

While taking my turn looking after Chinese workmen making roads and building cottages I was at one time mobbed by about thirty men armed with picks and ropes demanding pay for some road making which had not been ordered and for which I had no authority or money to pay. After a long parley I found that nothing would do to save a rope around my neck but to go clown to Kiewkiang and get the money which I promised to do. By explaining the situation Mr. Little, the head promotor of the summer resort, went back with me and paid the claim in fulfillment of my promise.

*1899 was the beginning of the Boxer Rebellion. Early in 1899 William sent Annie and the children home to Ida Grove, Iowa. He worked to establish a YMCA and opened a chapel in Hanyang. He returned a year later.

After Annie found she had cancer, the family moved to Carnegie, Oklahoma to be near her family. After Annie's tragic death in 1907, Will engaged in a number of business ventures including selling real estate and insurance. This was in addition to being a pastor. In 1910 they moved to Pecos, TX to farm. After losing their farm in the money panic of 1911-1913 William moved to El Paso, TX for a year. In 1917-1918 he accepted a call as a missionary to Sierra County, NM which led to his settling in Hot Springs (Now T or C). There he was pastor of a Union Church and published a county newspaper.

In Hot Springs he met Jessie Roach and they married in 1920. After selling their house and printing press in Hot Springs they relocated to Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was pastor of the First Christian Church and Jessie was principal at Lucero elementary school. Jessie had a daughter, Maudie, and then William and Jessie had a son, Robert.

In 1924 Jessie and William published a monthly, religious 5-6 page pamphlet, the Messenger. In order to finance the publication they did printing jobs. In 1927 he resigned as pastor and began a county newspaper. He sold the paper and continued commercial job printing until September, 1944.

In 1944 both retired and again relocated to Wheatridge, Colorado where Maudie lived.

William lived his last days in a nursing home and died at 92.

For a more detailed chronology read: William Fenimore Gray, A Chronological Outline of Grandpa Gray's Account of his life, Assembled by Russell Gray, June, 1992.