will always be a bright spot in 1942, especially as she is looking forward to becoming a mother. Gould purchased a house 6 Martin Pl., Manhasset.

Until today I have not opened an account with you in my account book. I have just gone thru my check book and I am sending you what I copied. Will you check with your account and see if they agree. I'll put this on a separate sheet.

Monnie has gone with Aunt Mary and Mother to call on the doctor now. I'll try and send you any news she may bring. Ralph came back yesterday from a visit of a day with his Father and the family. He went Monday morning. He plans to leave for Montreal day after tomorrow, Sat. His boss promises him he may come down again when the baby comes. Marjorie is planning to leave here for wherever Ralph is stationed sometime in March.

Nancy and Fred and Stanley Owen are at Uncle Stanley's. He phoned last nite and asked mother and me to come down Saturday and spend Sunday. It is not yet decided whether we go. Neither of us have seen Fred or the baby.

Last Sunday we held service in the Sunday School room to conserve oil. This is getting more scarce all the time. Mother and I and Monnie took dinner with Mrs. Space [*Gould's mother-in-law*] a few weeks ago. She said she kept the thermostat at 65 during the day and put it up to 68 in the evening. We do not yet run the new furnace as close as that.

It has rained steadily since Monday morning. And some of the time hard. The snow is nearly gone, - only where it banked is there any left. I took the chains off my car the day after going after Ralph. The sun came out brightly this morning. And it is not cold.

There were 20 in. of water in the cistern under the kitchen last nite at 8:00. We put in the hose to siphon it out and at 10 it was down 2 in. It is running out fast now. I hope your Christmas brought satisfaction and that the new year will be full of it.

Lots of love
Father
