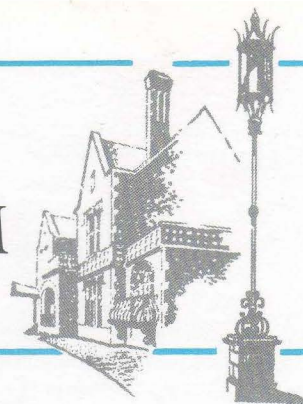


# QUARTERLY NEWS

## MARY BAKER EDDY MUSEUM

### *and Historic Sites*

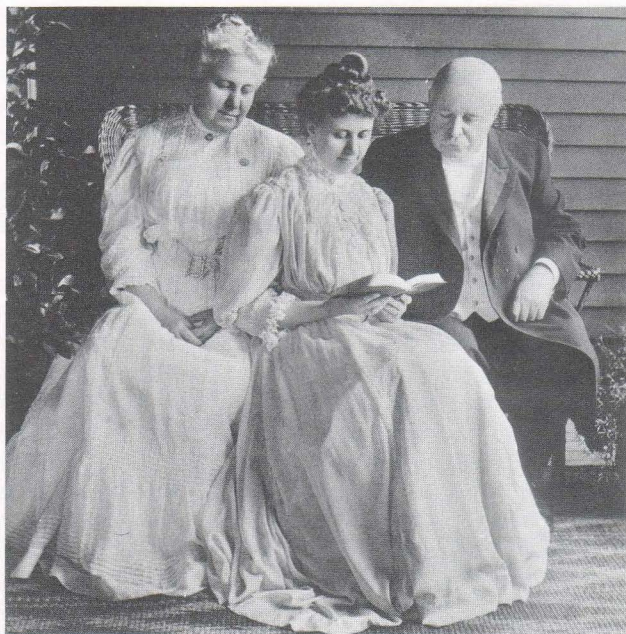


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## MARY E. EATON, C.S.B.



Mary E. Eaton and her parents, Mary Ella and Henry Eaton

Of the many students and workers associated with Mary Baker Eddy in the early years of the Christian Science movement, some are less well known today than others. One such person is Miss Mary E. Eaton. As was true of many of the faithful workers who surrounded Mrs. Eddy, Mary Eaton was dedicated, unselfish and tireless in her efforts to advance the Cause of Christian Science and to help her Leader. She attended Mrs. Eddy's last class, served briefly in her household, and taught and practiced Christian Science for many years.

Mary Eaton grew up across the harbor from Boston, in Chelsea, Massachusetts. She finished her schooling and was working in the library in Chelsea when relatives introduced her to Christian Science, which she at

once accepted. She had Primary class instruction from Mrs. Flavia S. Knapp, C.S.D., and went into the public practice of Christian Science. Soon she had to resign her position at the library because of the increasing success of her practice.

Miss Eaton's father, Henry Eaton, was an invalid at the time of his daughter's introduction to Christian Science. Partially paralyzed in a train accident in March 1885, he was bent over "like a half opened jack-knife" and had been pronounced incurable by medical specialists. In 1895 Miss Eaton began to treat her father in Christian Science. By the next year he was greatly improved and was able to begin attending services at The Mother Church. In June 1897 he was completely healed. Two months later, while visiting in Manchester, New Hampshire, he was run over by a carriage and was again treated by Miss Eaton, receiving healing in one day.<sup>1</sup>

On July 4, 1897 Mrs. Eddy invited the attendees at the Communion ser-

vice at The Mother Church to a reception at her home in Concord, New Hampshire the next day. Mary Eaton and her parents were among the crowd of over 2000 visitors to Pleasant View that day at the combined religious and holiday gathering.

Mary Eaton was listed as a practitioner in *The Christian Science Journal* for over 40 years, starting with the November 1897 issue. A year later she was a member of the "Class of Seventy," the last class taught by Mrs. Eddy. Later when writing of the experience, Miss Eaton said that she learned the importance of "child-likeness" in that class. She was struck by Mrs. Eddy's humility, and commented on how Mrs. Eddy appeared to listen for God's voice before speaking. She wrote of her teacher, "She was very witty, and when she said something that would bring tears to our eyes, she would immediately tell us something to make us laugh." Miss Eaton received the designation C.S.B. at the end of the class. In 1907, as a guest of Mrs. Eddy, she had Normal class instruction from Judge Septimus Hanna and



Mary Eaton about 1907

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soon thereafter began to teach classes in Christian Science in Boston.

Miss Eaton became very devoted to Mrs. Eddy and in 1902 served for a short time in her household. While Miss Eaton was living at Pleasant View, Mrs. Eddy gave her a beautiful pin — a dove set in pearls, which she is shown wearing in Longyear's portrait of her. Miss Eaton was also on call for several years in Boston, to attend to Mrs. Eddy's personal shopping.

Mrs. Eddy greatly appreciated Miss Eaton's loving service and efforts on her behalf, as is evidenced by the following message to her which was printed in the *Christian Science Sentinel* shortly after Mrs. Eddy moved to Chestnut Hill in 1908: "You will accept my thanks for your multiplied favors, flowers, and friendship unceasing. Lovingly yours, M. B. G. Eddy."<sup>2</sup>

Mary Eaton taught and practiced Christian Science in Boston until June 1918, when some friends invited her to Toronto, Ontario. She stayed for several years, teaching and healing there, and serving in one of the Canadian hospitals during World War I. In November 1918 she wrote Mrs. Longyear, "Nineteen homes have been offered me, and my practice has increased so much that I have taken an office down town . . . The first week I was here I visited seven hospitals and met one thousand soldiers, many with amputated limbs. I am in my office all day and many evenings, have taken ten trolley cars in visiting different parts of this great city where patients have been in great need, arriving home frequently at eleven at night."

By 1923 she had returned to teaching in Boston. Later, in 1930, Miss Eaton went to Seattle and taught there for several years. In 1935 she moved to The Christian Science Pleasant View Home in Concord, New Hampshire.

Mary Eaton was one of the many dedicated workers who helped advance the Cause of Christian Science in its early days. Her portrait in the Mary Baker Eddy Museum collection is recognition of her pioneer efforts.

Marylee Hursh

## UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS IN THE LONGYEAR HOUSEHOLD

Public television's "Upstairs Downstairs" left millions of viewers a little wiser in the ways masters and servants ran a great British house. I've just been enjoying a sentimental scene from an "Upstairs Downstairs," American style. The mistress of a great American house in Brookline, Massachusetts, is trying to keep her children from repeating the follies of her youth:

"You remember the stories I so often told you of the first years of my married life, what a harum-scarum girl I was; how Christine, my only servant for three years, controlled my house and relieved me of all responsibility, while I lived like a butterfly regardless of unswept stairs and dusty corners."

What offspring could remain unmoved as she continues:

"The tragedy of life began the afternoon that Christine left. At six o'clock, leaving two unhappy babies with a new nursemaid, I went into the kitchen to build a fire to roast beef for dinner! Your patient father found a tearful wife at home instead of an appetizing meal."

But this was not your average tearful wife. This was Mrs. Mary Beecher Longyear, who soon learned to organize a large household with superb efficiency for the good of the family, guests, and servants, too. It was just as well she did, since the guests were to include the likes of artist John Singer Sargent and connoisseur Bernard Berenson. And the house itself would come to be the home of the

Mary Baker Eddy Museum.

Meanwhile, the butterfly with the unswept stairs had turned into an author with the pen name of Eunice Beecher. Those motherly words to the Longyear children are in her book designed to help anybody set up housekeeping with the kind of domestic staff expected at the time. Privately printed in 1910, it is called *The Law of a Household*. It brought Mrs. Longyear membership in the Boston Authors' Club. It can help today's visitor to the Mary Baker Eddy Museum imagine the impeccably preserved old structure as the Longyear residence with Mrs. Longyear very much at the helm.

When I arrived at opening time the other day, a smiling young woman in sweater and slacks was at work with a vacuum cleaner. Not exactly Mrs. Longyear's specifications for a chambermaid. She asked for light print dresses with long sleeves, cap, and "clean apron" in the morning. "In the afternoon when on duty wear plain black gowns, white cuffs and collars, white bib apron and cap. Will furnish dresses for morning at \$1.50 apiece, and black dresses at \$4.50."

A man with an electric polisher was making the gleaming floors even more gleaming. "Ordinarily to rub them every day with a weighted brush keeps them in good order," wrote Mrs. Longyear.

The idea of household laws came to Mrs. Longyear, she recalled, after she felt "kind Providence" would have to step in "or I should have to go to some

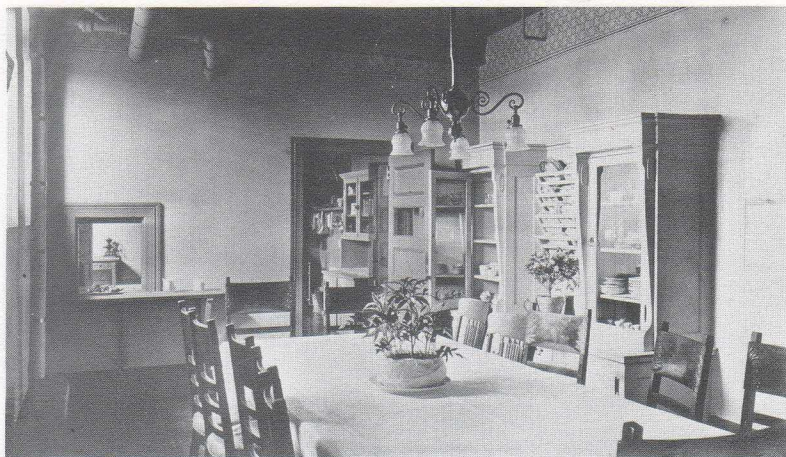
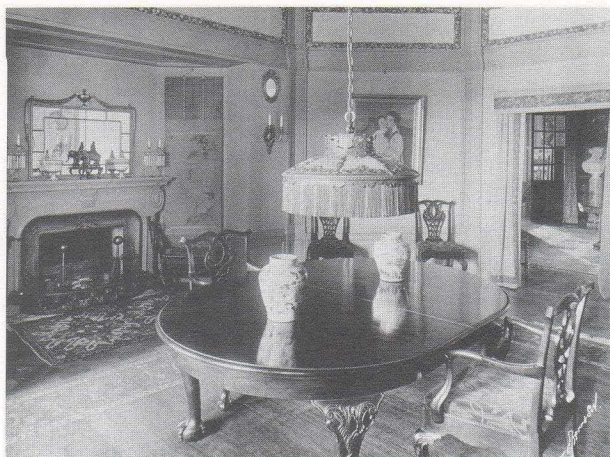


The "downstairs" household — housemaids and housemen. (We can identify the seven men, left to right, as: basement man, watchman, second man, butler, third man, engineer and handy man.)

1. Henry Eaton's detailed account of these healings was published in *The Christian Science Journal*, July 1898, in an article entitled "Free Indeed."

2. *Christian Science Sentinel*, Vol. X, No. 27, March 7, 1908, p. 530.





The Longyear family dining room in 1917, left, and the servants' dining room, right, in 1909

perpetual rest cure." She had been noticing how well some workmen were handling their jobs under careful supervision. "That night I saw the vision of women's emancipation through system. Why shouldn't a woman conduct her household as a business, prepare herself for it as a man prepares for his life work — in other words, make a business of housekeeping, and learn as much as she can of it before marriage?"

In 1978 the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare caught up with Mrs. Longyear in a sense. It released a report on the "substantial economic value" of homemaking and various proposals to compensate homemakers for it.

Part of Mrs. Longyear's education on the subject took place in Britain, where she quizzed hostesses, housekeepers, and butlers, jotting down extensive notes on their management methods. No wonder her small volume includes echoes of British customs familiar from the celebrated *Beeton's Book of Household Management*, which has come out in various editions from 1859 to the present day.

Strolling through the Museum I was reminded of another possible source for household hints when I saw a poem Mrs. Eddy had written for *Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine*. In a long gone issue of *Godey's* I happened on a passage that seemed to contradict the very title of *The Law of a Household*: "No laws can be laid down, no general rule can be given for domestic management, inasmuch as particular households require particular service. . . ."

But Mrs. Longyear recognized the same point when she noted that, even in the same household, "every year the laws had to be re-made to suit new conditions." And she said of the book

offered to her children: "I expect to add and subtract from it many items each year."

Seven decades from the time she wrote those words, I found the process had been continuing at 120 Seaver Street, mainly the subtracting. The size of the staff has been radically reduced without visible loss in the quality of upkeep to which Mrs. Longyear wanted her children to become accustomed. Now, if I got it right, there are only seven or eight full- and part-time employees taking care of the house and grounds. By contrast, here is the staff Mrs. Longyear considered adequate, along with their wages (no tips, no presents, no commissions, no pay if unable to work) and samples of their perquisites and duties:

Housekeeper — \$50 to \$75 per month. Half day off every other week. "Encourage servants to spend their time profitably. Plan their entertainments."

Secretary — \$40 to \$50 a month. "To teach the servants two evenings a week to read and write. To see Mrs. Beecher (Longyear) before eleven o'clock in the morning."

Superintendent — \$1000 to \$1200 a year. Perquisites: Cottage, vegetables, and ice. "Entire oversight and care of all grounds connected with the estate."

Outside Men — Pay unspecified. "The entrance to the bowling alley must be kept clean. . . . Put garbage on compost heap and cover with earth."

Butler — \$50 to \$70 a month. Off duty every day 2:30 to 4:00. "Rise at 6 a.m., open window, and throw back bedclothes. At 6:30 to be neatly dressed, freshly shaven, finger nails clean. . . . Talk as little as possible in pantries when family are in the breakfast room. . . . Lay out silver for Second Man to clean when he comes

on duty at eleven to answer bells. He must come in livery, not in working clothes. . . . Go slowly to open door if we are not at home. . . . Do not allow the under servants to speak discourteously to you. Insist upon obedience."

Second Man — \$40 to \$50 a month. "If visitors arrive at or near tea time, as soon as they have been announced, one man gets the table in place, the other brings in the tea without being asked."

Third Man — \$30 to \$35 a month. "Rise at six and put on clean black overall suit, turn light on middle stairs, clean grate and lay fire in breakfast and sitting room, sweep front stairs, dust side hall and side vestibule and glass in door, wash marble and clean door-bell."

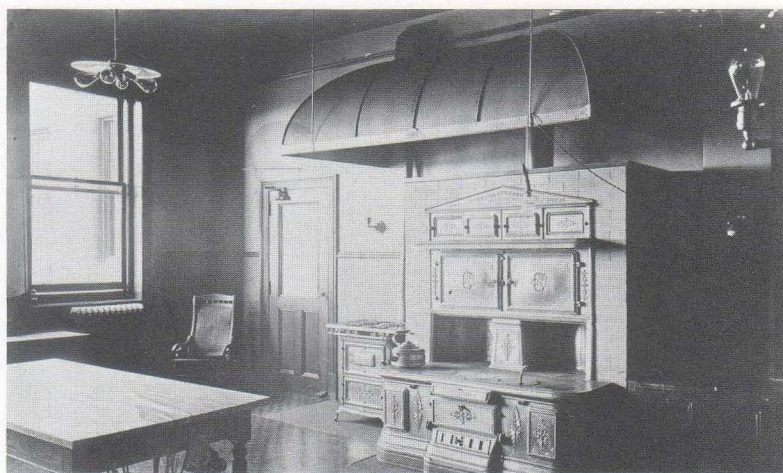
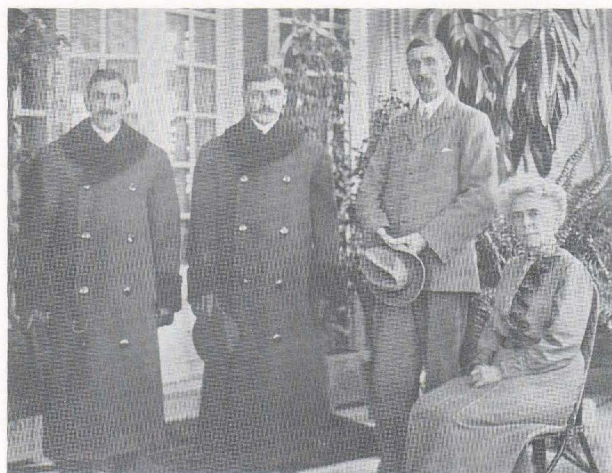
Housemaid — \$25 to \$30 a month. "Rise at six, dress neatly with cap and apron, care for birds, give them lettuce or hard boiled eggs . . . Report all dishes nicked or broken."

(Continued on p. 240)

### 25th Anniversary

Mrs. Marian H. Holbrook, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Longyear Foundation, has served as Trustee for twenty-five years as of December 1978. During these years there has been outstanding growth throughout the organization and much wider recognition of the Mary Baker Eddy Museum. Mrs. Holbrook has contributed substantially to these accomplishments by her good judgment and understanding and through her devotion to the aims of Longyear. Trustees, staff and Longyear Members express gratitude for her perception and dedication.





Left photo: Key members of the household staff, left to right, chauffeur, footman, superintendent, private secretary. Right photo: The kitchen with its impressive stove, April 1909

(Continued from p. 239)

Chef — \$75 a month. "Cook as ordered from menu. . . . Have a variety of hors d'oeuvres, salad, cold meat, cheese, fruit, cake and one hot dish, generally cooked in casserole, escaloped chicken, or fish, macaroni, potted pigeons, stews of all kinds, succotash, meat pies, hash, fish chowder, hot beef loaf, etc. for luncheon."

Chef's Assistant — \$25 a month. "Carry out orders of Chef, wait on Housekeeper's table, keep her table linen perfectly clean, and bring fresh flowers."

First Chambermaid — \$7.00 a week. Perquisites: "Aprons, caps and ties, collars and cuffs furnished. Dark aprons to wear when cleaning. Clothes washed but not ironed. The house dresses bought by me must not be worn outside the house." Duties: "Bring in rain water. Put shoes at bedroom doors . . . Knock on doors of occupied bedrooms loudly, saying, 'Seven o'clock, sir, or madam.'"

Second Chambermaid — \$5.00 a week. "Go upstairs and clean bathrooms — wipe up floor, get down on carpet pad so as to get into the corners, rub faucets, see that tub and bowl are clean, wipe finger marks off from the paint, wipe with a dry cloth in both bathrooms, and put clean towels in front bathroom if necessary."

Lady's Maid — \$30 a month. "Utensils and articles required by maid to be kept in closet in perfect order — hairpins, large and invisible, powder, nail files, pins, safety pins, bowl, gasoline, bureau covers, Japanese nail polish, chamois skins, shoe strings, corset laces, tissue paper, benzine, ether, flannel for board, sponges, vases, darning cotton, ammonia, paper for drawers, hat

and clothes brush, cheese-cloth."

Handy Man and Engineer — \$50 a month. Jumpers provided. "When a heavy snowstorm comes, get up early and help shovel snow."

Night Watchman — \$50 a month. "If he discovers anything out of order, a window lock broken, a radiator leaking or making a noise, a faucet leaking, or a door creaking, or servants coming in too late (after 10:30), or intoxicated, or behaving improperly with the maidservants, or having improper company, or eating at night from the pantries or refrigerators, it must be reported in writing to the Housekeeper the next day."

Basement Man — \$30 a month. "Whipping rugs, cleaning brass, rubbing floors, washing paint on second floor and basement, freezing ice cream."

Servants' Pastry Cook and Helper — \$50 a month. "To prevent smells in the kitchen, cook meat or vegetables in kettles full of boiling water, adding to it as it boils away, and put no cover on it."

Second Cook's Assistant — \$4.00 a week. "Wash floors of servants' dining room and kitchen daily. See that these rooms are always in order, and kept well dusted."

Laundress — \$45 a month. "Air clothes very carefully. All clothes that need mending before being starched and ironed should be left upstairs by Wednesday night . . . Have assistant in front laundry three days a week, or more if necessary. \$1.50 per

day and car fares."

Chauffeur — \$20 to \$25 a week. "Prevent explosion of gasoline when starting car if possible. . . . Touch hat when orders are given. . . . Never address passengers unless they speak to you. . . . Ask directions, if needed, at drug stores, never of people on the street."

Whew! They add up to some 20 persons. But, after all, there were some hundred rooms to take care of, not to mention several acres of Fisher Hill and various touring cars.

Well, you get the idea. For someone with *The Law of a Household* in hand, there is a kind of invisible population explosion upstairs and downstairs on Seaver Street. Then one may remember that Mrs. Longyear wrote, "I value every thought of adjustment that comes to me . . ." Her theme of harmonious household management ought to be adjustable to the needs and resources of homemaking in a later age when the dwindling of servants and the participation of men might have surprised her. Beneath all the i's she dotted and the t's she crossed we still can use the attitude her book implies (in the words of Godey's *Lady's Book*): "Home should gladden the eye, cheer the heart, and satisfy the mind. . . ."

Roderick Nordell

[Roderick Nordell, assistant chief editorial writer of *The Christian Science Monitor*, wrote about family and other topics for several years in the column "Things in Common."]

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