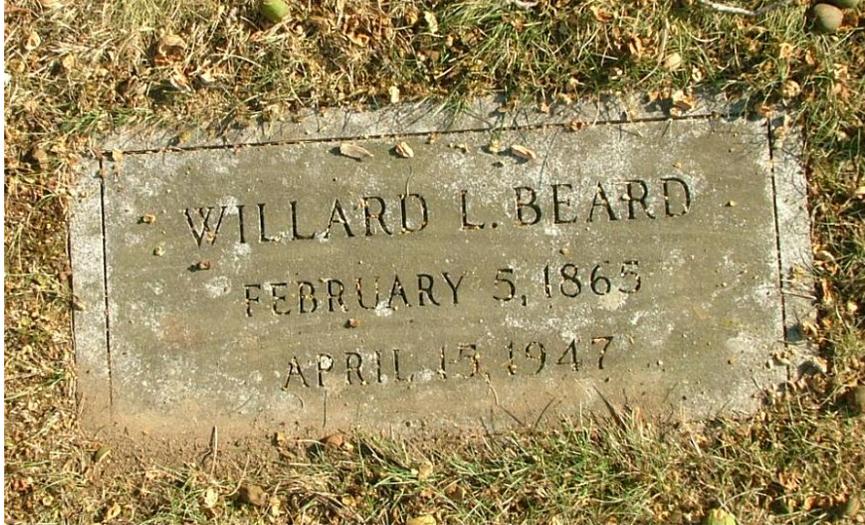


1947

- Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier
- Dead Sea Scrolls discovered
- Anne Frank's Diary of a Young Girl is published
- Willard and Ellen live at Century farm and Willard dies while visiting the home of Kathleen Beard Elmer in Jacksonville, FL on April 15, 1947 at the age of 82.
- Gould and Virginia are in Manhasset, New York
- Geraldine is in Berkeley, California
- Dorothy and Harold are in Saginaw, Michigan
- Marjorie and Ralph are in Saginaw, Michigan
- Kathleen and Hugh are in Jacksonville, Florida
- Ellen is 79, Gould- 51, Geraldine- 49, Dorothy- 46, Marjorie- 41, Kathleen- 39.



Willard's headstone – Riverside Cemetery, Shelton, CT

Willard L. Beard
February 5, 1865
April 15, 1947

[Photo from James Smith, Shelton, CT researcher.]

Willard's death certificate issued in the state of Florida states that Willard had been in Florida for 4 months and died at 6:10 a.m. of Myocarditis due to Arterio Sclerosis which he had had for a duration of about 3 to 4 years.

From the Evening Sentinel, Shelton, CT

Death notice: April 17 1947

Beard - Jacksonville, Fla. April 15, Dr. Willard L. Beard of Century Farm, Long Hill Ave. Shelton. Funeral services are in charge of the Lewis funeral home. 148 Elizabeth St. Derby and will be held in the Shelton Congregational church at a time to be announced. Burial will be in Riverside cemetery, Shelton.

Rites arranged Saturday at 2 for Dr. Beard April 17

Funeral service for Dr. Willard L. Beard, 82 of Century Farm Long Hill Ave., who died Tuesday in Jacksonville, Fla., will be held Saturday at 2 pm in the Shelton Congregational church. The Rev. Howard C. Champe, pastor of the Shelton Congregational church, assisted by a representative of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, of Boston, will officiate. Burial will be in Riverside cemetery, this city.

Dr. Beard was a Congregational church missionary in China for nearly a half century, and was retired president of Foochow College, Foochow, China. A native of Shelton, Dr. Beard's life work was with the Chinese of Fukien Province, China, where he was assigned in 1894, with his wife of two weeks, the former Ellen L. Kinney. He returned to this country in 1936, supposedly to retire, but was recalled soon after, and it was not until 1941, and the outbreak of the war, that he returned again to the United States.

Evening Sentinel April 16, 1947

Dr. Willard L. Beard, former Missionary to China, is dead

Dr. Willard Livingstone Beard, a missionary in China for nearly a half a century, and native of Shelton, died yesterday in the home of his daughter Mrs. Hugh Elmer, Jacksonville, Fla., after a brief illness. Dr. Beard had been spending the winter months in Florida, when he was stricken.

Born Here

He was born at Century Farm, this city, Feb 5, 1865, the son of the late Oliver G. and Nancy Nichols Beard. Dr. Beard married Lucy Ellen Kinney, of Putnam, in the Congregational Church there, in 1894 and within two weeks the couple left for Foochow China where they spent more than 40 years. In September of 1944, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Dr. Beard served as a missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in China from 1894-1936. During that period he was released to start a Y.W.C.A. for Fukien

province in China and to act as the first secretary for a five year term. For three years he was secretary in this country of the middle district of the A.B.C.F.M. After returning to this country in 1936, Dr. Beard went back to China for two years at the request of the American Board to serve on the missionary staff at FooChow. At the outbreak of the war, he was advised by the consul at Foochow to return to this country. He was a graduate of Oberlin College and the Hartford Theological Seminary. He received his Doctor of Divinity degree at Oberlin College. Dr. Beard was a member of the Shelton Congregational church and served on the executive board and board of deacons of the local church. At the recent annual meeting of the church, he was named honorary deacon. Survivors.

Surviving him are his wife, Mrs. Ellen Lucy Kinney Beard, of this city; one son, Myron G. Beard, of Manhasset, Long Island; four daughters, Miss Geraldine Beard, of Berkeley, Calif.; Mrs. Harold Newburg, and Mrs. Ralph Butt, of Saginaw, Mich; and Mrs. Hugh Elmer, of Jacksonville, Fla; two sisters, the Misses Phoebe M. and Mary L. Beard, of Shelton; two brothers Stanley E. Beard, of Pearl River, N.Y., and former Mayor Bennett N. Beard, of Shelton; also five grandchildren, Hazel Ellen Beard, Willard Frederick Beard, Jacqueline Elmer, Cynthia Elmer and John Charles Butt.

Dr. Beard was well known and respected and appeared often as a public speaker at the Kiwanis club and other organizations in the valley. His passing ends a notable career during which he was the founder of Foochow College, in China and its first president.

Funeral services will be held in the Shelton Congregational church at a time to be announced. Burial will be in Riverside cemetery. Arrangements are in charge of the Lewis funeral home, of 148 Elizabeth Street, Derby.



*[This letter dated **May 15, 1947** was written from Century Farm, Shelton, CT by Ellen to Kathleen. It has been a month since Willard died and Ellen directs Kathleen on what to do with some of their possessions that they left at Kathleen's home in Florida. She tells about some of the activities on the farm. Letter in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]*

Century Farm,
Shelton, Conn.
May 15", '47.

Dearest Kathleen,

It is just a month ago today that Father left us. Altho I miss him keenly at times, it really does not seem so long ago. I am receiving letters of sympathy almost every day and the work of writing acknowledgments is nearly wearing my eyes out.

Marjorie staid with me a week and helped get a lot of them answered but there were many that required a personal response that only I could write and those are the ones that take most time, thought and eye-sight.

So I shall have to be brief and much abbreviated in my letters to my family.

I was to write you what to send up here of the stuff I left. And now I just can't remember what I left.

So I shall have to tell you in general terms and let you use your judgement for the rest.

1. Don't send any sheets.- Keep any that were left. Also pillowcase (if any) and towels.
2. Look over all that was left in Father's leather suit case and anything in it that Hugh can use let him keep. Anything he does not want you may give to the collection of used clothing for overseas distribution, or local Salvation Army collection, or destroy it if too much worn.
3. I think there is nothing in his airplane suit case. If you find any thing there, apply the same direction to it as I gave you in No. 2.
4. In Father's black satchel:- I don't know what is there, but as he kept his important papers there I guess all that is now there would better stay there. When it is sent up, except the following:
 - a) the old bank reports, on yellow cards in tan envelopes, which are of no value now I think and may be destroyed.
 - b) A package of safety razor blades, new, from the "New Process" Co. which Father bought a short time before we went south. Hugh may keep these for his own use. Also Father's safety razor if he cares for it. I think I left Father's barber shears, somewhere, which I do not want and you may keep them if you care for them.
5. The blue pajamas that the undertaker sent back Hugh may keep. (Harold and Ralph when they were here, each took a new set that had never been worn and which came in the same shipment as the blue ones which Father had worn little.) (The pajama I cut off from Father goes into the rag bag or into the bonfire. So also does my old union suit and my old nightgown.)
6. If there are more suspenders than Hugh cares for you may send any surplus to Ralph. But let Hugh keep all he can use.
7. I am not quite clear in my mind as to what suits were left there; but think there was I. a blue suit, and II. a black suit, and an extra III. pair of trousers that belonged to the suit Father was laid out in, that came back from the undertaker's, and IV. the coat and vest Father wore so much and that needed cleaning so badly; V. and the palm beach black trousers I washed so many times and the coat that went with them.

Let Hugh take his choice of any of these that he can use. And let him exercise the right of priority to the full extent since both he and you are due abundant consideration for opening your home to us and giving us much appreciated help during Father's declining days.

Ralph had Father's winter overcoat. Gould cannot use any of the suits Father left in Jacksonville. I fear they are all too small for Harold. After Hugh has chosen write me what is left. I will send you money to have the coat and vest Father wore so much and the black Palm Beach trousers I washed so much cleaned at a cleaners.

VI. I think Gould, Harold and Ralph all have traveling toilet cases. I don't know whether Hugh has or not; or whether he would care for Father's. It sadly needs cleaning up as I remember. The last time I cleaned it was when he went into Saginaw Hospital. If Hugh cares for it I would be glad to have him take it. Some of the fittings may need replacing. I don't know whether Gould wants those white backed military hair brushes or not. Will find out.

VII. I think Father left a pair of new shoes that he had worn only once or twice. Also a pair of black shoes that he wore every time he went to church or to town. Now does Hugh wear that size or are they anything he cares for? If so, he may as well have them for they are expensive to mail.

The pair of red felt slippers that Father wore so much Hugh may as well use if they fit him and he likes them.

VIII. I think there was a white shirt in the little cabinet drawer made of cloth checked in quarter inch squares, all white. Hugh may as well use that. If there were any good hdkfs. with embroidered initials B in corner, put them in

the black satchel before you send it. If any socks were left there Hugh may have them except the green pr. and the blue pr. of wool socks that Gould and Virginia gave Father for his last Christmas gift. Those should go to Gould and may be sent up in the black satchel.

Gould took Father's watch, for he said his watch had gone bad and he was using a small watch that he had given to Virginia. Gould took the ring Father was wearing, which Leolyn and the Morgan family sent to Father for his 50th wedding anniversary gift. It was a gift to James from Aunt Louise when he graduated from high school. When he died, Leolyn kept it for her possible son. But as she can have no more children she gave it to Father. Now Gould says he will take it out to the Coast when he goes and talk with Leolyn about it and see what she wants done with it.

Now what else did I leave? I guess I will have Father's Pullman robe sent up in the black satchel. I don't know yet what will be done with it.

Mrs. Willard L. Beard
Century Farm
Shelton, Connecticut

Dear Kathleen

I am enclosing \$5.00 to pay for the cleaning of Father's clothes, and for the postage on the parcel post pkg. to send up the small black satchel and its contents, which will be, what you found in it after I left, minus the old bank reports the razor blades which Hugh is to keep, and minus anything else which you know is worthless. If there are letters in there which you know are worthless destroy them; if you think I might want to see them, the envelopes may be taken off and destroyed if the writer's address is inside.

To fill up the satchel, the Pulman robe may be put in, and the green and blue wool stockings of Father's and any large hdkfs. with the initial B in the corner. I don't know of any thing else that I want sent up now for I can't think what I left. Please send up my Ration Book. Father's Ration Book, of course, may be destroyed, - should be.

If you can find good clean heavy wrapping paper large enough to cover the satchel, I would like to have it covered for mailing parcel post, as it is quite new and wrapping will save a lot of wear on the outside, and the corners and ends of the bag. Buy a ball of heavy wrapping cord if you have to. Parcel post the satchel to me at the farm, for I can give no other permanent address. I shall probably be in Putnam when it arrives.

Our Yale Divinity School student assistant pastor was at dinner with us Sunday (19th) last. He has been for 2 yrs. a member of the Prudential Committee of the A.B.C.F.M. in Boston, representing the Pilgrim Fellowship of the Cong'l Christian National Organization, which holds its meetings once a month at 14 Beacon St. Boston, the Cong'l. House.

This student assistant pastor had just returned from attending the May meeting in Boston and told us that one matter of business the Prudential Com. transacted at this session, was to elect a Capt. for the sixth "Morning Star," a new ship to fly between the Missions of the Micronesian Islands in the Pacific and owned by the A.B.C.F.M.

When I was 10 yrs. old, I used to give my pennies in S.S. to buy and support the first or second "Morning Star? I don't know which. Capt. Garland, of Tank Home was formerly the Capt. of the third or fourth "Morning Star: I forget which. Did I tell you that last time when we were in Oberlin for Father's 55th Class reunion of '91, that after Commencement was over Stewart Hume drove up to Oberlin from Youngstown to meet us with wife and small daughter, and took us to dinner at Oberlin Inn, then drove us around town to call on any of our friends we wanted to see. I wanted to call one Miss Alice Little who was our neighbor when we lived in Mr. Dart's house. As I entered, Miss Little said "Capt. Garland lives here; wouldn't you like to see him?" I was so pleased and surprised that I went right back to the car and brought Father and Stewart and family in and we had a very pleasant call of almost a half hour.

Well, now here is the point of my writing you all this. This student assistant pastor, Mr. Vorba, by name, told us that while they were in session at the Prudential Com. Meeting in A.B.C.F.M. in Boston last Tuesday, electing the Capt. of the new Morning Star, an officer of the Board came in to the meeting to announce that a telephone message had just been received announcing the passing of Capt. Garland of Oberlin! He was 94 yrs. old, I think. Wasn't that an interesting coincidence?! With love to all, Affectionately Mother.

May 19"

I am not using this stationary outside the family.

When Marjorie was here we packed a carton of Father's clothes etc. that we thought possibly Hugh could use. I hope you received it all right. Now if there was anything in it that Hugh or you (I forget just what was in it) cannot use, just give it to the overseas collection or to the Salvation Army.

I hope to send another small carton of things before I leave for Putnam which will probably be a week from tomorrow. Mary drives up to Hartford for a meeting on that day and I can ride up with her and Elbert will meet me there.

Last evening, Sunday, Becky Haviland and her mother's college mate gave an organ-piano recital in the church and we all attended. It was very good. The solos by Robert Johnson, a member of our choir were especially good. I'll send you a program.

The aunts are having the bath room all done over, i.e. the walls and ceiling; new paper and paint and white wash. The paper is very pretty and a great improvement over the old paper. The man who lives in Uncle Dan's house on White Hills is doing the work, - in two days at \$10.00 a day. They buy the paper, paint and whitewash.

Tonight Becky Haviland, her mother, her aunt May Palmer and Mrs. Churchill, the pianist all are coming up to call.

Next Friday, Stanley, Myra, Nancy, Stanley Owen all come up to stay over Sunday, their time divided between the two houses, Beards and Palmers. Stanley and Myra are going to Europe soon by air, on business, to be gone about two weeks. Stanley had a physical check-up two weeks ago to see if he was all fit to take the trip, and found he had diabetes. He is taking treatments and hopes to be able to go soon. He has lost 20 lbs. but still weighs 200+.

The men who are keeping horses in the barns and pastures here on the farm have one horse that had a colt two weeks ago. They let it out in the corral one day and when they wanted to put it in it wouldn't go in but kept running everywhere else. So when they got it cornered two men picked it right up and put it in the barn; and how the little thing kicked with all fours. It has proved a great attraction.

Dan, you know, rented the farm from the aunts to run a dairy, when the war was on, as a measure to keep Dan and Wells both out of the army. Then as soon as the war was over, Dan re-rented the farm to another dairyman, or hired other men to run it, and now the third set of men are running the dairy, and the aunts have had lots of trouble with broken fences, and cows all over the door yard, and neighbors telephoning that their cows are walking all over their newly seeded lawns and newly planted gardens, and last Monday, Phebe had to leave her washing and go down the street to drive 30 cows home for not a man was on the place. She got hot, inside and out, and talked to the dairyman and things have staid in place since, - fences and cows.

A store was selling out in Shelton and I bought some socks for the girls. I hope they are not too large. Perhaps you can sew a half inch seam around the toe if they are too large.

With much love to you all and will write soon again. I hope Marjorie and Dorothy have written you all about the funeral and their trip East. I will write more if I can ever get caught up on the acknowledgements. Affectionately, Mother.

[This letter, dated May 20, 1947, was written from Manhasset, NY by Gould to Ellen. Willard has died and Gould briefly discusses some financial matters with Ellen. Letter from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

M. Gould Beard

6 Martin Place
Manhasset, N.Y.
May 20, 1947

Dear Mother:

I got home late Sat. night to find a lot of work at the office and plenty to take care of at home. Ginny bumped her head on the garage door and has'nt felt much like doing anything since.

Now to quickly answer your questions. You took your Chelsea Bank book upstairs the last evening we were there. The bank books are all in the safe deposit boxes and I will look at them as soon as either Ginny or I can get to the bank. We still bank on Great Neck when we first lived on L.I. I hav'nt looked at the old check books yet, but will do so before we come up next time and if we have it I will destroy the signed checks.

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Belcher giving the details of the scholarship Memorial fund. If this is satisfactory to you, let Mr. Champe read it and announce it as he sees fit. I will wait until we see you next time before replying to Mr. Belcher. It is all agreeable to me.

I was to have seen the Mutual Benefit Ins. Agent before I left for the west but we did'nt make connections so I will try to see him sometime this week to arrange method of payment of the insurance on father- I believe you

would rather have regular installments rather than one lump sum since installments will give you checks coming at regular intervals which you can depend upon. If you are traveling from child to child you can have them send to my address and we will forward them to you wherever you are.

Please have Kathleen send you all of fathers papers etc which he left there. The check book might be with his things left in Jacksonville.

If everything works out well we will be up Friday night, but must return Sat. night.

Lovingly- Gould.

*[This letter dated **June 1, 1947** was written from Putnam, Conn. by Ellen to Dorothy and Marjorie. She is staying with her siblings, Elbert and Emma. She talks about establishing a memorial fund with the A.B.C.F.M. in memory of Willard. Letter in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]*

Putnam, Conn.

June 1", '47

Dearest Dorothy and Marjorie,

You see I have at last got to Putnam. Came last Tuesday with Mary as far as Hartford where Elbert and Emma met me and drove me to their home.

Am writing this brief note to send Gould's letter to Mr. Belcher of the A.B.C.F.M. regarding establishing a memorial fund in memory of Father. If Gould hasn't sent you a copy, I am sending the one he sent me for you to read; then send it on to Geraldine. Need not return it.

Mr. Belcher's reply, I loaned to Mr. Champe, our pastor in Shelton, and he has not yet returned it to me. Will send it as soon as I get it back.

About \$100.00 already in hand without any from the family yet except \$4.00 from Marjorie. I plan to put in quite a sum when I can make up my mind how much I ought to lay down as a foundation,- a sum of at least three figures.

Elbert and Emma get along very well without much help from me. They think I am tired out and try to make me lie in bed till noon to rest,- even offering to bring up my breakfast to eat in bed! Not done that yet but have not got up to get breakfast for them yet either! Have rested several mornings till 10.

Decoration Day, Friday, we drove to Union to decorate my father's, mother's, sister Mary's [*b. Mar. 3, 1865, d. Mar. 6, 1865*] and grand parent's graves. Elbert found one corner of their monument settled 6 inches, and on investigating found a big hole under it which will have to be filled with a quantity of earth and stones. He hired a man to do the job and will go up again to see that it is done. We decorated with lilacs and iris.

We went to Mt. Ochepetuck to see the new gov't television structure that has been just built there on land the Gov't bo't. from Dedie Lawson (1/2 acre) for \$500.00. It is about 30 ft. X 30 ft. square and 35 to 40 ft. high, all finished, closed and locked, so we only looked in the windows from the ground.

By the way, did you hear that Dedie Lawson died about two months ago and was cremated so that a part of her ashes might be buried beside her husband and children and the other part buried on Ochepetuck, her beloved Mt. We also called on Harvey, her husband [*Ellen's cousin, Harvey Lawson*], and on Pearl and Bill [*Taylor*], and took lunch at the Gen. Lyon Inn in Eastford. Pearl and Bill were just up at their farm for two days to plant their garden, (at which they were just then busy). Bill is teaching in Dickinson College in Carlisle, Penn. He is at the head of the dept. of International Relations and has four Profs. under him. They like their present location and set-up pretty well. Their college closes in about two weeks, where they will be up in Woodstock again. Dorothy and Marjorie will you two write all you can think of about Father's passing and funeral, to Geraldine, for she hoped to have a long letter from me which I cannot write now because my eyes are tired out writing responses to notes of sympathy. And enclose this half sheet with Gould's letter and yours to Geraldine so she can get a little something from me. Thank you all for your Mother's day greetings. All were in Shelton on time. And thank you Dorothy and Marjorie for the gardenia corsage.

Geraldine, you remember the Marot School,- it has been bought by a Dr. or a hospital for a "Convalescing House" and renovated and equipped, and last week they had their opening day inviting the public in for inspection.

The lovely fragrant gardenia of the corsage lasted till I came away on Tuesday the 27th refrigerated and taken out at meal times. Love to all six Affectionately Mother.

A. Word-by-Word Translation:

嗚呼先生，美洲之英，早年梯海，秉鐸榕城，
Alas! master, able man of America, early years cross ocean, proclaim truth in Banian City

手辦庠序，廣敷春風。清苦刻厲，愷悌
hand establish schools, widely blow spring breeze. self-denial, enthusiasm, brotherliness

圓融，願予小子，化雨親承，遠聞噩耗，
amicability, wish I your inferior, refreshing rain personally absorb, afar hear of grievous news,

悲痛莫名，海山萬里，執紼無從，
sorrow pain indescribable, seas mountains thousands of miles, presence in funeral impossible

短歌當哭，用寫愚忱
short poems for wailing, to express my heart

益知 院長 千古
Beard President Thousand of years ("Thousands of years" means to depart forever)

受業 陳調農 敬輓
Instruction Receiver Ding Diên Nung respectfully submit

B. Explanation:

"Refreshing rain" means valuable instructions

Mr. Ding Diên Nung is now the acting chairman of Foochow College Board of managers.

"Instruction receiver" means student. Mr. Ding Diên Nung left Foochow College long before Dr. Beard became its President. He calls himself "instruction receiver" to show his politeness.

C. Literary Translation:

To President Beard

Alas! you were a man of talent from America. Long ago, you crossed the ocean and came to the Banian City (Foochow otherwise designated) to proclaim truth by opening schools and teaching students with a heart as warm as the spring breeze. Because of your self-denial, enthusiasm, brotherliness and amicability, I wish I had personally receive your instructions. I cannot tell how sad I was when I heard of your death. As I am separated from you by miles of seas and mountains, it is impossible for me to be present in your funeral procession. Instead of wailing, I write this little piece of poetry to express myself.

From Ding Diên Nung, a former student.

[This letter dated Oct. 5, 1947 was written from Shelton, Conn. by Ellen to Kathleen and her family. Ellen attended the American Board meeting in Burlington, VT and tells about the trip and the many people she saw. She spent time with Elbert and went visiting. Ellen explains that in her time women did not announce their pregnancies as openly as now and gives Kathleen her blessings to announce her pregnancy to the relatives. Ellen is planning a trip to Saginaw. Letter in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]

Century Farm,
Shelton, Conn.
Oct. 5", '47

Dearest Kathleen, and all the family,

It seems so long since I have written you that I hardly know where to begin.

You see I'm still here, tho I ought to be in Saginaw, - I'm way behind schedule.

One thing that intervened to put me behind was the American Board Annual meeting which was held in Burlington, Bt., way up on Lake Champlain, which I wanted much to attend, and for which a way opened invitingly.

Mary was to attend officially, by virtue of her position as state president of Women's organizations of which her term of office has expired, but has left her a member of some committees. She planned to drive up and offered me a seat in her car, with two other ladies (one did not go eventually), so after much consideration I decided to go, and I enjoyed the trip and the meeting and seeing old friends very much. At the meeting I met Mr. Belcher, Dr. Ward of the A.B.C.F.M. and two ladies I know in the Board Rooms, but can't think of their names now, Helen Smith, Miss Houston, Miss Lanktree from Foochow, Mr. Shrader, formerly of Foochow and now of the Board Rooms in Boston, and Mrs. Shrader's mother, Mrs. Hand, who was out in Foochow with them for about two years I think. Also I met Mrs. Donald Sick who has brought her eldest daughter to America to enter Oberlin. You know Donald Sick is Pres. of Foochow College. Mrs. Sick was Phebe's pupil in Wenshan Girl's School I think. Her daughter is going to study music in the Conservatory. I don't know where she gets the money for all this travel and study in America.

The scenery of Vermont is beautiful, - the Mts. are rightly named "Green Mts." for they are very thickly wooded and so green to their very tops.

Along the roads we saw many places where Maple Products were advertised. I stopped and bought a little maple sugar for souvenirs of my trip, to my friends. You will receive your little gift of a part of a box soon. It was so expensive that I had to divide boxes to make it go around. So when you are eating it as candy, cut up in chinks, enjoy its sweetness and flavor to the full capacity of your olfactory and gustatory powers!!

It pains me to realize how little of the addresses I heard there, and enjoyed so much, I can now remember, to report. The impressions left by the meeting on my mind and soul are more lasting. Two thoughts were indelibly imprinted on my mind by the addresses, and the report from the mission fields! More missionaries are needed and locally wanted by the natives of all mission fields. And 2. More money is needed from our churches to finance this additional force and their work.

Elbert wanted me to stop on my way back from Vt. in Putnam for a visit. So, coming home, Mary and Mrs. Humphrey, her passenger, from New Haven, left me in Springfield, Mass. at 9 o'clock Thursday night Sept. 25, at the greyhound Bus station and I long-distanced Putnam that I would take a bus for Putnam in about ten minutes. I reached Putnam at 11 p.m., to find Elbert there to meet me, having just arrived home from a business meeting at the parsonage. So I didn't have to get him out of bed. I staid there till Oct. 1st when Elbert brot me down here, Emma and Etta riding as far as Hartford to do a little shopping, and Elbert picked them up on his way back.

Elbert's grapes were almost in the prime, not perfectly ripe, but eatable, so you can imagine I enjoyed my stay there. A frost came the night after I arrived and Elbert had to spray cold water on the grapes with his lawn hose before the sun shone on them the next morning to take the frost out of the grapes so they would not be injured by the slight freeze.

That day, Saturday he wanted to go to Stafford Springs to a fair and have a little vacation and rest from being tied down to home duties, and a day away all by himself alone to do just what he wanted to. He said he would be home in time to pick the grapes, for the radio said there would be a hard, killing frost that Saturday night. I told him before he went away that I would pick some of the grapes while he was gone, I picked two bushels heaped up. He picked a few more just before dark when he got home, but had to spray the rest Sunday morning to save them. I never saw so white and heavy a frost as there was Sunday morning. He covered the Worden grapes on the arbor, with old blankets and quilts over the top and saved them. He let Mr. Robinson, the minister pick some for grape juice and a neighbor above pick some and gave some to three other parties. His pears are all gathered but not his apples. So I had a feast of pears. He has bushels in a freezing unit he rents.

While in Putnam Elbert took us all to Uxbridge, Mass. to see Mr. and Mrs. Newell, formerly of Foochow. She had written me that they expected to be at Penny Farms, Fla. after Oct 1". But as it was my only day left to go, we took a chance of finding them still there and went to Uxbridge Tuesday p.m. Sept. 30". To my surprise, they were still there and we had a very pleasant call. Mrs. Newell has been in the hospital to have her spleen removed. You know Jean their daughter is a registered nurse. Dwight married a nurse and they three got their heads together and declared that their parents should not go south without a physical examination and check up so the children sent them to the Boston Lay Clinic (is that correct) where Mr. N. passed 100% but Mrs. N. should have her spleen removed, - which she did and staid two weeks in the Hospital, deferring their trip south to accomplish that. Mrs. M. is now convalescing at home and getting along well. They go to Penny Farms on Oct. 9". They have engaged the cottage next to the Chapel, I don't remember which side.

Edith Pease came in and made a long call the last night I was in Putnam. Eleanor Carpenter's older sister Marian died of cancer in Falmouth, Mass. just before I reached there and Elbert had taken Eleanor and Mrs. Ballard, Marian's mother-in-law, and Mrs. Ballard's sister down to Falmouth for the funeral.

You remember Gertrude Perry and her brother Gilbert? Their father, George Perry who was in high school when I was there, died just the day I went to Burlington, Vt. and his funeral kept Mr. Robinson (Elbert's minister) from attending as he would much have liked to do, i.e. the Burlington meeting.

Mrs. Bowen, who has lived upstairs on the north side of Elbert's big home for many years since her mother and her husband died (you remember she lived just below us when we lived in the big house and used to like to hear you girls talk and frolic in the little upstairs bed room, - thru the open windows?), she, Mrs. Bowen fell on her back veranda, on a wet spot, and broke her hip and has been in the hospital for 2 or 3 months but is really getting better, at 88 years. We called on her in the hospital while I was in Putnam and she had just that day put her foot to the floor and rested her weight on it for a minute or two, supported by a strong man. A speck of encouragement on a very discouraging case. But she is cheerful and thankful. We also called on another similar case in the same hospital and also one of our Cong'l. church members and financial supporters. And I stepped in to call on an old high school boy who came to the hospital with a toe infected with gangrene. They took off the toe but the wound would not heal. So they took off the foot and a part of the leg below the knee, but still it would not heal. So they took off the rest of the leg way up to the body, and hope he may recover. I know he appreciated my call.

When I was in Putnam, Elbert wanted me to go up into his garage attic and look over some of my things stored there, which I did; and destroyed some things and packed some in a carton to send to Saginaw and some in a carton to send to you, - some things I thought the children might appreciate. If they don't care for them they may give them away.

From here, I am sending a parcel containing some books and a set of grill plates for your electric stove to place between the heat unit and the bottom of the pot so that the contents will not burn. They can be used inside the pot under the food to keep it off the bottom of the pot to insure against burning with an inch or so of liquid under it. They can be used either way, in the pot under the food, as meat, vegetables, or under the pot. I think you will find them a help.

Dorothy and Marjorie keep writing, "When are you coming to Saginaw". And, Gould telephoned Saturday to know when I was coming down to visit them. He said he is going to the Coast to be away at least two weeks. I told him I thought it would be about that length of time before I would be ready to come to Manhasset. I shall stay there only about ten days then have Gould arrange for my transportation straight thru from Grand Central to Saginaw, if possible. Dorothy wrote that they would meet me at Detroit if I could not get conveyance clear thru to Saginaw, if I would plan to arrive in Detroit on Saturday or Sunday when they would be free to meet me. But I hope to get a straight thru passage to Saginaw.

I want to answer a question you asked in your last letter, as to why I wanted to keep your good news a secret up here for a surprise. There is no reason only my natural inclination to wish to make it my own personal matter, when I was going thru the days of young mother hood. And I realize you should act your choice in the matter which is so distinctly your own. So I wholly withdraw my wish to keep it a secret and I want you to write the relatives just as you have wished and planned. I want you to have that pleasure and the way is entirely open for you as I have not said one word about it to any one but Marjorie and Dorothy to whom I showed your letter. [*Kathleen is pregnant with Allen.*]

Have I given you my congratulations? If not here they are, one thousand strong; if I have, they will bear repeating at the same strength. So do go ahead at once and announce it, as you wish. The ban is entirely removed cheerfully.

Are you keeping well? Do you find your work too heavy for comfort? Is it going easier than the first two? Do be careful about falling or over exertion. If you need my help at any time just let me know for I can come direct

to Jacksonville without going to Saginaw at all this fall, if necessary, since I have seen both Dorothy and Marjorie and Harold and Ralph since I have seen you and Hugh and the girls.

Did either of the hurricanes injure your property in Jacksonville at all, or did the wind make you uncomfortably nervous? I thought of and prayed for you all much during the progress of those storms. Give up another letter soon.

Are those winter union suits of Father's still there at your house? Or is there any other good clothing of Father's that Hugh does not want? I want him to take anything he wants and can use, but would like to know what is left there now, that is good, that he does not want.

I am going with the Aunts, to the D.A.R. tonight as a quest to hear a speaker and see pictures of the Atomic Bomb. (Wednesday a.m.) I went last night and saw the picture of the explosions at Bikini, and the lecture by one of the key men of that experiment, a brother of the famous Mrs. Jones of White Hills, and Regent of the Derby D.A.R.

Wednesday- Today p.m. - I am going to New Haven to the Annual State Meeting of Congo. Chr. Churches, with Banquet this evening. Tomorrow we go for all day with the women's banquet at noon. If I keep going to meetings, I shall not get packed up to leave for Saginaw very soon, shall I? Much love to you all and much solicitous prayer for you. Affectionately, Mother

[This is probably and addition to the previous letter written by Ellen Kinney Beard judging from the hand writing. It tells of a church auction held on the farm. Letter in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]

Why! after all, I haven't told you anything about our Church Auction except the statistics of my personal connection with it, on these tiny scraps of paper!!!

Many churches around here have been holding auctions to raise money for the church. Every one in the parish is asked to bring something to sell, which he does not want or can spare, like a rummage sale you know. Only in these events, they have a professional auctioneer come with his secretary and his helper and conduct the sale. He wanted at least 500 articles contributed.

Phebe and Mary offered the farm as a place to hold it, - out in the open of course, - in the back yard between the cow barn and the house. They wanted it in May or June but couldn't get this particular auctioneer whom Mr. Champe, our minister wanted, so it was put off and put off till I feared it would get so cold and windy up here on the hill that people would be so uncomfortable that it wouldn't go very well or be very successful.

But fortunately it was a perfect Oct. day warm and sunny and almost no wind. People came out well, about 200+ here, a very orderly quiet crowd and no noisy boys or prowling curiosity folks. Ladies had to use in door toilet but that was not too disturbing.

Women of the church made piles of sandwiches of several kinds, good big ones, 2 slices and thick filling for men, and some made pies, apple, prune, pumpkin and sold lunches to the crowd; Sandwiches 20 cents, Pie 10 cents Coffee 10 cents. The sale began at 10:30 a.m. and went thru till sunset. Almost every thing was sold. Cars lined the street and the lane and the back fence from barn to gate and then some way in back. They made \$349. total. The lunch table in the back yard made \$88.00 as all food was contributed by church members. 4 boys tended an iced cold drink in bottles stand and turned in \$8.00

Huntington Church had one a year ago and made \$700.00. Another Church some distance away made \$1000.00. They had antiques and very good things to sell. But the auctioneer told me that he couldn't get big prices in such a community as this for the people didn't have money.

Every body enjoyed the day especially the ladies who managed the refreshments. Folding chairs were brought from the church S.S. rooms so a large part of the crowd could sit. Also chairs brought to be sold of which there were many, as well as trunks and other pieces of furniture afforded seats till they had to be sold toward the last. They had hoped to realize \$500.00 but all were pleased with the result.

AUCTION PLANNED BY CHURCH GROUP

SHELTON

Plans have been completed for the auction sale to be conducted by the Church Workers of the Congregational church tomorrow at the Century farm on Long Hill avenue.

Among the articles to be offered for sale are an ice box, vacuum cleaners, dining room suite, radio, bedroom furniture, tables, chairs, glass and chinaware, fruit jars, chests, lamps, antiques, farm implements, freshly canned fruits and vegetables, foodstuffs and other articles.

The ladies of the church will serve a hot luncheon at noon. Roy Gilbert, of Monticue, will be auctioneer.



Cars parked along Century Farm driveway for auction



Church Auction at Century Farm



This is probably the table full of pie slices for sale at the Century Farm church auction.
[Photos printed from negatives in the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated **Oct. 12, 1947** was written from Jacksonville, FL by Kathleen to Mother. She talks about past Foochow missionary families and Hugh's tiring work schedule. Hurricanes have threatened but they had no damage. Kathleen entertained her PEO group and used many of her Chinese items as decorations. She is pregnant (with Allen) and asks Mother about her later pregnancies and how she felt. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

1038 Bunker Hill Blvd.
Jax 8 Fla.
Oct 12 '47

Dearest Mother

If you are leaving the farm next week this letter will have to be on its way soon to reach you there. I'm very glad you went up to the Burlington meeting and enjoyed it so much. You certainly saw a lot of friends (is Helen Smith home on furlough?) and a lot of beautiful scenery too. Last week some Express friends of Hugh's called on us and the man said his father was a Congregational minister in Vermont and was at that same meeting. Sorry I didn't know it before the meeting. His name is Rev. Hale and we will have the son and his wife over when you are here this winter. Didn't you write that Uncle Elbert was going to Vermont too? But evidently he didn't. The maple sugar sounds great and we shall enjoy every crumb of it to the full.

The Newells were fortunate to get into Penny Farms so soon don't you think? I was glad to know that they are down here and we shall drive down to see them as soon Hugh's work permits. He is on a rather tiring run now down to Tampa, working two nights out of three and having only two consecutive days at home most of which he has to spend sleeping. He is tired all the time and will try to change for the winter but this way he gets over to see his folks quite often so it is nice in that respect. Do you think the Newells plan to stay in Florida now or will they go North for the summer?

The suitcase of Father's clothes has been stored in the attic so I can't tell you everything that is here but there were several union suits and odd pairs of pajama pants, and summer underwear besides the two black suits and his English hat. Hugh took the blue suit, overcoat, shoes and slippers and can use perhaps two of the union suits, but I think there were five or six of the latter. (you did much more hand washing last winter than you needed to) Do you want me to mail any of those to you or will you wait until you get here?

None of the storms (and there have been plenty of them this fall) have done any damage to us, for which we are thankful. The first one, and worst one, was headed right for us and we were really alarmed for a day or two, then it suddenly veered due west and struck south Florida instead of us. We were glad not to be living in that little Ft. Myers house, for, as you may remember, it was not too firm on its foundation. We felt just a little of the edge winds here and had a few rain squalls but not enough to close schools. The storm that followed right after that one swept up thru the center of the state and passed 30 miles West of Jax. It was not called a hurricane but it brought such bad rains that transportation was held up and schools closed for a day. Low parts of the city were flooded for days and roads badly washed out. After that followed strong North East winds which made extremely high tides at the beach and washed away the concrete sea walls in places. One house fell into the ocean and other houses were in such danger that they sent out radio calls for workers to fill sand bags and help reinforce the walls. The latest storm cut across south Florida from West to East and is now out in the Atlantic but is giving us some rainy weather today. A couple of "twisters", as they call them, have been thru the city lately and have taken off a few roofs and messed up a trailer camp. We didn't feel them but they were a bit to close for comfort. But- "it is an ill wind that blow nobody good" you know, and ever since the first hurricane we have had lovely cool weather - even cold at times - which is a grand contrast after the terrible heat. It has made us feel so much better and everybody feels more like doing things. Last week I entertained my P.E.O. chapter and the Adult Church class. Hugh helped me clean up the house and it looked so nice I wanted everyone to see it. I simply let it go all summer and the job was a tremendous one -but I seem none the worse for doing it. I got out all the Chinese things I could use - bureau scarfs, finger towels table cloths dishes etc. and trimmed up for the P.E.O. Lots of remarks passed on them and I was glad of the opportunity to use them. However as usual, none of the towels were used. I have yet to have my first Chinese towel used by a guest. I served pineapple upside-down cake with ice cream and coffee for the desert lunch to ten members present. It was the first meeting of the year and rather a small one but I'm glad I have my entertaining over for this year both for that and the Church group, for soon I won't feel up to it. I'm glad you don't mind my telling the relatives about our prospects for I'm sure they like to know and such things aren't guarded secrets any more as they used to be. I shall write them when I get around to it. My nausea has just about passed now and I feel so much better that my activity is almost normal but I'm sure that I am larger now than I was before at four months and much of the time I feel terribly distended and stretched. Probably the baby is growing fast just now, but I have not felt "life" yet. You asked if it seemed easier this time. (Were your later pregnancies easier than the earlier ones?)- No, I think it is a little harder - after all I'm ten years older and suppose my muscles are more set. My sick period was longer - 2 months instead of one, and more violent. Sometimes it seems as if I just couldn't stretch any more, but I guess nature will take care of that. Thank goodness my period of constipation is over for it was really bad this time. I had to use water almost every day. Monnie sent me four of her maternity dresses so I'm very well fixed for clothes after I let them down. She is shorter than I and the style is longer now.

My! all that fruit you mentioned at Uncle Elbert's sounded so good. How I wished I was near enough to taste some of it. We have had bartlett pears this season but they are 6 to 8 cents apiece and I found some little seekle pears one day that tasted good. Persimmons are in market now and grapefruit is coming in early because of the early cold spell but citrus will be high this year because so much fruit was damaged by winds and rain.

Well, come down just when you feel like it. Your room is ready and waiting for you, but don't feel that you must rush down to help me for I am getting along beautifully, and I want you to do all the visiting that you like. We all send warmest love and hope you have good travelling everywhere - lovingly - Kathleen
