



# LONGYEAR MUSEUM



REPORT TO MEMBERS

FALL / WINTER 2016

Mary Baker Eddy at the Concord State Fair  
A Message from the Trustees • Gift Catalog

# A Message from the Trustees

Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude and joy that we share with you some special news. **Earlier this year, The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, donated the furniture from Mary Baker Eddy's last home at 400 Beacon Street in Chestnut Hill to Longyear Museum — and the furniture was delivered to the Museum last month!**

Today, 150 pieces from 400 Beacon Street, including the furniture from Mrs. Eddy's suite and a few pieces from her Pleasant View home in Concord, New Hampshire, are safely stored in the Museum's collection storage areas. It's been a monumental task for the Museum staff to make "radiant room" for this precious collection, and we are grateful to have it safely stored under our own roof. We are awaiting the complete restoration of Mrs. Eddy's final residence before returning the 400 Beacon Street furniture to its original home.

As you probably know, we have completed the first phase of the restoration on the house — a pilot project that included repointing the south façade, restoring some windows, replacing gas, water, and sewer lines, repairing the roof, and restoring the kitchen and a household worker's room. We expect to continue exploratory work and planning for Phase Two in the near future. This will likely involve opening up walls and ceilings and taking up floorboards to determine how best to run new systems — electrical, HVAC, and fire suppression — critical work at the heart of the next phase. The scope of the work and the timetable of the full restoration will depend upon the availability of funds.

During the exploratory work, and during the restoration itself, the house will not be an appropriate environment for this priceless collection. Packing and unpacking the century-old furniture — which is in remarkably good condition — could not only damage the collection, but is also expensive. For all of these reasons, the decision was made to store the furniture at the Museum for safekeeping. We're looking forward to seeing all of the pieces "back home" at the right time, which we hope will be in the not-too-distant future.

It was ten years ago that Longyear was able to purchase both the Lynn and Chestnut Hill houses thanks to the outpouring of support from our members and friends around the world — thanks to many of you. We trust that the same outpouring of love for our Leader that prompted the purchase of these homes a decade ago will enable us to restore Chestnut Hill in the years ahead. In the meantime, we know that you will rejoice with us in this generous and loving gift from The Mother Church.

With warmest regards,

The Longyear Board of Trustees



*Top:* This wicker rocking chair with the cross and crown emblem was made for Mrs. Eddy by grateful inmates at the New Hampshire State Prison in Concord. *Bottom:* Monogrammed trunk belonging to Mary Baker Eddy. These pieces, and many more, were recently donated to Longyear Museum by The Mother Church.



## ANNUAL APPEAL 2016: *Your gift makes a difference!*

What if something you do today could help ensure that an accurate record of Mary Baker Eddy's life and work is preserved for future generations? That the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science is never forgotten or marginalized?

### It can!

With your gift to Longyear's Annual Appeal, you're helping us keep Mrs. Eddy before the public through such endeavors as:

- Nationwide screenings of our new historical documentary film *"Follow and Rejoice" — Mary Baker Eddy: The Chestnut Hill Years.*
- Educational programs for adults and young Christian Scientists, including Sunday School, high school, and college students, as well as campers and counselors.
- Maintaining eight historic houses that trace Mrs. Eddy's spiritual journey as the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science.
- Keeping our newsletters and website — frequented by thousands of visitors from over 150 nations annually — brimming with historical articles based on original research.

The legacy that Mary Beecher Longyear left for the establishment and perpetuation of the Museum, along with other investments, generates one-third of our annual operating budget. Each year, we need to raise the remaining two-thirds of that budget. We can't do it without you! Your gift to this year's Annual Appeal — regardless of size — is very much appreciated and greatly needed.

You can make a gift online at [www.longyear.org/giving](http://www.longyear.org/giving), by calling 800.277.8943, ext. 220, or by using the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your ongoing support of Longyear!



## Could this be your new address?

Have you ever thought about joining the Longyear team? Several positions are currently available, including Visitor Services Representative, Swampscott and Lynn Historic House Site Manager, North Groton and Rumney Historic House Site Manager, and seasonal guides.

Visit:

[www.longyear.org/about-us/job-opportunities](http://www.longyear.org/about-us/job-opportunities) for full details.

*Left:* Mary Baker Eddy's former home in Rumney, New Hampshire.



*“Long live my fair neighbors”*

## Mary Baker Eddy at the Concord State Fair

by Heather Vogel Frederick







Pleasant View was aptly named. From the vantage point of the double verandas stretching across the back of Mary Baker Eddy's modest but gracious country home in Concord, New Hampshire, the grounds sloped away to the south toward a small pond. A tidy gravel path traversed the lush lawn, passing shade trees and an apple orchard and an ornamental gazebo on its way to the white clapboard boathouse at water's edge. In high summer, daisies and other wildflowers nodded in the passing breeze, framing the panoramic Bow Hills where Mrs. Eddy had spent her childhood.

The pastoral view was designed to be enjoyed, and it was enjoyed — by the woman whose tower study windows took full advantage of the prospect, by the members of her household, and by those who came from Concord and Boston and points beyond to find themselves greeted by what a local newspaper described as “a paradise Mrs. Eddy has prepared for all lovers of the beautiful in nature....”<sup>1</sup>

In the spring of 1900, just about the time of year that Concord residents began flocking to Pleasant View to see the tulips in bloom, a state fair association was organized. When word came

*Left:* Mary Baker Eddy arriving at the Concord State Fair in 1901. Her contributions paid for such fairground improvements as the cupola on the exhibition building. Photograph, P3125, Longyear Museum collection. *Below:* Rear of Pleasant View. Photograph, P3001-1, Longyear Museum collection.





that the old trotting park adjoining the southern edge of Mrs. Eddy's property was to be developed for the new fairgrounds, it wouldn't have been surprising if the owner of a home whose vista's "deepest note" was peace,<sup>2</sup> as one journalist observed, had taken exception to the plan.

Instead, she wrote a check in support of it.<sup>3</sup>

## A public-spirited citizen

Mary Baker Eddy had lived in Concord for a decade by this point, eight of those years at Pleasant View.<sup>4</sup> To borrow an old Yankee term, she "neighbored well" — donating generously to local causes, sharing her farm's bounty with friends and neighbors, and transforming her property on the outskirts of town into a source of civic pride.

"Shopping local" long before it became a popular trend, Mrs. Eddy was a staunch supporter of her hometown's businesses. A Concord florist designed and planted her garden beds;<sup>5</sup> footwear was purchased from Thompson's Shoes [see sidebar];<sup>6</sup> her piano was a Prescott, a local instrument manufacturer whose advertisement would appear on the side of the new fairground's exhibition hall. She gave to the city's

auditorium fund, the New Hampshire Historical Society, the local firemen's organization, and the local Y.M.C.A., among numerous other causes. She helped spearhead the paving of Concord's roads,<sup>7</sup> and donated a pair of "stately swans ... to glide with attractive grace" on the pond in White Park.<sup>8</sup> The Eagle Hotel and other downtown establishments did a brisk business whenever groups of her followers came to visit.

Her philanthropy knew no geographical bounds — she also gave to victims of fire and flood and earthquake in such far-flung locations as San Francisco and Sicily. She sent money to refugees in Macedonia, to museums and colleges and libraries, to other churches, and even to hospitals.<sup>9</sup>

"The thing most important is what we do, not what we say," she once wrote in a letter accompanying a donation for a proposed monument in New York's Central Park.<sup>10</sup>

Mrs. Eddy's giving wasn't limited to dollars. For example, she made sure that volunteer soldiers training near Concord for the Spanish-American war had fresh fruit and a hot meal, shared flowers from her garden with the Daughters of Veterans to use on Memorial Day, and invited neighbors to pick apples from her overflowing orchard.<sup>11</sup>

## Shoes for Little Feet: The "soft touches of humanity"

"My small gift to the children came from my love for children," Mrs. Eddy once wrote about the shoes that she provided for underprivileged boys and girls each year at the Concord State Fair.<sup>1</sup>

From the fair's inception in 1900<sup>2</sup> until her passing in 1910, Mrs. Eddy had a special arrangement with local merchant William Thompson. On Children's Day,<sup>3</sup> needy young fair-goers could visit his booth in the exhibition hall, where they'd receive a coupon for free footwear redeemable at his downtown store.<sup>4</sup>

In a grateful note of thanks addressed to Mrs. Eddy, Martha Pollard, a widow and mother of four, commented, "My little children would not have any to wear now but for your kindness in giving them away."<sup>5</sup> Pint-sized orphan Mary Taylor thanked Mrs. Eddy through her grandmother, who wrote: "She says if she could see you she would kiss you for them."<sup>6</sup> And 12-year-old Willie Orr, who sent thanks both for his own new shoes and those of a "school mate and chum," explained, "I needed them very badly, because my papa is not well and cannot buy me many clothes." He signed his letter, "Yours with love."<sup>7</sup>

In fact, love was at the heart of Mrs. Eddy's gesture, the owner of Thompson's Shoes pointed out.



Above: William Thompson fits Concord children for shoes. *Boston American*, September 11, 1907. Scrapbook, LMD-12124, Longyear Museum collection. Above right: Wooden whistle advertises Thompson's Shoes. Private collection.



Mary Baker Eddy in her carriage outside Pleasant View in 1896. Photograph, P0024-5, Longyear Museum collection.

“She has proved herself a public-spirited and generous citizen, and her interest in the growth and improvement of the city has been shown in many ways,” local author James O. Lyford would write in 1903. “Even those who are not of her faith acknowledge the correctness of her life, the benevolence of her character, and the public spirit she manifests on all occasions.”<sup>12</sup>

Concord was clearly fond of Mary Baker Eddy, and so it was only natural that she would receive an invitation to the city’s inaugural fair. It was an event she would happily attend both that autumn and the following one, and her twin appearances offer a window into the measure of esteem in which she was held by her hometown, and the wider world beyond.

## “A picture not soon to be forgotten”

The summer of 1900 had been a busy one for Mrs. Eddy. She was in the middle of a grueling lawsuit brought by disaffected student Josephine Woodbury.<sup>13</sup> She’d written a message to be read at the communion services at The Mother Church in early June,<sup>14</sup> greeted her followers who visited Pleasant View afterwards, and as summer ripened into fall, delivered what would be her final public address, given to the First Members of The Mother Church at Christian Science Hall in Concord on Wednesday, September 5. The group of 40 would stay the night in Concord and accompany Mrs. Eddy to the fairgrounds the following day.

After an evening lit by a harvest moon, Thursday dawned bright and clear.<sup>15</sup> It was Governor’s Day at the fair, and a full schedule of events awaited. The ambitious motto on the cover of the fair’s program (“Open to the World”) must have seemed prophetic to the crowds who arrived by rail, or in horse-drawn carriages, or by trolley, or on foot. All told, some 25,000 people, more than the entire population of Concord,<sup>16</sup> headed to the 60-acre parcel of land at City Park Drive that day. The new grandstand overlooked a half-mile oval track ready to thrill onlookers with displays of horsemanship, bicycle races, and the novel sight of a horseless carriage race —

“There is no smack of superiority in it,” Mr. Thompson told the *Concord Patriot*. The gift, he emphasized, was “a present from one who loves to the objects of that love, and the value of this thought is emphasized when we know that her practice and her life is love, and that to her all is love.”<sup>8</sup>

Thompson himself couldn’t have been more delighted to be part of the enterprise — a delight that went far beyond that of a merchant simply grateful for the extra business sent his way.

“I feel that I am engaged in a service of good, and in the years to come I shall always look back with a feeling of gratitude,” he told the newspaper, adding, “In our busy, hustling little world of trade, in our sales and barter, in spite of ourselves, we grow calloused and eliminate from our lives the soft touches of humanity, the thoughtful regard for the wants, and wishes, and happiness of those about us, the small acts of goodness that constitute, or at least should constitute, our real joy.”<sup>9</sup>

### ENDNOTES

1. Mary Baker Eddy to Allan H. Robinson, September 7, 1901, L11187, MBEL. This letter was later printed in the Concord, New Hampshire’s *Daily Patriot* and reprinted in the *Christian Science Sentinel* 4 (September 19, 1901): 40, and *The Christian Science Journal* 19 (October 1901): 416.

2. Mary Baker Eddy to William A. Thompson, September 3, 1900, L06101, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts. (Hereafter referenced as MBEL.)

3. On Children’s Day, children 12 and under were admitted to the fairgrounds free of charge.

4. In 1900, the average cost of shoes for a boy was 95 cents (roughly \$29 today); for a girl, 73 cents (\$22 today). Fred A. Gannon, “The Children’s Footwear Trade,” *Boot and Shoe Recorder*, September 18, 1907. Mrs. Eddy’s provision began modestly, with \$30 donated for shoes in 1900 (roughly \$900 in today’s dollars). Her gift grew to the point where one former Thompson’s employee recalls giving out “approximately 700 pairs” of shoes in each of the three years that he worked at the store. Lynn F. Bassett reminiscences, MBEL. See also Irving C. Tomlinson, *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy* Amplified Edition (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1994), 245–46.

5. Martha J. Pollard, “Letters to Our Leader,” *Christian Science Sentinel* 8 (November 25, 1905): 202.

6. Mary E. Taylor and Mrs. Rose L. Chase, “Letters to Our Leader,” *Christian Science Sentinel* 10 (September 28, 1907): 72.

7. Willie Orr, “Letters to Our Leader,” *Christian Science Sentinel* 10 (November 2, 1907): 172.

8. “Mrs. Eddy and the Children,” Concord, N. H. *Daily Patriot*, September 2, 1903, reprinted in the *Christian Science Sentinel* 6 (September 12, 1903): 26.

9. Ibid.

the first ever at a New England fair.<sup>17</sup> Farmers proudly showed off their livestock, from pigs and poultry to “sleek and powerful oxen.”<sup>18</sup> Over in the exhibition hall, homemade jams and jellies and the like were displayed alongside such fancy work as embroidery, lace, and quilts. Visitors could picnic in the grove, enjoy a glass of Concord’s own vigorously advertised “Berry’s Famous Root Beer,” watch a baseball game or a balloon ascension, and take in one of the many stage shows, including Professor Keller’s Dog Circus, featuring “The Dog Blondin,” who walked a tightrope blindfolded.<sup>19</sup> Not to be overlooked was that staple of every state fair, the midway. Its numerous attractions—including Bostock’s Wild Animal Arena—would all be in keeping with the “high moral standard of this fair,” the promoters promised.<sup>20</sup>

Governor Frank Rollins and his entourage arrived at 10:30 with much pomp and ceremony. He and his wife were joined in the governor’s box by such local luminaries as Mrs. Eddy’s lawyer cousin and good friend Henry Moore Baker,<sup>21</sup> along with William Chandler, former U. S. Senator and Ex-Secretary of the Navy, now publisher of the *Concord Monitor*.<sup>22</sup>

“The feature of the day,” however, reported the *Boston Globe*, “was not on the set program.” It was the appearance of Mary Baker Eddy.

“She arrived at the main entrance at 3 o’clock,” the newspaper report continued. “The races on the track were immediately suspended and, under the escort of mounted police with patrolmen on either side of her carriage, Mrs. Eddy drove around the race track in her victoria, drawn by a pair of handsome bays.”<sup>23</sup>

The horses were Prince and Duke, Mrs. Eddy’s favorite team.<sup>24</sup> At the reins was coachman August Mann; beside him sat Judge Septimus J. Hanna, First Reader of The Mother Church in Boston and editor of the *Christian Science* periodicals. His wife Camilla, who was serving as assistant editor, sat beside Mrs. Eddy in the carriage.

Mrs. Eddy “looked remarkably fresh and fair for a woman of 80 years,” noted the *Boston Globe*, “and in her quiet dress of lavender shade presented a picture not soon to be forgotten.”

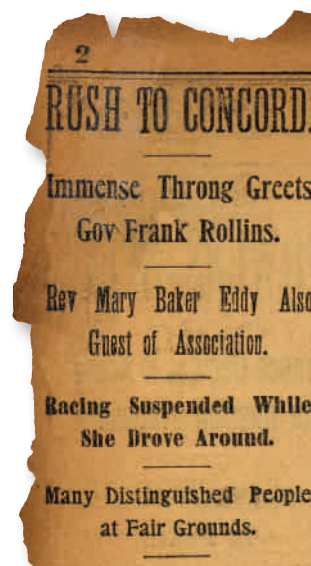
As the carriage neared the governor’s reviewing stand, Mrs. Eddy “was announced to the throng as the Rev. Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. The band struck up a patriotic air and the ten thousand spectators in the amphitheater waved handkerchiefs, cheered, and applauded.”<sup>25</sup>



Above: Pleasant View is visible on the hillside behind the midway. Photograph courtesy of the New Hampshire Historical Society. Above right: Ad from the *Concord Monitor*, September 4, 1900.

Mrs. Eddy “bowed right and left and seemed to enjoy greatly seeing again her old New Hampshire friends,” notes John Lathrop, one of the First Members present that day.<sup>26</sup> By all accounts, Mrs. Eddy also enjoyed the afternoon’s activities.<sup>27</sup> In fact, the horses “so delighted her that she stood up in her carriage to clap her hands at the victory of one beautiful trotter.”<sup>28</sup>

Of particular interest was Oscar Norin. The daring young Swede had made a name for himself with his fearless high-diving displays, especially the “sensational fire dive,” in which





he would festoon himself with fireworks, set his costume aflame, or dive through a blazing hoop from a great height into a small pool of water below.<sup>29</sup>

“Mrs. Eddy had told Judge and Mrs. Hanna... that she looked upon the exhibition as an example of overcoming fear and wanted to see it,” Mr. Lathrop recalls.<sup>30</sup> Accordingly, her carriage was driven closer to the 80-foot tower where Norin, “dressed as Mephistopheles in red and with a tail,” would attempt his feat.

“The moment arrived,” Lathrop continues, and Norin “gracefully dived downward through the fiery circle into the water, coming quickly to the surface. He walked out and up to Mrs. Eddy’s carriage, bowed low to her, and ran off.”

Afterwards, Mrs. Eddy famously quipped to the Hannas, “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”<sup>31</sup>

Back at home, Mrs. Eddy dashed off a letter to George Moses, editor of the *Concord Monitor* and on the executive committee for the fair, thanking him and his fellow officials for their warm welcome. Mr. Moses replied: “The main thing about your visit which should be remembered, as I regard it, is the genuine spontaneity of your reception. Nothing was pre-arranged, nothing was studied. It was the true recognition of your personality — and as such is worthy to be cherished as indicating the real feeling of the people.” He closed with the hope that she would attend future Governor’s Days at the fair, when she could “fitly share with ‘The First Citizen’ the honors of ‘The First Resident’ of the state.”<sup>32</sup>

His words touched Mrs. Eddy deeply. “I had no intimation, and no idea, of the kind care and honor that you had in store for me, till I met the situation,” she wrote back. “It was indeed mutually spontaneous, a gentle effusion from the

heart of the metropolis of my native state that will never pass from my memory, nor cease to cheer it.” She enclosed a check for \$1,000, “to be applied for aiding the improvement of the exterior of the buildings on the fair grounds — including the cupola on the main building.”<sup>33</sup>



*Far left:* Mrs. Eddy’s visit to the fair made headlines in the September 7, 1900 *Boston Globe*. Private collection. *Left:* A smiling Mrs. Eddy (holding parasol) is seated beside Camilla Hanna; Judge Septimus Hanna is next to coachman August Mann. Photograph, Poo29-2, Longyear Museum collection.

## Generosity’s childhood roots

Raised in a deeply Christian home, generosity and neighborliness were as firmly established in Mary Baker Eddy’s character as was the granite in the soil of her native state. “My childhood’s home I remember as one with the open hand,” she would recall. “The needy were ever welcome...”<sup>34</sup>

Their lives guided by the Bible teachings they revered, Abigail and Mark Baker took to heart Jesus’ command “Love thy neighbor as thyself,”<sup>35</sup> giving of their time, their talent, and their means to those in the small farming community in which they lived. Their daughter followed suit — sometimes too eagerly, as when young Mary gave away the coat her mother had labored to make for her to a less-fortunate schoolmate.

The generous spirit that inspired such childhood deeds would eventually ripen into a far deeper sense of charity, or “spiritual love,” as Mrs. Eddy would come to define it<sup>36</sup> — one that yearned to help and heal her fellow man. She would allude to this cherished desire in the preface to *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*: “In the spirit of Christ’s charity, — as one who ‘hopeth all things, endureth all things,’ — and is joyful to bear consolation to the sorrowing and healing to the sick, — she commits these pages to honest seekers for Truth.”<sup>37</sup>

Mary Baker Eddy and the religion she founded would touch the lives of countless such seekers, including two during her state fair appearance in 1901, transforming both in ways they could hardly have imagined.

## Welcoming New Hampshire’s “First Resident”

1901 was equally as productive as the year that preceded it. In April, Mrs. Eddy gave a major interview to the *New York Herald*. The Woodbury suit continued to drag on, but was finally decided in Mrs. Eddy’s favor in early June.<sup>38</sup> Later that month, on Sunday, June 23, her ninety-minute message to The Mother Church was read aloud during four packed communion services. It would be printed in full in newspapers eager to cover the growing religion.

On Monday, June 24, Mrs. Eddy surprised her followers with an invitation to Pleasant View for the following day. Nearly 3,000 people showed up to hear her brief message and tour the grounds.<sup>39</sup> And then in late August, Mrs. Eddy invited



the First Members of her Church to the Concord State Fair.<sup>40</sup> She notified George Moses that she would be accepting his invitation, and planned to bring Judge William Ewing and his wife, Ruth, as her honored guests.<sup>41</sup>

Promptly at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 28, the Ewings arrived at Pleasant View. Under Mrs. Eddy's direction, household cook Minnie Weygandt had prepared a festive meal of "mock bisque soup, cold roast chicken, cranberry jelly, mashed potatoes, green peas, lobster salad, apple pie, ice cream, cake and assorted fruit."<sup>42</sup> An amusing scene played out at the dining room table, when it turned out that, not knowing until the day before that he would be riding in Mrs. Eddy's carriage, Judge Ewing hadn't brought along a proper silk hat. The only ones available in Concord stores were used, "and he had explained to the storekeeper that if he bought a hat, he should insist upon its being a new one."

Irving Tomlinson offered to lend his, but it was too large and out of style. At this point, Mrs. Eddy "walked around the table to Judge Ewing as though an inspiration had come to her, and encircled the crown of his head with her hands saying, 'I think we have a hat that will be a perfect fit for you.'" She proceeded to offer him Calvin Frye's brand new one, which he had ordered from Boston for the occasion ("his old one would be entirely in keeping" for Mr. Frye, Mrs. Eddy assured

her guests). The hat fit, and the day, along with Judge Ewing's dignity, was saved.<sup>43</sup>

It was another beautiful day for a fair, and once again, a large crowd turned out for Governor's Day.<sup>44</sup> By noontime, a dozen excursion trains from around the state had unloaded their passengers,<sup>45</sup> among them 600 Christian Scientists on a pair of special trains from Boston. As before, there was "plenty doing," as the *Boston Globe* put it, to keep everyone entertained at the fairgrounds. The midway, where "every conceivable kind of an attraction"<sup>46</sup> vied "to pull dimes and nickels from the pocketbooks of visitors," was serving up hot dogs, popcorn, ice cream, and sideshows, all with their hawkers (who sounded "just like a flock of crows," according to Pleasant View groundskeeper John Salchow,<sup>47</sup> who had followed Mrs. Eddy to the fair on his bicycle). Over on the big stage by the grandstand, a full program of vaudeville acts ran continuously. One of those acts was a husband-and-wife bicycling duo billed as the Martelles. Their real names were Harry and Emma Blaney, and before the day was through Emma would have her first glimpse of Mary Baker Eddy, a brief encounter that would bear fruit in healing, permanently altering the trajectory of her life [see sidebar].

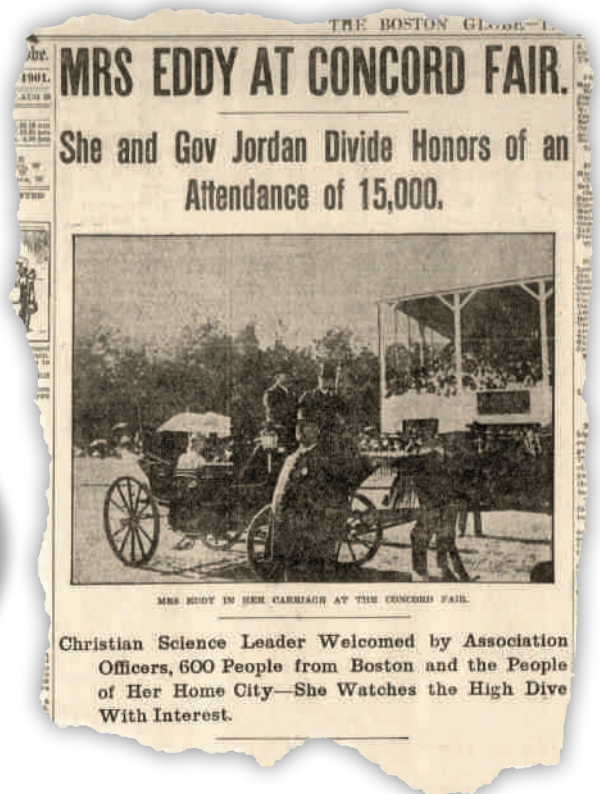
"The crowds kept coming all through the day and evening from all parts of the state — from all parts of the country for that



Left: Official program for the 1901 Concord State Fair. Private collection.

Inset: Souvenir button from the 1901 fair. Private collection.

Right: Mrs. Eddy's visit again made headlines. *Boston Globe*, August 29, 1901.





## From Vaudeville to the Christian Science Practice

It was the smile she noticed first.

“She had such a sweet smile,” recalls Emma Blaney. “I knew nothing of Christian Science, nor who Mrs. Eddy was but her smile seemed to stay with me.”<sup>1</sup>

Half of “The Martelles,” a traveling vaudeville act billed as the “premier Bicyclists of America,” young Emma and her husband Harry were booked to play the Concord State Fair in the summer of 1901.<sup>2</sup> It was there that Emma saw Mary Baker Eddy as she was driven around the track in her carriage, and heard about her donation of shoes to needy children. “I was very much impressed with her,” Emma later noted.<sup>3</sup>

The Martelles were by all accounts a big hit at the fair. The *Concord Evening Monitor* called their act “one of the most attractive features on the programme” and praised Emma’s performance (“the woman was just as good as the man”).<sup>4</sup>

Later, back at the Eagle Hotel, Emma recalled that “beautiful, peaceful smile,” and asked the clerk about Mrs. Eddy. He explained that she was “the founder of Christian Science,” a woman “loved by all the people of Concord.”<sup>5</sup>

Several stops later on the vaudeville circuit, the Blaneys arrived in Cleveland. Emma noticed a book with Mrs. Eddy’s name on it at the home of their hosts, who as it turned out were Christian Scientists. The Blaneys continued to encounter Christian Scientists on their travels, but it wasn’t until they lost all their belongings in the San Francisco earthquake a few years later that Emma took up the study of Christian Science.

Healings quickly followed, including harmonious childbirth after a doctor’s dire prediction.<sup>6</sup> All four of the Blaney children were raised in the Christian Science Sunday School, and Emma would eventually publish two testimonies in the *Christian Science Sentinel* detailing her family’s numerous healings, including the remarkable recovery of her eight-year-old son, Floyd, after he was run over by a car. The boy was carried home, to all appearance lifeless.

“Every member of the family was holding to the truth,” Emma recorded. A Christian Science practitioner was called, and through earnest prayer the boy revived and was “perfectly normal” by the time the concerned driver returned that night to check on him.<sup>7</sup>

This proof of God’s protecting care clearly made a deep impression on Emma, who would be listed as a practitioner



Illustrated ad for Emma and Harry Blaney’s bicycle act in the 1901 Concord State Fair program. Image courtesy of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

in *The Christian Science Journal* just a few years later. She remained in the practice for over thirty years.<sup>8</sup>

“Oh how wonderful it is to all to have the Bible opened for spiritual understanding and healing messages,” she would write. Noting a direct link between this quickened understanding and Mary Baker Eddy’s willingness “to follow Jesus’ path step by step,” and share her discovery with the world, Emma added, “To think, that I was led to this glorious truth through her smile.”<sup>9</sup>

### ENDNOTES

1. Emma M. Blaney reminiscences, MBEL.
2. “Great Bicycle Act for Shields,” *The Sunday Oregonian*, May 3, 1903. Married at 17 and 18 respectively, the young couple’s career in vaudeville flourished, and they appeared alongside such popular stars of the day as W. C. Fields and Al Jolson. (Emma notes in her reminiscences that she studied the Christian Science Bible Lesson daily while on the road.) “Bicyclists Reconciled,” *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, December 27, 1950.
3. Emma M. Blaney reminiscences, MBEL.
4. “Guests of Honor,” *Concord Evening Monitor*, August 28, 1901.
5. Emma M. Blaney reminiscences, MBEL.
6. Ibid.
7. “Testimonies of Healing,” *Christian Science Sentinel* 25 (July 14, 1923): 915-16; “Testimonies of Healing,” *Christian Science Sentinel* 18 (July 15, 1916): 915.
8. Emma Blaney was listed in *The Christian Science Journal* from 1925 until 1958.
9. Emma M. Blaney reminiscences, MBEL.



matter,” observed the *Boston Globe*, “as this fair has at least one attraction that is able to bring people from the farthest corners of the land right into the grandstand, which no other fair can hope to possess. That attraction is Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy, the head of the Christian Science Church.”<sup>48</sup>

New Hampshire had a new governor to welcome — Chester B. Jordan, “but he was, after all, only a side issue compared with Mrs. Eddy,” the *Globe* opined. “It was really her day as well as the governor’s, and when her landau came on the grounds more necks were strained to get a glimpse of it than were to see the governor and his staff and brass band.”<sup>49</sup>

Shortly after his arrival with his family, Governor Jordan gave a speech, joking that he should have brought his two boys the day before, when Mrs. Eddy had provided some 200 pairs of shoes to needy children. Alas, he said with mock regret, it looked as if his sons would have to go to school barefooted that winter, “as his salary was small and his means limited.”<sup>50</sup> On a more serious note, he praised the generosity of the “noble, good woman” who would shortly be joining them, adding, “The science which has such a large measure of Christianity attached to it is a science worth sticking to.”<sup>51</sup>

At 2:45, Mrs. Eddy’s carriage — a handsome rented landau this year — entered the grounds with a mounted escort<sup>52</sup> and drove slowly down the track. Calvin Frye (graciously wearing his old hat) was perched next to coachman August Mann. Mrs. Eddy, in a pearl-colored dress, was seated in the carriage with Judge and Mrs. Ewing.<sup>53</sup> As they approached the grandstand, “one great white sea of waving handkerchiefs” fluttered in greeting.<sup>54</sup> A brass band struck up “Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean,” and the afternoon entertainment was suspended while George Moses, chairman of the fair association’s executive committee and designated spokesman, doffed his hat to officially welcome Mrs. Eddy.<sup>55</sup>

She bowed gracefully, acknowledging his brief remarks, and then it was time for high diver Oscar Norin, whose feats of daring Mrs. Eddy was again keen to see. Like Emma Blaney, Mr. Norin, too, would shortly have a life-altering encounter with the Leader of the Christian Science movement.

His aerial display “brought a smile of approval from his distinguished spectator.”<sup>56</sup> As Mrs. Eddy’s carriage pulled away, she waved her handkerchief at the “thousands who were waving theirs in the grandstand and grounds.”<sup>57</sup> Afterwards, Mary Godfrey Parker, a Christian Scientist who had traveled with her husband to the fair, recalls “there was such a jam at the entrance that it took some time for her carriage to drive through, but she sat there quite unperturbed, bowing and smiling to everyone.”<sup>58</sup>



Back at home, Mrs. Eddy once again took pen to paper to thank the fair’s organizers. In her letter to general manager Lewis Hoit, she enclosed a check for \$500 for the benefit of the state fair association,<sup>59</sup> and to George Moses and the other officers, she noted, “I beg to say that my brief visit to the grounds was a pleasant rest for me — your polite, tender, impressive reception of me, Judge Ewing, Mrs. Ewing, and the visiting Christian Scientists greatly appreciated. Accept my thanks, and long live my fair neighbors.”<sup>60</sup>

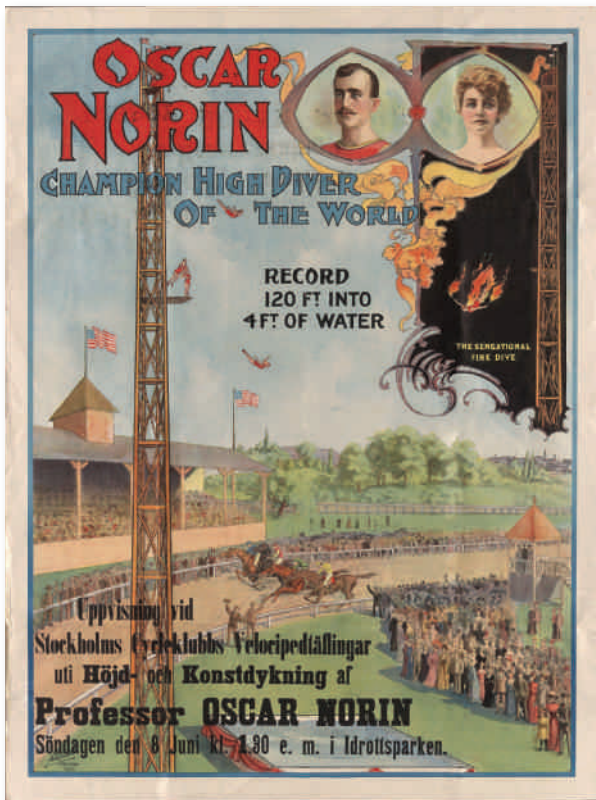
## A “revolutionary” philanthropy

Beyond the checks she wrote, beyond the multitude of thoughtful gifts and gestures, the deeper manifestation of Mrs. Eddy’s philanthropy was her healing work.

This extended far beyond Concord, New Hampshire, of course — but her hometown and its residents also benefited greatly from her prayerful contributions. There was the nearby farmer whose well had run dry one winter, for instance, and found it suddenly full the morning after Mrs. Eddy was told of his predicament.<sup>61</sup> There was the 16-year-old neighbor girl whom she healed of tuberculosis,<sup>62</sup> and the visiting New York journalist who was cured of a painful growth, among many other examples.<sup>63</sup> And then there was Oscar Norin.

It was a meeting that biographer Robert Peel suggests was “a matter of professional interest”<sup>64</sup> — Mrs. Eddy wanting to know more about the fearlessness that Mr. Norin exhibited in his high dives. Clara Shannon, a First Member and frequent household worker at Pleasant View, was present the day





Left: Oscar Norin executes a high dive at the 1901 Concord State Fair. Photograph, P3127-2, Longyear Museum collection. Above: Vintage Swedish poster advertises Norin's "sensational fire dive."

Norin came to call. As she remembers, he showed up wearing dark goggles because of a severely damaged eye. Mrs. Eddy asked him "if he were not afraid when he took that leap. He explained to her that if he were to become afraid the jump was too high, he would be killed. After [she had talked] to him in a most heavenly way for some time, one could see by the expression of his face how enlightened he was mentally."

The two continued talking about his lack of fear and its relation to his successful high dives. Mrs. Eddy then said to him, "Why not apply the same rule to your eyes?"

"They were sitting in the library," Miss Shannon continues, "and as she talked to him, I could see and feel that his fear was removed, and his thought was full of hope and joy, although he did not then realize the blessing he had received."

The healing was confirmed by the cab driver who took Norin to the station after the fair was over, and later, says Miss Shannon, Norin "wrote to Mrs. Eddy telling her of the wonderful healing he had experienced and expressing his gratitude."<sup>65</sup>

"Philanthropy," Mary Baker Eddy wrote, "is loving, ameliorative, revolutionary...."<sup>66</sup>

Her words, written in a letter published on New Year's Day 1901, ring true as a barometer of her own life and actions. From the quiet generosity of a loving heart that spilled over

into kind deeds to friends and neighbors, to her more public support of civic improvement, to the revolutionary Science that she gave the world — a Science that sprang from the radical Christianity which Jesus modeled in upending both conventional theology and the tyranny of the material senses — Mrs. Eddy's example endures. And of the philanthropist? She concluded in that same letter, "his life's incentive and sacrifice need no apology. The good done and the good to do are his ever-present reward."

## ENDNOTES

1. "Spring Tide at Pleasant View," *Concord Daily Patriot*, May 9, 1904.
2. "The tulip beds were always gorgeous in the spring ... sometimes there were as many as three or four hundred people there during the day admiring the tulips." John G. Salchow reminiscences, 18, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts (hereafter referenced as MBEL). The Concord State Fair Association was incorporated on April 14, 1900. *State of New Hampshire Manual for the General Court* (Manchester, N.H.: Arthur F. Clarke Printer, 1901), 319. Henrietta H. Williams, "The Founder of Christian Science," *New England Magazine*, November, 1899.
3. On June 23, 1900, Mrs. Eddy donated \$100 to the fair — roughly \$3,000 in today's dollars. Mary Baker Eddy to George H. Moses, September 10, 1900, L13187, MBEL. See also "Charitable Activities of Mary Baker Eddy," MBEL, and Irving C. Tomlinson, *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy* Amplified Edition (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society), 240.
4. Mrs. Eddy moved to Concord in June 1889, living first in a rented home at 62 N. State Street before moving to Pleasant View in June 1892.
5. John Salchow reminiscences, 18, MBEL.
6. James Tucker, "Our Town," *The Hampton Union and Rockingham County Gazette*, December 28, 1950. Republished with permission as "New Shoes for Mary Baker Eddy" in the *Longyear Quarterly News* 19, no. 1 (1982).
7. In 1899, Mrs. Eddy donated \$8,000 (nearly \$250,000 today) to pave Pleasant Street, which spurred the paving of all of Concord's main roads. Tomlinson, *Twelve Years*, 235-37.
8. James O. Lyford, *History of Concord* Vol. I, (Concord, N.H.: The Rumford Press, 1903), 560.
9. "Charitable Activities of Mary Baker Eddy," MBEL.
10. *New York Mail and Express*, January 1, 1901. Mrs. Eddy's letter accompanying a check for \$500 (about \$15,000 today) was reprinted in full in "Monument to Baron and Baroness De Hirsch," *Christian Science Sentinel* 3 (January 10, 1901): 296 and *The Christian Science Journal* 18 (February 1901): 657, and in *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, 287-89.
11. John Salchow reminiscences, 13-14, MBEL.
12. Lyford, *History of Concord* Vol. II, 830.
13. For more information on the Woodbury lawsuit, see Robert Peel, *Mary Baker Eddy: The Years of Authority* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1977), 155-57, 159-60, 170-71.
14. Later published as *Message to The Mother Church for 1900*.
15. A newspaper report made note of a harvest moon, "clear skies," and "invigorating air" — in short, "what great weather for the Concord state fair!" See "City Briefs," *Portsmouth Herald*, September 6, 1900.
16. "Rush to Concord," *Boston Globe*, September 6, 1900. In 1900, Concord's population was 19,632, according to data obtained from the United States Census bureau.

17. 1900 Concord State Fair program, New Hampshire Historical Society.
18. Septimus Hanna, "The New Hampshire Fair," *Christian Science Sentinel* 3 (September 13, 1900): 24.
19. Mary Baker Eddy mentions the real French acrobat and tightrope walker Blondin in *Science and Health*, 199.
20. 1900 Concord State Fair program, New Hampshire Historical Society.
21. Like William Chandler, Mr. Baker was also a politician, having served two terms in the Republican Congress in Washington, D.C., as well as the New Hampshire House of Representatives.
22. Ironically, the event under which Mr. Chandler's name appeared in the program as sponsor was The Brothers Elliott, "A Mirthful Entertainment in Grotesque Pantomime." Chandler would engage in his own "grotesque pantomime" in 1907, when he served as prosecuting attorney in the Next Friends suit. For more information on this lawsuit, see Peel, *Years of Authority*, 275-91, and Isabel Ferguson and Heather Vogel Frederick, *A World More Bright: The Life of Mary Baker Eddy* (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 2013), 172-92.
23. "Rush to Concord," *Boston Globe*, September 6, 1900.
24. "Mary Baker Eddy's Horses," [www.marybakereddylibrary.org](http://www.marybakereddylibrary.org), August 1, 2010.
25. *Boston Journal*, September 6, 1900.
26. John C. Lathrop, "Recollections of Mary Baker Eddy," *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy* Expanded Edition Vol. I (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society), 267.
27. "The New Hampshire Fair," *Christian Science Sentinel* 3 (September 13, 1900): 24.
28. Irving C. Tomlinson, *Twelve Years*, 240.
29. Contemporary news reports on Norin chronicle a variety of "fire dives," including a particularly dazzling feat that involved parachuting from a balloon, then diving from midair into a river with a belt of blazing Roman candles tied around his waist. "Headlong Plunge of a Human Meteor," *Los Angeles Times*, November 29, 1896.
30. John C. Lathrop, *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, 267-68. Judge Hanna adds that the dive "furnished a striking example of the dominion of mind over matter in consequence of the absence or overcoming of fear." "The New Hampshire Fair," *Christian Science Sentinel* 3 (September 13, 1900): 24.
31. Lathrop, *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, 268. Mrs. Eddy was quoting Luke 10:18.
32. G. H. Moses, "A Congratulatory Letter," *Christian Science Sentinel* 3 (September 20, 1900): 40.
33. Mary Baker Eddy to George H. Moses, September 10, 1900, L13187, MBEL. \$1,000 is approximately \$30,000 today.
34. *Retrospection and Introspection*, 6.
35. Matthew 22:39.
36. *Message to The Mother Church for 1901*, 26.
37. *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, xii.
38. The judge presiding over the case ruled in favor of Mrs. Eddy on June 5, 1901. "Mrs. Eddy Wins in Libel Suit," *Chicago Tribune*, June 6, 1901.
39. For an account of this and other gatherings, see "1901 Communion Season Visit to Pleasant View," [www.longyear.org](http://www.longyear.org), and "Visiting Mary Baker Eddy — Welcome to Pleasant View and Concord, New Hampshire" Parts I and II, by Sue S. Dunlap, *Longyear Quarterly News* 33, nos. 3 & 4 (1996) and 34, nos. 1 & 2 (1997).
40. In all, Mrs. Eddy bought 100 reserved grandstand seats for her special guests. Mary Baker Eddy to William B. Johnson, August 25, 1908, L01254, MBEL.
41. Mary Baker Eddy to George H. Moses, August 27, 1901, L15472, MBEL.
42. Minnie B. Weygandt reminiscences, 33, MBEL.
43. William G. Ewing reminiscences, MBEL.
44. Newspaper reports estimated the crowd was between 15,000-20,000 people.
45. "Guests of Honor," *Concord Evening Monitor*, August 28, 1901.
46. *Boston Globe*, August 28, 1901. "Guests of Honor," *Concord Evening Monitor*, August 28, 1901, details the numerous midway and vaudeville events.
47. John G. Salchow, "The Privilege of Serving Our Leader," *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, 381.
48. *Boston Globe*, August 28, 1901. For a summary of other interesting news reports, see "The Concord Fair," *Christian Science Sentinel* 4 (September 5, 1901): 8-11.
49. *Boston Globe*, August 28, 1901.
50. *Concord Evening Monitor*, August 28, 1901.
51. *Boston Globe*, August 28, 1901.
52. John Salchow reminiscences, 26, MBEL. The escort included a grandson of William Chandler. *Boston Globe*, August 28, 1901.
53. *Ibid.*
54. "Mrs. Eddy at Concord Fair," *Boston Post*, August 29, 1901.
55. "The Concord Fair," *Christian Science Sentinel* 4 (September 5, 1901); *Boston Globe*, August 28, 1901.
56. *Boston Herald*, quoted in "The Concord Fair," *Christian Science Sentinel* 4 (September 5, 1901).
57. *Boston Globe*, August 28, 1901.
58. Mary Godfrey Parker, "A Friendship Through Two Generations," *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, 34.
59. Mary Baker Eddy to Lewis B. Hoit, September 9, 1901, L04068, MBEL. \$500 is approximately \$15,000 today. Mrs. Eddy requested that Hoit not publicize her donation, and she also wrote to the *Concord Evening Monitor* about their report of the shoes given out to children: "... it would have pleased me not to have that gift emphasized. I find it more troublesome to be overrated publicly, than underrated; since conscience requires a bit of my time to correct the former — while, happily, the latter old time will correct." Mary Baker Eddy to George H. Moses, September 7, 1901, L13196, MBEL.
60. Mary Baker Eddy to Officers of the Concord (N.H.) State Fair, August 31, 1901, V00167, MBEL. The letter was reprinted in the *Christian Science Sentinel* 4 (September 5, 1901): 11.
61. "Oh, if he only knew," Mrs. Eddy said, when told of the farmer's plight. "Love fills that well!" Clara Shannon, "Golden Memories," *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy* Expanded Edition Vol. II (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 2013), 190-91. The farmer attributed the sudden change to Mrs. Eddy's prayer.
62. Yvonne Cache von Fettweis and Robert Townsend Warneck, *Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer* Amplified Edition (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 2009), 187-88; Minnie Ford Mortlock reminiscences, MBEL.
63. Tomlinson, *Twelve Years*, 70-71; von Fettweis and Warneck, *Christian Healer*, 378-83.
64. Peel, *Years of Authority*, 438n16. Peel pegs the visit to 1901.
65. Shannon, "Golden Memories," 208, 601n45; von Fettweis and Warneck, *Christian Healer*, 211, 582n12.
66. *New York Mail and Express*, January, 1901. The letter accompanying Mrs. Eddy's donation to the De Hirsch monument fund was reprinted in *Miscellany*, 287-89.



## New exhibit in the Longyear Portrait Gallery

Longyear Museum is delighted to announce the opening of a new exhibit in the Portrait Gallery:

### *“Love, loyalty, and good works” — The Pleasant View Years*

Mary Baker Eddy loved her gracious country home on the outskirts of Concord, New Hampshire, and her fruitful years there (1892–1908) are the focus of the Museum’s new exhibit. At Pleasant View, Mrs. Eddy continued to direct the growth of her Church and, with the aid of household workers and faithful students near and far, oversaw landmark steps for the Christian Science movement.

Recent acquisitions to the collection, including a rowboat that was a gift from students and a desk and chair from Mrs. Eddy’s study, will be featured.

*A special opening celebration for Longyear members will be held on Friday, November 18 from 7–8:30 p.m. If you’re planning to attend, please RSVP online at [www.longyear.org/exhibitpreview](http://www.longyear.org/exhibitpreview), call 617.278.9000, ext. 275, or email [ldistel@longyear.org](mailto:ldistel@longyear.org). We hope to see you there!*



Pleasant View circa 1900. Hand-colored photograph, P-6143-1, Longyear Museum collection.

## *“Follow and Rejoice” — Mary Baker Eddy: The Chestnut Hill Years*

What a year it’s been! We can’t thank you enough for the warm welcomes you’ve extended to our trustees and staff on our cross-country travels screening Longyear’s new historical documentary film. It’s been wonderful to reconnect with so many of you — and we look forward to seeing more of you during our final stops in the weeks ahead. As always, these events are free, and all are welcome.

For more information on any of these events, please contact Ryan Siewert at [rsiewert@longyear.org](mailto:rsiewert@longyear.org), or at 617.278.9000, ext. 250.

### Greenwich, CT

**Saturday, November 5, 10:00 am**

First Church of Christ, Scientist  
11 Park Place  
Greenwich, CT 06830

### Atlanta, GA

**Saturday, November 12, 10:00 am**

First Church of Christ, Scientist  
15th Street NE  
Atlanta, GA 30309

“Follow and Rejoice” is available for purchase in the Museum Store, online at [www.longyear.org/store](http://www.longyear.org/store), and by calling 800.277.8943, ext. 100.



## Movie Night at Camp Bow-Isle

Longyear Museum took a ferry to Bowen Island, British Columbia, this summer — or more accurately, our DVD did. On a July evening during Camp Bow-Isle’s Senior Girls session, a group of young Christian Scientists enjoyed a screening of “Follow and Rejoice” — *Mary Baker Eddy: The Chestnut Hill Years*, learning more about Mrs. Eddy’s life and work. (We hope that popcorn was served, too!)



1125 BOYLSTON STREET  
CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467-1811

LONGYEAR MUSEUM Established 1923  
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800.277.8943 or 617.278.9000  
[www.longyear.org](http://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.  
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## 2017 FALL TOUR DATES ANNOUNCED

Good news! Longyear Museum will continue to offer two tours of Mary Baker Eddy's New England for 2017.

The four-day guided motorcoach tours will both take place in September next year. Guests will visit all eight historic houses in Longyear's collection where Mrs. Eddy lived and worked, along with other significant places in the history of the Christian Science movement both in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

The tours are scheduled for **Thursday, September 14 through Sunday, September 17**, and **Thursday, September 28 through Sunday, October 1**. These events tend to sell out quickly, so if you're interested in reserving a spot or adding your name to a waiting list, please contact Laura Distel at 617.278.9000, ext. 275, or by email at [ldistel@longyear.org](mailto:ldistel@longyear.org).



Tour participants at the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in North Groton, New Hampshire.

**Full information on Longyear Museum's Tours may be found at [www.longyear.org/news-and-events](http://www.longyear.org/news-and-events).**

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