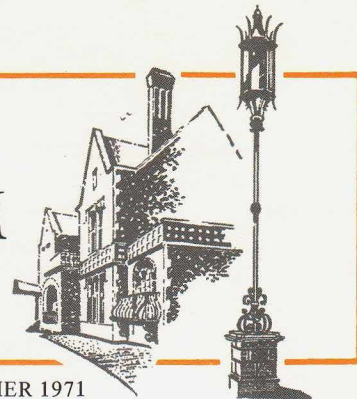


QUARTERLY NEWS

MARY BAKER EDDY MUSEUM

and Historic Sites



VOL. 8, NO. 2

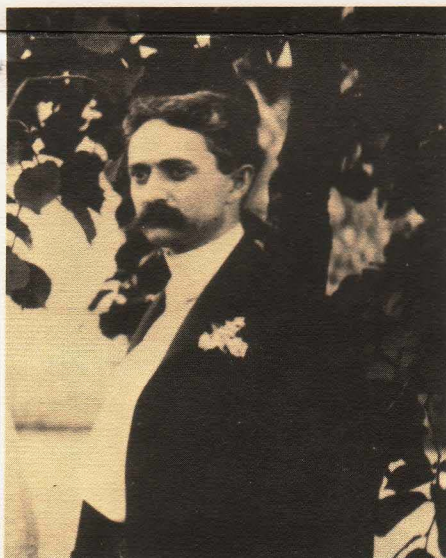
PUBLISHED BY LONGYEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 1971

YOUNG PIONEERS

THAT MARY BAKER EDDY recognized the intelligence, love, and dependability of youth is illustrated by Longyear's current photographic exhibition of students — young in Mrs. Eddy's day — who advanced the Cause of Christian Science to such a degree that their work lives after them.

The exhibition is being arranged for the special benefit of visitors to the 1971 Biennial College Organization Meeting. Each of the early workers included came into the practice of Christian Science because of a desire to help and heal mankind. Many of them were members of Mrs. Eddy's 1898 class, the last she taught.



JAMES A. NEAL as he appeared about the time he left the Midwest for Boston.

In 1886, James A. Neal was living in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Armstrong in Irving, Kansas, and was employed as a cashier in Mr. Armstrong's bank. He was a popular young man with a ready

wit and was much sought after socially. At the age of twenty, however, he was so impressed by the healing of Mrs. Armstrong through Christian Science that he ordered a dozen copies of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. He kept one for himself, gave one to Mr. Armstrong, and disposed of the rest among his family and friends, several of whom later held responsible positions in the Christian Science movement. Mr. Neal gave up his banking career, as did Mr. Armstrong, and they turned wholly to the practice of Christian Science healing. Mr. Neal moved to Arkansas City, Kansas, and thereafter lived in turn in several different towns in Kansas and Nebraska, in response to calls from these areas for Christian Science help. Often he drove great distances by horse and buggy or by sleigh in answer to these appeals. His healings included cases of total blindness, cancer, and tumors. He had been established in Kansas City for about a year when he was asked by the Publication Committee to come to Boston. At first he refused, but when told that the request had been made by Mrs. Eddy he responded at once, beginning work January 1, 1893.

When the original edifice of The Mother Church was under construction, he and Thomas W. Hatten were chosen to guard the cornerstone, pending its placement in the building. They remained in the work shanty for "three stormy nights, while one of the Directors stayed there during the daytime."¹ Throughout his life Mr. Neal continued to love and practice the work of healing.

As a young boy, John Carroll Lathrop revealed noble qualities of mind combined with native practicality. At the age of fourteen he began the study of Christian Science after the healing of his mother, Mrs. Laura Lathrop, in 1885. As soon as possible after her healing, she had class instruction with Mrs. Eddy. John was then



JOHN C. LATHROP in Mrs. Eddy's study at Pleasant View, near the sculpture she called her "white student." (My. 259)

employed in Freeport, Michigan, where his father had practiced law during his lifetime. In 1886, John went to New York City to join his mother, who had settled there in November, 1885, at Mrs. Eddy's request to help establish Christian Science in the area. Soon John had a new position and he wrote his former Michigan employer who responded with this high praise, "You have the right stuff in you to attain the highest position in the gift of your employer." He was about sixteen at the time. Some two years later, his New York employer wrote John's mother that he was "the best young man I have ever had with me." With such promise for a successful business career John, nevertheless, turned at the age of twenty-five to the practice of Christian Science. The years in the business world had given him time to answer questions of doubt as to the truth of Christian Science, described by him in a helpful article, "Spirituality," in the August 1898 *Christian Science*

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Journal. He, too, served the Cause of Christian Science in many capacities and spent a total of eighteen months in Mrs. Eddy's household, over a period of five busy years.

Among the young lecturers in Mrs. Eddy's time was Carol Norton of Eastport, Maine, who, at the age of twenty, left a thriving business as sole manager of a sales agency to begin the practice of Christian Science. He came of a distinguished family background and was cousin to Henry W. and Samuel Longfellow. After class with Mrs. Eddy in 1898, he was almost immediately appointed a lecturer. He progressed rapidly as lecturer, teacher, writer, and healer. In his own words, "Truth is always the 'Ancient of Days.' The central facts of life remain unchanged; but our mortal sense of man as the idea of the infinite Mind, advances and ascends."²



EMMA EASTON at the age of seventeen was awarded the degree of C.S.B. by Mrs. Eddy.

Emma Easton (Newman), descendant of a founder of Hartford, Connecticut, had a distinguished father who in March 1893 became pastor of The Mother Church. Rev. David Augustus Easton and Mrs. Easton entered Mrs. Eddy's March Primary Class in 1889, and Emma was invited to attend with her parents. Although she was only seventeen, Mrs. Eddy was aware of her receptivity to Christian Science and bestowed on her the degree of C.S.B. at the close of the class. In 1891, at the age of nineteen, she became a registered practitioner, listed jointly with her parents under Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in the *Christian Science Journal*. Mrs. Eddy later conferred upon Emma the degree of C.S.D. at the close of the 1898 class. In January 1899, she was asked

by Mrs. Eddy to take the first steps toward establishing a church in Cambridge. When the church was organized, William P. McKenzie and she were appointed by Mrs. Eddy as Readers. Later she was active as a Christian Science teacher in California, having as one of her pupils Mrs. Eddy's granddaughter, Mary Baker Glover Billings.



BLISS KNAPP, (third from left) as a young man bicycles with Rev. Irving C. Tomlinson, John W. Reeder, and Rev. William P. McKenzie (left to right).

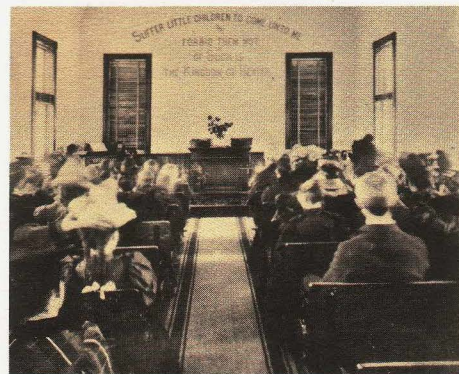
About the time Emma Easton was helping to organize the Cambridge church, Bliss Knapp was a student at Harvard College and as the son of a member of the Board of Directors of The Mother Church, he gathered together the Christian Science students at Harvard for informal talks by some of the pioneer workers. This was the beginning of the institution which was later to be known as the Christian Science College Organization. The work was carried forward by Edwin C. Johnson and others, and in 1904 college organizations were formally authorized in a By-Law in the Church Manual. On graduating from Harvard in 1901, Mr. Knapp went directly into the practice of Christian Science and in May 1904, three years later, he was appointed to the Board of Lectureship by Mrs. Eddy.

Joseph G. Mann at the age of twenty-two in 1886 was accidentally shot through the heart by a friend at target practice. As he lay dying, a practitioner who was visiting in Broad Brook, Connecticut, where the Manns lived, came to the house and healed him. The experience so transformed Joseph that he turned to Christian Science to bring mankind its wonderful healing power. He was soon in the practice and in 1898, out of gratitude for his healing, he came to Mrs. Eddy as superintendent of buildings and grounds at Pleasant View. He lifted many burdens from Mrs. Eddy

and was unwavering in his recognition of "the ineffable riches of a pure heart," and in his acknowledgement of her demonstration of the "spiritual reality whose every breath overcame the human with the divine."³ Later he taught Christian Science classes in Connecticut.

Meanwhile, young people were active in the Middle West, none more so than Alfred Farlow, who became the first Committee on Publication for The Mother Church and whose career has been described in the *Quarterly News*, Spring, 1970.

Another proof of the capacity and initiative of young people was demonstrated at Schofield, Wisconsin, by a group of Christian Science Sunday School pupils. They ranged from the ages of eight to fourteen and had been brought together in March 1896 by Miss Mary E. Graves, a primary student of Mrs. Eddy living in Schofield. They held services in her home, reading first the regular Lesson-Sermon prescribed for each Sunday, and following with exercises conforming to the rules for teaching children given by Mrs. Eddy in the *Christian Science Journal* for October 1895. By 1898 the finances of the Sunday School were in good condition with nine dollars in the treasury and the class voted to build a church in this small industrial town which had no church building of any denomination. Work was begun in October 1898 and many in the community helped. The boys and girls were tireless in raising funds and materials themselves. The planning of the building and its construction were carried out entirely by these young people, with the help of the local lumberyard. The building, measuring twenty by forty feet, and seating 100, was completed and dedicated

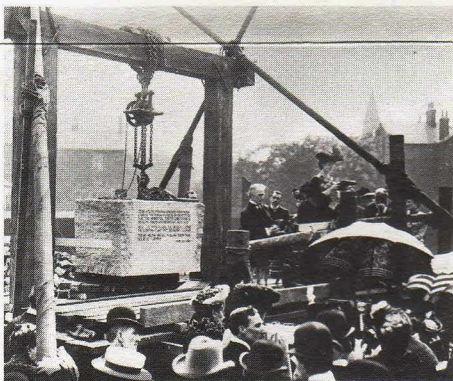


Interior of the little Christian Science church at Schofield, Wisconsin, the only known church of any denomination ever built entirely by young people.

on January 1, 1899.⁴ All entries and disbursements were carefully recorded and the treasurer, a fourteen-year-old boy, proudly announced on the completion of the building that all indebtedness had been met and the treasury had a balance of \$2.27. Church services were carried on as they had been in Sunday School under the Rules of the Manual, with Miss Graves as First Reader and an able young girl of fourteen years as Second Reader. A sixteen-year-old miss was the Clerk.

In these days Mrs. Eddy was joyous over the accomplishments of Lady Victoria Murray, then in her early twenties, as she worked tirelessly to awaken the Manchester, England, area to the beauty and healing power of this Truth. Her initiative, with the support of other students, brought the Manchester church into being, the first Christian Science church outside of London.

Among other young people represented in the exhibition are Roger Sherman, a young practitioner in Chicago who sowed the seed of Christian Science in Denver through his healing of a patient from that city; Mary Eastaman, whose illness led her



LADY VICTORIA MURRAY at the corner-stone laying of the Manchester, England, Christian Science Church.

husband, Captain Joseph Eastaman, to seek out Mrs. Eddy and thereafter to follow Christian Science with dedication; and Elizabeth Earl Jones, who left the comforts of a beautiful home to seek Christian Science healing, and later became one of the active workers in the Carolinas. Thus the seed of Christian Science was planted in many areas, not only by the young people mentioned here, but by unnamed students in various parts of the world.

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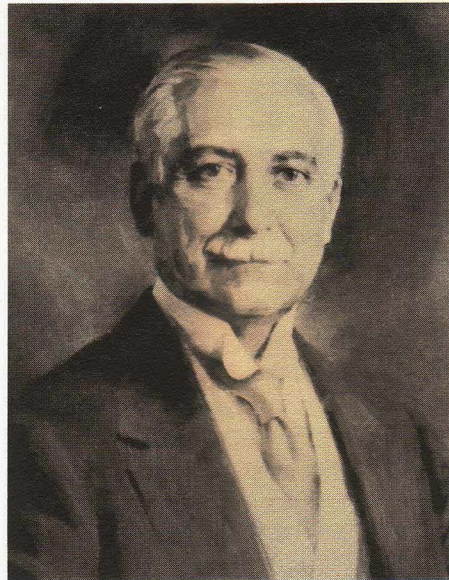
¹ *The Mother Church* by Joseph Armstrong, p. 22.

² *The Christian Science Journal*, Vol. 22, p. 118.

³ *Reminiscences* by Joseph Mann.

⁴ *The Christian Science Journal*, February 1899, Vol. 16, p. 810.

BICKNELL YOUNG, C.S.B.



BICKNELL YOUNG

Linn Ball

Portrait presented to Longyear Historical Society by the Bicknell Young Association of Christian Science Students.

LIKE THE BIBLICAL servant who received ten talents of his master and increased them in like measure, Bicknell Young, nurtured in his youth in the Far West, wrought a full return for his rich native endowment.

Soon after their marriage, his father and mother, Joseph and Jane Bicknell Young, left Utica, New York, for the unknown West — a journey that was to last for more than ten years. Since early Colonial times, the families on both sides had lived in what is now known as Upper New York State. The young Utica couple joined with others who had come from the eastern seaboard on this journey into the vast uncharted areas of the West. They traveled in wagon trains, often stopping for long periods in favorable places, practicing their trades and skills to meet recurring needs. Companions left them along the way to establish farms or communities, but the Youngs continued the uncertain and hazardous journey until they arrived in the newly developing land of Utah. Within a few years they settled in Salt Lake City; there Bicknell Young was born, the youngest of a large family. The hardships endured by the parents demanded courage and resourcefulness which matured noble qualities of thought and action, bestowed in such large measure upon their young son.

By the 1870's Salt Lake City was a thriving center attracting visits from successful eastern business men and, occasionally, friends of the arts. As a boy, Bicknell Young "took to his studies earnestly, gaining all that the western territories offered in the field of liberal education. He was a brilliant student, prepossessing in appearance and demeanor, with natural charm and a tremendous capacity for friendship. He was gifted with a beautiful voice, as well as with instinctive musical talent of a high order"¹ which led him to decide on a musical career. When he made this decision, he followed through at great personal sacrifice and effort. An opportunity opened for him to study in the Royal College of Music, London, then under the distinguished patronage of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. Among the members of the faculty was a brilliant young Italian-born musician, Elisa Mazzucato, whose father was head of the Milan Conservatory of Music and a director at La Scala. Kindred tastes and ideals drew the young people together and in due time they were married.

Bicknell Young graduated from the Royal College with high honors and he was urged by the faculty of the college to establish himself in England. He and Mrs. Young participated in oratorio performances of which he had made a special study, and sang in concerts in London and the provinces. About 1885, his great love for his country brought him with his family back to the West. He taught for some time in Utah when he was invited to join the faculty of the Chicago Conservatory of Music, continuing with this institution until he opened his own studio for voice training. Mrs. Young, always working with him, had her own students in voice, piano, harmony and composition.

Their work brought laurels to both. The music journal, *Music and Musicians in Chicago*, wrote of him as "a profound student of the voice and an expert in voice production," and praised Mrs. Young for her highly successful teaching of harmony and composition and as a composer of distinction. Manuscripts of their compositions, which are referred to as "fresh jottings of your valuable musical minds"² are preserved in the Library of Congress. Their recitals with Mrs. Young at the



Astride his favorite mount, Star, Mr. Young rode almost daily when in Chicago or Boston.

piano were acclaimed by *The Journal of Fine Arts* as "among the most artistic musical events in Chicago," and said of Mr. and Mrs. Young, "Few musicians have done more for the advancement of all that is fine and classical in their art than Mr. and Mrs. Bicknell Young . . . He is a broad scholarly musician, who has made his art a life study . . ."

Early in the 1890's Mr. Young was healed by Christian Science of an acute physical difficulty which had resisted ordinary modes of relief. At that time he had no religious affiliations and considered himself an agnostic. He began the serious study of Christian Science, as did Mrs. Young, and within a year they joined First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Chicago. Shortly thereafter, he became soloist for the church. In 1895 he and Mrs. Young had Primary Class with Edward A. Kimball, C.S.D., and in 1901 both entered Mr. Kimball's Normal Class and received degrees of C.S.B. Mr. Young began teaching immediately and in his 1903 class his mother, Jane Bicknell Young, was a member.

The Christian Science movement was growing rapidly in Chicago. First Church was overcrowded and Christian Scientists living on the opposite side of the city united to organize Second Church in 1898. Mr. Young was elected First Reader. In 1902, when Mrs. Eddy limited the term of readership to three years, he immediately resigned because he had read beyond the time allotted. The following year, 1903, he was appointed to the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church. In the intervening years he had served as Committee on Publication for Illinois and had maintained an extensive practice. His musical career had given way to the demands of work in a higher field.

From 1903 to 1927, Mr. Young served

without interruption on the Lecture Board except for the three years when called to The Mother Church as First Reader. On July 17, 1904, he gave a memorable reading of Mrs. Eddy's address at the dedication of First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Concord, New Hampshire.

In 1907 Mr. Young was invited to lecture at the Albert Hall, London, filling the great hall seating 9,900 people, with many turned away. The next year he was asked to lecture in Australia. Accompanied by one of his sons, he sailed from San Francisco, stopping at important ports in the Pacific before arriving in Australia where he lectured in three cities. He headed west, passing through the rough Indian Ocean during the monsoon season, then through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea into Europe. After giving a number of lectures there, he returned to the United States, thus completing the first trip of a Christian Science lecturer around the world.

The following year, 1909, Mrs. Eddy requested Mr. and Mrs. Young to take up residence in England, which they did immediately, and remained there until 1913. He returned briefly in 1910 to teach the Normal Class of the Board of Education, and was present at the services for Mrs. Eddy on December 8, 1910, riding in the procession of carriages to Mount Auburn. During their years in England Mr. and Mrs. Young visited every Christian Science church and society in the European field. He made a trip on his own

into Russia, where one registered practitioner in St. Petersburg was meeting with a small group to read the Lesson-Sermon.

In 1920, on completion of his assignment as First Reader of The Mother Church, Mr. Young resumed his work on the Lecture Board and served until 1927, when he resigned. He was recalled in 1932 to meet an emergency need to fill several previously arranged lecture engagements in Europe, and continued to lecture until 1936. He lectured over 24 years in all, often giving as many as 150 lectures a year, occasionally exceeding this number. In 1937, he again taught the Normal Class of the Board of Education.



Mr. Young, in 1908, on the first round-the-world tour made by a Christian Science lecturer.

Throughout his life, Bicknell Young enjoyed a deep love of the out-of-doors. He was a devoted horseman and mountaineer and for several years spent the month of August in the West, inviting a number of Christian Science friends to accompany him.

In a lecture given in 1922, Mr. Young made this comment, pertinent for today: "It [Christian Science] appeals to the higher nature, to reason and logic, and educates us in the Science of Life, the Science of real thinking, which is the greatest need of the age." His impressive career brought the blessings of Christian Science to untold thousands throughout the world.

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¹ Unpublished manuscript in Longyear collection.
² Letter in Longyear collection.

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