
LONGYEAR FOUNDATION

Quarterly News

AUTUMN, 1967

Toward Something Great

Forever alive, forever forward
Stately, solemn, sad, withdrawn, baffled,
mad, turbulent, feeble, dissatisfied.
Desperate, proud, fond, sick, accepted
by men, rejected by men.
They go! they go! I know that they go,
but I know not where they go,
But I know that they go toward the best—
toward something great.

WALT WHITMAN, 1856
Lines from "Song of the Open Road"

Exhibitions

Youth Room: PICTURES AND REPORTS of Longyear Foundation's services to young people.

Baker Room: THE FOUNDATION'S DISPLAY of furniture, books, documents, paintings and other objects associated with the Mark Baker family, has been augmented and rearranged in Gallery 1.

Reception Area: THE MARBLE BUST of Mary Baker Eddy by Luella Varney Serrao.

Sales Area: THE SOLARIUM, overlooking the formal garden and Cyrus Dallin's statue of Mrs. Eddy, provides an attractive and well lighted location for the display and sale of Longyear material.

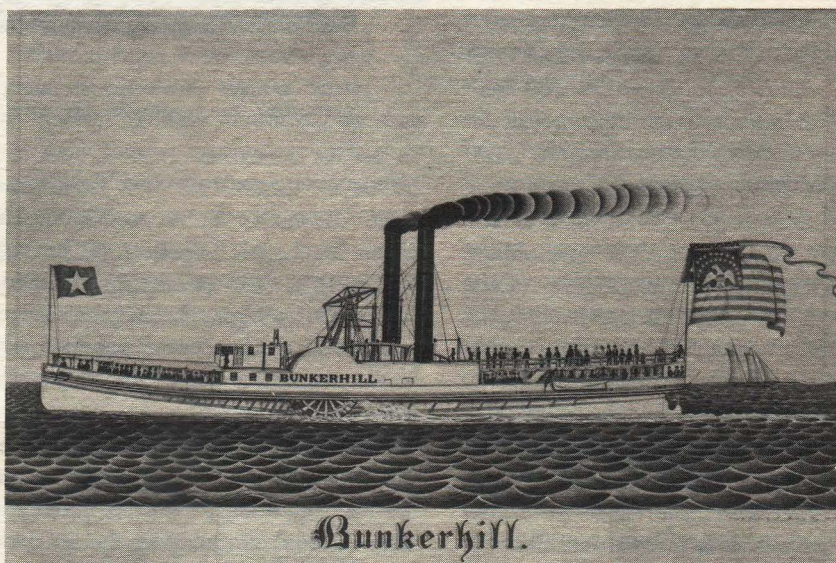
Music Room: THE WRITINGS of Mary Baker Eddy printed in Braille by the late J. Robert Atkinson, Founder and Director of the Braille Institute of America, on view.

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George Sullivan Baker (Part 2)

ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, George Sullivan Baker concluded his work as foreman of the Prison Shops at Wethersfield Penitentiary on March 16, 1838. He planned to return to New Hampshire by way of New York and took the boat, the *Bunkerhill*, to that city. On arrival he began a round of walks, visits, and errands, which reveal the variety and character of George Sullivan Baker's interests. He found several friends there who guided his visits and shared the evenings with him.

were thronged "with those awful creatures, and I ventured to drink a cup of hot coffee with them." He left New York on the *Captain Vanderbilt*, travelling up the Hudson past Sing Sing, Point Verplank, West Point, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, to Albany. After visiting there for a day and taking a side trip to Troy, he took the stage-coach for Bennington and Brattleborough, arriving finally at Hillsborough on April 2, where he spent two days with his brother Albert before going on to Sanbornton Bridge. Numerous close



THE BUNKERHILL, steam packet on which George S. Baker traveled to New York in 1838. From a watercolor by Frederick Hugel, 1838, in the Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.

In his Journal, he notes examples of Gothic and Doric architecture, his visit to Niblo's Garden on Broadway "with its beauties of nature and art," an antiquarian exhibition with collections of sea-shells from every land, coins and currency from far and near, noting especially a specimen of old Roman tribute money, weapons of primitive peoples, and other items. He visited the New York Mercantile Library with 14,000 volumes, making notes about its government and management, operational costs, annual subscriptions, officers, subscribers, and services. Visits to Bowling Green, Castle Garden, Haarlem, reached by rail, and Brooklyn were mentioned. For two evenings he visited places of entertainment offering plays, circus stunts, dancing and singing where he says they

observations on the trip are recorded.

While George had been away from home, many changes had taken place. Abigail had married Alexander H. Tilton, probably the most eligible bachelor in Sanbornton Bridge at the time, 1837. Mark still hoped George would take over the farm, which he was anxious to rid himself of, but Abigail and Alexander offered another plan. Late in 1838, George and Alexander entered into partnership as *Tilton and Baker* for the manufacture of cassimeres, and tweeds made by a process invented by Alexander. In time this was to make Alexander a wealthy man and Abigail first lady of Tilton as Sanbornton Bridge was renamed in 1869. The joint business continued until 1846, when on the sale of the mill building to the *Lake Company*, George

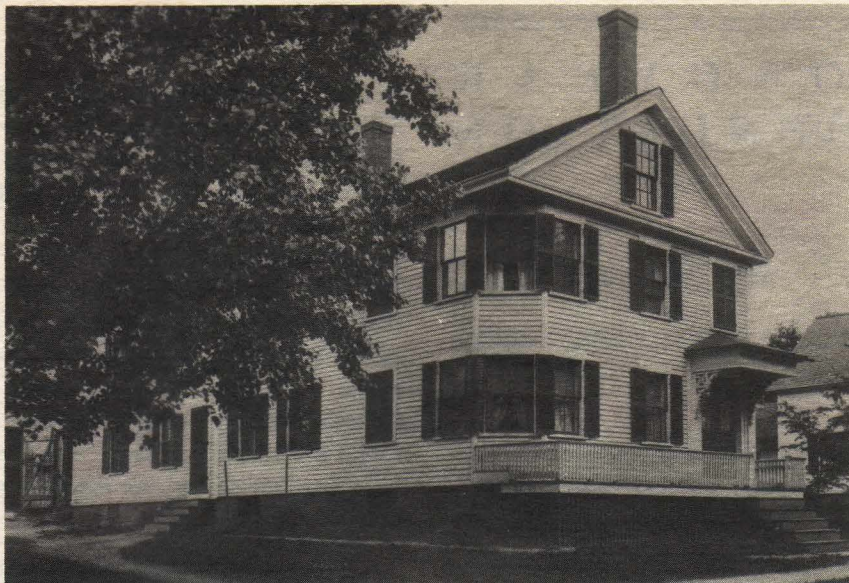
withdrew from the firm but Alexander continued to operate the plant on a lease basis.

Perhaps George's proud spirit chafed under the aptitude for management that came so naturally to Alexander, or perhaps he revolted under the routine of business for money, feeling it unworthy of man as he understood him. He recorded these thoughts in his Journal: "That human happiness is only a dream, is obvious for many reasons. When I contemplate the narrow limits in which the active and inquiring faculties of man are confin'd — when I see all their powers employ'd in providing their daily bread, and that they have no other view than the support of a miserable existence — I am struck dumb . . . and retire within the confines of my own thoughts . . . the result? I am plunged in a stream of mist and confusion, against the forces of which I cannot contend, but suffer myself, like the rest of the world, to be borne down its current, reckless of the shoals upon which it may cast me." His cry is like the voice of humanity, reaching out for help beyond itself, a cry which was answered by the Science of the Christ, so soon to be brought to the world by his youngest sister, Mary.

His beloved brother Albert, who had been for three years Representative for Hillsborough in the New Hampshire State Legislature, passed on October 17, 1841. As executor of his estate, George was brought in close touch with men of public affairs with whom Albert had been associated. Less than two years later, when a powerful and unscrupulous politician attacked the basic policies of the Liberal Democratic Party and Albert Baker in particular, who had done much to formulate these policies, George stoutly defended his brother's memory, writing vigorous letters and fiery articles to friends and the press.

In 1844, George Sullivan Baker was made Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of the State of New Hampshire, with the rank of Colonel. Since 1834, he had been Fife Major in the Eleventh Regiment of New Hampshire Militia.

When Mary Baker Glover was returning from Wilmington, North Carolina, to her father's house after the passing of her husband in 1844, it was



MARK BAKER'S TOWN HOUSE inherited by George S. Baker and occupied for twenty years after his passing by his wife, Martha Rand Baker.

George who went to New York to meet and escort her home; and some three years later, in 1847, he took her again on a trip through the White Mountains. In October of that year, he went to New York, there organizing the *George S. Baker & Company*, investing much of his capital in an enterprise for operating an entertainment feature, "A Panorama — Voyage Around the World," shown at 406 Broadway. He was forced to abandon the project at considerable loss early in 1849.

After disposing of his Panorama contract, he sailed on the schooner, *Camilla Scott*, leaving New York February 21, and arriving in Alexandria, Virginia, after a dramatic thirteen-day voyage graphically described in his Journal. He visited Washington, and a few days later went to Baltimore, where on April 5, 1849, he accepted an appointment as Superintendent of the Carding and Spinning Department of the Maryland Penitentiary at an annual salary of \$700 and clothes.

Mother Abigail was always close to George and on August 7, 1849, she wrote: "I felt to mourn and sympathize with you for your loss and disappointment, but remember no one goes deep into business without making some little mistake. . . . I think you have done well and I rejoice that you are freed from that unhealthy dissipated sink of wickedness [New York] and are situated in an elevated beautiful spot in

Baltimore. . . . And I am very much pleased with your remarks that your health was perfectly good, and while Favor'd you would never feel to distrust your own resources, and I feel to say without flattery that I never knew a man of such unyielding and unabated resolution as yourself. I think myself that you are better off than if you had been on the farm."

This recalls George's statement in an essay on "Correspondence as a Source of Enjoyment" in which he said: "I never wish to hear the word 'Impossible.' It is the watchword of indolence at her post, and the counter-sign of cowardice creeping by. If men persuaded themselves it is impossible to raise a pebble even, from the earth, it must remain there. If they are not afraid of Mountains, Mountains must come down. The difficulty does not lie in the greatness of the obstacle so much as in littleness of spirit!"

George took a brief holiday from his work at Baltimore in the autumn of 1849, returning to Sanbornton Bridge, where on November 4, he was married to Martha D. Rand for whom he had shown great respect and admiration for a number of years. She was also Mary's choice for him. They were married at the Mark Baker home where ailing Mother Abigail could attend, shortly before her passing, November 21, 1849. While on the trip to the "White Hills" with Mary in 1847,

George had written to Martha: "Martha, but *one* circumstance has prevented our enjoyment being *complete* — the fact *you* could not enjoy it with us." And he continued, "Whilst visiting these scenes, one reflection is at all time uppermost — that the God of Nature had selected this region to display His power, and to show man his insignificance . . . and we can but admire and wonder at the incomprehensibility of our own thoughts."

The marriage was not to prove a happy one. They lived in Baltimore until 1852 when George voluntarily left his work at the Maryland Penitentiary early in the year. Again he took with him letters of warm appreciation from the Monthly Committee of the Prison Board dated March 10, 1852 saying, "He fully understands his business . . . was faithful and attentive to duties as an officer . . . a gentleman of a good share of intelligence." He and Martha visited New Berne, North Carolina, taking with them an excellent letter of introduction from Brown and Dunham, importers and jobbers of Baltimore, which said in part, "Mr. Baker is a gentleman of high integrity and gentlemanly bearing." But nothing seems to have come of the trip.

While he searched further for a congenial post, Martha returned to Sanbornton Bridge, where their son was born March 21, 1853. While their relationship over the years is ambiguous, an entry in George's Journal at a later period may well refer to their early experiences.

"We remember the time when I
first sought your home,
When a smile, not a word, was the
summons to come,
When you called me a *friend*, til
you found with surprise,
That our *friendship* turned out to
be love in *disguise*
You will think of it — won't you?
You remember it — don't you?
Yes, Yes, of all this the remem-
brance will last
Long after the present fades into
the past. . . ."

In 1856 he was back in Sanbornton and nearby Northfield, where Martha's family lived. He seems to have been employed for a time by the Tilton Mills but this did not last and he was soon on the move again. Meanwhile Martha



MARTHA RAND BAKER in later years.

and young George Waldron, as her child was named, continued to live in Sanbornton and Northfield. A strong tie of affection which extended back to her school days, united her with George's family and this relationship was to continue throughout the years. The next available record of George shows him to have been employed for a number of years as Superintendent of the Appleton Woolen Factory in Appleton, Wisconsin. Fire destroyed the Appleton plant about 1863 and George made the original draft for the new factory, supervising the rebuilding of it as well as the installation and testing of the new machinery. Although urged to resume his former position, he returned to Sanbornton with Martha, who had joined him in Appleton in 1864.

No records are available to show George's support of Martha and young George during the years of separation, but it is clear from letters to the family that she was independent and reasonably well cared for. A letter from an Appleton employer throws light on George's later years. "He superintended the original Appleton Woolen Factory prior to its being burned, with *credit* to himself and *high satisfaction* to the proprietors — and also to the many patrons, who purchased the goods He was a man of temperate and moral habits, and also of business habits and capacity . . . is fully qualified to superintend the manufacture of woolen goods of all kinds."

Mark Baker passed on at Sanbornton Bridge in 1865 and the second Mrs. Baker, having waived her right to the use of the home, turned it over to George who was next in line of inheritance. George outlived his father only a little more than two years, and Martha inherited the home where she lived for twenty years.

George's course was run. How shall one evaluate such a man as George Sullivan Baker? There were moments of genius in his experience when he glimpsed God in His beauty and purity, but he recorded in his Journal that, "The cup of life is sweet at the brim, the flavour is impaired as we drink deeper, and the dregs are bitter that we may not struggle when it is taken from our lips."

Disappointment seemed ever with him. Impatience with oppression and injustice, interference with individual rights as he saw them, and all forms of dishonesty drove him from place to place. Nevertheless, he worked constructively at his post, wherever he chanced to be, yet at heart he remained a rebel against many prevailing practices.

When his sister Mary visited him a few months before he passed on in 1867, he was unable to accept from her the very Truth for which he had so long sought. Mortality seemed to shadow his human experience, but his inner integrity remained untouched and his idealism was in tune with much thinking of the period, which in time led to the reshaping of the old order of his day.

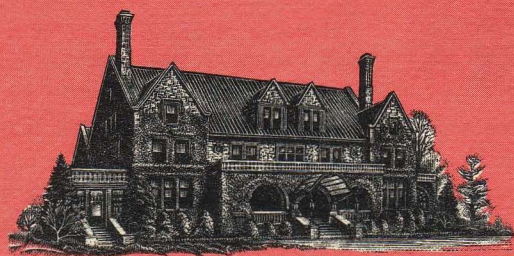
Notes

MORE THAN A THOUSAND visitors from thirty-seven states and from foreign countries were welcomed at Longyear Foundation during the busy week of Annual Meeting. They saw portraits of early workers who had helped Mrs. Eddy in her great work; studied documents and artifacts connected with the early history of the movement; and many availed themselves in the Study Room of an opportunity to read the original memoirs of early workers.

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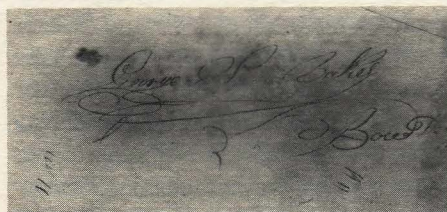
AUTUMN 1967



120 SEAVER STREET
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02146

Braille Exhibition

THE GENEROSITY and deep humanitarianism of Mr. and Mrs. John Munro Longyear is emphasized by an exhibition of books in Braille now on view in the Music Room. J. Robert Atkinson, unsighted by a firearms accident, had begun the printing of books in Braille in his garage when Mr. and Mrs. Longyear visited him in his California home in 1919 and gave him \$25,000 to expand his work. It was payable in gifts of \$5,000 each, over a period of five years. With this financial support, it was possible for Mr. Atkinson to found the Braille Institute of America, which is now housed in buildings extending along two blocks. The first publication of importance issued by the Institute was the Braille Bible. Soon a dictionary followed and over the years numerous books of wide appeal have been transcribed and are now distributed throughout the world. For his own personal use, Mr. Atkinson transcribed into Braille all the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, and as



SIGNATURE OF GEORGE SULLIVAN BAKER whose biographical sketch is concluded in this issue.

an expression of appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Longyear, these books were sent after his passing in 1964 to Longyear Foundation. Nine of sixteen volumes are shown in the Music Room.

In a recent letter from Mrs. Atkinson she speaks of their gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Longyear and says, "... without their great kindness and understanding, it (the Braille Institute) probably never would have been possible."

LONGYEAR FOUNDATION: *Board of Trustees:* Mrs. Marian H. Holbrook, Robert Hall Collins, Don S. Greer. *Manager,* Claude M. Cane; *Technical Director,* Richard C. Molloy; *Administrative Assistant,* Mrs. Charlis F. Vogel; *Director of Research,* Mrs. Anne Holliday Webb. QUARTERLY NEWS is published four times annually, in the Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter, at the headquarters of Longyear Foundation, 120 Seaver Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146. Inquiries about memberships, subscriptions, and its services are welcomed.

Youth Exhibition

IN THE PAST TEN YEARS gifts of Mrs. Eddy's writings have been presented by Longyear Foundation to 282 college organizations throughout the world.

Recently the King James Version of the Bible has been added to the textbook to make a set of Readers' books for organizations.

The Trustees also have presented copies of Mrs. Eddy's writings as honor awards to outstanding individual students attending Christian Science schools and colleges when recommended by their school authorities. An exhibition on view in the Youth Gallery includes illustrations of schools and colleges which have participated in this program, some as far away as Australia.