
LONGYEAR FOUNDATION

Quarterly News

WINTER 1968-1969

Our State

From Autumn frost to April rain,
Too long her winter woods complain;
From budding flower to falling leaf,
Her summer time is all too brief.

Yet, on her rocks, and on her sands,
And wintry hills, the school-house stands,
And what her rugged soul denies,
The harvest of the mind supplies.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER (1807 - 1892)

The Quaker Poet of Amesbury

Exhibitions in the Mary Baker Eddy Museum

Foyer: PORTRAIT OF MARTHA W. WILCOX, C.S.B., painted by Dwight Roberts from a photograph made in 1912 showing her much as she appeared when in Mrs. Eddy's home in 1908-1910. The portrait is a gift of the Association of Students of Mrs. Wilcox.

Main Gallery: RELOCATED PHOTOGRAPHS and miniatures of Mary Baker Eddy and her family; bust of Mrs. Eddy by Luella Varney Serrao.

Sales Room: MOVED TO reception area to provide greater convenience for visitors.

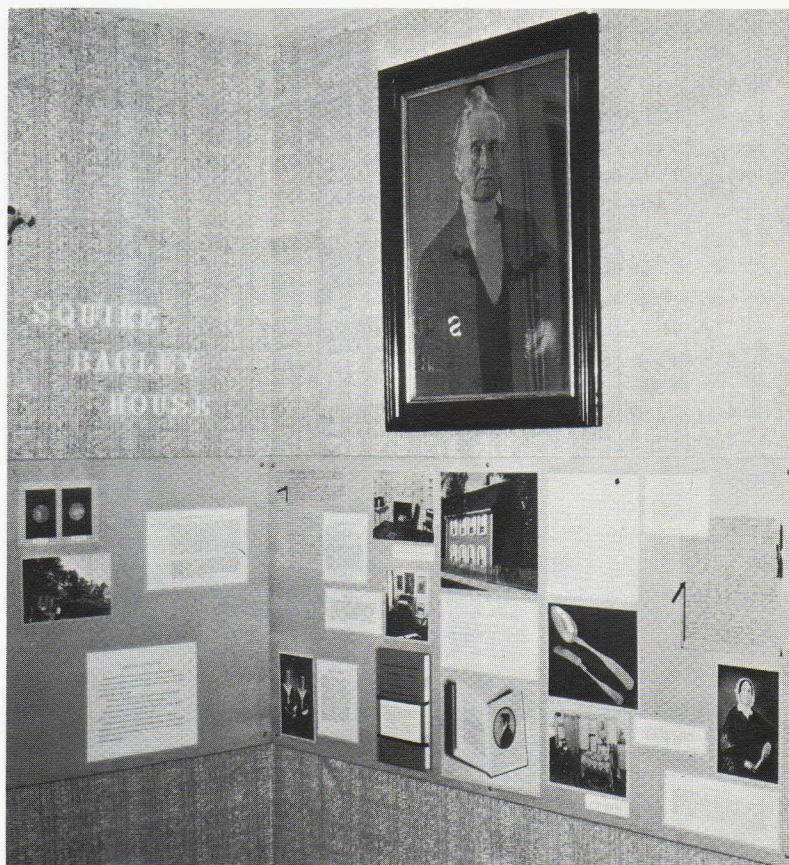
Baker Room: FURNITURE, BOOKS, documents, paintings and other objects associated with the Mark Baker family.

Solarium: FIVE HISTORIC HOUSES, a summary exhibit of the Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses, maintained by Longyear Foundation, pointing out important events in the life of Mrs. Eddy associated with each house.

Amesbury Tercentenary Exhibit

AMESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS celebrated last August the 300th year of its founding. Preparations for this week-long anniversary celebration began months ahead and included the transformation of the unused Bartlett School, a few hundred feet from the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House, into the Amesbury 300th Anniversary Museum. Longyear Foundation was asked to participate by providing a display.

The Longyear display as finally developed in the Anniversary Museum is illustrated in the accompanying photograph. The Squire Bagley portrait taken from the parlor of the Bagley House was the center of the exhibit. The panel below the portrait displayed excerpts from the Squire's diary, photographs of the interior of the house and its occupants, a copy of Mrs. Longyear's book, and a photograph of silver owned by Sarah O. Bagley,



Longyear Foundation exhibit in the Amesbury 300th Anniversary Museum, August 17-25

The Mary Baker Eddy Historic House is also known locally as the Squire Bagley House, since Squire Bagley who lived there in the early 1800's was an outstanding public figure. The offices he held and the diary he kept over many years are described in an accompanying article. It was Squire Bagley's daughter Sarah, with whom Mrs. Eddy (then Mrs. Glover) came to live.

Since The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston (The Mother Church) had been asked to provide a display relating to Mary Baker Eddy's sojourns in Amesbury, the Longyear exhibit stressed the history of the Squire Bagley House. Interesting portions of this history are related in Mary Beecher Longyear's book, "History of a House," first published in 1925.

the Squire's wife. Another panel told the story of a coin found in this century in the well behind the Bagley House, which may well have been the coin the Squire reported in his diary of 1836 as being lost.

The horsehair rocker beside the fireplace in the garden room of the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House, as well as a large color photograph of the Pfister portrait of Mrs. Eddy, was included in The Mother Church Exhibit. The Pfister portrait is based on a tintype of the 1860's.

The Mary Baker Eddy Historic House was opened to the public without charge during the Anniversary Week. Visiting hours were extended from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Sundays. Nearly a thousand visitors were welcomed at the House,

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Sent without charge to Friends of Longyear Foundation

and many expressed their pleasure at being able to tour the historic dwelling. The townspeople in particular were glad of the opportunity to see the inside of the house, which has remained substantially unchanged since the Squire and his family lived there.

The press gave this historic occasion wide coverage. The Mary Baker Eddy Historic House was frequently mentioned in the local newspapers and in two cases, featured in special articles, both in the *Newburyport Daily News*.

The displays in the Bartlett School were all removed after the celebration and the one-time bustling Anniversary Museum returned to an empty school building. In November, 1968, however, the townspeople voted to turn the school into a permanent museum. Longyear Foundation has offered to give, or loan, its Anniversary display to the town of Amesbury and is maintaining it until plans have been completed to reopen the museum.

This 300th Anniversary of Amesbury provided an excellent opportunity for visitors both to the museum and to the Historic House to learn more about Mary Baker Eddy and the movement she founded.

R.C.M.

Amesbury lies about 40 miles north of Boston and 6 miles from Newburyport. This land of wooded hills and fertile valleys is almost encircled by a network of bodies of water formed by the Merrimack and Powow Rivers, ponds, and the nearby ocean. This situation encouraged manufacturing and commerce from its earliest days.



Garden Room in Mary Baker Eddy Historic House (Bagley House) showing carpet purchased in 1829. The horsehair rocker from the Historic House was on exhibit in the Anniversary Museum.

Amesbury and Mary Baker Eddy

OF THE FIVE HISTORIC houses maintained by Longyear Foundation because of their association with Mary Baker Eddy, none embodies more fully the social and economic atmosphere surrounding Mrs. Eddy in the 1860's than does the Squire Bagley House at Amesbury, Massachusetts. Mrs. Eddy, then Mrs. Mary B. Glover, was a guest at this house on two occasions: first, in the summer and early autumn of 1868; and second, for a few weeks in the spring of 1870.

At the suggestion of Quaker friends in Lynn, Mrs. Glover had first come to Amesbury, home of the Quaker poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, in search of a quiet place to study and write. This was in September 1867. She found lodgings with kindly Mrs. Nathaniel Webster in a large, comfortable house near the Merrimack River ferry. For ten months she lived there, devoting her time to the study of the Scriptures and searching for the scientific truths, which she realized must underlie all biblical teachings. She wrote down answers which came to her through prayer and inspiration and these notes took form in her first teaching manual, *The Science of Man*. She placed an advertisement in the July 4, 1868 issue of the *Banner of Light*, a spiritualist paper published weekly in Boston, and which she had often seen at Mrs. Webster's during her visit there. In her advertisement, she offered to teach students how to heal without medicine, electricity, or other physical means. Her great desire was to impart to others the truth of spiritual healing which she had experienced.

In early summer she was obliged to seek other lodgings, and thus she came to Miss Sarah Bagley who lived only a little more than a quarter-mile from the Webster house. In her move she was assisted by Richard Kennedy, a youth of nineteen years, who had become much interested in the healing possibilities of Mrs. Glover's ideas. Miss Bagley and her widowed mother welcomed Mrs. Glover warmly and in the quiet sanctuary of their home, Mrs. Glover was able to continue her work without interruption.

She occupied a bright, airy room on the second floor overlooking a narrow thoroughfare which led through the Ferry District of Amesbury to the ferry and docks. It is reported with authority that a policeman in the area, seeing Mrs.



The Squire Bagley House, now the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House.

Glover daily at her desk near the window said, "Never did I see a lady write so fast and so much." Mrs. Glover numbered the pages which dropped to the floor.

Just when the Lowell Bagley House was built is uncertain. One report gives the date of 1784, but this seems a confusion with the birth date of Lowell, who is said by the same writer to have built the house. Lowell was the son of Isaac Bagley, fourth in direct line from his English-born ancestor, Orlando Bagley (*sic*), who settled in Amesbury in 1642. It is possible that Lowell built the house a year or two before his marriage in 1811 to Sarah Osgood, a lady of substantial Amesbury lineage. It seems more probable that about this time he refinished the original house built by his father, giving to the interior an early eighteenth century appearance which has survived to the present time. His father may have, in the tradition of an ancestor, divided his property among his three children during his lifetime, giving to Lowell, the eldest, the homestead. The two families apparently lived together until 1826, when the father moved to a house next door. This division of property would account for the fact that Lowell Bagley always spoke of the Bagley House as "my house."

Today the original part of the house stands close to the street and consists of two stories and an attic, with two rooms on each floor. The unusual bowed roof is supported by bowed oak beams which are thought to have been salvaged from a schooner wrecked on the nearby coast. The present side entrance to the house, which seems architecturally out of place, may originally have been at the rear corner, opening into the small stairway hall. The present doorway was finished on

September 25, 1826, and possibly the large kitchen and burning room were added about this time, necessitating the removal of any door that might have been on the rear end of the house.

Esquire Lowell Bagley, a gentleman of good inheritance, was gifted with a generous heart and an observing eye. At the age of thirty-five, in 1819, he began keeping a diary, and with few lapses, he made brief daily entries in it for over thirty years. When Mrs. Mary Beecher Longyear acquired the Bagley House in 1922, she discovered the diary in an old trunk, well preserved. So succinct, inclusive, and impersonal are these records that one could almost reconstruct the life of the community in those years. He made a veritable chart of the wind in his day-to-day entries, and noted such unusual occurrences as an earthquake, a brilliant display of the aurora borealis on January 25, 1837, from 6 to 9 p.m.; also the first steamboat on the Merrimack in 1829; and on July 4, 1836, the flight of a balloon over Amesbury at an altitude of 1000 to 1200 feet. He watched a man walking on the bottom of the Merrimack River in 1841, having his supply of air provided by a new invention in a surface boat.

Squire Bagley served his community in many public posts — as selectman, moderator, Justice of the Peace for twenty years, as chairman of many community committees, and as a delegate on special committees appointed to welcome General Lafayette and President-Elect Jackson on their visits to the area. He was Representative to the State Legislature for several terms. His main source of income, however, was from his work as justice and conveyancer, in writing and executing wills, settling disputes over estates, and aiding his fellow citizens and those in nearby towns, in adjusting property problems. He never engaged in industry although this was one of the chief sources



At this desk, still in place, Squire Bagley made many entries in his diary. Above the desk hang portraits of Squire and Mrs. Bagley and their daughter, Emeline (Whittier).

of wealth in the community. Factories for the making of leather goods, shoes, hats, carriages, and other commodities flourished, also ship building. He kept a general store, opening it at his convenience, and he records purchases at prices which make for nostalgic reading.

He was a generous provider for his family and he tells us of the purchase of a leghorn hat and a piece of silk velvet for his wife, also gloves and slippers for his three little daughters. They had many outings together at the shore and in the hills, and made visits to nearby towns. On one occasion he took his wife to a ball in South Hampton, celebrating the election of Andrew Jackson as President. He was a thrifty man, and seemingly, an indefatigable one. He utilized the eight or ten acres of land adjacent to his house to raise potatoes, vegetables, apples, and pears for family use. He did much of the planting and harvesting himself and looked after a cow, raised an annual calf for sale, fattened a pig for winter slaughter

and simultaneously kept the house and outbuildings shipshape. He never owned a chaise, but depended on renting one when needed. At the end of each year, he always balanced his resources and added that he was "clear of debt."

His wide interests, shared by his family, attracted many to his hospitable fireside. Books, good conversation, current magazines, experience, and a lively wit lent an atmosphere of culture and urbanity which lingered after the Squire's passing in 1863. When Mrs. Longyear acquired the house in 1922, it was practically unchanged from the time Squire Bagley and his family lived there. It has had no basic alterations since 1922. Many pieces of furniture that Mrs. Eddy must have used are still there, among them the old harmonium and flowered carpet in the "Garden Room." This carpet was presented in 1829 to Mrs. Bagley by Mary Ann Fowler, the Squire's niece and ward, whom he and Mrs. Bagley had brought up. She came into her inheritance in 1829, at twenty-one years of age, and made a gift of \$50 to Mrs. Bagley who used half of it to purchase this carpet. Squire Bagley left a much smaller estate than had been expected and his daughters, Mary and Sarah, turned first to teaching then to a hat shop in the home to supplement their income. With the passing of Mary, Sarah occasionally took paying guests.

Mrs. Glover remained with Miss Bagley and her mother for about two months. By September, however, she was again in Stoughton at the urgent invitation of Sally Wentworth, whose daughter she had healed while living with Hiram Crafts. Richard Kennedy kept in touch with Mrs. Glover by letter and by occasional visits to Stoughton. A partnership plan began to take shape and her return to Amesbury in March 1870 had a two-fold purpose.



Motto hanging in Mrs. Glover's room.

She wished to prepare young Richard Kennedy for his entry into Lynn, where they proposed to start, and to give Miss Bagley further instruction in healing which she was about to undertake.

A New Trustee

MRS. RUTH A. JOHNSON of Wellesley, Massachusetts, has recently been elected Trustee of Longyear Foundation to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Robert Hall Collins.

Mrs. Johnson is a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Wellesley, where she has served as Second Reader, Sunday School Superintendent, and member of the Board of Directors of the church. She is on the Board of Trustees for the West-of-Boston Visiting Nursing Service for Christian Scientists, Inc. and the Christian Science Branch Church Committee of Greater Boston. She was formerly Dean of Students of Wheelock College, Boston, and is at present a Trustee of the college.

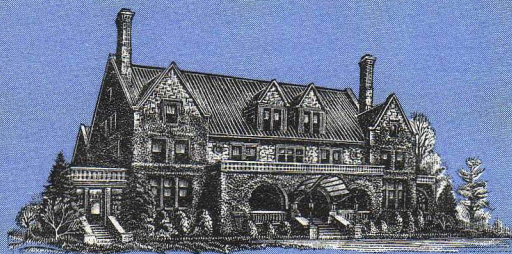
Mr. Collins, retiring member of the Board, has served the Foundation with initiative and enthusiasm since he became a member of the Board in January, 1959. While on the Board of Trustees he was at various times President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

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120 SEAVER STREET
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Music and the Christmas Spirit

MEMBERS OF THE Friends of Longyear Foundation were guests of the Mary Baker Eddy Museum on Sunday afternoon, December 15, when the fourth annual Christmas program was presented at two-thirty. Mrs. Elsie Maynard Evans, mezzo-soprano, assisted by Miss Gertrude R. Litchfield at the organ, brought to a warmly responsive audience a musical program emphasizing the joyous message of Christmas — the awakening in the hearts of men of the Christly qualities manifested by Jesus.

This theme was established by several numbers from Bach's "Christmas Oratorio," after which Mrs. Evans expanded it with illustrations of carols from many lands, some of ancient origin. She sang brief carols, unaccompanied, and the warm quality and timbre of her voice are well adapted to bring out the spirit and depth of these early carols. A short history of Christmas carols was woven into the program, many of them deriving from medieval miracle plays, telling the stories now beloved in our Christmas festivities. After touching on the custom of gift-giving and wassailing, she introduced Christmas music of our times with such favorites as H. Walford Davies' tune to

Phillips Brooks' "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and "The Kings" by Peter Cornelius. A happy feature of the afternoon was the incorporation of Christmas hymns from the Christian Science Hymnal, sung by all present at appropriate points along the way. A social hour followed the program.

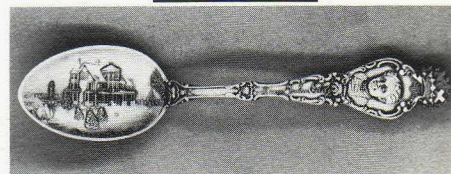
Amesbury — continued

Richard Kennedy was staying with the Bagleys when Mrs. Glover arrived, and many were the discussions which he and Sarah Bagley had that spring with Mrs. Glover on metaphysical healing. By this time, Kennedy had made up his mind to give up his position in a box factory and to join Mrs. Glover in her more challenging call of establishing a system of healing. They left Amesbury on May 13, 1870 for Lynn where they opened the first center for metaphysical healing and teaching in rooms rented from Miss Susie Magoun who ran a school for children in the same building. Meanwhile Miss Bagley had begun to make a place for herself in Ames-

bury as a metaphysical healer, and for the next twenty years, she supported herself by this work.

Amesbury had played out its early part in the emerging Cause of Christian Science. It had sheltered the Discoverer and Founder in one of the critical periods of her life, and had allowed her to begin in quietness her first teaching manual, *The Science of Man*, which she completed at Stoughton in June, 1869. In 1870, she was able to consummate plans for introducing her teaching to the public, utilizing her teaching manual. She had begun laying the foundation of her great movement.

A.H.W.



Mary Baker Eddy Souvenir Spoon to be featured in the Spring Issue of the Quarterly News.

LONGYEAR FOUNDATION: *Board of Trustees:* Mrs. Marian H. Holbrook, Mrs. Ruth A. Johnson, Don S. Greer. *Technical Director,* Richard C. Molloy; *Corresponding Secretary,* 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.