

## QUARTERLY NEWS

# Mary Baker Eddy Museum *and Historic Sites*

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WINTER 1969-1970

### Fifth Trustee Elected

THE TRUSTEES of Longyear Foundation are happy to announce the election of Mr. Robert C. Dale of Wellesley, Massachusetts, to the Board of Trustees, completing the full Board complement of five.

Mr. Dale is a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Wellesley, and has served that church and other branch churches of which he has been a member. Various positions he has held include First Reader, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President.

He is a graduate of the University of Illinois in Chemical Engineering. He has had extensive business experience and is currently President of the National Casket Company. Mr. Dale has also been active in several business and professional organizations, including the American Management Association, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Chemical Society.

### Exhibitions

**Foyer:** PORTRAIT of Clara M. Sainsbury Shannon, C.S.D., by Miss Eileen Ayrton. Gift of Mr. Edward A. Long.

**Artifacts Gallery:** PERSONAL EXHIBITS associated with Mary Baker Eddy, including a cape worn on her drives, a silk hood, and other items of dress.

**Main Gallery:** THE SUCCESSIVE STEPS in the unfolding of the Christian Science organization, presented in outline form with copies of original publications by Mary Baker Eddy; also original photographs of Mrs. Eddy at different periods, and portraits of early workers in various Church departments.

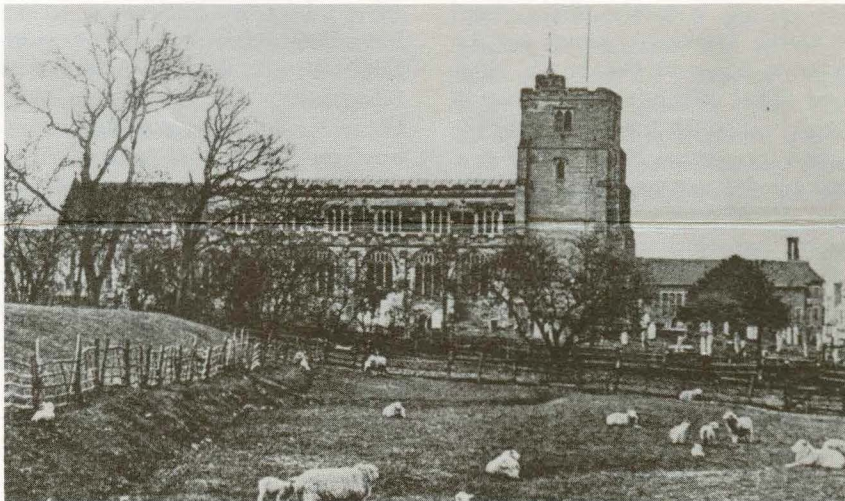
**Baker Room:** THE MARK BAKER FAMILY as seen in pictures, documents, and artifacts associated with them.

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

### A Notable Ancestor

CRANBROOK, COUNTY KENT, situated about 45 miles southeast of London, is easily reached by motor along roads that pass through the garden area of England. Here in the sixteenth century lived and worked the Reverend William Eddye, direct ancestor of Asa Gilbert Eddy. He was Vicar of the Parish Church of Saint Dunstan in Cranbrook from 1591 to 1616.

with its abundance of fine fuller's earth for bleaching and scouring and water essential for the enterprise. Cranbrook became one of the important centers for weaving fine broadcloth from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. The weaving was regulated and protected by the Crown.<sup>2</sup> Queen Elizabeth I recognized the importance of Cranbrook by paying a visit to the town, staying at the same



PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT DUNSTAN, Cranbrook, Kent, England.  
Photographed about 1920 by Mr. and Mrs. John Munro Longyear.

Except for its air of gentility and nostalgic dignity which lingers over a once affluent community, there is today little to suggest the thriving industrial life and controversial religious mood which gripped the town of Cranbrook in the sixteenth century. It lies quietly in the midst of Kent's undulating downs, made radiant in spring by flowering apple orchards, and in autumn by the glorious color of the harvest and wealth of trees. Here and there oast houses for drying hops remind one of this important agricultural pursuit today in the weald of Kent, introduced in the fourteenth century by skilled weavers who were brought here by Edward III from the Netherlands to improve the crude home-weaving then carried on at Cranbrook.<sup>1</sup> The town was eminently suited for a weaving industry

George's Inn which receives guests today. As part of her welcome, the roadway for half a mile was overlaid with strips of broadcloth over which she rode.<sup>3</sup>

William Eddye's service to Cranbrook began in 1587 and his entire life was spent under the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I. Although the Church of England was firmly re-established with the accession of Elizabeth, she soon met with severe tests of her ecclesiastical authority from without and within. Her Act of Supremacy, vesting in the Crown supreme power over ecclesiastical and spiritual matters, and the Act of Conformity requiring all to submit to the established forms of the Church, brought widespread unrest and rebellion, both silent and outspoken. This led to extensive migrations to America especially during the

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MEMORIAL WINDOWS AND TABLET TO WILLIAM EDDYE  
Vicar of St. Dunstan's, 1591 to 1616. The windows illustrate *The Incarnation*.

Roman Catholic reign of her successor, James I.<sup>4</sup> William Eddy's sympathies were with those who wanted to look to the Bible for guidance, not to ritual,<sup>5</sup> but he was also a tactful liberal, loyal to the Queen. During his almost twenty-six years as Vicar of Cranbrook, there were no major religious disturbances in his parish,<sup>6</sup> although England was at the time tried by conflict between the conformists on the one hand and the Puritans and related groups on the other.

When Elizabeth mounted the throne, Protestants were appointed to offices in the Church throughout the realm. Cranbrook, which lies almost within the shadow of Canterbury, seat of the Primate of the Church of England, was fortunate in having men of distinction and culture to fill the vicarage. Richard Fletcher began his service in 1559, just a few weeks after Elizabeth was crowned. Later his son became Bishop of London and spiritual advisor to the Queen. His grandson was the highly civilized playwright, John Fletcher, who collaborated with Francis Beaumont in writing many important plays. After the passing of Vicar Fletcher in 1586, he was succeeded by Robert Roades who had been President of St. John's College, Cambridge, and was a man of unquestioned scholarship and conciliatory temper. It would seem that Mr. Roades brought William Eddy with him as his assistant-curate. Eddy had just received his M.A. degree from Trinity College, Cambridge, and Mr. Roades was in a favorable position to reassure himself as to the scholarship and character of this able young man in whom he felt a spirit of moderation akin to his own.<sup>7</sup>

William Eddy recorded in the Church Registry that he had come to Cranbrook in 1587 and was born in Bristol. There

is evidence, however, that he had family connections in Suffolk County and that he may have been encouraged by relatives to enter nearby Cambridge University. After taking his A.B. degree at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in 1583, he went to Thurston, near Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk, as curate of a small church there.<sup>8</sup> He re-entered Trinity College after this brief assignment, and took his M.A. degree in 1586, going to Cranbrook shortly thereafter.

The name Eddy derives from the Saxon "Ead," meaning prosperity, and is one of the most ancient Anglo-Saxon names.<sup>9</sup> The coat-of-arms bears the motto in Latin, "The Cross gives me peaceful rest." (trans.)

Within a year after coming to Cranbrook, he married, in November 1587, Mary Fosten, daughter of a well-to-do family in the town. Ordinarily a young assistant in a church lacked the means to support a wife and family, but aside from the possibility that he had inherited something from his father, his wife, Mary Fosten, had been left a legacy by her deceased father, thereby enabling them to marry. The year after their marriage was tense because of the threatening invasion of the Spanish Armada bent on its mission of destroying the throne of England and bringing the country back into the Roman Catholic fold.

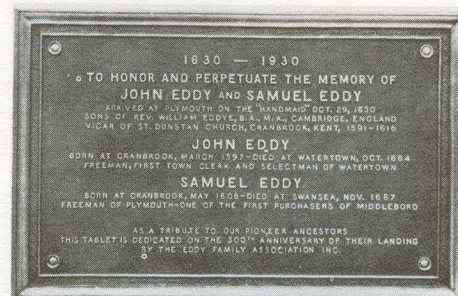
When Robert Roades passed on he was succeeded by the distinguished Richard Mulcaster, Head Master of Merchant Taylors' School and a servant to the Queen. He it was who arranged the pageants with which Queen Elizabeth was received at Kenilworth Castle by Lord Leicester in 1575.<sup>10</sup> And he wrote many allegorical masques, a mild form of modern burlesque, for the entertainment of the Court. He never lived in Cranbrook and

after a brief term as Vicar he resigned. William Eddy was appointed in his stead.

In William Eddy, Cranbrook had a new kind of Vicar, one devoted to the practical needs of his parishioners. This is disclosed in his message to the people of Cranbrook parish during the time of the great plague, which raged from April 1597 to July 1598, with many deaths. He attributed the suffering of the people to divine punishment for their widespread drunkenness, licentiousness, and sins of disbelief.<sup>11</sup> His written message, preserved in the Cranbrook Church Registry, has the spirit of a Jeremiah, and revealed his deep concern for the spiritual welfare of his flock. Along with the care of his parishioners he put the church finances on a sound basis and maintained well the fabric of the church, including bells which seemed to need much attention.

The history of St. Dunstan's Church reaches back to Anglo-Saxon times. The first structure was doubtless wooden, but this was replaced after the Norman Conquest with a more permanent building of Norman style. The present church, begun in the middle of the fourteenth century, is largely perpendicular Gothic and was completed in the sixteenth century.<sup>12</sup> Today we see it much as it was when William Eddy preached his last sermon there. It is 170 feet long and about 70 feet wide, built of stone with a heavy square embattled tower at the west end, having a peal of eight bells.<sup>13</sup> Today the bells ring out over the quiet countryside and within the church a busy program is carried on, with some emphasis on spiritual healing.

Up to the year 1599, all registrations of births, marriages, and deaths were recorded on paper, but a law passed at that time required that these records be transferred to parchment and new ones similarly recorded. William Eddy set about copying the ancient records with his own hand, "to the end that it might be more faithfullie done." Nothing remains to give a clearer picture of this beloved pastor and family man than the *Registry* wrought



COMMEMORATIVE TABLET, Brewster Park, Plymouth, Massachusetts.



by his hand. All records of his own family are written in Latin, and here and there are quotations from the Bible, possibly his own translations from the Latin, also excerpts from the early Christian Fathers and some ancient writers. His own motto *Aeterna expeto* has been freely translated as "My heart is set on eternity." He had a sound knowledge of Latin, so valued in that time, and the penmanship of an Elizabethan scholar.

William and Mary Fosten Eddy had a large family and to them they gave names in general use, often from the Bible, avoiding the trend among extreme Puritans of using such names as Ffaynt Not, Mercy, Thankful, Patience, Comfort. His wife's death in 1611 was a great loss to him but in 1613 he married again, a wealthy widow, Mrs. Sarah Tayler, who also had a family. William Eddy passed on in 1616, also the year of Shakespeare's death. His will leaves no doubt as to the convenience and tasteful comfort in which William Eddy and his family lived. The half-timbered house with mullioned windows must have been much like that in which Shakespeare lived. The extant inventory of its contents by rooms makes it possible to reconstruct in thought the dwelling as it probably existed. To each child he left a legacy, enjoining Phineas, his eldest son, to take care of the younger children up to the age of eighteen, and to bring up . . . "my sonnes and daughters in good and virtuous education . . . fitting for their degree."<sup>14</sup> The marriage of Phineas to Katherine Courthopp allied him through her parents with two of the leading families in Cranbrook. The young couple, once established in their own home, were able to fulfill the request William Eddy made of Phineas to care for his younger children up to the age of eighteen. It is possible that some of them attended the grammar school, an Elizabethan foundation in Cranbrook, now one of the good small Public Schools of England.<sup>15</sup>

William Eddy's second son, John, was  
(Concluded on page 4.)



CLARA M. S. SHANNON, C.S.D.

Eileen Ayrton

A LITTLE DAUGHTER was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Shannon in England in 1858, and they named her Clara M. Sainsbury Shannon. She had twin sisters, Blanche and Constance, and a brother. Clara was 28 years of age when she first learned of Christian Science and was healed through reading the textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. She was living in Montreal at the time having come there with her family in 1873, soon after finishing her formal studies at The Grange, Buxton, Derbyshire. In Montreal she began the cultivation of her beautiful soprano voice, became a soloist at St. George's Church, and sang in many public oratorios.

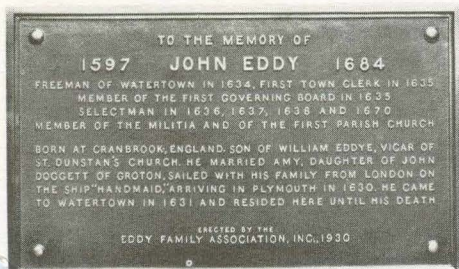
In her study of the Christian Science textbook, however, she found a satisfaction never before experienced by her, and in 1887 she and her sister Blanche were healed of severe illnesses. Clara wrote Mrs. Eddy asking how she could learn more about this Science. Mrs. Eddy invited her and her sister Blanche to attend her next Primary Class to be given in 1888. Following that she was welcomed into the May 1889 Normal Class, the last taught by Mrs. Eddy before dissolving the Massachusetts Metaphysical College. Miss Shannon received a C.S.D. degree and Mrs. Eddy urged her to begin teaching. She held her first class in June 1889, in Montreal. In spite of the fact that many people were healed by her solos after her study with Mrs. Eddy, her practice made such demands on her time that she gave up professional singing to devote herself entirely to the practice

and teaching of Christian Science. At that time teachers often held classes in several centers and Miss Shannon taught in Halifax, Nova Scotia, as well as Montreal.

As a member of the Christian Scientists Association, made up of Mrs. Eddy's students, Miss Shannon attended many monthly meetings in Boston, and came through association with these early students to understand more clearly Mrs. Eddy's great work, and to love her deeply. Many were the gifts in these years wrought by Miss Shannon's deft fingers for her Leader, and in turn Mrs. Eddy's continued encouragement of this unselfish and loving student added immeasurably to her progress. She served the Montreal Church as pastor, established the Montreal Institute of Christian Science, and carried on a large practice.

In 1894 Mrs. Eddy invited her to join the household at Pleasant View and for about seven years between September 1894 and March 1903, she was a devoted worker at Pleasant View for Mrs. Eddy and the Cause of Christian Science. At one time she spent an entire year with only occasional five-minute walks along the driveway for recreation. But these were golden days for her as she recorded in her diary. She called her memoirs, based on her diary, "Golden Memories," which may be read at Longyear. No day was long enough for the workers of this household to keep their watch in prayer, to demonstrate perfection in every task assigned and, in Miss Shannon's case, also to look after many personal needs of Mrs. Eddy. She accompanied Mrs. Eddy to The Mother Church on both of her visits, the first on April 1, 1895; the second, on May 26, of the same year. She was also with her at Tremont Temple when she addressed the Annual Meeting on June 6, 1899.

After her mother's passing at Montreal in 1903, Miss Shannon felt the necessity of looking after her affairs in England and of seeing her students in Halifax and Montreal again. When she left Pleasant View she said of Mrs. Eddy, "Dear Mother has taught me much in this short time, which will help me forever and help me to help others."<sup>1</sup> In London she began at once to practice, continuing this work until 1907, when she again came to Concord for a visit. Mrs. Eddy, who hoped she would remain at Pleasant View, told her if she must return to England, she should begin teaching there. Reluctantly, she did return to England and took up her work there as a teacher. After Mrs. Eddy's passing she wrote her sister Blanche



COMMEMORATIVE TABLET, Arlington Street Cemetery, Watertown, Massachusetts.



that she was preparing, at Mrs. Eddy's request, to go to Chestnut Hill in 1910, when she received word of her Leader's passing.<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Eddy had missed her, and spoke of her as "strong and courageous, and faithful."<sup>3</sup>

A portrait of Miss Shannon, painted by Miss Eileen Ayrton of Ireland, has been presented to the Longyear Historical Society by Mr. Edward A. Long, a friend of the Society for many years. The portrait, charming in color and mood, is much appreciated by her students in England who generously assisted Miss Ayrton with photographs and personal information while she was painting it.

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<sup>1</sup>In *The Service of Mary Baker Eddy*. Prepared especially for Longyear Foundation by the Executive Committee of Miss Shannon's pupils; <sup>2</sup>*Ibid.* p. 47; <sup>3</sup>*Ibid.* Kinter letter to Miss Shannon.

(Continued from page 3.)

about twenty when his father died. In 1622 he was living at Nayland in Suffolk County, near Bury St. Edmunds and Thurston, where his father had been curate during his college days. John may have been preparing to follow in his father's footsteps, but more and more he was drawn to the teachings of John Robinson and other Puritans. He found many around him who shared this interest. Nearby Cambridge University was permeated with the new learning and with nascent puritanism. In 1520 John Winthrop, member of an affluent Groton family in Suffolk, was recruiting a group to go to America in search of religious and political freedom. John Eddy had married Amie Doggett, also of Groton and a relative of Winthrop's second wife. (*The Christian Science Monitor*, October 2, 1969, p. 12) John and Amie decided to throw in their lot with Winthrop's group, and Samuel, his younger brother, just turned twenty-one, with his wife Elizabeth Savory (?) joined them. They left Boxted, near Bury St. Edmunds, and sailed from London in August 1630, on the *Handmaid*, arriving in Plymouth on October 29. Captain John Grant, Master of the ship, and Myles Standish hastened to report to Governor Winthrop the arrival of the *Handmaid* with some sixty passengers and "two gentlemen." John Eddy, one of the gentlemen, had brought many letters from Suffolk for Governor Winthrop.<sup>16</sup>

Samuel and Elizabeth elected to remain in Plymouth, but John, after seeing

## Christmas Musicale

AS THIS ISSUE of the *Quarterly News* goes to press, plans are being made for the annual Christmas program, to be given at the Museum on Sunday afternoon, December 14, at 2:30. Miss Chloe Owen, soprano, and Miss Gertrude Litchfield, organist, will present Christmas music, including Christmas carols. Guests will join in the singing of carols and hymns. These Christmas programs which have been given each year since 1964 are always happy occasions. Because of space limitations, it is possible to invite only members of the *Friends of Longyear*.

Samuel well established, went to Watertown, Massachusetts where he soon became one of the organizers of the town government. Samuel's later activities expanded and he became one of the founders of Middleboro, west of Plymouth. John filled many offices in Watertown which are recorded on the plaque erected in the Arlington Street Cemetery, Watertown, in 1930 by The Eddy Family Association in America.

Within two years after landing in America, John, ancestor of Asa G. Eddy, was joined by his sister Abigail and her husband, John Benjamin, a scholarly man of means and a friend of John Winthrop, both having attended Cambridge University. He built a house in New Town, later Cambridge, which Winthrop declared to be "the finest house in the area." It is reported that Benjamin brought with him a considerable library. When his New Town house burned, he built a handsome home on the river near Watertown. Within a short time, John and Abigail were joined by their sister Anne from England.

Today descendants of William Eddy of Cranbrook are spread over much of the United States. Many of them met in a first family gathering in 1880 at Providence, R.I., taking stock among themselves of some qualities which had characterized successive generations of the family in America. Among the qualities noted were hereditary vitality, love of education, high moral courage, Puritan sobriety, conjugal faithfulness, need for religion — all traits of character which have made America a strong and resilient nation.

LONGYEAR FOUNDATION: *Board of Trustees*: Mrs. Marian Holbrook, Don S. Greer, Mrs. Ruth A. Johnson, Frederick D. Herberich, Robert C. Dale. *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 Historical Society, 120 Seaver Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146. Inquiries about memberships, subscriptions, and its services are welcomed.

In 1902, Mr. R. H. Eddy of Boston placed a memorial to the honored ancestor of the American Eddys, in the Church of Saint Dunstan in Cranbrook. It includes a large alabaster plaque and three stained glass windows. The subject of the windows, selected by a Cranbrook Church committee, is *The Incarnation*. The sequence of windows illustrates first the prophecy of the Incarnation (window 1); second, the spread of the doctrine of Incarnation by the spoken and written word and by revelation (window 2); third, witnesses to the Incarnation, martyrs and missionaries (window 3).

Through the ennobling qualities of his inheritance and the challenge of a free America, Asa G. Eddy came to manhood with an abiding sense of true human values. When his sense of life was lifted higher by a Christianly Scientific understanding of God and man, the opportunity came to him to give unselfed help to the Discoverer and Founder in her mission of establishing the Christian Science movement. Since that time his name has been associated with this worldwide religion of healing and regeneration through the name, Mary Baker Eddy.

AHW

<sup>1</sup>*Britannica*, 1910, XI, v. 1, p. 719; <sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, v. 7, p. 366; <sup>3</sup>*Eddy Family Association Bulletin*, I-XIV, p. 244; <sup>4</sup>John March, *Ecclesiastical History*, 1828, ch. 18; <sup>5</sup>*E.F.A.B.*, p. 246; <sup>6</sup>Rev. Wm. Bell, M.A., *A Memoir of Rev. Wm. Eddy*, M.A., 1902; <sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*; <sup>8</sup>*E.F.A.B.*, p. 31; <sup>9</sup>Robert Ferguson, *English Surnames and their Place in the Teutonic Family*, 1858; <sup>10</sup>Rev. Bell's *Memoir*; <sup>11</sup>*Church Registry*, Cranbrook; <sup>12</sup>C. C. R. Pile, *The Parish Church of Saint Dunstan, Cranbrook*, 1952; <sup>13</sup>M. A. Legg, *A Short History of the Bells of Cranbrook Church*, Kent; <sup>14</sup>*E.F.A.B.*, p. 28; <sup>15</sup>*Britannica*, 1910, XI, v. 1, p. 719; <sup>16</sup>John Eddy's letter to Governor Winthrop, Boston Public Library.



We acknowledge with gratitude the assistance given by the following in securing authentic material for this article: The Eddy Family Association of America, Mr. C. C. R. Pile, historian, Cranbrook England; and The New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Editor.