



LONGYEAR MUSEUM

REPORT TO MEMBERS FALL/WINTER 2009



Opening Doors in 'a Country of Walls'

As a Christian Scientist and wife of the U.S. Minister to China, Sarah Pike Conger's seven years spent in Peking beginning in 1898 resulted in a remarkable friendship with the Empress Dowager and her people.

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A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The publishing of a *Report to Members* is always a highlight of our year and this issue is no exception. Our editorial team starts months in advance of an issue to gather ideas that will educate as well as inspire our members. With this goal in mind, we invited independent researcher Susan E. Schopp to share with our readers the story of Sarah Pike Conger, an early student of Christian Science who lived in Beijing from 1898 to 1905.

This story reminds us of challenges Christian Scientists could face, as they strove to live their faith in unfamiliar places. Mrs. Longyear, as well, accepted such challenges. While living in Europe with her family in the late 1800s, Mrs. Longyear gathered together a group of people on Sundays in Dresden, Germany, to read the weekly Christian Science Bible Lesson. In Paris, Mrs. Longyear spread the word about Mrs. Eddy and her discovery to responsive listeners in the pension where she was staying.

Roughly a century later, Longyear Museum is still spreading the word about the life and work of Mrs. Eddy! One of the “most viewed” sections of Longyear’s new website is a concise summary of Mrs. Eddy’s life written by Longyear researchers, with a chronology of the most significant events. A team of translators was hired to translate the biography and chronology into six languages, and now Mrs. Eddy’s story is available in multiple languages to literally millions of people around the world. Since launching the new website in May, we’ve had online visitors from ninety-two countries, with a significant number from Argentina, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Brazil, and Japan.

We thank you for joining us in this effort to share Mrs. Eddy’s history thoughtfully and accurately with a worldwide audience.

Anne McCauley
Executive Director • President



The Japanese translation of Mrs. Eddy’s biography on Longyear’s new website is the only biography of Mrs. Eddy available in Japanese.

Cover: The Empress Dowager and Sarah Pike Conger join hands, 1903. Also present are wives of other envoys; the little girl is the photographer’s daughter, Lily. Photograph courtesy of Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.: SC-GR 259.

Longyear's Redesigned Website Offers Original Research and Historical Investigations

After four months in operation, the Museum's online destination has already received nearly 10,000 visitors from 92 countries. If you have not had a chance to log on for a visit, we encourage you to do so.



Since its launch about four months ago, Longyear's redesigned website has proven itself a popular destination for those interested in learning about the life and history of Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. The website has received, since its May 6, 2009, rollout, more than 70,309 page views from over 9,601 visitors from a total of 92 countries.

Our website data shows that hundreds of Longyear website visitors have spent considerable time investigating recent stories and image galleries, which are updated monthly. Features that are proving especially popular include a brief biography and chronology of the life and history of Mary Baker Eddy, translated into six languages: German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Japanese, and Russian.

Here is a sample of some of the articles that have appeared on the site to date:

- An online photo tour of Longyear Museum's Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, building and grounds.
- An image gallery of historic photographs showing Mary Beecher Longyear purchasing the first of the eight houses in the Longyear collection.
- A short excerpt from an upcoming Longyear Press book of profiles of selected early Christian Science workers,

including Abigail Thompson of Minneapolis, Minnesota. This excerpt from the article on Miss Thompson is titled: "The genius of progress, the genius of work."

- The story of a clay portrait sculpture of Mary Baker Eddy created in the spring of 1889. The resulting clay likeness was then chiseled by Italian stonecutters into marble portrait busts, one of which is owned by Longyear Museum.
- The tale of a family-owned oil portrait of early Christian Science lecturer John Randall Dunn, C.S.B., which was donated to Longyear so that others might learn about this remarkable Christian Scientist.
- A review of the work of Kim Schuette, whose recent book talk at Longyear explored the host of issues found at the intersection of Christian Science and its war- and peace-time healing work with the United States Armed Forces.
- A guided tour given by the Director/Curator and the Director of Museum Collections through the Longyear Museum's vault with its many historic holdings.

If you are a member and do not have access to a computer we'd be happy to send you copies of any of the above articles. Please call Linda Conradi at 617.278.9000, ext. 222.



One User Checks Longyear's Website Daily!

"I go online every day! The site is so helpful and is filled with historical articles and little items to explore." — Edwyna Gilbert



Longyear members are encouraged to visit the new Longyear website and create their very own online account. A membership number is required to complete the process and can be found on your membership card or by calling Linda Conradi at 617.278.9000, ext. 222. Your online account will provide access to Members' Only information as well as discounts on all online Museum Store purchases. If you have questions, please call us, we'd be happy to help you.

Seven Years in China

By Susan E. Schopp

“To My Surprise, My Treasury Was Empty”

Sarah Pike Conger, wife of Edwin H. Conger, American Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary¹ to Brazil, was a woman to be reckoned with. In 1863, at the age of about twenty, she graduated from Lombard College in Galesburg, Illinois — a rare achievement for a woman of that era.

Introspective, Mrs. Conger also had reserves of courage that she would draw upon in the years ahead. But it was on a long trip back to the United States in 1892 from Brazil, with plenty of time for introspection, that she made a startling self-discovery that changed her life and may even have influenced international relations in delicate ways. While in Brazil she had been in the habit of comparing that nation with the United States, and Brazil always came up short. Now, reviewing her year-and-a-half spent there, she began to examine “the thought treasures that I was bearing with me”:

To my surprise, my treasury was empty. I reflected, seeking the reason for this lack. I soon learned that the attitude of superiority I had taken made it impossible to accumulate anything.²

Determined to do something about this, when she returned to Brazil her “attitude was changed”:

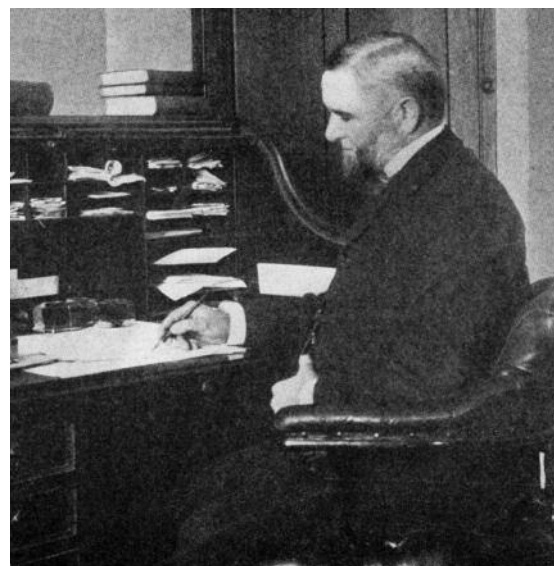
I descended from my imaginary height with the determination to seek with open eyes and a willing heart and I was amply rewarded.³

In 1867 she had married her childhood sweetheart, Edwin H. Conger, and the couple settled in Dallas County, Iowa, where Edwin, who had a law degree, later became active in state politics. In 1890, fellow Civil War veteran and now United States President Benjamin Harrison⁴ appointed him to head the United States Legation in Brazil. The 1892 election, however, saw President Harrison defeated, Grover Cleveland was returned to office,⁵ and with the change of president in 1893, the Congers returned home to Des Moines.

The time at home gave Sarah Conger the opportunity to be with her close friends, Maurine and Valeria Campbell. Active Christian Scientists, the two sisters apparently strengthened Mrs. Conger’s growing interest in Christian Science.⁶ Mrs. Conger became a member of The Mother Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, in 1894, just two years after

Below left: Wives of diplomatic representatives to China and four interpreters in front of the British Legation, December 13, 1898, after their first audience with the Empress Dowager (not pictured here). *First row, from left:* German Minister’s wife, Dutch Minister’s wife, British Minister’s wife, Japanese Minister’s wife; *second row:* French Minister’s wife, Russian Minister’s wife, American Minister’s wife (Sarah Pike Conger). Reprinted from *Letters from China*, facing page 40.

Below right: Edwin H. Conger. Reprinted from *Letters from China*, facing page 92.



Mary Baker Eddy had reorganized it. Also that year, Mrs. Conger wrote her first letter to Mrs. Eddy, expressing appreciation in particular for the recently issued revision of Mrs. Eddy's work, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.⁷ Mrs. Conger and the Campbell sisters had reviewed and studied every change made in the new edition.

The year 1897 brought another change of administration in Washington, and incoming President William McKinley reassigned Edwin Conger to Brazil; Edwin presented his credentials in Brazil in August. Before joining him there, Mrs. Conger, accompanied by Maurine Campbell, had the rare privilege of visiting Mary Baker Eddy at her home, "Pleasant View," in Concord, New Hampshire, on September 9, 1897. Asked whether her husband was interested in Christian Science, Mrs. Conger explained that he was not opposed to it. Mrs. Eddy told her to "cherish every little tendril of love that it may take root, grow and bear fruit."⁸

Writing to Mrs. Eddy from Brazil a few months later, Mrs. Conger noted that her meeting with Mrs. Eddy had taught her "better how to love."⁹ She often recalled Mrs. Eddy's words to her and Maurine Campbell: "If I had not dwelt in Love I would not be here today."¹⁰ Mrs. Conger would find that love would be needed in the days ahead.

About the time Mrs. Conger wrote to Mrs. Eddy, Edwin Conger's service in Brazil was ending: President McKinley, seeking an experienced diplomat, appointed him Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to China.

"My Sympathy Is with China"

The Congers arrived in China during the summer of 1898, less than a year after Mrs. Conger's visit to Mrs. Eddy. They took up residence at the United States Legation, which, along with other international legations, was located southeast of the Imperial Palace complex in Peking (Beijing) in the area known as the Legation Quarters.

The late 1890s was a time of crisis in China's history. The Qing¹¹ government was weakening, the nation's economy was on the brink of collapse, and there was widespread poverty and unrest. Relations with the major Western powers — who had carved out "spheres of influence" in China and whose missionary activity had become increasingly a source of conflict — were tense. China's relations with Japan, the victor in the Sino-Japanese War (1894–95), were also strained.

By her own admission, Mrs. Conger's knowledge of China was almost non-existent when her husband was appointed: "Before going to the Far East, my ideas of the Orient were vague." Unwilling to remain ignorant and remembering her epiphany while returning from Brazil, Mrs. Conger set out at the age of

fifty-four to educate herself about the culture in which she now lived. "From my entrance into China, on through seven years, I worked with a fixed purpose to gain clearer ideas."¹²

Almost from the start, she displayed an openness of attitude that was rare among Westerners of her era. Seven months after her arrival, she wrote to one of her sisters, "How do these foreigners appear to the Chinese? Many times I feel ashamed that we do not appear more like civilized people."¹³ That same month, she told a nephew, "As I am here and watch, I do not wonder that the Chinese hate the foreigner. The foreigner is frequently severe and exacting in this Empire which is not his own."¹⁴

Barely six weeks after she and other members of the international legations nearly lost their lives during the Boxer Uprising in the summer of 1900,¹⁵ she could write to a niece with extraordinary dispassion:

Poor China! Why cannot foreigners let her alone with her own? China has been wronged, and in her desperation she has striven as best she could to stop the inroads, and to blot out those already made. My sympathy is with China. A very unpopular thing to say, but it is an honest conviction, honestly uttered.¹⁶

As the wife of the U.S. Minister to China, Mrs. Conger had a number of both official and unofficial duties to fulfill. The Congers' acceptance of Chinese of all social classes and their high ranking in the diplomatic community enabled Mrs. Conger to meet Chinese across a wide social spectrum: children in orphanages, women in a home for the elderly, laborers, teachers, high-ranking government officials, members of the imperial family and even the Emperor, the Empress, and the powerful Empress Dowager, Cixi.¹⁷

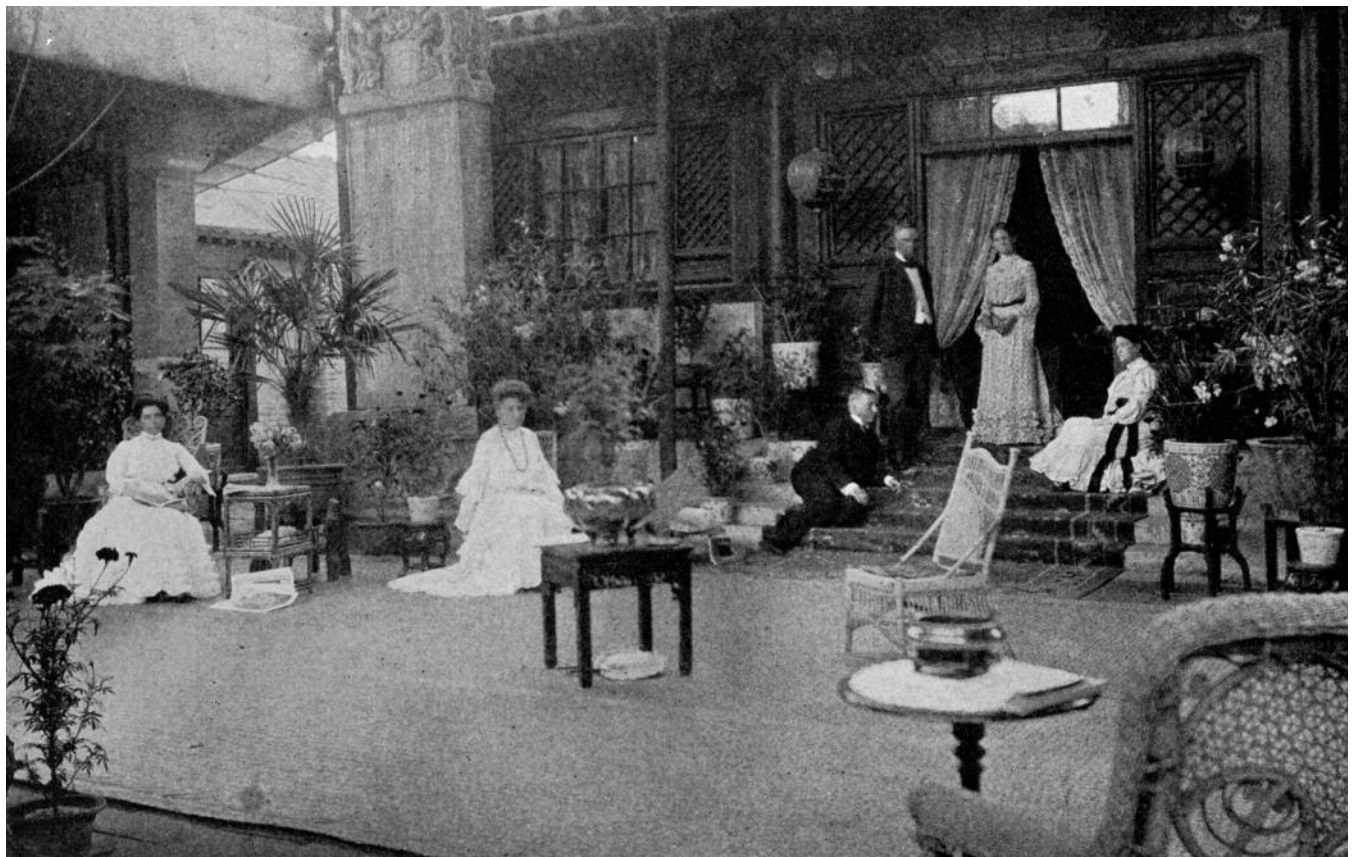
The Empress Dowager seems to have had genuine affection for this remarkable American woman, and a striking photograph (see this newsletter cover) shows her clasping Mrs. Conger's hand. In 1904, sensational newspaper articles in the United States alleged that Mrs. Conger had converted the Empress Dowager to Christian Science. "Many things not true would appear in the papers about Mr. Conger and myself," Mrs. Conger later wrote Mrs. Eddy.¹⁸ On advice from her husband, Mrs. Conger did not reply to the newspapers to quash these reports, which she considered too "absurd" to be believed. But she did answer inquiries from individuals, and in 1906 wrote a long letter to Mrs. Eddy stating clearly her work in China. Mrs. Conger noted the great value she placed on her friendships with the Chinese people:

At first my position as the wife of the American Minister and Doyenne¹⁹ of the Diplomatic Corps opened the doors that I greatly desired to enter.

Friendship kept them open, but when the last good-byes were said, the clasping of hands and language of the eyes told the “old, old story.” My visits with Her Majesty, and especially the very last one, gave me a rich assurance that she respected, honored, and cared for me; her words, her actions, and her gifts proved these things.²⁰

The gift the Empress Dowager gave Mrs. Conger at their last meeting was especially memorable. They had said good-bye, and as Mrs. Conger was leaving, she was called back. The interpreter handed her a blood jade, saying, “Her Majesty has taken this good-luck stone from her person and wishes to give it to you to wear during your long journey across the great waters, that you may safely arrive in your honorable country.” A court princess later informed Mrs. Conger that the stone had been worn by rulers of China for many centuries and that the Empress Dowager had worn this stone during her reign, during the Boxer siege and the Imperial Court’s evacuation from Peking.²¹ This was not a stone that money could buy; it was a treasured possession of the

Below: Courtyard in U.S. Legation, with Edwin H. and Sarah Pike Conger standing at entrance to drawing room. Reprinted from *Letters from China*, facing page 262.



Empress Dowager, a gift that expressed her genuine concern for Mrs. Conger’s safe passage home.

Mrs. Conger wrote her daughter that her friendships had been specially cultivated among the Chinese women:

I know little of the princes and gentlemen of China, aside from the fact that they are cordial and respectful. My great desire has been to know their wives and daughters, and with courteous recognition of this desire, the husbands and fathers have granted me this privilege.²²

The Boxer Uprising

Not quite two years after the Congers arrived in China, the Boxer Uprising occurred. The Boxers, as they became known in English, belonged to a movement called the *Yihequan* (often translated “Fists United in Righteousness”) that arose in North China’s Shandong Province in 1898. Fuelled by growing antagonism toward the increasing political and missionary power of foreign nations in China, the Boxers were anti-foreign and anti-reformist in their goals, and their chief targets were Christian missionaries, Chinese Christians, Chinese having dealings with Westerners, and Westerners in general. In the summer of 1900, they attacked the foreign settlements in Tientsin (Tianjin), a port southeast of Peking, before moving

on to Peking, where they besieged the Legation Quarters and the Northern Cathedral.

In early June 1900, before the Boxers reached Peking, Mrs. Conger noted in her diary, "Not a night passes but from one to three telegrams come to Mr. Conger. Distressing rumors of fire and outrages come from small villages."²³ The diplomatic community hoped that an international military force, marching from the port of Tientsin, would reach them before the situation worsened beyond hope.

On June 3 Mrs. Conger noted in her diary, "Mr. Conger is calm, acts cautiously...." A little over a week later, she wrote:

Mr. Conger at all times shows good cheer and offers a helping hand wherever he can. He is besieged on all sides; but he acts quickly and fearlessly. He does not accept all the dreadful rumors as facts. In his reasoning way he at once shows many of them to be false.²⁴

Mrs. Conger, meanwhile, offered both practical and moral support in the legations, in addition to the comfort and assistance she gave her husband. "I have bought more supplies; flour, rice, meal, beans, and coal. It seems that we may have need of them," she noted in her diary on June 12.²⁵ Eventually, the legations sheltered several thousand civilians, including not only the diplomatic community but other foreign nationals and both Chinese and Western Christians, including missionaries.²⁶

The Boxers entered Peking on June 20, and on June 21 the Qing court declared war on the foreign powers. For almost two months, Boxers and Chinese soldiers using small arms and artillery besieged the Legation Quarters. The Congers, nine of their servants, their staff and guests, and American missionaries and Chinese Christians whom Edwin Conger welcomed in the hope of preserving their lives,²⁷ moved into the British Legation, which was larger and better fortified than the American one. Days and nights of attack were relieved by occasional periods of quiet.

The siege that began on June 20 lasted fifty-five days. Mrs. Conger stripped the couple's residence of silk draperies, bed linens, and other items to make sandbags: "[E]verything has been taken that could be made into sand bags, used in the hospital or on the city wall. Others have done likewise."²⁸ She visited soldiers in the hospital at least twice a day, and supervised her head servant and cook in preparing and delivering thirty to forty bottles of boiled, filtered water each day for the hospital.²⁹ One early July day, after the situation took a turn for the worse, she despaired:

What can I write? What a prolonged, dreadful dream! Who can tell it? It cannot be told, nor even imagined.³⁰

She also noted:

Every line of communication with the outside world has been cut off since June fourteenth....

Some nights and days the firing has been most frightful....

This was exciting at first, but night after night of this firing, horn-blowing, yelling, and whizzing of bullets, has hardened us to it, or perhaps taught us to trust more in a greater and more loving Power.³¹

After a night of attacks, she wrote in her diary:

[I] went off in a little nook by myself to read. I opened my Bible to see what lesson was there for me, and turned to Second Corinthians, first chapter. These words in the eighth, ninth and tenth verses were my message: "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of our life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us."³²

Mrs. Conger had long made a place in her life for daily prayer, but in the ongoing crisis her religion became increasingly precious to her: "I love my religion as I never before knew how to love it. It is surely refuge and strength in time of need. As the clouds thicken, we have to watch that we may not stumble."³³

On August 14, even as reports appeared in the United States and Europe that the entire diplomatic community had been killed, the troops for which Mrs. Conger and others in the Legation Compound were so anxiously waiting lifted the siege.³⁴

Leading the United States forces was Lieutenant General Adna Chaffee, who later became a student of Christian Science. His daughter, Helen Chaffee Howard Elwell, was to hold several prominent positions at The Mother Church.³⁵

The day the siege was lifted, Mrs. Conger wrote to a niece, "I must tell you about our servants. Nine of them went into the siege with us.... These servants are not all Christians; some are called 'heathen,' but, in justice and truth, I must say that I never saw the Christ-spirit manifested more beautifully than these so-called heathen manifested it."³⁶

Four months after the Uprising ended, she wrote to a nephew:

I have much sympathy for the Chinese, and yet I do not in any way uphold them nor excuse them in their fiendish cruelty.... But the facts remain the same;

China belongs to the Chinese, and she never wanted the foreigner upon her soil.... [W]hat right has the foreigner to enter this domain unbidden and unwelcomed? The foreigner has forced himself, his country, his habits, and his productions upon China, always against a strong protest.³⁷

In early 1901, Mrs. Conger received a letter from Mrs. Eddy, which read in part, "Your faith and love and understanding of the dear God were more than all armaments strong to deliver. His arm was more than arms to save you."³⁸

In an earlier letter Mrs. Eddy had advised Mrs. Conger to labor at home for her own "sanctification, spirituality, health, holiness," adding, "I find that in proportion as I do this for myself the whole world feels it. That is why I greatly desire more time to give to this self-purification."³⁹

After the Uprising

Back in the United States for a visit in June 1901, Mrs. Conger was surprised to receive from Mrs. Eddy a complimentary card of admission to the upcoming Normal class, to be taught by Edward Kimball. Owing to her husband's imminent return to China, she was obliged to leave the class before it ended, but that fall she was able to attend the Obstetrics course of the Christian Science Board of Education.⁴⁰

Meanwhile, events in her family's life moved forward. A little more than a year after the end of the siege, the Congers' daughter, Laura,⁴¹ married Frederick E. Buchan, an American soldier whom she had met in China. In 1903, the Buchans had a daughter, whom they named Sarah Conger Buchan.

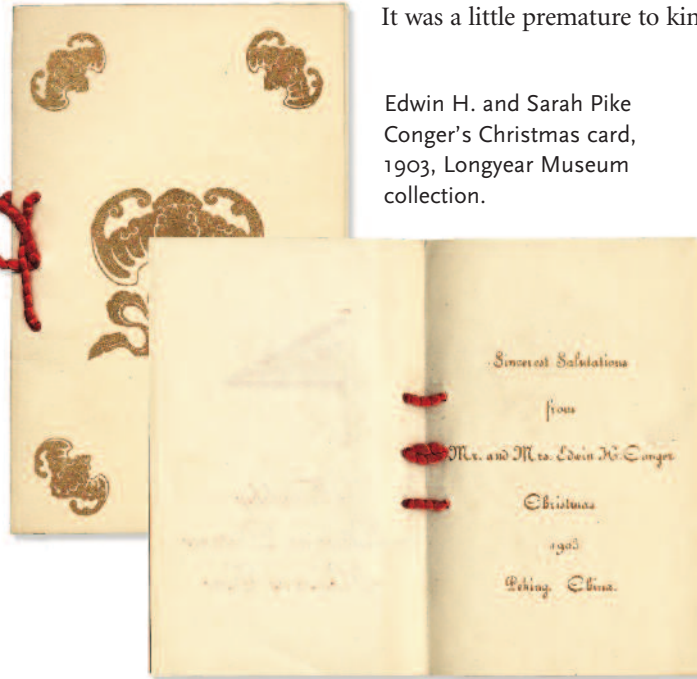
The Empress Dowager's gifts extended to Mrs. Conger's granddaughter: she gave the baby a pair of jade pendants. Several decades later, the Empress Dowager's former first-lady-in-waiting, Princess Der Ling, was lecturing in the United States. Mrs. Conger's granddaughter, now Mrs. Jewell, attended one of these lectures. Wearing one of the pendants, Mrs. Jewell approached Princess Der Ling after the lecture. Before they were introduced, Der Ling recognized the pendant and immediately knew that she must be Mrs. Conger's granddaughter.⁴²

With Laura no longer in China, Mrs. Conger invited her close friend Maurine Campbell to join her in Peking as a com-

panion. Miss Campbell accepted the invitation and arrived in 1902. She remained with the Congers for the rest of their posting in China, until Edwin Conger resigned in 1905. "He feels that he has spent enough time in China and in public service," Mrs. Conger explained in a letter to a nephew. "We are going home to make for ourselves a fireside all our own, gather together our belongings, and enjoy them."⁴³

It was a little premature to kindle a fire in that "fireside all our own," however, for on March 8, the same day that he resigned, Edwin was appointed Ambassador to Mexico. But the assignment was brief. Within a few months, ill health compelled him to resign, and the Congers returned to the United States, settling in Pasadena, California. There Mrs. Conger received invitations to speak to missionary and other groups about her experiences in China

Edwin H. and Sarah Pike Conger's Christmas card, 1903, Longyear Museum collection.



— this extraordinary breaking down of denominational barriers testifying to Mrs. Conger's integrity. Mrs. Conger wrote:

These different denominations know of me through their missionaries in China. They say to me, We know that you are a Christian Scientist, but, being not one of us what you say will come with more power to our people....

Their gratitude seems very great and with a warm clasp of the hand they most earnestly thanked me for encouraging words, for a clearer thought of foreign Missions work and a higher and better thought of the Chinese.⁴⁴

Edwin Conger passed on in 1907. In 1909 Mrs. Conger published a selection of her diary entries and letters she had written to friends and family during her time in China; they were published as *Letters from China: With Particular Reference to the Empress Dowager and the Women of China*. In 1913, a second book, *Old China, Young America*, followed.

Mrs. Conger subsequently moved to the Boston area to live with her daughter's family in Waban. There she made the acquaintance of Mary Beecher Longyear, the founder of Longyear

Museum, who was interested in having Mrs. Conger's portrait painted for posterity. In May 1919, Mrs. Conger wrote to Mrs. Longyear, "I note with appreciation and many thanks what you say about having a portrait. It is one of the outpourings of your full heart — but we can speak later of that, if it seems best to have one painted, can we not?"⁴⁵ But the portrait was evidently never painted, and Mrs. Conger passed on in 1932.

Susan E. Schopp is an independent scholar who holds a doctorate in East Asian art history. Her research interests include the East India ships that were the workhorses of English and American trade with China in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and more recently, Americans who lived in China during that same period. She is a member of the volunteer crew of Friendship of Salem, a full-size, fully operational reproduction of a 1797 Salem East India ship.

NOTES

1. "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary," which was one rank below ambassador, was until 1935 the highest-ranking diplomatic official from the United States to China.
2. Sarah Pike Conger, *Letters from China: With Particular Reference to the Empress Dowager and the Women of China* (Chicago: McClurg & Co., 1909), p. 3.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 4.
4. Benjamin Harrison knew Edwin Conger from the time both men served in the Union Army during the American Civil War.
5. Grover Cleveland, the first Democratic president to be elected after the Civil War, had earlier served as president, 1885–1889.
6. The exact date when Mrs. Conger became interested in Christian Science is unknown. Maurine Campbell learned of Christian Science through her sister Valeria, when Maurine was passing through Des Moines en route to Chicago to undergo surgery for an eye condition. Valeria prevailed on Maurine to read *Science and Health*; Maurine was healed, the trip to Chicago and surgery were canceled, and Maurine became an active Christian Scientist, organizing the Busy Bees at the time of the construction of the Original Edifice of The Mother Church. Valeria later became an authorized teacher of Christian Science.
7. The eighty-first edition, 1894.
8. Isabelle D. Carter, recollection of meeting with Sarah Pike Conger, June 1930, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Mass.
9. Conger to Mary Baker Eddy, January 7, 1898, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection.
10. *Ibid.*
11. Qing, pronounced "ching," is the name of the dynasty that ruled China from 1644 to 1911.
12. Conger, *Letters from China*, p. vii. Thirty-five years later, author and Nobel Prize winner Pearl S. Buck — who grew up in China, was a native speaker of Chinese and a child of six when the Congers arrived — would identify an ongoing challenge: "There is ... in the Occident a vast ignorance of China. Perhaps the greatest ignorance exists where it should least be, namely, in the United States and England. It has been the ignorance not of willfulness, but rather of pleasant indifference, tinged with a distinct sense of superiority and of being busy with greater affairs." Speech by Pearl Buck to the American Academy of Political Science in Philadelphia, April 8, 1933; reprinted in Pearl Buck, *China As I See It* (New York: John Day Co., 1970), pp. 16–18.
13. Conger, to a sister, February 2, 1899, *Letters from China*, p. 49.
14. Conger, to a nephew, February 1, 1899, *Letters from China*, p. 45.
15. For more information on the Boxer Uprising, see p. 4.
16. Conger to a niece, September 30, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 176.
17. Cixi (pronounced tz-shee; written Tz'u-Hsi in Wade-Giles romanization) lived from 1835 to 1908. She was the mother of the Tongzhi emperor (1856–1875) and the aunt of the Guangxu emperor (1871–1908).
18. Conger to Mary Baker Eddy, March 8, 1906. Quoted in the *Christian Science Sentinel*, vol. 8 (March 24, 1906), p. 467. Also printed there is Mrs. Eddy's March 2, 1906, letter to Sarah Pike Conger, the substance of which appears as Mrs. Eddy's article, "Christian Science in China," in *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 234.
19. Doyenne: the wife of the senior minister of the diplomatic community.
20. Conger to Mary Baker Eddy, March 8, 1906.
21. Conger to her daughter, April 17, 1905, quoting diary entry of April 1, 1905, *Letters from China*, p. 353.
22. Conger to her daughter, April 17, 1905, quoting diary entry of March 27, 1905, *Letters from China*, p. 351. For more on Mrs. Conger's interest in learning more of life for women in China, see *Letters from China*, pages 273 and 303.
23. Conger to a sister, June 4, 1900, quoting diary entry of June 2, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 93.
24. Conger to a sister, letter begun on June 4, 1900, quoting diary entry of June 11, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 98.
25. Conger to a sister, letter begun on June 4, 1900, quoting diary entry of June 12, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 100.
26. For further details on the Boxer Uprising, see Paul A. Cohen, *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience and Myth* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997), p. 53.
27. Conger to a sister, June 13–July 20, 1900, quoting diary entry of July 7, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 109.
28. Conger to a nephew, July 20, 1900, quoting diary entry of July 15, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 133.
29. Conger to a sister, August 7, 1900, quoting diary entry of July 26, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 143.
30. Conger to a sister, June 13–July 20, 1900, letter resumed at the British Legation, Peking, July 7, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 108.
31. *Ibid.*, pp. 113, 114, 115.
32. *Ibid.*, pp. 115–116.
33. Conger to a nephew, July 18, 1900, quoting diary entry of July 10, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 125.
34. The losses sustained by the Chinese during the Boxer Uprising were far greater than those of the international community.
35. Mrs. Elwell was Assistant Superintendent of The Mother Church Sunday School for five years until 1940, when she was appointed to the Christian Science Bible Lesson Committee. From 1944 to 1947 she served as Second Reader of The Mother Church, and from 1947 to 1948 she served as President of The Mother Church.
36. Conger to a niece, August 14, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 159.
37. Conger to a nephew, December 12, 1900, *Letters from China*, p. 188.
38. Mary Baker Eddy to Sarah Pike Conger, January 24, 1901, L09958, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection.
39. Mary Baker Eddy to Sarah Pike Conger, June 19, 1899, L09957, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection.
40. Teaching obstetrics in the Board of Education was discontinued in 1902.
41. In addition to their daughter, Laura, the Congers had a son, Lorentus, who lived only to the age of seven.
42. Related to me by Sarah Conger Buchan Jewell in 2008. I treasure the opportunity to have met Mrs. Jewell, who passed on August 2, 2009, and I will always be grateful to her for having shared some of her memories of her grandmother with me.
43. Conger to a nephew, January 9, 1905, *Letters from China*, p. 342.
44. Conger to Mary Baker Eddy, May 2, 1905, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection.
45. Conger to Mary Beecher Longyear, May 15, 1919, Mary Beecher Longyear correspondence, Longyear Museum collection, Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Longyear Receives \$395,000 Grant Award for Lynn House Restoration

Open it up for public tours and preserve it for generations to come! These have been Longyear's goals for the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Lynn, Massachusetts, since purchasing it from The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in 2006.

For the past two years, Longyear's Historic House team has been at work preparing for a complete restoration of the house which Mary Baker Eddy bought in 1875 as she was completing the manuscript for *Science and Health*.

As readers may recall from past issues of *Report to Members*, Longyear hired a preservation architect and a team of preservation consultants to develop a restoration plan. Now the plan is ready for implementation.

First to be addressed will be exterior matters such as clapboard replacement, window relocation to their original positions, porch reconstruction, trim repair, and construction of a new



State legislators gathered in Lynn, Massachusetts, in July to celebrate Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund grants to three organizations in that city, including the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House. Sandy Houston, Director of Museum Activities, accepted the \$395,000 grant on behalf of Longyear.

accessible entrance and accessible restrooms. The goal is for construction to begin in the spring of 2010.

Longyear was pleased to receive a \$395,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund towards this exterior restoration effort. The Fund was established through the 2006 Economic Stimulus Bill, approved by the Massachusetts Legislature, to invest in the Commonwealth's creative economy. Longyear was one of 130 organizations that submitted grants, and one of 85 non-profits who received funding. The maximum award was \$400,000. Other grants to museums include \$400,000 for the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, \$190,000 for the Norman Rockwell Museum in Western Massachusetts, and \$359,000 for the Harvard University Art Museum.

We look forward to sharing our progress with the Lynn restoration efforts in future issues of *Report to Members*, and on Longyear's website www.longyear.org in the "News and Events" section.

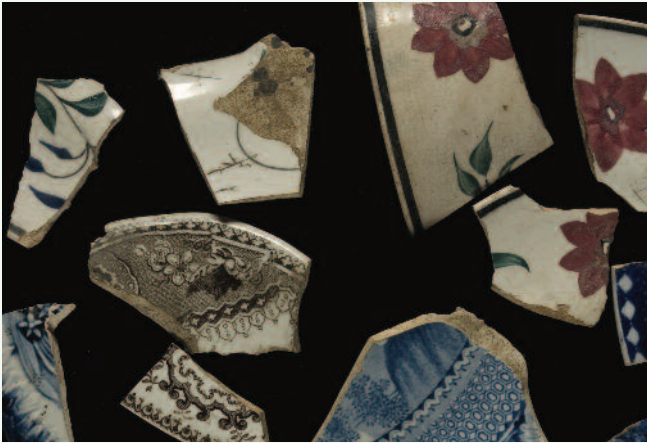
If you would like more information on the Lynn project, or would like to make a gift towards this effort, please contact Director of Development John Mitchell at 415.515.5125.

Resident Overseer needed
Mary Baker Eddy Historic House
Rumney, New Hampshire

LONGYEAR MUSEUM
personnel@longyear.org 800.277.8943, ext. 420

Live the rural life while caring for two historic houses once lived in by Mary Baker Eddy. Duties include: maintain and oversee house and grounds of two 19th-century landmarks, give tours, reach out to community on behalf of the Museum. Flexibility a must. Gardening ability a plus.

NEWS BRIEFS



Pottery Shards Found at Rumney House on Exhibit

Historic restoration projects often divulge unexpected stories. But when the kitchen of Longyear's Rumney, New Hampshire, house was torn down, no one was prepared for the pieces of blue Staffordshire china and English Mochaware found lying underneath. Cleaned up, researched, and put in a display case, these shards are now on exhibit in an upstairs bedroom at the house where Mrs. Eddy lived with her husband Daniel Patterson from 1860 to 1862. Come see!

DiscoveryBound Students and Interns Pay a Visit

At Longyear this summer two groups of young Christian Scientists each spent a half day learning about the life and work of Mary Baker Eddy. In May, DiscoveryBound hosted a national meeting in Boston and 200 young Christian Scientists from grades 8 through 12 came together to tour Mary Baker Eddy's home at 400 Beacon Street and view Museum exhibits. Two months later, thirty interns from various Boston-area Christian Science organizations toured Mrs. Eddy's last home, and afterwards heard a talk on her work *Retrospection and Introspection*.



Above: DiscoveryBound visitors tour 400 Beacon Street, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.



Longyear Welcomes Rocky River, Ohio, Sunday School

With the motive to connect their Sunday School classes to a larger understanding of Church and a deeper appreciation of Mrs. Eddy, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Rocky River, Ohio, thought a summer trip to Boston might be in order. Their eight students and seven teachers arrived and started in on a busy itinerary that included an afternoon spent at Longyear Museum on a scavenger hunt through Museum galleries and a tour of Mrs. Eddy's former home at 400 Beacon Street. The group also attended the Sunday School of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, took a tour of The Mary Baker Eddy Library, and paid a visit to the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association. According to a Rocky River church member, this group is reported to still be "on fire" from their Boston trip.

Left: Rocky River Sunday School classes visit Longyear.



LONGYEAR MUSEUM

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CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467-1811
www.longyear.org

LONGYEAR MUSEUM Established 1923
1125 Boylston Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-1811
800.277.8943 or 617.278.9000
www.longyear.org

LONGYEAR MUSEUM is an independent historical museum dedicated to advancing the understanding of the life and work of Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science.

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p. 8 (lower) John Mitchell, (right) Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund
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Longyear Museum owns eight historic houses in which Mary Baker Eddy lived:

Amesbury, Mass.
Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Concord, N.H.
Lynn, Mass.
North Groton, N.H.
Rumney, N.H.
Stoughton, Mass.
Swampscott, Mass.

TWO Longyear Trips

Caribbean Cruise ———

January 29 – February 8, 2010

Spend 10 days exploring the coastlines of the western Caribbean while attending Longyear programs. Ports of call include:

- Panama Canal
- Aruba
- Columbia
- Costa Rica

Turkey ———

April 21 – May 7, 2010

A 16-day spring excursion to this area so rich in Christian history, archaeology, and cultural treasures. The focus of this trip will be the Seven Churches that were individually addressed in the book of Revelation.

For more information on either trip, please call Linda Conradi at 800.277.8943, ext. 222, or e-mail her at lconradi@longyear.org.



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