



LONGYEAR MUSEUM



To Mary Baker Eddy,
“every picture,
every ornament,
and piece of furniture
in her rooms
represented a thought.”

REPORT TO MEMBERS

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

Images Of Thought • Lending a Helping Hand

August 2015: Minor edits have been made to this newsletter to reflect new information that has come to light since the original publication.

A Message from the Executive Director



Dear Member,

A new chapter began at Longyear earlier this year with the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Stephen R. Howard. Steve was well known to Longyear members and friends through his many articles in *Report to Members*, as well as through countless other publications, talks, exhibits, and guided tours. Steve served as Longyear's Director•Curator for over sixteen years and set a standard of excellence for the organization. As a teenager, he knew he wanted to work in the Archives of The Mother Church, a goal he achieved in the 1970s and '80s when he served as Senior

Associate Archivist. He devoted his career — and his life — to studying Mrs. Eddy's history, with a special emphasis on the development of her published writings.

We have heard from many of you in recent weeks as you've shared your appreciation for Steve. John Baehrend, Longyear's Executive Director from 1998 to 2004, offered these thoughts:

Steve spent fourteen years in the Archives of The Mother Church very productively. He was not just a clerk who ran about finding things that researchers requested. Steve yearned to know more about Mrs. Eddy — to understand her better. He felt impelled to come back to the office night after night to find answers to the many questions he had — reading Mrs. Eddy's letters sometimes until the wee hours of the morning. That was his habit for many years.

By the time Steve was going through the Archives for the third time, reading each of Mrs. Eddy's notes and letters, he began to see patterns and connections that only a very thorough knowledge of the whole of her archived materials would reveal. Why did he spend so many years in this deep research? Was it an assignment that somebody gave him? No. He loved to immerse himself in the river of Mrs. Eddy's life history "panning" for the golden nuggets of thought that were there to be uncovered.

I first "met" Steve through a video John Baehrend produced about the construction of the new museum. I had received the video in preparation for my Longyear interview. Tucked in among the construction scenes was a short segment with Longyear's new Curator about a change Mrs. Eddy had made to a galley proof for her article "Love Your Enemies," published in the August 1890 issue of *The Christian Science Journal*. Steve's brief comments focused on the line, "In Christian Science, the law of Love rejoices the heart; and Love is Life and Truth." As he discussed Mrs. Eddy's last-minute edits to this sentence, I sensed his deep love for his subject and I was struck by his sincerity and modesty. I remember thinking to myself, if this is how Longyear approaches Mrs. Eddy's history, I'd like to be part of the staff.

It was a great privilege to work alongside Steve for the next fifteen years. While he was a scholar of the highest caliber, he was not a detached academic, but a practicing Christian Scientist with great compassion for his subject. He saw every aspect of Longyear's work as an opportunity to

Quote on cover: Adam H. Dickey, *Memoirs of Mary Baker Eddy* (Brookline, MA: Lillian S. Dickey, 1927), 65.

Cover photo: Longyear staff members install a reproduction of *Daniel's Answer to the King* in Mary Baker Eddy's last home in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. See our feature story "Images of Thought" to read more about other recent reproductions installed in the home.

put Mrs. Eddy's teachings into practice. This was the example he set for his fellow staff. And he was always an educator — eager to share what he had learned over many years through publications, beautiful Keynote (PowerPoint) presentations, staff seminars, and office chats. After a conversation with Steve, he would often follow up with an email that included something Mrs. Eddy had said on the subject we'd just been discussing.

Steve was a student of the New Testament, regularly reading the text in the original Greek. And he was remarkably familiar with Mrs. Eddy's published writings, as well as with her unpublished letters and sermons. This familiarity led to a deep respect for what she had established and protected through the *Church Manual*. In the midst of a sticky situation, it was not unusual for Steve to remind us of a *Manual* by-law that would point the way forward.

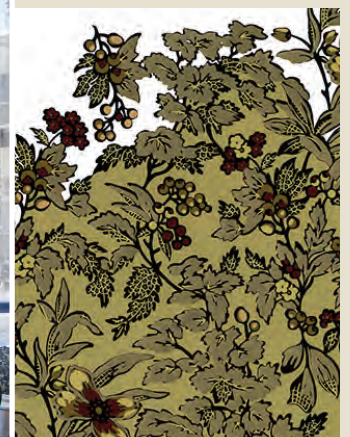
The list of Steve's contributions to Longyear is too long for this short space. At the time of his passing, he was deeply involved in developing exhibits for the Lynn house. His colleagues are carrying on the exhibit work and all of the work of the Curatorial Department, grateful for his years of mentoring and the rich legacy he left each one of us.

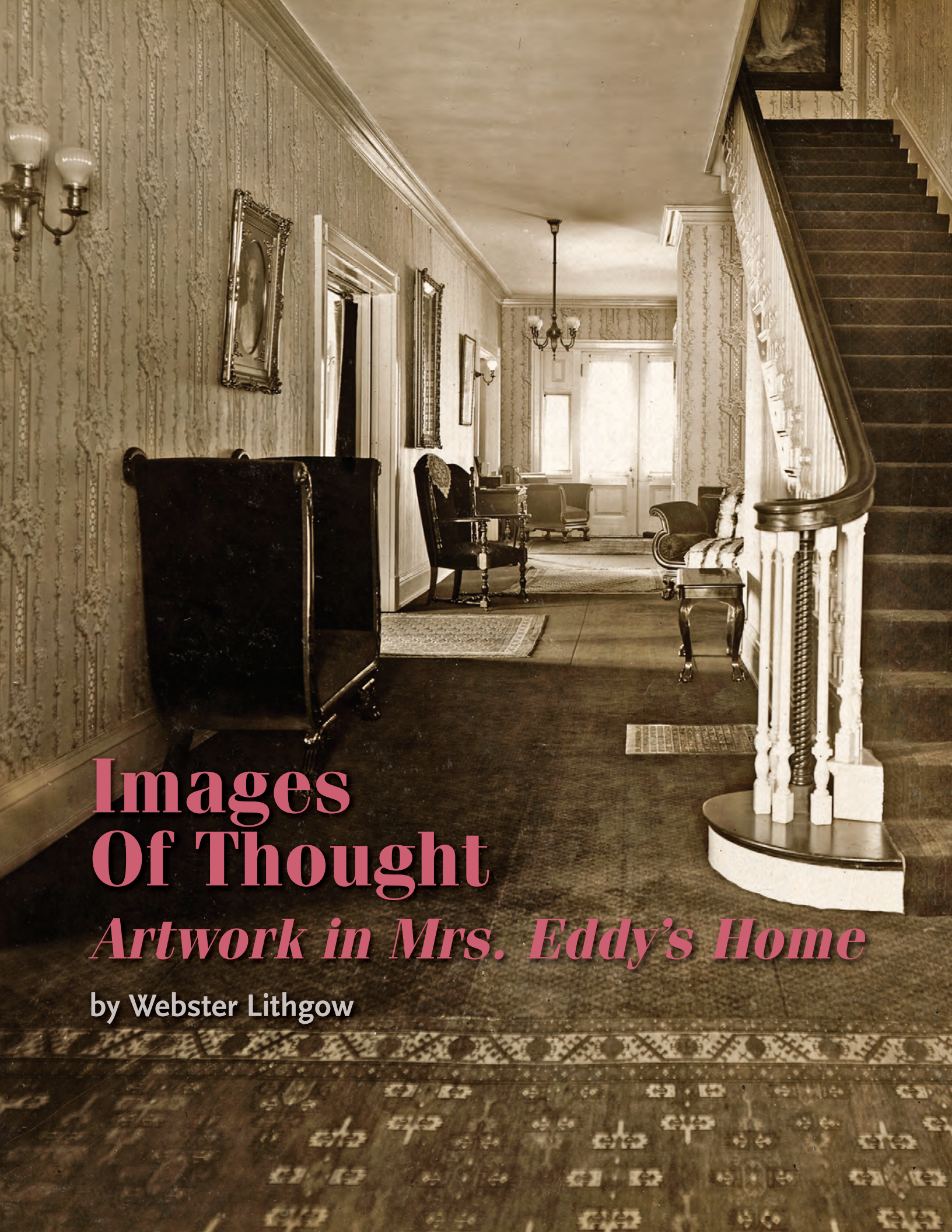
Sandra J. Houston

Sandra J. Houston
President and Executive Director

A Thrilling Discovery in Lynn

In order to see a house as it once was, preservation specialists sometimes search for clues in unusual places. In the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Lynn, the Longyear team made many discoveries during their exploratory work, but one truly thrilling find stands out. When removing the frame from a door in Mrs. Eddy's second-floor parlor (left), the team found a piece of original wallpaper large enough to see its full pattern and striking colors — large enough to be reproduced. Waterhouse Wallhangings, a company specializing in historic wallpaper reproductions, created a beautiful reproduction of the paper (below, right). Today, Mrs. Eddy's private parlor is once again adorned with the brilliant wallcovering she would have known (below).





Images Of Thought

Artwork in Mrs. Eddy's Home

by Webster Lithgow



On January 26, 1908, Mary Baker Eddy and her household moved from Concord, New Hampshire, to her new residence in Chestnut Hill on the western outskirts of Boston. As she set out to make the house into a comfortable home for her staff and herself, she directed

where to place each of her framed works of art,¹ many of which were gifts from grateful students of Christian Science. Mrs. Eddy valued each work for its subject and the spirit the picture expressed. The art in her house reflected her own thoughts and feelings and documented significant events in her history. According to her secretary Adam Dickey, Mrs. Eddy thought that “every picture, every ornament, and piece of furniture in her rooms represented a thought,” and “she wanted that thought to harmonize with the mental atmosphere of her room.”²

During 2013, Longyear took the first steps to restore the look and feel of the house Mrs. Eddy would have known. Museum staff worked with The Mary Baker Eddy Library and The Digital Ark, a digital archiving and media development company in Providence, Rhode Island, to make full-size, archival giclée reproductions of selected artwork and framed documents that hung on the walls at Chestnut Hill. The originals remain in the Library’s collection. Frames were chosen to closely approximate the actual frames. To date, nine of these reproductions have been installed in the house, where they add meaning to visitors’ tours.

This article presents several of the works that once again, in replica, grace the walls of the home of the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science.

Front entrance of Mrs. Eddy’s Chestnut Hill home, circa 1910. Longyear Museum collection.



A reproduction hangs where Mrs. Eddy's original once hung in the first-floor parlor. Mary A. Batchelder, *Head of Christ*, 1885, oil on canvas, 32 x 26 inches. Giclée reproduction made from a photo by Mark Thayer © The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts. Used with permission.

Gift From a Comrade-in-Arms

Head of Christ by Boston artist Mary A. Batchelder is given a notable place in the front parlor on the first floor.³ This likeness of Christ Jesus was a memento of the early days in Boston when Mrs. Eddy battled and overcame harsh opposition. The painting was a gift from Julia Bartlett, a comrade-in-arms in those days. Miss Bartlett had a remarkable history as a Christian Science practitioner, and she was the first of Mrs. Eddy's 1884 Normal class students to teach her own class in Christian Science.⁴

Miss Bartlett owned a treasured picture of Jesus, believed at the time to be copied from an authentic portrait carved in the first century A.D.⁵ Based on that image, she had this painting made as a gift for her Leader. It had just been framed when, in 1885, Rev. Joseph Cook voiced a bitter attack on Christian

Science at Boston's massive Tremont Temple. Mrs. Eddy protested, and at his weekly lecture the coming Monday he reluctantly allowed her to respond. At the appointed time, Miss Bartlett rode with her in the carriage across town to the church. Mrs. Eddy was greeted coldly by Rev. Cook, endured insulting remarks, and was allotted just ten minutes to address a mostly hostile audience. It was an ordeal.

Afterward, Miss Bartlett recalled, "We rode quietly home.... When we reached home, she went to her room, where she remained alone.... No one but herself could know the burdens of that hour." Miss Bartlett felt this was the moment when the painting might help raise her teacher's spirits, and she offered her gift. She recalled, "[Mrs. Eddy] was deeply moved and expressed her love and gratitude and joy. I could not say all that this picture brought to her thought of the real Christ Jesus as one who had suffered and triumphed over all claims of evil."⁶

‘Before the Jaws of Beasts’

At Pleasant View, Mrs. Eddy had a depiction of the prophet Daniel that spoke to her of her own experience. On the wall of her library was an engraving of the well-known painting by Briton Rivière titled *Daniel’s Answer to the King*. In it, Daniel faces away from the lions to announce to the king, “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me.”⁷ Indeed, the lions’ mouths are closed as they circle, cowed and constrained, behind him.

This picture’s meaning for Mrs. Eddy had roots in her childhood. She told a secretary that when she was eight years old, her mother read her the Bible story of Daniel praying to God three times a day. She made up her mind that she, too, would speak to God daily — not just three times, but *seven* times. Moreover, she recalled, she chalked up each prayer on a wall of the woodshed where she prayed, so she would not lose count and forget one.⁸

As she grew to lead the Christian Science movement, Daniel’s example deepened for her. In 1895, she received the fine engraving of *Daniel’s Answer to the King* as a gift from her student Julia Field-King in London. Mrs. Eddy responded, “A million times I thank you for that wonderful picture,” and commented, “So many years to be before the jaws of beasts as I have been is more than Daniel’s experience.”⁹

On New Year’s Day 1896, she said to her dinner guests, “Come into the library. I have a new painting, and I want to talk about it to you.” With the little group seated facing the picture, she drew a lesson from it. “You see,” she told them, “he has turned his back on the lower or bestial elements of mortal mind and is giving his answer to the King — to the highest. That is what I have always done.”¹⁰

Over the years, she learned to turn her thoughts from evil and look upward, like the upturned face of Daniel in the picture on her wall. She told something of that to former Methodist minister Rev. Severin E. Simonsen. He recalled:

When error seemed to press her exceptionally hard, she would leave her work for a few minutes and come and stand before this picture, and study anew the calm and loving manner in which Daniel looked steadfastly to God and God only. He paid no heed to the lions or seeming danger, letting his dear heavenly Father care for the ferocious beasts and keep them at a safe distance. With new and fresh courage, she said, she would return to her work, with a heart full of joy and gratitude for His protecting care.¹¹

In that spirit, she met the challenges of 1907 — her last year at Pleasant View — when clergymen, writers, and the medical establishment joined in attacking Christian Science and its



Two reproductions on the wall of Mrs. Eddy’s bedroom, in the places where originals once were. Above, left: Briton Rivière, *Daniel’s Answer to the King*, 1890, originally oil on canvas, 48.75 x 35.5 inches. Rivière (1840-1920) was a widely reproduced British painter who specialized in animal and historical subjects. The piece given to Mrs. Eddy was engraved by Joseph Bishop Pratt. Above, right: C. H. Cox, *Austrian Tyrol*, 1896, watercolor, 22.25 x 18.75 inches. Giclée reproduction made from a photo by Mark Thayer © The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts. Used with permission.



Briton Rivière, *Daniel in the Lions' Den*, 1872, originally oil on canvas. Tomlinson's copy was an engraving based on Rivière's original.

Leader. Elements in the press were spreading the lie that Mrs. Eddy was sick, dying, or dead. And family members were trying to take control of her assets in a trumped-up lawsuit, known as the Next Friends Suit.¹² After months of strenuous metaphysical work by Mrs. Eddy and her household, the lawsuit collapsed. By autumn, Mrs. Eddy was able to resume planning her move back to Boston, but her metaphysical workers continued to address the ill will still rumbling in the air.

During some of these difficult days, Irving C. Tomlinson was at Pleasant View as a secretary and metaphysical worker.¹³ Another image of Daniel by Rivière hung in Tomlinson's room. It depicted Daniel contemplating the snarling lions, their teeth bared for the kill. One night while Tomlinson was studying *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mrs. Eddy, there was a loud crash beside him. The next day, he reported to Mrs. Eddy that the framed engraving of *Daniel in the Lions' Den* on his wall had fallen to the floor. His note to her suggested, "May not this signify, as you have been so clearly teaching us, that the day of contemplating error, in the attempt to heal it, has come to an end?" Mrs. Eddy was pleased with Tomlinson's interpretation. She called the household

together and had him repeat it to them. The picture focusing on the roaring lions was stored away in the attic, and we have no record of whether it made the trip to Chestnut Hill.¹⁴

Tomlinson observed, "The picture of Daniel in the library, with his back on the lions and his face toward the Light, remains secure." That picture definitely did go with Mrs. Eddy to Chestnut Hill, where she placed it not downstairs in the library, but in her bedroom at the foot of her bed. *Daniel's Answer to the King* was likely one of the first things that met her eyes each morning and one of the last things they rested on when she retired at night. It is a graphic reminder to visitors to Chestnut Hill today of Mrs. Eddy's words in *Science and Health*: "Understanding the control which Love held over all, Daniel felt safe in the lions' den, and Paul proved the viper to be harmless."¹⁵

An Artistic Collaboration

In the Chestnut Hill library is an early version of *Truth versus Error*, which illustrates one verse of Mrs. Eddy's poem *Christ and Christmas*:

To-day, as oft, away from sin
Christ summons thee!
Truth pleads to-night: Just take Me in!
No mass for Me!¹⁶

In the poem's glossary, this verse is linked to the third chapter of Revelation:

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot.... Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;...be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.¹⁷

A reproduction of an illustration from *Christ and Christmas* is on the wall of the first-floor library. James Gilman, *Truth versus Error*, 1893, primarily charcoal and wash, 30 x 36 inches. Giclée reproduction made from a photo by Mark Thayer © The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts. Used with permission.



Throughout 1893, Mrs. Eddy worked closely with painter James Gilman to illustrate the poem. Her concept for this illustration, according to Gilman, represented the messenger “bearing the message of Christian Science Truth,” as a young woman “knocking at the door of ... a typical abode of the personal mortal sense of life and things.”¹⁸

Mrs. Eddy seemed to associate that concept with her own experience. Preparing for a meeting with Gilman, she had gathered photographs of herself in earlier years for him to refer to in visualizing the woman. When he unveiled his drawing, however, she felt he had depicted the concept perfectly. The photos were put aside and not used.¹⁹

As they revised the illustration, Mrs. Eddy’s quick sense of humor came into play. She had requested a book to be in the woman’s hand. But when she saw the drawing, she said it suggested “a book agent” making a door-to-door sales call! She and Gilman erupted in laughter at the thought. The book would later be replaced by a scroll, as depicted in the version in her home. She later directed Gilman to remove the label “Truth” from the scroll and “mortal mind” from the door, since, she told him, viewers no longer needed “labels to prevent their libels.”²⁰

The framed drawing at Chestnut Hill is the result of the two artists’ collaboration. The illustration visually evokes Mrs. Eddy’s words in the Preface to *Science and Health*: “Truth, independent of doctrines and time-honored systems, knocks at the portal of humanity.”²¹

Angel With the ‘Little Book Open’

In 1899, Katharine Fitchner Swope, a highly regarded New York artist, undertook a major painting based on the following passage in *Science and Health*:

St. John writes, in the tenth chapter of his book of Revelation: —

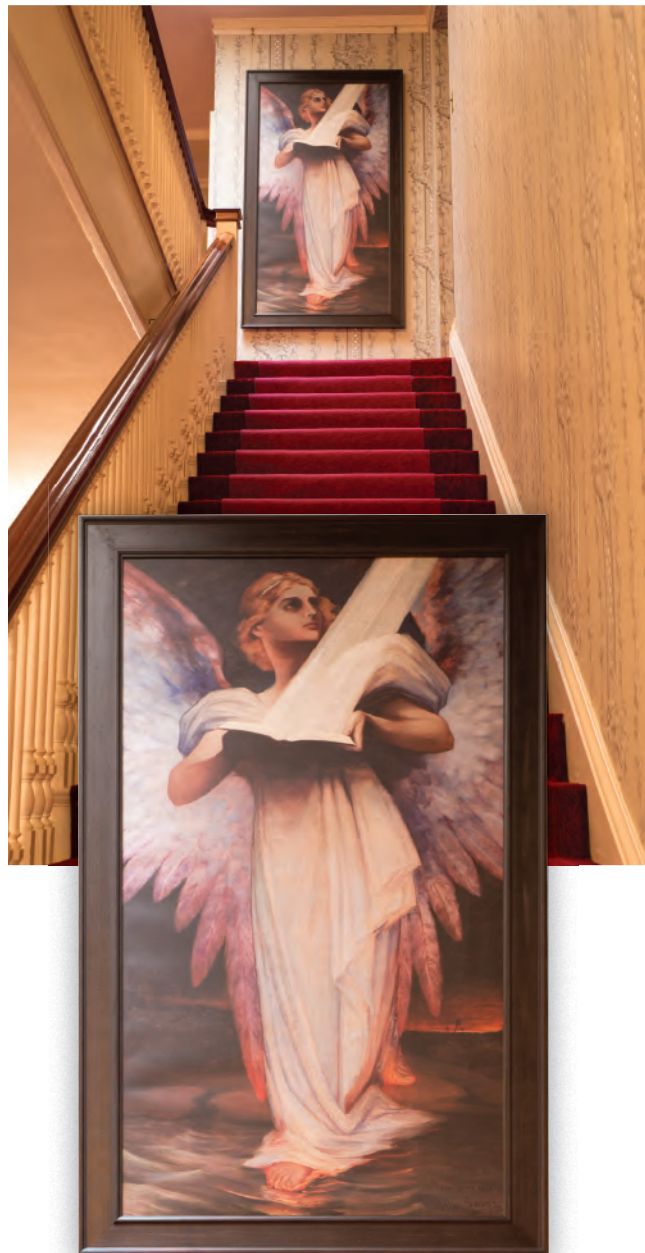
And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: and he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth.

This angel or message which comes from God, clothed with a cloud, prefigures divine Science.²²

Mrs. Swope had become a member of The Mother Church in 1898, after taking Primary class instruction from Laura Lathrop in New York. From the artist’s letters, it seems that she may have been given some direction and encouragement from Mrs. Eddy in the design of this painting.²³

The finished work, titled *Revelation*, stands an imposing six and a half feet tall. In 1901, Mrs. Swope had it mounted in a custom-made dark frame, then sent it to Pleasant View as an Easter gift for Mrs. Eddy. Her instructions placed it high on the wall; she wrote, “The horizon of the picture should be on a line with the eye — which greatly ennobles the figure.”²⁴ The picture’s location in the Pleasant View parlor did not quite realize her intention, but at Chestnut Hill it was placed at the top of the stairs, thus fulfilling the artist’s vision.

On the second-floor landing, a reproduction hangs where Mrs. Eddy’s original painting once hung. Katharine Swope, *Revelation*, 1900, oil on canvas, 78 x 46 inches. Giclée reproduction made from a photo by Mark Thayer © The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts. Used with permission.



By Dawn's Early Light

In October 1906, after completion of The Mother Church Extension, Mary Baker Eddy asked The Christian Science Board of Directors to commission a painting of the church for her home. They engaged John J. Enneking, a distinguished Boston Impressionist.

In 1907, he submitted two alternate sketches. One showed the church at night with its windows illuminated in the moonlight. The other showed the great dome rising into the morning light after a storm had passed over it. Descriptions were sent to Mrs. Eddy, and she chose the latter of the two concepts.²⁵

During the storms that buffeted her church in 1907, such as tumult in the press and the Next Friends Suit, the artist wrote Mrs. Eddy describing his work in progress:

I have named the picture "The Dawn".... I represent the Christian Science Church rising unharmed out of the smoke of contending factions, the struggle of creeds and all sorts of "isms" for supremacy. The upper part of the picture is represented in a glow of light, ... the whole mass of light prophesying fair future conditions.²⁶

Mrs. Eddy was pleased with these ideas, and had the letter published in the *Christian Science Sentinel*. She was even more pleased when she saw his painting for the first time, hanging in her library at Chestnut Hill. She wrote him, "Your picture of The Mother Church of Christ, Scientist, distinguishes the artist, points a history, and illumines it."²⁷

Mrs. Eddy would view the great stone edifice in Boston only once, from the window of her carriage. But in the artist's symbolic concept her church could be seen, having endured a night of storms, standing firm in dawn's early light.

Webster Lithgow is the Multimedia Producer/Director at Longyear Museum. He has written and directed five Longyear Museum films, as well as authored several feature articles for previous Reports to Members. Longyear intern Benjamin Frederick contributed to this article.

The Mary Baker Eddy Historic House at 400 Beacon Street, Chestnut Hill, is open year round by appointment. Tours can be arranged by calling Longyear Museum at 617.278.9000 or emailing letters@longyear.org.



Above the fireplace in the first-floor library, a reproduction hangs where the original painting once hung. John J. Enneking, *The Dawn*, 1907, oil on canvas, 42 x 49 inches. Giclée reproduction made from a photo by Mark Thayer © The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts. Used with permission.

REPLICAS AND THEIR LOCATIONS AT CHESTNUT HILL

Nine items, to date, have been replicated, framed, and installed at Chestnut Hill.

Location: Front parlor, first floor

Head of Christ by Mary A. Batchelder

Location: Library, first floor

The Dawn by John J. Enneking

Truth versus Error by James F. Gilman and Mary Baker Eddy

Diplôme d'honneur awarded by the International Books and Paper Exposition, Paris 1907

Testimonial from City of Concord to Mary Baker Eddy, presented February 10, 1908

Location: Staircase, second-floor landing

Revelation by Katharine F. Swope

Location: Mary Baker Eddy's bedroom, second floor

Daniel's Answer to the King by Briton Rivière

Austrian Tyrol by C. H. Cox

Vestal Virgin by unknown artist

Notes

1. For more information, see Stephen R. Howard, *Homeward, Part II: Chestnut Hill* (Chestnut Hill, MA: Longyear Museum Press, 2007), 15–19.
2. Adam H. Dickey, *Memoirs of Mary Baker Eddy* (Brookline, MA: Lillian S. Dickey, 1927), 65, 62.
3. Mary A. Batchelder was a student of Mary Baker Eddy in 1885 (Primary class) and in 1886 (Normal class).
4. The 1884 class was Mrs. Eddy's first Normal class to train Christian Science teachers. Julia Bartlett had studied with Mrs. Eddy in 1880 in Lynn, and she immediately launched into her healing practice at home in Connecticut. Mrs. Eddy asked her to come to Boston to help establish Christian Science there. In 1882, when the Eddys left Lynn, Mrs. Eddy selected Miss Bartlett to oversee the fledgling church during her absence. At the time, Miss Bartlett was treating some thirty patients a day. In 1892, she would be one of twelve trusted students appointed by Mrs. Eddy to anchor the reorganization of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston.
5. Julia Bartlett's portrait of Jesus was a copy of a popular depiction, which is supposedly based on an authentic likeness carved in emerald by order of Tiberius Caesar. This particular claim has been made for several centuries, but is almost universally discounted today. For a similar depiction, see John Sartain's 1866 engraving *Our Savior*.
6. Julia Bartlett, "A Worker in the Massachusetts Metaphysical College," in *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, expanded ed., vol. 1 (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 2011), 76–79.
7. Daniel 6:22.
8. Dickey, *Memoirs of Mary Baker Eddy*, 138.
9. Mary Baker Eddy to Julia Field-King, July 6, 1895, Longyear Museum collection, Longyear Museum, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts (hereafter referenced as LMC).
10. Emma Easton Newman, "Our Leader in Retrospect," *The Christian Science Journal* 54 (July 1936): 195.
11. Severin E. Simonsen, *From the Methodist Pulpit into Christian Science* (Sherman Oaks, CA: I. P. Simonsen, 1928), 157.
12. For more about the Next Friends Suit, see Robert Peel, *Mary Baker Eddy: Years of Authority* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1977), chap. 8.
13. Irving C. Tomlinson lived in Concord, New Hampshire, and served Mrs. Eddy in various ways, including a brief stay at Pleasant View as associate secretary during part of the Next Friends Suit. He also served as First Reader of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Concord, New Hampshire.
14. Irving C. Tomlinson, "Mary Baker Eddy: The Woman and Revelator," (unpublished reminiscence, 1932), 745–746, in LMC.
15. Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society), 514.
16. Mary Baker Eddy, *Christ and Christmas* (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society), stanza 14.
17. Revelation 3:15–20.
18. James F. Gilman, *Recollections of Mary Baker Eddy* (Rumford, RI: Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., 1935), 49.
19. *Painting a Poem: Mary Baker Eddy and James F. Gilman Illustrate Christ and Christmas* (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1998), 95–96.
20. *Ibid.*, 70, 194.
21. *Science and Health*, vii.
22. *Science and Health*, 558.
23. Katharine F. Swope, letters to Mary Baker Eddy and Clara Shannon, circa 1899–1901, © The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts.
24. *Ibid.*
25. William Lyman Johnson's unpublished materials, 1927, LMC.
26. "Letters to our Leader," *Christian Science Sentinel* 10 (May 16, 1908): 732.
27. *Ibid.*

Sometimes a particular article on our website strikes a chord with readers, such as the following piece, which appeared in our online Members' Vault in fall 2013. It is reprinted here for those who may not have seen it online. For more content like this, please visit www.longyear.org/members. If you'd like assistance with the Members' Vault, please call the Museum at 800.277.8943, ext. 220.

Lending a Helping Hand: Mary E. Armstrong, C.S.D.

by Cheryl P. Moneyhun, Director of Collections



Mary Armstrong in front of her home at 99 Falmouth Street in Boston, circa 1900. Longyear Museum collection.

When Mary Armstrong came into the ranks of Christian Scientists, she came wholeheartedly and humbly. The wife of a successful businessman and banker in Irving, Kansas, she had a comfortable life financially, but chronic illness and a prognosis by physicians that she would never recover had left her hopeless regarding her health. Her introduction to Christian Science — being healed by it — brought a fresh outlook and a commitment by this young mother not only to help others, but to serve in whatever way she could the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy.

Husband Joseph Armstrong embraced Christian Science immediately upon seeing its healing effect on his young wife. That healing took place in 1886, when Mary was 27 years old. That same year saw the couple taking class instruction in Christian Science from Janet Colman, a student of Mrs. Eddy.

The following year, in November 1887, they had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Eddy, and taking her Primary class in

Christian Science at the Massachusetts Metaphysical College in Boston. Like others at this early point in the history of the Christian Science movement, they found their lives redirected by this experience.

It had not been easy for the Armstrongs to leave on their trip to Boston. They were the parents of two young boys, ages three and seven. Upon hearing of their plans to go, little three-year-old George became determined to go with them, was insistent that Mrs. Eddy wanted him there, and that he was going! Putting George to bed that night was no simple task — he declared he would not go to sleep, but would go to Boston. They eventually were able to leave on a late train without the boy, and shared this story with Mrs. Eddy when they met her. She laughed and said to them, “He has a determined nature that should be cultivated.”¹

Mrs. Eddy asked why they had not brought the children, to which they replied they didn't think children were allowed in class. To their surprise she said they were! A year and a half later, when the couple came to Boston in May 1889 to take the Normal course at the College, the Armstrong children *did* come. Mrs. Eddy taught only the first session of the course that May, but as she did, younger son George sat most of the time right on the platform with her!

Ready and willing to serve, Mary and Joseph Armstrong gave their entire time to the Cause of Christian Science soon after that class. They had been listed in *The Christian Science Journal* as public practitioners of Christian Science since 1888, and they pioneered the healing work both in Kansas and Ohio. When Joseph was called to Boston at Mrs. Eddy's request in 1892 to serve as publisher of the *Journal* and manager of The Christian Science Publishing Society, Mary moved her practice to Boston.

It is interesting to note that while Joseph may be the more recognized of the pair because of his prominent roles in the early movement, Mary made her own important contributions. In addition to her many years of consecrated healing work, Mary was ever ready to assist Mrs. Eddy and her household in practical ways.

In a reminiscence in the Longyear Museum collection, Mrs. Armstrong recalls that during the summer of 1898 she was paid

a visit by Laura Sargent, a member of the household at Pleasant View. Mrs. Eddy was in urgent need of temporary domestic help. Even though Mary was preparing to move her family to a new residence in Boston, and even though she had maids of her own and hadn't done her own housework for years, her immediate response was "I will go stay with Mrs. Eddy until she can get help."² Kindly, Mrs. Sargent, Janet Colman, and Mary's two maids took care of the packing and move to the new home.

Mary served at Pleasant View as cook — spending many hours in the kitchen in the heat of summer — which was a challenge for her. She later wrote, "I found all kinds of arguments of error to hinder me from staying with Mrs. Eddy. I was tried on all sides to give up and go home."³ In a letter of support to her, husband Joseph wrote:

I see it is error for us to give up for one moment that you are not going to be able to do what ever is necessary.... I will write you a good big letter tomorrow. Hope to get one from you today telling me you are feeling better. Remember I know you are. So goodbye my dear girl.

Your loving Joe⁴

She proved to be an excellent and tidy cook — learning to prepare some of Mrs. Eddy's favorite foods quite successfully — and an alert household member. Mrs. Eddy's praise, gratitude, friendship, and priceless teachings made the experience one that Mary treasured. After a few weeks, Mrs. Eddy let her return home when she saw that Mary was needed there by her teenaged boys.

Mary found other ways to be of help from her home base of Boston. She served on a committee that found household workers for Mrs. Eddy. She also shopped for food, clothes, and other household items for Mrs. Eddy. The Longyear Museum collection includes letters sent to her by Mrs. Eddy's household that give a sense of the special relationship she had with them in this capacity. And living in Boston afforded her close proximity to Quincy Market, where she could purchase high quality fresh foods.

Clara Shannon writes at one time, "Thank you much for sending the squab & grapes on Saturday.... I will send a telegram this

evening asking you to send another squab tomorrow morning."⁵ And on another occasion, "Will you please look for some lamb (not mutton) chops that are tender and send about 2 pounds of them tonight or to-morrow morning? ... You are not forgotten although you do not hear from me. I always remember with gratitude your help, kindness & love."⁶

Letters from Laura Sargent include these comments and requests:

The fruit, clams and myself arrived in perfect condition.... We had the clams for supper and Mother [Mrs. Eddy] enjoyed them.⁷

We need some sweet fruit for Mother. Will you kindly go down to Isaac Lock's [Quincy Market].... See if they have any hot house grapes not the imported for they are not sweet. I hope they will have some sweet plums and pears. Just send a few not too many at a time. I should think a doz of plums and ½ doz pears and 1 lb of grapes Send the bill with the fruit.⁸

Mr. Frye asked me where those gum drops came from



Joseph and Mary Armstrong with their sons in their home in Springfield, Ohio, circa 1890. Stereo card, Longyear Museum collection.

that you brought up with the other candy. I told him I did not know but would write to you to bring up some for him the next time you came. He said he like[d] them better than the other candy and it is so very seldom that he ever expresses a wish for any thing I know you will be delighted to get him some. Shall look for you this week some time. With love to you and all the family.⁹

Again, in 1906, Mary was asked to serve in Mrs. Eddy's household, this time for a period of three years. Her children were now grown: the eldest son was married and the younger one was in college. Mary made arrangements for the running of her own home and prepared to go, but at the last minute Mrs. Eddy sent word for Mary not to come at this time — that she was more needed at home — and expressed her appreciation for Mary's willingness to serve. It is likely Mrs. Eddy had become aware that Joseph Armstrong had been ill, and needed the support of his wife at home.

Some years later Mrs. Armstrong wrote:

Christian Science as she [Mrs. Eddy] taught it to me and the correct understanding I gained of it from her instructions has never been dimmed, rather has it been more illumined as I progress in my riper years and larger lessons. It was my great privilege to be a member of Mrs. Eddy's household for a time and to serve her in many capacities, to receive her well done for work accomplished, her daily teaching face to face, and her confirmation that I had a correct understanding of Christian Science.¹⁰

Mary Armstrong was an active Christian Science practitioner until her passing in 1937.

NOTES

1. Mary Armstrong reminiscence, 1918, #188 (B), 1, Longyear Museum collection (hereafter referenced as LMC).
2. Ibid., #188 (C), 1, LMC.
3. Ibid., #188 (C), W, 1, LMC.
4. Joseph Armstrong to Mary Armstrong, August 27, 1898, LMC.
5. Clara Shannon to Mary Armstrong, November 6, 1899, LMC.
6. Clara Shannon to Mary Armstrong, May 10, 1900, LMC.
7. Laura Sargent to Mary Armstrong, August 17, 1900, LMC.
8. Laura Sargent to Mary Armstrong, September 23, 1903, LMC.
9. Laura Sargent to Mary Armstrong, April 9, 1905, LMC.
10. Mary Armstrong reminiscence, #188 (A), 2, LMC.

Over the years, Longyear has published several articles about the Armstrongs. For further information on these dedicated, pioneering workers, see:

- "Joseph and Mary Armstrong" by Richard C. Molloy
Longyear Museum Quarterly News 12, no. 2 (Summer 1975).
- "Mary E. Armstrong, C.S.D.: Faithful Worker and Witness" by Edmonde L. St. John, Longyear Museum Quarterly News 31, no. 1 (Spring 1994).
- "Insight and Inspiration from History" by Barbara Palmer (September 26, 2011): <http://www.longyear.org>.

Throughout the year, Longyear Museum and its historic houses are the scene of a variety of events. In recent months, we welcomed the authors and musicians seen below. Visit our website to see pictures and videos from past events, and a calendar of our upcoming schedule.



Stephanie Trick and her husband, Paolo Alderighi, perform together during their four-hands jazz piano concert in January 2014.

Author Heather Vogel Frederick meets a young guest after her talk in March 2014 about the book she recently co-authored with Isabel Ferguson, *A World More Bright: The Life of Mary Baker Eddy*.

Right: Author Catherine R. Hammond addresses the audience during a talk she gave in November 2013 about her book *Island of Peace in an Ocean of Unrest: The Letters of Dorothy von Moltke*. To see a video of this talk, visit www.longyear.org/exhibits-archives-media/videos-list.



Preserving Mrs. Eddy's Homes

A visit to the Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses opens a window on Mrs. Eddy's life, puts her experience in context, and causes us to ponder and appreciate her obedience to God and her sacrifices for mankind. As a young high school visitor said recently, "Visiting Mrs. Eddy's homes makes her real." And think of the visitor who comes to one of these sites and hears of Mrs. Eddy and Christian Science for the first time — sometimes a first step in their own spiritual journey.

The learning, growth, and inspiration that come from a visit to Mrs. Eddy's homes would not be possible without your support — which helps to maintain these important historic sites. And much support is needed. Last year, contributions to the Annual Operating Fund for Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses helped pay for major projects such as a new boiler at 400 Beacon Street, new shutters for the Swampscott house, and the removal of a potentially damaging tree overhanging the house in Amesbury. They also helped meet ongoing expenses — heat and electricity, insurance, snow removal, security costs, and on-site resident managers and guides.

Your support is needed again this year. In addition to the annual operating expenses, we have several large projects on our schedule, including painting the historic kitchen in the apartment in Swampscott where Mrs. Eddy's healing took place, restoring the original windows in the Stoughton house, repairing and painting the front porch in Concord, and planning the interior restoration at North Groton.

The Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses are a vital part of Longyear's purpose to advance "the understanding of the life and work of Mary Baker Eddy." These historic sites clearly carry the visitor through the steps that unfolded Mrs. Eddy's mission as the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science.

We are deeply grateful for past contributions, and want to thank you in advance for enabling us to continue this important work through your gift this year.

To make a gift or pledge, please contribute online at www.longyear.org, call Longyear at 800.277.8943, ext. 220, or mail your gift in the enclosed remittance envelope. Your gift will help us preserve these treasured homes.



North Groton, N.H.



Rumney, N.H.



Swampscott, Mass.



Amesbury, Mass.



Stoughton, Mass.



Lynn, Mass.



Concord, N.H.



Chestnut Hill, Mass.



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CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467-1811

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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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.



Longyear Museum's Fall Tour is filling up fast!

October 9–12, 2014

Join Longyear Museum for the fourteenth annual Fall Tour during New England's most beautiful season. This four-day motor coach trip takes you to the homes and places where Mary Baker Eddy once lived and worked. Also, participants will visit other sites important in the history of the Christian Science movement, explore Mrs. Eddy's work *Retrospection and Introspection* in context, and attend special curatorial sessions led by members of the Longyear staff.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tour eight Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses
- Visit historic sites in Bow, Tilton, and Concord, New Hampshire
- Appreciate the historical context of *Retrospection and Introspection*
- Attend a Sunday service at The Mother Church

Reserve now!

For itinerary, costs, and reservations, visit www.longyear.org, or contact Laura Distel at 617.278.9000, ext. 275, or at ldistel@longyear.org.



**Support the Annual Operating
Fund for Historic Houses with
a tax-deductible contribution!**

Your support is needed and appreciated. You can give online at www.longyear.org, by calling 800.277.8943, ext. 220, or by mailing your gift to Longyear Museum in the enclosed envelope.

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