

# 1910

- January 10, 1910 Willard and Ellen left China for the U.S. on furlough after resigning from the YMCA (February 12, 1910 was official end of employment with YMCA) to become Secretary of the Middle District to the American Board in NY. Here he appointed other missionaries.
- Willard's family lives in Putnam, CT while on furlough.
- Boy Scouts of America founded by Daniel Carter Beard, third cousin once removed to Willard Beard.
- Edward VII dies, George V becomes King of England
- Willard is 45, Ellen- 42, Phebe-15, Gould-14, Geraldine- 12, Dorothy- 9, Marjorie- 4, Kathleen- 2.

On Thursday, **January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1910**, at 11:15 a.m. an auction by H.S. Brand & Co. Auctioneers was held at the residence of Rev. W.L. Beard in preparation of their return to the U.S. 342 items were listed in the auction catalogue and all payments were required to be made on or before delivery in Mexican dollars at the rate of Tels 7415 per thousand. In addition to all the furniture, the following items were also offered for sale: 2 adult sedan chairs, children's sedan chair, mowing machine, Kerosine stove, Enamel slop pail, 2 Children's rocking chairs, Large and handsomely carved sideboard of teak wood with mirrors, numerous mosquito curtains, enamel foot bath, commodes, 2 boxes crochet cotton, 2 boats, dolls bureau and thread stand, medicines, baby shoes, zinc pails, 4 enamel basins and 3 jugs, boys boots, Paradise of childhood (a guide to kindergartners), Hammond typewriter, 6 Bentwood chairs, soap cutter, Winchester rifle with cartridges, envelopes, blotting paper, stationery, bottles of ink, coal scuttle, 10 window screens, cottage piano by Kingsbury, baby organ, 12 finger bowls, tea service, wine glasses, 1 dozen salt cellars, dinner bell, bread machine, one sago palm and a chicken house.

*[Catalogue of auction from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]*



Willard and Ellen Beard – about 1910

*[Photo from the collection of Jill Elmer Beard, and also, John and Nancy Butte.]*

Picture referred to in postcard dated May 28, 1910



Nancy Maria Nichols Beard with granddaughters, Kathleen (left) and Marjorie (right).

Written in the Butte album: "The first spring chickens"

*[Photo from the collection of Allen and Sherrie Elmer. A copy of the photo is in the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]*

The Beard Children 1910



Written on back in Ellen's handwriting: "This is the whole family land on their "Plymouth Rock" in Mount Vernon."

In the very back is Dorothy. Kathleen is the youngest at the very front. The others are L to R: Gould Marjorie, Geraldine, Phebe.

*[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel, and also, John and Nancy Butte.]*



Gould in Mt. Vernon, NY-1910  
*[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]*

Phebe and Marjorie in Mt. Vernon, NY- 1910



Phebe left. Written on back of photo of Marjorie: "Marjorie posed here and asked me to take this of the doll that is not very distinct against the rock."

*[Photos from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]*

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*[The following series of six postcards dated **May 1910** was written by Ruth and Mary Beard in Shelton, CT to Ellen and the children in Putnam, CT except for Marjorie and Kathleen. Marjorie and Kathleen are staying at Century Farm while their older siblings are in quarantine for the measles. The postcards have photos of the girls that either Mary or Ruth took. Original postcards are held in the Oberlin College Archives.]*

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*[Oberlin collection]*

Postmarked: Shelton, Conn. May 1910

Do you recognize this crowd? It was taken on your Mother's birthday. How are you all getting along. Aunt Mary and Marjorie have gone to see Dr. Peck.

Love from  
R. Beard.

Kathleen knows all these by name. R. B.

Shelton, Thursday

Addressed to: Mr. M Gould Beard  
Care Mr. Myron Kinney  
Center Street  
Putnam, Conn.

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Kathleen is facing us, Monnie is looking away

*[The original photo postcard of this same photo is in the archives of Oberlin College, but this photo is from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]*



[Oberlin collection]

Postcard postmarked 1910 from  
Shelton, Conn

Miss Dorothy Beard  
Putnam  
Conn  
Care of Mr. Myron Kinney

May 20, 1910

Dear Dorothy,

Is not Kathleen's grin a happy one? We are having a fine time with the children. They are both growing fat. I took Marjorie to Dr. Peck yesterday. He thinks her improved and has changed the pills. Kathleen wants to take pills too so has a bread one after each meal.

She goes to sleep each night saying over the names of you all. Each one is "way, way too too's". Occasionally she runs into the front room to look for "Mama".

Today we all had our heads washed except baby. Marjorie was very cute. She had seen us so wanted her head "all funny" "without the snarls combed out." We had not winced in the combing process so she did not. How are the measles? I hope you all have them together so as to recover quickly. With love to you all.

Aunt Mary

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Postmarked: Shelton, Conn. May 1910

Aunt Mary took this on my birthday. It is my first attempt at printing. Do you recognize us all? The babies are fine and talk about you all every day. In town the other day M. said "There is a suit which I would like to see Gould in". Both are growing and some of their dresses begin to look outgrown but they'll be all right for a while yet. Please tell Mama if it comes off very warm again before you come down the babies would like some summer undershirts if it is convenient for her to send them, otherwise we have everything they need.

I hope when this reaches you you'll all be fortunate enough to be over the measles.

The other day K. kissed me all over when she awoke and said "Mama" so I'll ask you to deliver the kisses, please. She said today when it was raining, "Grandpa all wet". We were so glad to get the two letters. Love to all. R.B.

To: Master M. Gould Beard  
Center Street  
Putnam, Conn.

Care  
Mr. Myron Kinney

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[Oberlin collection]

Postmarked: Shelton, Conn. May 1910

Marjorie is here at my side and she requests me to write you this from her. Tell Mama she said she was going to housekeeping and I think she had been in Mt. Vernon a long time. She sends her love. She is fine.

Mother, Mary and Marjorie have been to church and S.S. M. was so tired she had a long nap. Kathleen is "full of it" these days and her high spirits can hardly quiet themselves to sleep. We had an hours circus tonight when she retired. She weighs 29 lbs. and M. 46.

Am so glad the sick ones are better and hope you can come out of quarantine soon – for your sakes- but you can leave us the babies. Marjorie is helping me with this card by leaning on my knee and asking questions and blotting each word as soon as it is written.

We all took a walk this afternoon ?? Grandma went because Kathleen was so urgent in asking her. Hope to hear from you soon. Love from Ruth Beard

Addressed to: Mrs. W. L. Beard ,  
Center Street,  
Putnam, Conn.

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[Oberlin collection]

Postmarked: Shelton, Conn. May 25, 1910

This card is Marjorie's and she wants me to send it to you. Grandma says tell you all to come down here to see us now. I hope you are out of quarantine to-day. R.B.

Papa was here for a few hours yesterday on his way to New York. Yesterday when Grandma was away K. put some buttons in her mouth and I said, "K. what does Grandma say?" "Grandma no, no. Grandma, all gone". She is so full of fun and the little girl and the big girl are enjoying each other to the full this day. We are enjoying them. R.B.

Addressed to: Miss Dorothy Beard,  
Center Street,  
Putnam, Conn.

Care Mr. Myron Kinney

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[Oberlin collection]

Postmarked: Shelton, Conn. May 28, 1910

Dear Geraldine,

Your nice letters and card were very welcome. Marjorie enjoys her letter but resigned the card to Baby who cried for it. Aunt Flora came last night. Baby says to tell "Si Si to come". She is a great chatterbox. We hope to hear that Gould is all right, and to see you down here soon. We look for Uncle Stanley tonight. Give my love to everyone and keep a lot for yourself.

Don't you think this a fine picture. Grandpa suggests that I send it to the "New Yorker". With love,

Aunt Mary

Addressed to: Miss Geraldine Beard  
Center Street  
Putnam, Conn.  
c/o Mr. Myron Kinney



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Willard refers to this photo in his letter dated About May 23, 1940: "This is the time of year when Monnie and Kathleen and I sat out south of the house in the grass sunning. We had our pictures taken there."

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

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Kathleen Beard about 1910

Written in album: "Bug all gone"

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



Summer 1910

Back row L to R: Phebe Kinney Beard, Geraldine Beard, Willis Hume holding Willis Fulton Hume, Donald Corbin Hume (behind Ellen) and Dorothy Beard

Front seated L to R: Emma Kinney, Etta Kinney Hume with little Myron Kinney Hume in front of her, Myron Kinney [*Myron Kinney's wife died in 1907*], Ellen Kinney Beard

It looks like Kathleen's head with a white bow is cut off in the photo directly in front of Ellen and part of Marjorie's or Gould's head might be the one in front of little Myron Kinney Hume in the front.

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