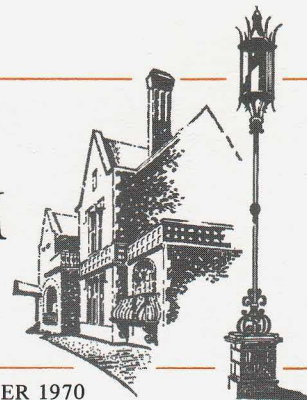


# QUARTERLY NEWS

## MARY BAKER EDDY MUSEUM

### *and Historic Sites*



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### Announcements

THE PLEASANT VIEW GALLERY, a permanent exhibition, was opened early in June as part of the Longyear program, planned for 1970 Annual Meeting visitors. The walls of the gallery are hung with large photo-murals depicting salient features of Mary Baker Eddy's home at Concord, New Hampshire from 1892 to 1908. Fields of new-mown hay, the pond, the distant State Fair Grounds, the comfortable home with its wide balconies and verandahs are familiar to Christian Scientists through Mrs. Eddy's writings and letters. The murals — enlargements of the original photographs made in Mrs. Eddy's time — are printed in rich tones of brown and convey a sense of depth, distance, and vibrant light, which characterized the landscape at that time. Intimate groups chatting on the verandah or walking in the garden, and Mrs. Eddy in her carriage returning from her drive, help to recreate the spirit of this home in those important years for the Christian Science movement. Three cases exhibiting documents, photographs of early workers at Pleasant View, a June 30, 1903 newspaper describing the meeting of Christian Scientists at Pleasant View the day before, and objects, especially souvenir spoons and jewelry which belong to the period, further emphasize the nature of life at Pleasant View in those days.

A PORTRAIT of Mrs. E. Blanche Ward, C.S.B., a pioneer in establishing Christian Science in England, has been presented to Longyear by the Association of Mrs. Ward's pupils and is now hanging in the International Gallery. Miss Eileen Ayrton is the artist.

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### Four Historic Houses

WHEN MRS. MARY BEECHER LONGYEAR drove on July 7, 1920 straight from Barton, Vermont through Rumney, New Hampshire and along the wooded road toward North Groton, her mission of preserving the historic houses in which Mrs. Eddy once lived was launched. As

making many photographs, Mrs. Longyear was about to take the shortest route back to Concord, when she felt a strong urge to talk again with the woman she had met earlier. She learned that the woman's husband had known Mrs. Patterson well and her son was working on the road



House in North Groton as Mrs. Longyear found it.

she approached the secluded hamlet of North Groton, she met a strong farm woman driving calves before her. "Do you know where Mrs. Patterson (Mrs. Eddy) lived in this hamlet in the 1850's?", Mrs. Longyear inquired. "The house stood by the stream, but was moved forty years ago and is just this side of the cemetery," the woman answered.\*

On Mrs. Longyear went past the stream with a broken-down sawmill on one side, and along a road leading past an all-but-abandoned church, to the grey, dilapidated house standing on a hilltop framed by magnificent blue mountains. After

over which she had just come. Mrs. Longyear returned and hailed the son, Fred Kidder, who showed sincere interest in her plans to restore the Patterson house.

He assured her the house could be moved and she asked if he would sell her a parcel of land on which to place it, and take charge of moving it. Mr. Kidder told her he was too busy to move the house, but "he would do his part by building long and wide roads that the people from the whole world (as you

\*The incidents recorded in this article are largely drawn from the diary which Mrs. Longyear kept almost continuously from 1906 to 1931.





Primitive moving facilities employed to transfer the North Groton house to its original site.

say) may come and see this place." He was the son of Daniel Kidder whom Mrs. Patterson helped with his studies as a boy in North Groton. Daniel was now living in Rumney. Although Mrs. Longyear did not find him at his Rumney home, his daughter pointed out the house in Rumney Village opposite the schoolhouse where Mrs. Patterson had lived.

"They found a neat cottage with a magnificent view," to use Mrs. Longyear's own words. Mrs. Ver H. Avery greeted Mrs. Longyear at the house and assured her that Mrs. Patterson had lived there two years and that the place had a fine spring of water which often supplied the neighbors. She said she wanted to sell the place and together they drove to a potato field where a far-reaching transaction was made, with James Bonnar, the trusted chauffeur, as witness. She bought the place for \$1500, \$500 to be paid when the deed was delivered, and the

balance in October. Thus Mrs. Longyear acquired her first historic house.

Three days later on July 10, Mrs. Longyear went to Lynn to search out the house where Mrs. Eddy had received her revelation. The attendant at the Christian Science Reading Room sent her to one who might know, and at length Mrs. Longyear and her companions came to the corner of Broad and Oxford Streets, where Mrs. Patterson had slipped on the ice. A Mrs. Dearing had a millinery shop at that corner and she directed them to a number of early students living in Swampscott. Eventually they found Paradise Road and the attractive house belonging to Samuel Putnam Bancroft, one of Mrs. Eddy's earliest students. The house was easily identified by a "B" on the eaves. Mr. Bancroft had rented the house and the tenant gave Mrs. Longyear the business address of Mr. Bancroft, Willis H. Low Company, opposite the

Rowe's Wharf in Boston. She lost no time in calling on Mr. Bancroft, whom she found at a very busy moment, and greeted him with, "I want to thank you for the help you were to Christian Science in those early days." He gave her a hearty handshake and said, "Well, those were busy times. We named the Cause, Christian Science. It used to be called metaphysical healing." "He took time," Mrs. Longyear noted in her diary, "to show me a picture of Mrs. Eddy that he had in his safe and promised to see me next week."



George Newhall in the garden at the Swampscott house.

Just three days later, on July 13, 1920, Mrs. Longyear and her daughter, Judith Lyeth, and two grandsons, with faithful James at the wheel, set out for Amesbury to locate the Squire Bagley house in which Mrs. Glover (Eddy) took refuge with Miss Sarah Bagley in 1868. Mrs. Eddy resumed the name Glover after her divorce from Dr. Patterson. Mrs. Longyear inquired of an old lady who said she remembered Mrs. Glover, adding, "She was a very handsome woman, too." With her directions, they had no difficulty in finding the Bagley house and were met at the door by Miss Gunnison, former helper of Miss Sarah Bagley, who had been left the house jointly with Richard Kennedy, a distant relative and a one-time student of Mrs. Glover in this house. It was a pleasant home, maintained much as it must have been when Mrs. Glover was there.

Two days later Mrs. Longyear and her daughter Judith motored to Stoughton in search of the Crafts and Wentworth houses. Inquiring at a garage, they were



The house in Rumney, N.H., the first historic house to be acquired by Mrs. Longyear. Mrs. Eddy lived here between 1860-1862.





The house at Swampscott where Mrs. Eddy had her healing in 1866. Mrs. Longyear is in the foreground.

directed to a drug store and with a "puzzle" for directions they set out for the Crafts house, arriving there with the help of "nursemaids, delivery men, carpenters on a roof and others along the way." They found the current occupant of the Crafts house knew little of her earlier relation, Hiram Crafts. Showing Mrs. Longyear the Crafts genealogy, she remarked that the book made "awful good reading . . . Crafts-Hiram-Hiram-Hiram-why there were lots of them. Good gracious here is one Hiram with twelve children . . . You should go to Mrs. Wentworth's, she knows more than I do about this."

After further difficulties the Wentworth house was located and someone pointed to the two uppermost windows saying, "That is where Mrs. Eddy wrote her first book." Apparently Mrs. Longyear made no effort at that time to purchase this house.

On July 16, 1920, the anniversary of Mary Baker's birth, Mrs. Longyear records that she had just bought the "Revelation House at Swampscott." Its purchase had been arranged by her superintendent, Mr. Noyce, while she was abroad. A few days later on July 23, 1920, she met Samuel Putnam Bancroft at his office at four o'clock, "a fine looking, well-dressed man," who, as a young boy, had been introduced to Christian Science by his cousin, Mrs. Daniel Spofford. They drove to Lynn, passing along the Lynn shore drive, so well known to Putnam Bancroft as a boy, to the house where Mrs. Glover (Eddy) and Richard Kennedy began their

work of teaching and healing. From Jesse H. Sutherland, who had known Mrs. Eddy well, they verified the place of Mrs. Eddy's accident and then drove to Swampscott and the Bancroft house. Crossing the street to the house she had bought, Mrs. Longyear went into the garden at its rear, and among the hollyhocks, she found George Newhall, the former owner, who was able to dispel any doubts about the "Revelation" house being the right one. Mr. Noyce had bought it for her sight unseen. Mr. Newhall recounted the



Mrs. Longyear (second from left) with friends visit the Squire Bagley house in Amesbury in 1920.

incidents of February 3 and 4, 1866, when as a milkman he was making daily rounds of the houses. He was sent two miles in bitter cold weather to tell the parson that Mrs. Patterson was dying. Mr. Newhall had full details of her condition. A day or two later, when delivering

milk again, a neighbor told him of "the miracle" and that Mrs. Patterson was up and well. To Mrs. Longyear he added, "I guess I am the only man who knows the truth of it on earth." The milkman of those earlier days had become the owner of the house which Mrs. Longyear purchased.

In November, 1920, Mrs. Longyear secured the North Groton property which she first visited earlier that year.

The purchase of the Amesbury house, the last one acquired by Mrs. Longyear, came about in an interesting way. Mrs. Longyear had visited the house three times and felt that, if it was right for her to have it, it would come to her. The actual acquisition of the house followed a dinner in the Longyear home early in 1922 when C. Lothrop Higgins was a guest. Mr. Higgins had an exclusive specialty shop on Boylston Street and had frequently provided beautiful bonnets and accessories for Mrs. Eddy's gowns. He and Mrs. Eddy had been good friends. At dinner, the Amesbury house was casually mentioned and Mr. Higgins said, "Do you know the house is being sold at auction tomorrow?" Immediately Mrs. Longyear asked him to bid on it for her. At one time Mr. Higgins had lived in Amesbury and as a boy had been healed by Miss Bagley. He knew Mr. Wadleigh to whom Richard Kennedy had left the house; Miss Gunnison had willed her part to Kennedy, and Wadleigh was now selling it at auction.

This was on the eve of Mr. and Mrs. Longyear's departure for England to attend the wedding of their youngest son, Robert, who was then Vice-Consul of Haiti. They returned on April 14, 1922 and on May 28, Mr. Longyear passed away. Mrs. Longyear was notified on June 27, that the Amesbury house was hers, but for the next few months she was in Marquette, Michigan, on the Longyear farm near Lake Huron, with her children. She was also performing her duties as executrix of Mr. Longyear's will.

She resumed her work of renovating and refurnishing the four houses early in 1923, and for several months she was tireless in carrying out plans to open them to the public. At Amesbury, Mr. Higgins was a great help to her in separating, selecting, and disposing of the accumulations of the active Bagley family over a hundred years. The history of this house



## (HISTORIC HOUSES — concluded)

and the variety and richness of its content when acquired by Mrs. Longyear, is vividly told in Mrs. Longyear's little book, "History of a House." The house contained furniture in abundance and a number of pieces were sent to the houses in Rumney and North Groton. Mrs. Longyear enjoyed restoring the old houses, and in all her journeys she took with her a friend or a member of the family, thereby turning these restoration excursions into something of a holiday, reflecting her perpetual joy in this work.

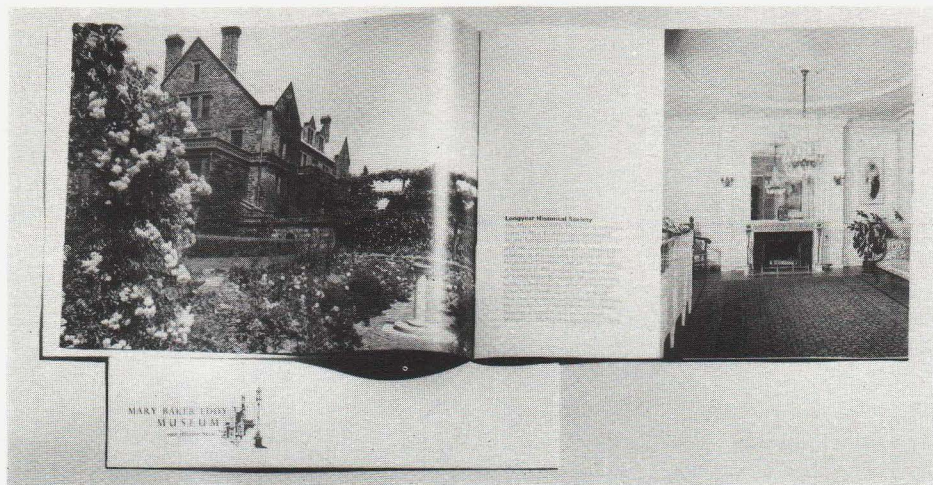
By mid-1923 the end was in sight. On July 8, 1923 the Swampscott house received its first guests, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Edward Everett Norwood of Washington and their daughter. About two months later, on September 4, the Amesbury house saw its first guest registered. Custodians were installed in the houses and guests were welcomed.

After Mrs. Longyear's passing in 1931, custodians were retained at Swampscott, Amesbury, and Rumney but the houses were not generally opened to the public for a number of years. On request they could be visited. By the mid-thirties repairs and painting were needed, and in some, heat and electricity. The first house to be reopened permanently to the public was Swampscott on February 1, 1935. Rumney was reopened in 1937, Amesbury in 1950, and North Groton in 1957. In 1962 the Wentworth house at Stoughton, which Mrs. Longyear visited in 1920, came to Longyear as an anonymous gift. It is now the fifth historic house maintained by Longyear Historical Society.

NOTE: For more detailed information about the various houses see *History of a House* by Mary Beecher Longyear; *Mary Baker Eddy and the Stoughton Years* by Kenneth Hufford; *The Birthplace of Christian Science* and *The Rumney Years* by Alma Lutz; *Quarterly News* published by Longyear: Vol. 2, no. 4; Vol. 3, no. 1; Vol. 5, no. 4. Available at Longyear Historical Society.

### Bow Bog Service

ON AUGUST 23, at 3 o'clock, the annual Christian Science service at Bow Bog Meeting House, Bow, New Hampshire, will be held by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Concord. The bell in the Bow Bog Meeting House was presented by Mrs. Eddy, who had attended this church occasionally in her youth.



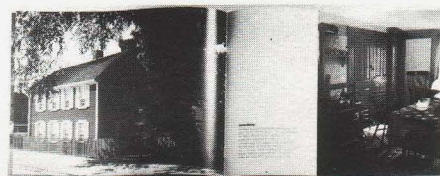
### New Brochure

LONGYEAR IS announcing with this issue of the *Quarterly News* a new limited edition of a brochure in sixteen pages of beautiful color photographs. The first page carries the following statement by Mary Beecher Longyear, superimposed over a photograph of Red Rock at Swampscott: ". . . As the world advances in spiritual understanding it will more clearly see Mrs. Eddy's human mission and honor her courage . . . There will be no one whose memory will be more loved and honored in these latter days than hers, and every historic event, items of news or authentic corroboration of her daily life and activities will be eagerly sought after, not because mankind would worship her, but because she will be recognized as the noblest, most self-sacrificing and courageous woman in the world."

Through the following pages of the brochure the reader is taken on a brief tour of the Museum and grounds at Brookline and to the six historic sites. The final page contains a message from the Trustees, which includes the important statement: "It is the continuing responsibility of Longyear to ensure to posterity a true and accurate understanding of Mrs. Eddy's place in history."

We believe that many of the **Friends of Longyear** as well as subscribers to the *Quarterly News*, will want a copy of this brochure and also to make gifts of it to

others, thereby furthering a knowledge of Longyear's important work. The price is \$2.00 for individual copies (including mailing and postage) with a quantity price reduction to encourage greater distribution. A reply envelope is enclosed for your convenience.



A two-page spread is devoted to each Historic House. Shown is the Squire Bagley house in Amesbury.

### Amesbury Tour

THE BARTLETT MUSEUM of Amesbury, Massachusetts, is sponsoring a House Tour in Amesbury on October 18, from 1 to 5 o'clock. The Mary Baker Eddy Historic House will be one of the places visited. It was formerly the ancestral home of the Bagley family and a landmark in the town of Amesbury. The Whittier home, the Macy-Colby house, several private homes, and other historic places in the community will be opened for the occasion. For information write, Bartlett Museum, Main Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts, 01913.

LONGYEAR FOUNDATION: *Board of Trustees:* Mrs. Marian Holbrook, Mrs. Ruth A. Johnson, Frederick D. Herberich, Robert C. Dale. *Director:* Richard C. Molloy; *Assistant to the Director:* Kenneth Taylor; *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.