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# LONGYEAR FOUNDATION

## *Quarterly News*

SPRING, 1965

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### **The Old Woman in Spring**

I envy your contorted bole,  
You ancient tree. By every soul  
Your youthfulness of heart is seen,  
Because you fountain into green.

Unaltered as in winter now  
My twisted hands and wrinkled brow;  
Yet my heart, too, though none believes  
Is happy with a thousand leaves.

Frances Cornford  
From *Travelling home*  
The Cresset Press, London

### **Exhibitions**

#### **Special Exhibition Gallery:**

THE PRINTED WORD — opening  
early summer.

TOGETHER in the Service of Chris-  
tian Science — held over through  
Annual Meeting.

**Rotunda:** MRS. EDDY AT HOME AT  
CHESTNUT HILL.

**Gallery 2:** ORIGINAL PLASTER MODEL  
for marble bas-relief of Mary Baker  
Eddy at the Chestnut Hill Home, by  
William Frederick Pope, Boston  
sculptor. Exhibited in Cabinet with  
various small likenesses of Mrs.  
Eddy.

**Gallery 6 (Baker Room):** BIBLES USED  
BY THE BAKER FAMILY and by Mrs.  
Eddy in her youth, together with  
original documents and other items  
pointing up her early spiritual  
training.

FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS as-  
sociated with Mrs. Eddy.

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### **First Members (Part 1)**

IN 1889 WHEN MARY BAKER EDDY dissolved the original Church of Christ, (Scientist), formed in 1879, she removed once for all the congregational control of her church. Cliques and dissensions in the early church had culminated in the revolt of 1888 when the records of the Christian Scientists Association of the Massachusetts Metaphysical College — virtually the records of the church — were seized by the revolting group. By dissolving the material organization of this church in 1889, Mrs. Eddy opened the way for Christian Scientists to remain together and to carry on their activities in Christian Science in accordance with spiritual law as they had been taught, without reliance on material organization and human regulations.

It was clear to Mrs. Eddy that God's Church was not governed by wavering loyalties, and she set forth on her three-year search for an answer to the need for an impersonal, spiritually motivated instrument (organization) which would protect and carry her revelation of Christian Science to the world. Many legal authorities advised against building a church without a clear title resting on congregational ownership. She knew, however, that God must own the title to His Church and in 1892 after long and diligent

search, a Massachusetts law was found which permitted an incorporated group of donees and their legitimate successors to hold title to beneficiary property for an institution. Mrs. Eddy had her God-given answer. She was ready to organize her church.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, was organized on September 23, 1892, at 133 Dartmouth Street, Boston, in a meeting attended by twelve loyal students of Christian Science, selected and guided by Mrs. Eddy in this momentous action. Based on the Massachusetts statute, they adopted a unique title guarantee of church property and plan of organization. With these essential safeguards, Mrs. Eddy applied herself to the founding of a church free of congregational control, and one which would "represent the church universal and reflect the church triumphant." (Church Manual, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1895)

Four of the twelve members attending the meeting had previously been designated by Mrs. Eddy as the "Christian Science Board of Directors" and to them was conveyed the Deed of Trust upon which The Mother Church organization rests. (Church Manual, 1895, "Deed of Trust") These four men were Ira O. Knapp, Joseph S. Eastaman, William B. Johnson, and



THIS ESTEY ORGAN, used at Chickering Hall until 1894, was the first organ owned by The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston. It was later presented to First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Dover, N.H., and was recently given to Longyear Foundation by this church.



Stephen A. Chase. The remaining eight were Dr. Ebenezer E. J. Foster-Eddy, Miss Julia S. Bartlett, Mrs. Mary W. Munroe, Mrs. Ellen L. Clarke (absent from the meeting), Mrs. Mary F. Eastaman, Mrs. Janet T. Colman, Mrs. Flavia S. Knapp, and Mrs. Eldora O. Gragg.

Twenty other loyal students, recommended by Mrs. Eddy, were also elected to membership in the Church at this meeting and these, together with the twelve organizing members, were designated "First Members" by Mrs. Eddy.\* These twenty included Calvin A. Frye, Edward P. Bates, Eugene H. Greene, David Anthony, Hanover P. Smith, Mrs. Josephine Curtis Otterson, Mrs. Grace A. Greene, Mrs. Caroline W. Frame, Mrs. Elizabeth P. Skinner, Mrs. Augusta E. Stetson, Mrs. Henrietta E. Chanfrau, Mrs. Emily M. Meader, Mrs. Berenice H. Goodall, Mrs. Annie V. C. Leavitt, Mrs. Laura E. Sargent, Mrs. Anna M. Otis, Mrs. Mary F. Berry, and Mrs. Martha E. S. Morgan, Mrs. Caroline S. Bates, and Mrs. Emilie B. Hulin.

Each First Member was given a copy of the "Church Tenets and Rules" a seven-page booklet containing the Tenets written by Mrs. Eddy, and the Rules for governing the Church. No

regulations to govern the actions of individual Christian Scientists were included, Mrs. Eddy holding at this time that the Tenets would provide inspired spiritual perception which would lead to right action. The little booklet with minor changes in successive printings was the guide for the Church until 1895. Supplementary regulations were occasionally published in The Christian Science Journal.

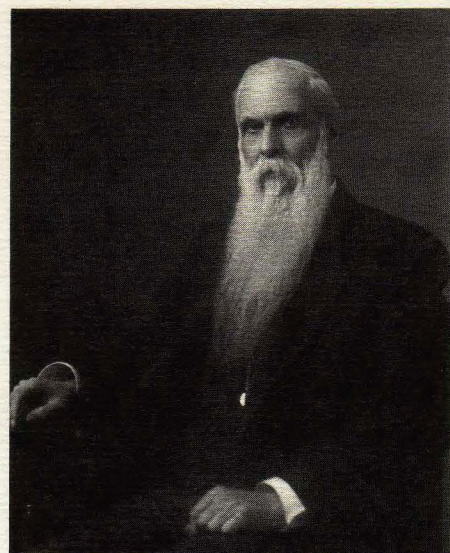
The first Church Manual of The Mother Church was published in the early autumn of 1895. Nothing shows more clearly Mrs. Eddy's obedience to God's leading than her publication of this Manual, feeling as she had for so many years that laws of limitation for Christian Scientists would never be needed. (My. 229:24)

In this edition of the Manual First Members were designated as "persons who have proven themselves, in successive years, strict adherents to the doctrines and practise inculcated in Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures." They shared with the Directors, also First Members, the government of the Church.

*To be concluded in next issue.*

\*The Quarterly News looks forward to giving brief information about many of these First Members in later issues.

## An Obedient Disciple



IRA O. KNAPP

WHEN MARY BAKER EDDY entrusted to Ira O. Knapp in 1889 the sole trusteeship of the church land on which The Mother Church was later built, she initiated his long period of trusted service to her and to the Cause of Christian Science.

Through his own healings and those of his family in 1884, Mr. Knapp had been convinced of the truth of Christian Science and thereafter nothing had real meaning for him apart from the study and practice of this truth. He was a deep student of the Bible during his earlier years in Lyman, New Hampshire, the home of the Knapp family for over a hundred years, and a community Ira Knapp had served well as educator, farmer, and political servant. He turned from all this to the practice of Christian Science and in 1888 he moved to Boston where he was to serve as one of the pivotal disciples of Mrs. Eddy in the founding of her church.

Mr. Knapp saw clearly that Mrs. Eddy was God's messenger to this age. Several visions\* strengthened his spiritual insight which led him to accept Mrs. Eddy's leadership without question and to give his implicit support to any work she assigned to him.

When she made him trustee of the church land in 1889, she had but

\*Recorded by Mr. Bliss Knapp in his biography of his mother and father, *Ira Oscar Knapp and Flavia Stickney Knapp*.

## Notes

A PORTRAIT OF Mrs. Annie Louise Robertson, C.S.D., early student of Mrs. Eddy and a teacher, has been presented to Longyear Foundation by her Association of Students. The portrait was painted by Camille DuMond.

NEW PORTRAITS of Mrs. Ella S. Rathvon, and Mr. William R. Rathvon, painted by Virginia Emmons and presented to the Foundation by Mrs. Lora C. Rathvon, are included in the present exhibition "Together in the Service of Christian Science."

ASK FOR THE informative map folder with directions for a tour of the historic houses maintained by Longyear Foundation. Folders may be obtained at the Foundation Building, the Christian Science Benevolent Association, and the reception rooms of The

Christian Science Publishing Society and the Administration Building.

A RECENT GIFT of the original pastel of Mrs. Eldora O. Gragg, first Second Reader in The Mother Church, was presented by her daughter, Mrs. Elisabeth F. Norwood. The portrait is by William Baxter Closson and replaces in the galleries a photographic reproduction of it.

AN ITEM OF WIDE INTEREST has been added to the available manuscripts in the Study Room of Longyear Foundation. *A Chronology of the Physical Changes in Successive Editions of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, 1875-1911*, has been prepared at Longyear Foundation after two years of research.



recently redeemed the land after church members had defaulted in their payments, and she had dissolved the first Christian Science church. A rugged way lay before her and she required loyal, obedient students who could stand firmly against the legal, ecclesiastical, and personal opposition to her new commitment — to found a church on a spiritual basis, removed from human dictation. Students in responsible positions took issue, holding that the church could be legally established only with a governing congregation. Mrs. Eddy waited on God for an answer, and Mr. Knapp and a handful of other faithful workers waited with her. The question, “Who shall own God’s church?” was paramount. An answer came to Mrs. Eddy, and in 1892 she organized her church as God had directed, and Mr. Knapp was made Chairman of the Board of Directors of the new church. Stormy days were ahead, but Mr. Knapp’s spiritual integrity lent unyielding support to Mrs. Eddy while the tares and the wheat were separated and the morass of prejudices, conflicting ideas, and legal traditions eliminated. The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, was dedicated on January 6, 1895.

The Dedication was reason for great rejoicing by Ira O. Knapp and his beloved wife and disciple of Mrs. Eddy, Flavia Stickney Knapp, healer and teacher. Together they were a strong bulwark for truth in those days when Christian Science was being permanently established on the Rock.

Meanwhile, Mr. Knapp’s knowledge of the Bible had been a great asset to the Committee on Bible Lessons of which he had been a member since its organization in 1890. With Mrs. Eddy’s guidance and the Committee’s faithful work, the Bible Lessons had emerged at the time of Dedication as a forceful instrument for the new Pastor, The Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures. A new edition of Science and Health — the fiftieth — had been published in 1891, bringing Mrs. Eddy’s advancing discovery to strengthen and inspire the activities of the new church.

Mr. Knapp served Mrs. Eddy with great understanding for over twenty years, passing on in 1910. He wrote to her in that year, “As Jesus’ life was inseparable from his teachings and demonstrations of truth and love, so must your life be inseparable from the spiritual teachings and demonstrations of divine Science.” (Christian Science Sentinel, January 22, 1910.) His great gift to Mrs. Eddy and to mankind was his unquestioning obedience to his Leader.

### Wilfred B. Wells

WILFRED B. WELLS, who passed on February 17, 1965, brought to his work as a member of the Board of Trustees of Longyear Foundation, a keen, analytical mind, and a warmly sympathetic approach to the work of the Foundation. As a devoted Christian Scientist from his Sunday School days, he did much to broaden and coordinate the work of the Foundation, and to implement the ideals of Mr. and Mrs. John Munro Longyear as laid down in their Deed of Trust.

### C. Earle Armstrong

THE VACANCY on the Board of Trustees has been filled by the election of C. Earle Armstrong, an experienced Christian Scientist who has served in several Christian Science churches in New York, New Jersey, and New England. He attended Columbia University, specializing in banking and later took a degree from the Graduate School of Banking, Rutgers University. After 19 years in banking he turned to insurance and was awarded in 1956 the Chartered Life Underwriter designation. Presently he is Senior Pension Consultant with the Lambert M. Huppler Company, New York.

### Addendum

AN INTERESTING ITEM associated with the Bible Lessons, subject of the lead articles in the Autumn and Winter Quarterly News, has come to our atten-

tion. The Scientific Statement of Being became part of the church service in 1896, following Mrs. Eddy’s request in the Journal for February, 1896, p. 452, that the Scientific Statement of Being be read by the First Reader in all Christian Science churches immediately before the benediction. The correlative Scripture did not become part of the service until it was included with Mrs. Eddy’s Scientific Statement of Being in the “Order of Service” as given in the Church Manual, 22nd Edition, 1901. The association of these two scientific statements of being to stand forever at the conclusion of our Lesson-Sermons is the continuing seal of union of the Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures.

### Life at Chestnut Hill

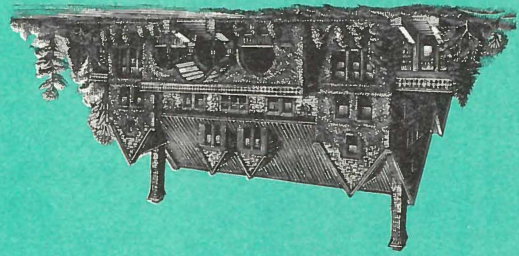
A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, “Mrs. Eddy at Home at Chestnut Hill”, has been installed in the Rotunda. Views of the Chestnut Hill home and snapshots of the members of the household were made by various workers at Chestnut Hill from 1908 to 1910, some of them enthusiastic photographers. The original snapshots, enlarged for this exhibition, are included and identified in a photograph album compiled by Miss Nellie Eveleth, resident dressmaker. The album is in the Longyear collection.

There are views of many of the rooms as furnished in Mrs. Eddy’s time, featuring such interesting objects as the pianola, then a new invention, an early victrola, the Wycliffe Bible shown beneath a painting of Jesus, and the Christian Science Banner. The beautiful natural surroundings, the gardens and inviting walks through woods abounding in wild flowers and birds, together with various vehicles used by Mrs. Eddy or the household including the Stanley Steamer — all reflect the happy and normal life of the household in these momentous years.

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LONGYEAR  
FOUNDATION

LONGYEAR FOUNDATION, 120 SEAVER STREET, BROOKLINE,  
MASSACHUSETTS 02146, WELCOMES INQUIRIES ABOUT  
August 2015: Minor edits have been made to this newsletter to reflect new  
information that has come to light since the original publication.