



LONGYEAR MUSEUM

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

THE ADVANCING CENTURY

In 1920, historic preservation pioneer Mary Beecher Longyear made her first purchase of a home that once sheltered Mary Baker Eddy. Now, Longyear Museum enters its second century of stewardship.

REPORT TO MEMBERS

FALL/WINTER 2020

“A Most Valuable Day” • Two New Additions to Longyear’s Collection

Gift Catalog

A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

It's been 100 years since Mary Beecher Longyear purchased the first in what would become a collection of historic houses that once sheltered the Discoverer of Christian Science. When 2020 began, we were anticipating rolling out The Advancing Century campaign — celebrating this milestone and looking ahead to another 100 years of faithful stewardship. When the staff began working from home in mid-March, however, we turned our attention to finding new ways to share Longyear with our members and friends who also found themselves spending more time at home. The campaign was put on the back burner and instead:

- We posted our four historical documentary films on [Longyear's new YouTube channel](#), making these inspiring films on Mary Baker Eddy's life and work widely available for a time at no charge.
- We added to our series of short videos for young people, "[Kids and Teens: Stories from the Past](#)," also on our YouTube channel.
- We produced over a dozen "[Longyear@Home](#)" videos spotlighting staff projects.
- We published and sent to all members "[A Woman of Sound Education](#)" — *Mary Baker Eddy's School Years* by Heather Vogel Frederick, an important statement on a subject that Mrs. Eddy herself asked to be "covered properly."
- We produced [virtual tours of the Longyear Portrait Gallery and the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Lynn, Massachusetts](#), and made them available on our website.
- We held our first-ever [virtual celebration of the Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses](#) — a two-day Zoom event with live and pre-recorded sessions.
- And in September, we launched virtual "[Parlor Chats](#)" with our Site Managers at the Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses in Rumney and Concord, New Hampshire, and Swampscott, Massachusetts.

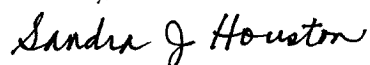
These new offerings have moved Longyear forward in new and unexpected ways. For years, we've been asking ourselves, "How can we share our research, programs, and houses with more of our members and friends, the majority of whom live outside of New England?" This spring and summer, as we turned to technology to help us stay in touch, the way opened up to do just that — and there will be no turning back!

As I review the last six months, it occurs to me that we've actually *begun* the Advancing Century! It hasn't been on the back burner at all! We've found ways to share our work more widely, and we have advanced important restoration projects at two of the Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses — in Amesbury and Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. This year has been more than a celebration of the past, although Heather Frederick's lead article in this issue of *Report to Members* is a wonderful overview of Mrs. Longyear's pioneering work in historic preservation. **2020 has been about *moving ahead*, not just looking ahead!**

In short, the Advancing Century is here and Longyear is already fully engaged in our second century of faithful stewardship. Our second century will no doubt continue to unfold in unexpected ways. But the lessons we've been learning recently — of patience, flexibility, and love — will stand us in good stead as we go forward.

The world deserves to know the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science and it will be immeasurably blessed by a greater awareness and appreciation of her work. As a generous supporter, you are enabling Longyear to do its part in presenting Mary Baker Eddy's story today — and in the centuries to come.

Gratefully,



Sandra J. Houston, *President*

Cover photo: Mary Beecher Longyear in a field in Bow, New Hampshire, circa 1920. Longyear Museum collection.

Thank you, Ellen Williams!

In the spring of 2000, Longyear was preparing to install the first Living Stones on the Pleasant View Walk. It was a two-person job, and Longyear Trustee Ellen Williams didn't hesitate. With characteristic enthusiasm, she jumped right in to help lay all 2,000 inscribed bricks! This is just one example of how Ellen approached her 27 years as a member of the Board of Trustees — she was always all-in!



V. Ellen Williams

Ellen joined the Board only a few years before the Trustees made the courageous decision to sell the Longyear mansion and build a new museum. During those early years, Ellen traveled extensively for Longyear, sharing the Museum's story and inspiring contributions to the building fund. She also served on the building committee, rolling up her sleeves on any number of occasions to help bring the project to fruition.

While a Trustee, Ellen saw the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House collection grow from five to eight houses and helped

launch a much-needed restoration campaign. She was an ardent supporter of the historical documentary films and often traveled with the staff as they presented them across the country. She also became a close friend to many Longyear members through the international tours she led.

Ellen served Longyear as President and as Chairman of the Board. Her contributions to the organization are too many to cover properly here, but at the core of everything she did — and continues to do — was her love for Mary Baker Eddy and Christian Science.

Ellen retired from the Board last November and is happy to be spending more time with her family in St. Louis. **We send her our heartfelt thanks for her nearly three decades of dedicated service and our best wishes for her next chapter!**

Two New Additions to Longyear's Collection

by Stacy Teicher Khadaroo

"My best gift." That's what Mary Baker Eddy wrote on the flyleaf when she gave Adam Dickey a signed copy of her book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* in 1909. Mr. Dickey, who was her private secretary at the time, signed it, too.

Dickey, a Kansas City businessman who was introduced to Christian Science through his wife's healing, served as a member of the Christian Science Board of Directors, Treasurer of The Mother Church, and a Trustee under the Will of Mary Baker Eddy.¹ He worked closely with Mrs. Eddy while serving in her household at 400 Beacon Street, her home in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Several of his articles for the Christian Science periodicals are still well loved today, including "God's Law of Adjustment" and "Possession."

Last year, a donor gave this special book to Longyear Museum, and it has since become the centerpiece of a small exhibit in the lobby. Encased in blue cardboard lined with colorful marbled paper, the carefully preserved leather book includes a portrait of Mrs. Eddy that appeared in the frontispiece of editions printed between 1908 and 1910, and pencil notations on some of the flyleaves, some of which may be Mr. Dickey's.



Above: Copy of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* that Mary Baker Eddy signed to Adam Dickey (right) and that was recently given to Longyear. This edition has a portrait of Mrs. Eddy by Jules Maurice Gaspard.

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“A Most Valuable Day”

Mary Beecher Longyear Stakes a Claim for Historic Preservation

by Heather Vogel Frederick

On the afternoon of July 7, 1920, Mary Beecher Longyear found herself standing in a potato field. She'd spent the day on the back roads and byways of New England, traveling from Barton, Vermont, where Mary Baker Eddy had once sought haven with friends following the passing of her husband Asa Gilbert Eddy, to Rumney, New Hampshire. There, she tracked down the owner of a “neat looking cottage with a most magnificent view.”¹ The farmer was willing to sell, and Mrs. Longyear was eager to seal the deal.

It was, she would later write in her diary, “a most valuable day in the history of [Christian] Science.” The house had been home to Mrs. Eddy and her second husband, Daniel Patterson, at the onset of the Civil War. Mrs. Longyear, who had been collecting historical records about Mrs. Eddy's life for several years by this point, was eager to preserve the house for the future. And so, with her chauffeur James Bonnar as “witness for the ages,” a deal was struck.²

With this potato field purchase, Mary Beecher Longyear stepped into the world of historic preservation, an arena so new that it didn't yet have a term to describe it. There had been a handful of prior efforts on the national scene, including

the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, formed in the late 1850s to help preserve George Washington's home, but most others wouldn't organize for decades. Colonial Williamsburg wasn't founded until 1926; the United States National Archive wouldn't be established until 1934; and the National Trust for Historic Preservation wouldn't be launched until 1949.

“The *most* important thing in the whole world at this time, seems to me, is the preserving of the incidents and the authenticity of the history of the life of Mary Baker Eddy,” Mrs. Longyear wrote in her diary in 1923.³ A few years later, she expanded on this idea: “If the human life of Mary Baker Eddy is not recorded and guarded for posterity, in the years — yes, centuries — to come, legends will grow up regarding her, with no statements of truth to refute them... I am trying to forestall all rumors and misconceptions that might arise in the future, detrimental to her character and circumstances.”⁴

What Mrs. Longyear accomplished in a little over a dozen years is noteworthy, particularly for one with no background or training in historic preservation. Armed with an abiding conviction that “Love will point out the way,” as she put it, rock-solid determination, and her husband's fortune (and



Left: Field and fence in Rumney, New Hampshire, circa 1920.

In 1920, Mary Beecher Longyear tracked down these four houses where Mary Baker Eddy once lived and worked, and purchased three of them (she purchased the fourth in 1922). Pictured here clockwise from above: Mrs. Longyear at the Rumney, New Hampshire, house; North Groton house before Mrs. Longyear had it moved back to its original site; Mrs. Longyear at the "Revelation House" in Swampscott, Massachusetts; Bagley house in Amesbury, Massachusetts. Longyear Museum collection.



willing support) to help fund her endeavors, beginning in the fall of 1917 she criss-crossed the country seeking out Mrs. Eddy's students. She encouraged them and other early Christian Scientists to record their memories of their teacher as well as their own experiences as pioneers in the movement.⁵ She commissioned portraits of many of these early workers and collected artifacts, documents, photographs, and more. And with the purchase of the house in Rumney, her efforts expanded to include preserving a number of Mary Baker Eddy's former homes.

In fact, 1920 turned out to be a banner year for this venture. That same July, she identified three more houses that had once sheltered Mrs. Eddy — one in North Groton, New Hampshire, that she would buy in November; the "Revelation House," as she called it, in Swampscott, Massachusetts, where Mrs. Eddy experienced the transformative healing that led to her discovery of Christian Science, and which Mrs. Longyear purchased that summer as well; and a fourth house, in Amesbury, Massachusetts, which she would purchase in early 1922.⁶

Today, Longyear is entering its second century of faithful stewardship in caring for and sharing these important



landmarks. Over the past 100 years, its collection of historic houses has grown from that first modest "cottage with a most magnificent view" in Rumney to include eight of Mrs. Eddy's former homes in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Each one has a story to tell; each one represents a step in her spiritual journey. And each time a visitor crosses the threshold of one of these houses and gains deeper insights into Mary Baker Eddy's remarkable life, Mrs. Longyear's forward-thinking commitment to preserving the history of the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science is once again reaffirmed.

An “ideal” childhood

So how did a former Midwest schoolteacher end up at the forefront of the historic preservation movement?

Born in 1851 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Caroline and Samuel Beecher, Mary and her twin sister, Abby, were lively additions to a family that eventually grew to eight children. Mary describes their upbringing as “ideal,” in a home “where we learned to relish good literature and respect the authority and judgment of our parents.”⁷ Evenings found Samuel reading aloud to the family; Caroline, “whose word was law,” taught the girls to sew and all the children “to pray, to study the Bible and speak the truth.”⁸

When Mary was about five, the Beechers moved, first to Erie, Pennsylvania, to be closer to her maternal grandparents and later, in the winter of 1865, to a farm near Battle Creek, Michigan.⁹ School, church, chores, and social activities formed the pattern of their days.¹⁰

“Our parents realized our need at the early age of mental development and good society,” Mrs. Longyear later noted, “and at great sacrifice, at the early age of fifteen, [Abby and I] entered Albion College.”¹¹

Dressed alike in stylish homemade clothes, the twins were “great belles, much to our delight,” frequently abandoning academics for social outings and stretching the college’s strict rules at every opportunity. “Our motto seemed to be ‘Circumvent the Faculty,’” Mrs. Longyear admitted with chagrin. “My love of fun led me into many daring chances... and unfortunately my twin followed my lead.”¹²

When their father showed up at commencement to see how his daughters’ education was progressing, the truth came out and the two were summarily brought home. This was a turning point for Mary, who developed a more mature outlook while at Battle Creek High School the following year. Wishing to contribute more to her hard-working family, she began studying in the evenings for the primary teacher’s exam unbeknownst to her parents. She passed and started looking for a job.

“I dressed in a subdued manner, took off my hoop earrings and the long curl that came from my chignon, and subduing my high spirits visited the school board,” she recalled, “and at the age of sixteen became the proud mistress of a charming white schoolhouse with a belfry.”¹³

Beginning with that first post in nearby Marengo, where she happily swept the premises every morning, rang the bell, taught class, and “boarded round,” all for the princely wage of



Left: Samuel Peck Beecher. Right: Caroline Beecher with twins Abby (left) and Mary (right). Longyear Museum collection.

twelve dollars a month, Mary embarked on a teaching career that would eventually take her to Michigan’s remotest region — and a future she never could have foreseen.

Meeting “Mun”

After further training at the State Normal School in Ypsilanti and several more teaching posts, Mary became intrigued by a classmate’s description of the freedom and beauty of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, bordering Canada and three of the Great Lakes. She set her sights on Marquette, a growing city located on the banks of Lake Superior, and duly sent off a letter of inquiry to the local school committee.

“I was so in earnest that I prayed over it,” she later wrote, “promising God if I got the place, I would not dance a step while I was there.”¹⁴

When she secured a post as principal of Marquette High School, she kept that promise, devoting herself whole-heartedly to the task at hand (while scrambling to keep one step ahead of her



John Munro Longyear and Mary Beecher Longyear, circa 1879. Longyear Museum collection.

bright new students).¹⁵ No dancing didn't mean no socializing, however. One Sunday, at the Presbyterian church where she worshipped, a tall, handsome young man with dark curly hair and beard — “the picture of health, energy, and manhood,” as she later described him — caught Mary's eye. It was John Munro Longyear, son of a U.S. District Court judge and two-term Congressman from Lansing.

John was what was called a “landlooker” or “timber cruiser,” hired by investors to scout for land rich in valuable timber and mineral rights. The two were introduced, and after a whirlwind courtship, John returned to the woods engaged. They were married six months later, in January 1879.

“When I met the one man in the world whom I could thoroughly respect as well as love,” Mary explained, “I did not have a doubt, and short as our acquaintance was, we neither of us ever regretted our hasty action.”¹⁶

Theirs was a happy union that would last nearly half a century. She called him “Mun;” he called her “Molly.” Three children arrived in quick succession: Abby, Howard, and John. A savvy businessman, Mr. Longyear prospered, acquiring property of his own through partnership arrangements that entitled him to fifty percent of the land he scouted. He also managed vast tracts for large corporations, developed such natural resources as hydroelectric power and iron ore deposits that helped fuel the American Industrial Revolution, and leased property to mining companies, along with other lucrative ventures.¹⁷ Over time, he became “one of the most important and influential people handling Michigan's natural resources.”¹⁸



Longyear children on the front steps of the Marquette mansion, circa 1899. *Front row, left to right:* Jack, Judith, Robert. *Back row, left to right:* Helen, Howard, Abby (with Ajax, the family dog, at her feet). Longyear Museum collection.

But wealth couldn't shield the family from tragedy. In the winter of 1884, 15-month-old John died while under medical treatment for a cold.¹⁹ The Longyears were grief-stricken at the loss of their little son.

“Sorrow has its reward,” Mary Baker Eddy writes in her primary text, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. “It never leaves us where it found us.”²⁰

This was about to prove true for the Longyears, as it was this tragic event that ultimately led them to Christian Science.

Two more children — Helen and Judith — were welcomed into the family over the following two years — bringing joy but also a sense of burden to their mother.

“I felt that all the responsibility of their well-being lay with me alone,” Mrs. Longyear later explained.²¹

Her minister offered little comfort, telling her that “God had sent the affliction of death to make me love Him more.” She'd lost faith in traditional medicine — “I had never given any of the children a drop of allopathic medicine since that fatal night” — and subsequently explored hygiene and homeopathy, all to no avail.²²

“My fear of sudden disaster was terrible,” Mrs. Longyear noted. “I had no God to rely on. Medicine had failed me, hygiene was a mockery. I wanted to die and get rid of the responsibility.”²³

It was at this juncture that she first learned of Christian Science, from a woman who had been healed of cancer by it. Mrs. Longyear would soon put it to the test. While on a trip to San Francisco, the family's newest addition, baby Jack, developed a severe cough. At his frightened wife's urging, Mr. Longyear reluctantly engaged a local Christian Science practitioner — Sue Ella Bradshaw, one of Mary Baker Eddy's students.²⁴ Their son was healed in one treatment.

Mrs. Longyear would later record: “We left for our home in Marquette the next day. I was happier than I had been since my little John Beecher left us. I felt that there was a God, and that He would take care of us.”

“A new ideal of life”

“I came back to my loved home with a new ideal of life and its possibilities,” Mary Longyear wrote. She began to teach some of the ideas she was gleaning from her fledgling study of *Science and Health* to her Sunday School class at the local Presbyterian church, where she and her husband were active members.²⁵ Although they continued to attend services there, the family also read “the good lesson,” as Mrs. Longyear called it, from the *Christian Science Quarterly* each day together at breakfast.



Left to right: The Longyear Family at the Huron Mountain Club in Michigan, circa 1901; John Munro Longyear and Mary Beecher Longyear in 1886; Mrs. Longyear and her children on the porch of their home in Marquette; Longyear mansion with Lake Superior in the background. Longyear Museum collection.

Meanwhile, the Longyears were active in local society, entertaining family, friends, and business associates. As they prospered, they gave generously to their community, contributing time and money to a variety of civic causes. Mr. Longyear served two terms as Marquette's mayor (1890-91) and the couple helped fund a college (Northern State Normal School, now Northern Michigan University), an opera house, and the Marquette County Historical Society. The Longyears also donated land for a new public library.

The whole family loved the outdoors. In the winter, there were skating and snowshoeing parties in addition to holiday balls; summers were for hiking, swimming, fishing, and boating at their cabin at the Huron Mountain Club, a private lakeside retreat 40 miles northwest of Marquette that Mr. Longyear helped found in 1889.

In 1892, the family moved into a mansion on a bluff overlooking Lake Superior. Built to their specifications of locally quarried Marquette raindrop sandstone, the impressive structure had 60-plus rooms and featured a third-floor ballroom and an octagonal central hall topped by a Tiffany glass dome two stories above the main floor.²⁶

Mary continued her study of Christian Science, sharing it with others in the community, although her enthusiasm was not always warmly received. She joined The Mother Church in 1894, and accomplished some healing work in Marquette.²⁷ A serious physical challenge of her own led her to two of Mrs. Eddy's students — Caroline Noyes of Chicago, who healed her, and Mary Crawford of Cleveland, from whom she and Mun would receive Christian Science Primary class instruction in 1900.

Mr. Longyear was skeptical about the new religion at first.

"For several years I thought it had long hair and wild eyes," he admits wryly in his memoir, adding that he "tolerated" it, "because it seemed to be doing Mary good."²⁸ His own healing of chronic rheumatism in 1897 changed all that.

"I thought that this would be a good chance to show [Mary] that where there was a real sickness Christian Science could not remove it and I said I would try it," he recalls. By the second day of her prayerful treatment for him, he was entirely free of pain. "I waited three years for the rheumatism to return, but it did not. Then I made my tardy acknowledgment that... I had experienced an application of Divine Love in healing. The same Love that healed in Galilee nearly nineteen hundred years before."²⁹

By the mid-1890s, with the nation in the grip of a financial downturn, the Longyears decided to economize by temporarily shuttering their large home and taking the family abroad, settling first in Paris and later, Dresden. Mary continued to share Christian Science. She bought 100 copies of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, placing some at Brentano's bookstore in Paris and sending others to prominent individuals in France and England.

Her seventh and final child — Robert — was born in Paris in February 1896. The following month, Mrs. Longyear wrote to Mary Baker Eddy for the first time, offering to pay to have *Science and Health* translated into French.

"She did not deny my request but said I might try to have it done," Mrs. Longyear observed.³⁰

Although her efforts were ultimately unsuccessful, from this beginning would grow a warm connection and a correspondence spanning 14 years and dozens of letters.



Another loss, another turning point

The Longyears returned to Marquette in 1897 and took up the reins of their former life. But Mrs. Longyear grew weary of the rejection she faced from old friends who “thought we were crazy to accept... Christian Science.”³¹ In the fall of 1899, she took the children to Boston to further their education. Mr. Longyear joined them as often as he could.

The couple traveled to the Paris Exposition in the spring of 1900, and Mrs. Longyear wrote to Mrs. Eddy again, this time requesting permission to display Christian Science literature there.

“Translate my tracts and as many others as you think best into the French language,” Mrs. Eddy wrote back from Pleasant View, her home in Concord, New Hampshire. “May God prosper your undertaking.”³²

Howard, the Longyear’s eldest son, was at college at Cornell by this time, studying forestry with an eye to joining his father in the family business. Full of promise, he was the apple of his parents’ eyes.

“His sisters adored him and his little brothers returned his affection for them in full measure,” Mrs. Longyear wrote of Howard. “His letters from college were the most important event in all the world to us.”³³

Right: Howard Munro Longyear circa 1900.

Far right: Howard in his canoe on Lake Superior. Longyear Museum collection.

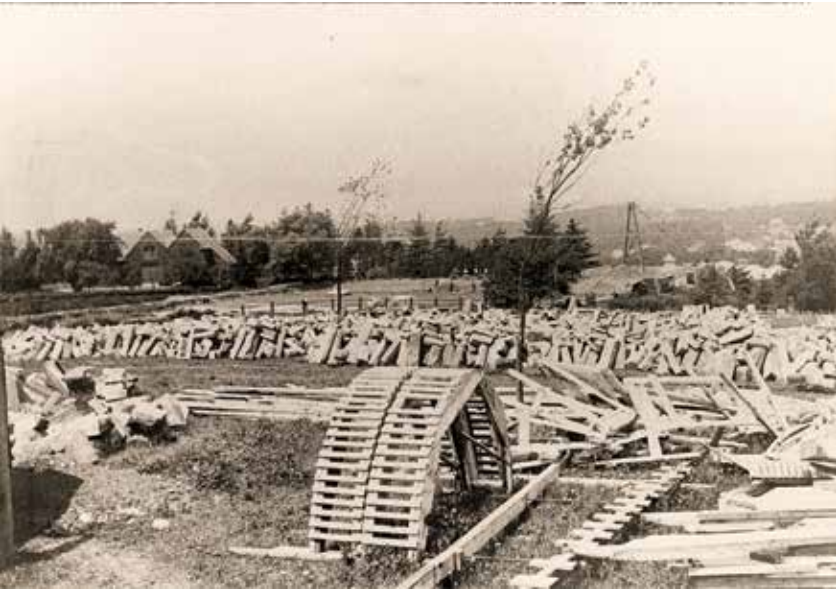
In the summer of 1900, the family returned to their cabin at the Huron Mountain Club for a vacation. Howard and a local friend set out in a canoe from Marquette, planning to paddle the 40 miles to join them. Howard was carrying books, mail, and flowers for his mother. But the two boys were caught in a sudden storm and drowned.³⁴

It was another devastating loss for the family.

“Had it not been for my knowledge of [Christian] Science, I would have become a broken-down woman,” Mrs. Longyear later acknowledged.³⁵

Just as had been the case earlier, however, this tragic event, too, would prove a turning point.





Disassembled mansion in Marquette, Michigan, prior to being shipped to Boston. Longyear Museum collection.

The Longyears soon faced another blow. Plans to donate a prime piece of lakeside property for a public park as a memorial to their son were derailed, quite literally, when right of way to the land was claimed by a railroad company. Neither Mr. Longyear's offer to pay to reroute the planned line nor a lawsuit was able to stop it.

"Mun, I shall never go back to Marquette to live again," Mrs. Longyear told her husband when news came of the Michigan Supreme Court's verdict (the family was traveling abroad at the time). The thought of leaving her home in addition to losing her eldest son was a bitter one. "That night, when I wrestled with the sense of loss, the answer came, 'Go to Boston.'"³⁶

A short time later, the couple were riding in a carriage down the Champs-Élysées in Paris when Mr. Longyear made a startling announcement: "Wife, I think we can move the house to Boston."³⁷

In a feat of engineering ingenuity that made headlines nationwide, that's exactly what the Longyears did. It took three years, a team of 25 workmen, and an enormous sum of money, but the house was disassembled stone by stone, each one photographed, numbered, carefully wrapped in cloth and straw and crated for shipment by rail to Boston, there to be rebuilt on a hilltop in neighboring Brookline.³⁸

Started in 1903 and completed in 1906, the move represented a new beginning for the family, and it was one that would bring Mrs. Longyear to the heart of the Christian Science movement, and ultimately to her life's work.

"To be of real use to the Cause"

"The thought came to me forcibly today that the time to gather all data possible from the living people who knew Mrs. Eddy personally, is the present," Mrs. Longyear recorded in the fall of 1917.³⁹

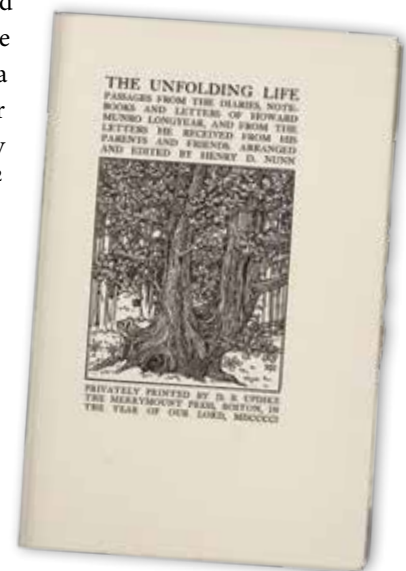
The intervening years since arriving in New England had been full. The Longyears initially rented a home in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood while their house was being moved from Marquette. The family attended The Mother Church, where Mrs. Longyear taught Sunday School. While Mr. Longyear commuted between Boston and Marquette to attend to his business operations, Mrs. Longyear attended to the education of their four youngest children — and to furthering her own understanding of Christian Science. In December 1903, she had Primary class instruction from Edward Kimball in Boston, receiving a C.S.B. certificate at its conclusion.⁴⁰

She also continued to correspond with Mrs. Eddy, and that same year sent her a copy of *The Unfolding Life*, a book that she and her husband had privately printed to honor Howard.⁴¹

"It is beautiful within and without," Mrs. Eddy wrote in response. "You deserve a medal for its make-up, for the love that breathes in every line and lives in your heart."⁴²

Their correspondence over the next few years, Mrs. Longyear noted with commendable humility, "tell[s] the story of my efforts and, alas, my failures."⁴³ Gifts of food, flowers, clothing, and other items were kindly received — "I am again your debtor for luxuries and letters that came from a heart richer than the wealth of a world," Mrs. Eddy wrote to her in 1904, for instance.⁴⁴ In another letter she noted, "None can doubt your great beneficence, your unselfed love, your practical Christianity."⁴⁵

But Mrs. Eddy was as quick to rebuke as she was to praise when she detected too much focus on her personality or "untempered zeal on her behalf," as Mrs. Longyear put it, that needed to be reined in.⁴⁶



The Longyears had this book privately printed as a tribute to their son Howard. Longyear Museum collection.

“Dear one: Turn your thoughts from the material to the spiritual, from dreams to realities,” Mrs. Eddy wrote kindly but pointedly in 1904. “Write and think no more about such things for me. I do not want them. Leave me out of your material concepts. Now if you love me you will obey me.”⁴⁷

In June 1905, the Longyears were invited to Pleasant View.

“The greatest, most eventful day of my life,” Mrs. Longyear recorded in her diary of their visit with Mrs. Eddy. “May the blessing be absorbed.”⁴⁸

Mary Longyear was active socially, entertaining at her newly rebuilt and expanded home (named “The Terrace”), supporting the arts, joining clubs, and engaging in civic and charitable endeavors.⁴⁹ Ever the practical Midwesterner, she offered financial support wherever needed, counting her deep pockets a blessing to be shared liberally.

Closest to her heart, however, was Christian Science, and a desire “to be of real use to the Cause.”⁵⁰ At one point she purchased a piece of property from Mrs. Eddy to help relieve her of the financial burden, for example, and she and Mun gave generously toward the building of the Extension of The Mother Church, donated a parcel of land adjoining The Mother Church (now part of the Church Plaza), financed Frances Thurber Seal’s sojourn in Germany to sow the seeds

of Christian Science, and offered to help build a Christian Science sanatorium.⁵¹ Through the Christian Science periodicals, Mrs. Eddy praised Mary Longyear publicly for her generosity:



We lose the sense of personality when describing love, and so base the behests of praise on worth akin to unworldliness, on goodness shorn of self, and on charity governed by God influencing the acts of men — even a charity which “suffereth long and is kind.”

Mrs. Mary Beecher Longyear’s charity is of the sort that letteth not the left hand know what the right hand doeth, that giveth unspoken to the needy, and is felt more than heard in a wide field of benefactions. Seldom have I seen such individual, impartial giving as this. Therefore I hasten to praise it and turn upon it the lens of spiritual faith and love, which enforce the giving liberally to all men and the upbraiding of none.

Begging her pardon for the presumption of my pen, if such it be to “render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar’s,” I hope that I have neither grieved her meekness nor overrated her generosity thereby.⁵²



Left: Mrs. Longyear outside her home on Fisher Hill in Brookline, Massachusetts. The Longyear family moved back into their rebuilt mansion in 1906. Longyear Museum collection.



Mary Beecher Longyear and Mary Baker Eddy around the time that they became acquainted. Longyear Museum collection.

household — Calvin Frye, Irving Tomlinson, Laura Sargent, Adam Dickey, and William and Ella Rathvon — she was called upstairs to see Mrs. Eddy.

“I ran joyously up to her room,” she recalled of their laughter-filled conversation. “Such a vision. Lavender silk dress and white lace and wonderful eyes. She called me ‘our benefactor’ and...said ‘It is a joy to live for the good one can do.’”⁵³

That summer, Mary Longyear received another invitation to Chestnut Hill. Fresh from a trip to Paris, she arrived bearing gifts for the household, including an Oriental rug for Mrs. Eddy.

“The bright joyful face of Mrs. Eddy greeted me. She kissed me and welcomed me. . . . She asked me if I knew the reason she liked to have me visit her. When I answered in the negative, she said, ‘It is because you give me nothing to meet.’”⁵⁴

A week later, the Christian Science Board of Directors wrote to Mrs. Longyear to offer her a spinning wheel that had once belonged to Mrs. Eddy’s grandmother.⁵⁵

While she wouldn’t formally begin collecting historical material until 1917 (aside from purchasing a marble bust of Mrs. Eddy by American sculptor Luella Varney Serrao in 1911), that generous gift was the start of what today comprises Longyear Museum’s extensive collection, all related to Mary Baker Eddy and the early history of the Christian Science movement.⁵⁶

In September 1910, Mrs. Longyear sent Mrs. Eddy and her household a gift of fruit grown on her property in Brookline.

A thank you note arrived promptly in return. It would be her last communication with Mrs. Eddy. Addressed “Beloved Student,” it contains a hint of Mrs. Eddy’s humor: “Allow me to wish you long years, life perfect and immortal. May God crown your years with blessings.” It was signed, “Lovingly yours.”⁵⁷

Continued on page 12



Maryann Baker’s spinning wheel on display in the Baker Family gallery at the Longyear mansion, circa 1950.

There was a second visit to Pleasant View, and later, when Mrs. Eddy moved to nearby Chestnut Hill in 1908, visits to her new home at 400 Beacon Street. In January 1910, Mrs. Longyear was invited to lunch. After enjoying a meal with Mrs. Eddy’s

Excerpt from “A Closer Look at the Baker Family Spinning Wheel”

by Timothy C. Leech

Standing 58 inches high, this spinning wheel would have dominated the kitchen of the Baker’s homestead in Bow, New Hampshire. It’s called a “walking wheel” as its operator would walk constantly back and forth while using it. Adapted specifically to spin the twisted fibers of wool into fine yarn, the wheel suggests that raising sheep may have been an important part of the Baker family’s farm production.

Mary Baker Eddy’s grandmother, Maryann Baker, and mother, Abigail Baker, would have operated it by setting the large wheel into motion. This would transfer energy through a cord to swiftly rotate a spindle that would then twist the raw wool into yarn. The operator would gradually move back, drawing out her line of yarn. When she had gone as far away as was convenient for her, she would reverse the motion of the wheel, walking forward as the newly spun yarn wound onto the bobbin. Then she would repeat the process. It is possible that a child or other assistant would be tasked with spinning the large wheel and changing its direction, but this helper had to stay focused in order to coordinate the motion efficiently.

As an artifact, the spinning wheel is aesthetically pleasing for its simple, functional design and for the craftsmanship evident in its construction. It is almost entirely made from wood, including several precisely-turned adjustment screws. Its most dramatic feature is its primary wheel. At 44 inches in diameter, the rim of the wheel was fashioned from a single thin strip of wood that was bent into a circle and spliced together. Two things are required to create such a wooden hoop: A truly skilled woodworker and a piece of absolutely flawless lumber over eleven feet long. Such high-quality wood is now exceedingly rare, but it was easily obtainable at the time the spinning wheel was crafted well over two centuries ago.

Mrs. Eddy’s brother George Sullivan Baker played a role in preserving the spinning wheel for future generations. In 1837, Mary and George’s sister Abigail married Alexander Hamilton Tilton, scion of a prominent New Hampshire family that gained much of their wealth from the textile mills they owned. The following year, George entered a partnership with his new brother-in-law to jointly operate textile mills along the Winnepesaukee River in Sanbornton Bridge.

When his father, Mark Baker, died in 1865, George inherited the family home in Sanbornton Bridge. His grandmother’s spinning wheel was part of its furnishings. After George’s



Above: Spinning wheel on display in Longyear Museum’s exhibit “Mary Baker Eddy: A Spiritual Journey.”



death in 1867, his widow, Martha Rand Baker, kept the spinning wheel until her own passing in 1909, at which time the Christian Science Board of Directors acquired it. In July 1910, they offered it as a gift to Mary Beecher Longyear.

While no historical evidence remains as to why George and his wife kept this artifact, it’s possible that the family’s connections to the textile industry gave it sentimental appeal. By the mid-nineteenth century, old New England spinning wheels were coming to be prized as emblems of a simpler and more virtuous era.

Timothy C. Leech received his PhD in Early American History from Ohio State University in 2017. He is a Public Historian and a former employee of both Longyear Museum and the Mary Baker Eddy Library. He and his family currently live in Ontario, Canada.

This is an excerpt from a longer research article, which may be read in its entirety at longyear.org/SpinningWheel.

The “cloud of witnesses”

In the years following Mary Baker Eddy’s passing, Mary Longyear’s philanthropy continued unabated. In 1911, she gave \$10,000 for Mrs. Eddy’s memorial at Mount Auburn Cemetery and in 1916, she and Mun donated 20 acres (and later substantial funds) for what would become the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association.⁵⁸ During World War I, the Longyears supported war relief efforts, including one funded by The Mother Church.⁵⁹

And in 1913, Mary Longyear quietly established a fund to help support early students of Mrs. Eddy’s, many of whom were quite elderly by this time and needed practical assistance and tender care. At her request, the fund was kept anonymous. Christian Science practitioner and teacher James Neal agreed to administer it. Later, after his duties as a member of the Christian Science Board of Directors necessitated his passing the baton, he wrote a letter to Mrs. Longyear. It read in part: “It has been a privilege to handle this fund for the letters from its beneficiaries show that in times of need it has brought comfort and cheer to those who so bravely stood by our beloved Leader during the early years of her struggle to establish Christian Science. Every bit of support she then received deserves a full measure of recognition from those who are now reaping the benefits of those labors, and for this reason The Board of Directors especially appreciate the practical way in which you are expressing yours.”⁶⁰

Mary Longyear’s philanthropic endeavors stretched beyond the Christian Science movement. Her war relief efforts included sponsoring a benefit for the American Red Cross at her home in Brookline, and she and her husband helped fund the first

translation of the Bible into Braille.⁶¹ In 1920, Mrs. Longyear established the Zion Research Foundation [see article on page 16], transforming her home’s former basement bowling alley into a library for some 13,500 volumes on Bible-related subjects that would eventually be amassed.

In addition to these activities, Mary Longyear was a painter and poet, wrote half a dozen books (including a biography of Asa Gilbert Eddy), and was active in the women’s suffrage movement.⁶² Always closest to her heart was the Cause of Christian Science, however. And in the fall of 1917, when that lightning bolt of clarity hit her that the time to gather information from those who actually knew Mary Baker Eddy — the “cloud of witnesses,” as she put it, echoing the Bible — was *now*, she didn’t hesitate.⁶³ Within days, she visited Julia Bartlett and Janet Colman, two of Mrs. Eddy’s earliest students, and returned home with their photographs. From that point on, her collection began to grow.

“The Truth leads”

Mrs. Longyear was quick to acknowledge the part her husband played in her philanthropic endeavors, calling him “the avenue through which Love supplied me with the means to meet the needs of our beloved Cause of Christian Science.”⁶⁴

He did more than just bankroll her efforts, however. As Mary threw herself heart and soul into the work, Mun was an active partner much of the time. The couple took trips together to seek out Mrs. Eddy’s early students and visit historic sites related to Mrs. Eddy’s life, collect books for the Zion Research Foundation, and much more.



“Mr. Longyear nobly helped me,” Mrs. Longyear wrote in her diary at one point.⁶⁵

Through it all, Mary Longyear placed her trust firmly in God.

“God, my God, will lead me and will not let me make mistakes,” she recorded, and it’s fitting that the Greek equivalent of the Longyear family motto — “The Truth leads” — was placed by the couple on the Longyear Foundation seal.⁶⁶



Longyear Foundation seal translates to “The Truth leads.”

Prayer undergirded all her efforts. One example serves to illustrate this point. In the summer of 1920, Mrs. Longyear and her daughter found the house in Amesbury, Massachusetts, where Mrs. Eddy lived on two occasions. But its owner had no interest in selling either the house or its contents — which had remained substantially as they were when Mrs. Eddy lived there.

“I could not buy nor beg for one single thing,” Mrs. Longyear lamented in her diary.⁶⁷

As they left, she told her daughter, “Judith, if it is right for me to preserve this house, I will get it someday; if it is not God’s will, I do not want it!”⁶⁸

A year and a half later, the house was hers.

“It was a gift from Love,” she recorded afterward in her diary. “I knew if it were right for me to guard it for the future, I would get it.”⁶⁹

Working for the ages

The road that led Mary Beecher Longyear to that potato field purchase in New Hampshire in the summer of 1920 was a long and occasionally rocky one. There were personal as well as professional challenges. While many applauded her efforts, others questioned her motives, her methods, and whether it was even necessary to preserve Mary Baker Eddy’s human history.⁷⁰

Mrs. Longyear was the first to acknowledge and express chagrin for her own shortcomings — her diaries are full of earnest resolutions to be more patient, less willful, and less impulsive — but she never wavered from her conviction that it was not just necessary to trace Mrs. Eddy’s human footsteps, but *vital*.⁷¹ She saw the work she was doing in preserving historical evidence as a safeguard for the future.

“The ages must be furnished authentic data,” she stated.⁷²

Her son Robert Longyear later elaborated on the motivation behind his mother’s endeavors, observing, “The more complete [the factual record] could be made, the less opportunity would there be in succeeding centuries to fabricate tissues of imagination in order to vilify [Mrs. Eddy] or sanctify her.”⁷³

Mrs. Longyear’s deepest hope was that her efforts would help encourage Christian Scientists in the coming years as they became better acquainted with those who had gone before — and above all, with Mary Baker Eddy.

“We must know her, her motives and her simple, natural life — know her struggles and her overcoming of them,” she wrote. “We must learn to endure and love as she did.”⁷⁴

Acknowledging the long road that had taken them from Marquette to Boston and looking ahead to the future, Mary Beecher Longyear wrote in a note to her beloved husband in February 1920, “Our house was brought here for a good purpose, and from it will pour blessings from generation to generation.”⁷⁵

Heather Vogel Frederick heads up Longyear Museum’s Research and Publications team.



From far left: Mary Beecher Longyear on the bridge over Halls Brook in North Groton, New Hampshire; Mr. and Mrs. Longyear in North Groton; Mrs. Longyear and friends in front of the Amesbury house; Mrs. Longyear on the steps of the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Swampscott, Massachusetts. Longyear Museum collection.

ENDNOTES

1. Mary Beecher Longyear, Historical Diary #4, July 7, 1920. Longyear Museum collection (hereafter referenced as LMC).
2. Ibid. "I bought the house at Rumney of Ver H. Avery — terms \$1500, \$500 when the deed was delivered and the balance in October. He was to have the apples and could use the barn for hay." \$1,500 in 1920 is worth roughly \$20,000 in today's dollars. Mrs. Longyear began researching the life of Asa Gilbert Eddy in 1915 and would publish a biography of him in 1922. She didn't begin collecting seriously until 1917, however.
3. Historical Diary #5, January 3, 1923, LMC.
4. She continued: "The Truth regarding her human experience must be preserved for all time that she may never be relegated to sainthood, or worshipped for her inspired discovery of Christian Science." Mary Beecher Longyear statement, June 22, 1926, LMC. And speaking specifically of the historic houses that she preserved, she noted that her plan was "to...make them distributing centres of knowledge regarding her life, 'illustrating the ethics of Truth,' not as shrines where her personality would be worshipped." *Longyear Foundation: Its Purpose and Unfoldment*, 1946, 8, LMC.
5. Historical Diary #1, March 19, 1918, LMC. Mrs. Longyear's diaries are full of references to the humble prayers that undergirded her efforts and the sweet sense of confidence she maintained that divine Love would rightly guide those efforts. To give just a few examples: "If Divine Love is the originator of this idea...nothing can prevent the progress of it." Ibid, June 26, 1918. "Love directs and unfolds." Historical Diary #5, April 18, 1922, LMC. "If Love does not guide us, we cannot succeed in our historic undertaking." Ibid., January 3, 1923. "Love will point, designate, and [lead] the way for me to bring out what is the best way to honor Mary Baker Eddy by doing this work." Ibid., June 19, 1923.
6. The house in Rumney was purchased on July 19, 1920; Swampscott on August 4, 1920; North Groton on November 8, 1920; and Amesbury on February 20, 1922.
7. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
8. Ibid.
9. The move occurred after Mary's older brother Elihu returned home safely from the Civil War. Caroline Beecher made a deal with her husband when he wanted to head West — she agreed to go, if he agreed to send all their children to college. Ibid.
10. The family initially attended a Methodist church, but in Michigan began attending a nearby Presbyterian church.
11. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. "I had to study late at night to keep up with them and use all of my ingenuity to keep from showing my really inadequate preparation...resolved to be the best teacher ever possible devoting my whole life to the work.... I tried to put all frivolity behind me, and felt that a new era had opened before me." Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. One of those ventures included leasing land rich in iron ore to the U.S. Steel Corporation, formed in 1901 when J. P. Morgan financed a merger with Carnegie Steel and two other companies. The royalties from this lease proved immensely profitable for the Longyears. The deal was widely reported in the press, including in the *Boston Globe*, in an article reprinted in the Christian Science periodicals: "A Successful Business Man," *Christian Science Sentinel* 9 (October 27, 1906): 133. See also "Death Takes Noted Citizen," *Brookline Chronicle*, June 3, 1922; John Case and Shirley Schwaller, *The Longyear Legacy* (Marquette, Michigan: J. M. Longyear Heirs, Ltd., 1998), 7-17.
18. Ibid., 10. Mr. Longyear's fifty-fifty partnerships kicked in after the purchase price of the land was recouped through the sale of logging rights and/or mineral royalties.
19. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Reminiscences of Mary Baker Eddy," LMC.
20. Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, 66.
21. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. John Munro Longyear, "Reminiscences," 235 LMC. He writes that he found Sue Ella Bradshaw "a charming, bright-looking woman."
25. Not surprisingly, this "aroused comment." Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
26. Robert E. Stratton, "There Was No Place Like Home for the Longyears," *Milwaukee Journal*, April 22, 1975.
27. The work must have been by faith, she points out, "for I had little understanding," but she records healing others of ailments including cancer and the mumps. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
28. John Munro Longyear, "Reminiscences," 235, LMC. He writes of being concerned with Mary's despondency after the death of their little son, and notes that Christian Science "wrought a great change in her. By 1894 she was again her old, merry self." Ibid., 237.
29. Ibid., 236-237.
30. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
31. Ibid. Mrs. Longyear concedes that she had a part in this. "I did not know the wisdom of keeping my mouth shut or avoiding conflicts with unprepared thought. I was impulsive, fearless and somewhat aggressive."
32. Mary Baker Eddy to Mary Beecher Longyear, May 3, 1900, L05370, MBEL. Mrs. Longyear subsequently rented a booth at the Exposition to display the literature. As for the translation, she notes with chagrin, "You can imagine that the effort was not a success, as the man I employed to translate it had never heard of Science before and I knew very little regarding its theory." Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
33. An earnest student of Christian Science, Howard joined The Mother Church in 1898. He was also bow oarsman on the freshman rowing team and a member of the Cornell glee club.
34. "Boys Drowned in Lake," [Bloomington, Illinois] *Pantagraph*, July 11, 1900. The accident and subsequent week-long search for the remains of the two boys was covered widely in the press.
35. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
36. The case went all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court, where it was decided in favor of the Marquette & Southeastern Railroad. "Supreme Court," *Detroit Free Press*, May 2, 1903.
37. Mrs. Longyear was overjoyed at the news. "I forgot time and place, and throwing my arms impulsively around my husband's neck, I cried, 'You can, Mun, you can.'" Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
38. "Most Marvelous House Moving," *Boston Post*, December 13, 1903; John P. Case, "Marquette Loses a House," *Harlow's Wooden Man* (Marquette County Historical Society Quarterly Journal, Fall 1983), 9-10; *Milwaukee Journal*, April 22, 1975. The move involved two freight trains and 190 railroad cars, and the cost of transportation alone was \$9,000 — some \$300,000 today. When the house was reconstructed, it was enlarged to nearly 100 rooms.

39. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Data in Regard to the Building of a Historical Library to Contain an Authentic History of Christian Science," November 1, 1917, LMC. The day before, she had recorded in her diary, "Am aroused to work for the cause. The History of Christian Science." Mary Beecher Longyear General Diaries, October 31, 1917, LMC.
40. It wasn't unusual at that time for students of Christian Science to take Primary class instruction twice. All of the members of Mr. Kimball's 1903 class, including Mrs. Longyear, received C.S.B. certificates. However, since this was not a Normal class, the certificates didn't authorize any of the students as teachers of Christian Science.
41. A compilation of letters to and from his family, diary entries, remembrances, and more, it was given to each member of Howard's Zeta Psi fraternity at Cornell and to other close family and friends.
42. Mary Baker Eddy to Mary Beecher Longyear, February 27, 1903, L05371, MBEL. Mrs. Eddy concluded the letter, "Remember me respectfully to Mr. Longyear, kiss your dear children for me, and know I am lovingly thine."
43. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
44. Mary Baker Eddy to Mary Beecher Longyear, January 17, 1904, L05374, MBEL.
45. Mary Baker Eddy to Mary Beecher Longyear, May 3, 1906, L01406, MBEL.
46. Mary Baker Eddy to Mary Beecher Longyear, January 17, 1904, L05374, MBEL.
47. Mary Baker Eddy to Mary Beecher Longyear, August 28, 1904, L05379, MBEL. Mrs. Longyear always hastened to comply when she received correction from Mrs. Eddy, who later noted, "Your gracious way of learning wisdom insures your success in obtaining it." Mary Baker Eddy to Mary Beecher Longyear, April 12, 1906, L05395, MBEL.
48. Mary Beecher Longyear General Diaries, June 29, 1905, LMC.
49. The Longyears moved back into their home in 1906. Mrs. Longyear's name often appeared in the society pages, and she was a member of the Twentieth Century Club, the Boston Authors' Club, and Daughters of the American Revolution, among others.
50. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC. Her desire was shared more widely when one of her letters to Mrs. Eddy was published in *The Christian Science Journal* 26 (July 1908): 232. It included this line: "I am praying each day to be fitted to serve Love more acceptably."
51. This latter proposal received Mrs. Eddy's enthusiastic endorsement. For more on Mrs. Longyear's involvement in what would eventually become the Christian Science Benevolent Association, including some of Mrs. Eddy's correspondence with her on the subject, see "The Christian Science Benevolent Association," *Christian Science Sentinel* 29 (October 7, 1916): 110.
52. Mary Baker Eddy, "Card," *Christian Science Sentinel* 8 (July 14, 1906): 732. Mrs. Eddy's remarks would be reprinted in the August 1906 issue of *The Christian Science Journal*.
53. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC.
54. *Ibid.* Mrs. Longyear notes that the visit fell on the 10th anniversary of her son Howard's passing. "Howard's day...was filled with joy. Was nearer all true being than ever before." Mary Beecher Longyear General Diaries, July 7, 1910.
55. The Christian Science Board of Directors to Mary Beecher Longyear, July 13, 1910, LMC. Mrs. Longyear replied: "I hasten to assure you that I will accept the gift of the old spinning wheel with great joy...I fully appreciate the action and the evidence of trust the directors have in giving me this precious heirloom. I will guard it tenderly." Mary Beecher Longyear to the Christian Science Board of Directors, July 14, 1910, LMC.
56. Other gifts to Longyear Museum from The Mother Church include Pleasant View's stone entrance gate, two summerhouses, and a fountain; two carriages and a skiff; and more recently, much of the furnishings and artwork from 400 Beacon Street, Mrs. Eddy's final residence in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.
57. Mary Baker Eddy to Mary Beecher Longyear, September 15, 1910, L05406, MBEL.
58. \$10,000 in 1911 translates to nearly \$300,000 in 2020. In addition to the land they provided, the Longyears donated \$90,000 toward the establishment of a nursing facility, or approximately \$2 million today.
59. "Longyear Estate Opened for Benefit of Red Cross," *Boston Globe*, June 10, 1917; "Mlle Perrier Honor Guest at War Relief Meeting," *Boston Globe*, January 4, 1918.
60. James A. Neal to Mary Beecher Longyear, February 8, 1918, LMC. Frances Hill, wife of Calvin Hill, would follow Mr. Neal in administering the fund. In all, Mrs. Longyear donated a total of \$15,000 for this effort, about \$400,000 today. In a second letter ten days later, Mr. Neal added: "I again feel impelled to express my gratitude for your loving generosity in establishing this fund, for I feel confident that it has done an immense amount of good." James Neal to Mary Beecher Longyear, February 18, 1918, LMC.
61. Edwin J. Westrate, *Beacon in the Night* (New York: Vantage Press, 1964), 154-157, 170-172.
62. "Suffrage Poster Tea," *Boston Globe*, October 25, 1914; "Suffragists' Conference Thursday Afternoon," *Boston Globe*, March 14, 1916. Mrs. Longyear's books include *Gathered Verses*; *The Law of a Household*; *The History of a House*; *The Unfolding Life*; *The Genealogy and Life of Asa Gilbert Eddy*; and *Hear, O Israel!*
63. "A statement, 'I saw, I knew' from many will be a cloud of witnesses for generations to come." Mary Beecher Longyear to James Neal, January 11, 1918, LMC. She's quoting Hebrews 12:1.
64. Mary Beecher Longyear, "Autobiography," LMC. Theirs was a marriage of equals, well in advance of its time. At one point, when Mrs. Longyear suggested that, since she was Mun's lawful business partner as well as his wife, and that all that stood between her receiving a third of his income presently was "the claim of death," he might as well pay her now, he agreed. "My husband was a kind, just man," she noted, "and from that day, I received a check every third month for one-third of his income." *Ibid.*
65. Historical Diary #1, November 4, 1918, LMC. "Munro seems to be with me heart and soul in this historical business," she wrote. *Ibid.*, July 23, 1918. Earlier that year, she recorded that Mun spent the day helping her label photographs of Pleasant View. *Ibid.*, March 1, 1918. Mun also supported her when she addressed the Christian Science students' association of Mary Crawford on several occasions. *Ibid.*, April 27, 1918.
66. *Ibid.*, November 13, 1918.
67. Historical Diary #4, July 13, 1920, LMC.
68. Mary Beecher Longyear, *The History of a House* (Norwood, Massachusetts: The Plimpton Press, 1925), 3.
69. Historical Diary #5, February 20, 1922, LMC. In a later letter, she wrote in a similar vein: "I rest on this statement: Whatever is right for the Historical Society to guard safely will come to it sooner or later." Mary Baker Eddy to Anna White Baker, September 3, 1924, LMC.
70. Diary entries and letters show that among those who encouraged her along the way were Adam Dickey, Alfred Farlow, William and Ella Rathvon, Septimus and Camilla Hanna, Blanche Hersey Hogue, and numerous others.

Endnotes continued on page 21

The Endowment for Biblical Research celebrates a historic milestone

by Kelly Byquist

“The history of Christian Science must prove the Bible true,” Mary Beecher Longyear wrote in her diary in 1918, around the time she began thinking about establishing a Biblical research library.¹

Back in 1910, Mrs. Longyear had received Mary Baker Eddy’s grandmother’s spinning wheel as a gift from the Christian Science Board of Directors, which launched her collection (see pages 10–11). By 1920, in need of an organization in which to house, catalog, order, and professionalize this collection, she took a bold step, establishing the Zion Research Foundation — known today as the Endowment for Biblical Research — which is celebrating its centennial this year.²

Initially, both Bible-related and Christian Science history-related items were gathered, collected, and preserved under Zion’s umbrella, but eventually a separate organization — the Longyear Foundation — was established to preserve the latter.

The mission of the Zion Research Foundation was to “facilitate and advance research into the origin of the Hebrew religion, and to promote the more general study of that subject and its application to human needs.”³ To that end, it created a library tasked with collecting books and manuscripts related to the Scriptures, financing individuals and institutions engaged in archaeology and research, and translating literature.

The foundation made steady strides in the fields of archaeology and translations. In the spring of 1919, Mrs. Longyear donated \$10,000 to the University of Michigan for an expedition to Sinai. She would also donate over \$30,000 to help translate the Bible into Braille.⁴

In 1976, the Zion Research Foundation changed its name to the Endowment for Biblical Research (EBR), whose mission is “to advance scholarly research into, and the general study of, biblical origins, shedding greater light on the meaning of the scriptural texts in the time they were first written and heard.”⁵

For the past century, the organization that Mary Beecher Longyear started has continued to thrive, hosting public lectures, supporting archaeological digs, and mounting exhibits, among other activities. Currently, EBR is helping to fund the development of an online research tool called the “Contexticon of New Testament Language,” which brings to light fresh possibilities for understanding Biblical terms and texts and examines how New Testament authors used words and phrases in comparison with usages found in other literature of the time.⁶

To learn more about the Endowment for Biblical Research, visit www.ebrboston.org



Top: Bowling alley in the basement of the Longyear mansion in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Above: Mrs. Longyear converted and remodeled the bowling alley to house the Zion Research Library. Longyear Museum collection.

Kelly Byquist is a Research Associate at Longyear Museum.

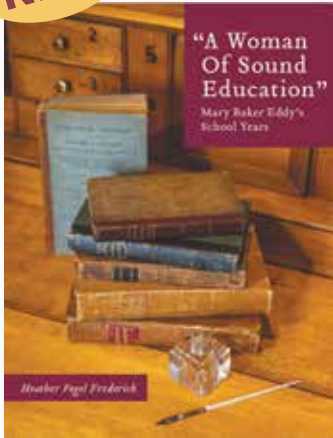
ENDNOTES

1. Historical Diary #1, July 16, 1918, Longyear Museum collection (hereafter referenced as LMC).
2. Zion Research Foundation was established March 19, 1920.
3. Assignment and Declaration of Trust for Zion Research Foundation, LMC.
4. “Proceedings of the Board of Regents (1917-1920),” 578-579, University of Michigan; Marguerite Smith, “First Part of Librarian’s Report for Quarter January 1-March 31, 1933,” 2-3, LMC. Edwin J. Westrate, *Beacon in the Night* (New York: Vantage Press, 1964), 154-157, 170-172. \$30,000 equals nearly \$400,000 today.
5. The name was changed June 23, 1976, due to political overtones associated with the term “Zionism.” June 26, 1976 Board Minutes, Endowment for Biblical Research.
6. Visit www.contexticon.com to explore Contexticon.

This is an excerpt from a longer research article, which may be read in its entirety at longyear.org/EBR

A Sampler of Gifts from LONGYEAR MUSEUM

NEW



"A Woman of Sound Education" — Mary Baker Eddy's School Years

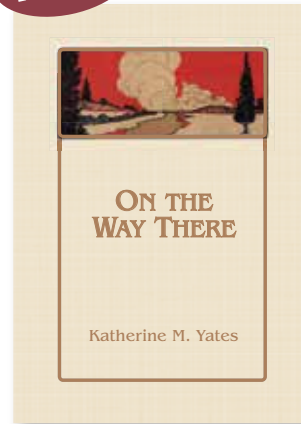
by Heather Vogel Frederick

This new book from Longyear Museum Press draws on a wide range of sources, including Longyear's unique collection of Baker family material, in presenting the most up-to-date historical research on the subject of Mary Baker Eddy's education.

Richly illustrated with historic images and full-color photographs.

Paperbound. 80 pages.
\$20

NEW

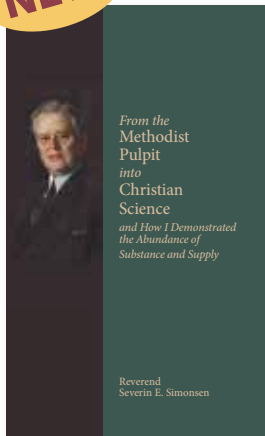


On the Way There by Katherine M. Yates

Newly republished by Longyear Museum Press, this allegory for all ages was first published in 1904 and recommended by Mrs. Eddy, who called it "scientific, simple," and "an object lesson for each one of us." (*Christian Science Sentinel*, September 29, 1904)

Paperbound. 30 pages.
\$19

NEW



From the Methodist Pulpit into Christian Science

by Reverend Severin E. Simonsen

Elected a First Member of The Mother Church by Mary Baker Eddy, Rev. Simonsen became a Christian Science practitioner and teacher. In 1928, he published a book about his life's journey — *From the Methodist Pulpit into Christian Science and How I Demonstrated the Abundance of Substance and Supply* — reprinted here with a newly-designed cover by Longyear Museum Press.

Paperbound. 293 pages.
\$30

Do Right and Fear Not Plaque

Mary Baker Eddy displayed this motto in the Massachusetts Metaphysical College in Boston and at her homes in Concord, New Hampshire, and Lynn, Massachusetts. At the monthly meeting of the Christian Scientist Association in 1886, she remarked, "'Do right and fear not' is the key-note of Christian Science." (*The Christian Science Journal*, November 1886).

This beautiful plaque of a sampler designed and hand-stitched by Susan E. Kilborn is based on a version of the motto that was given to Longyear Museum in 1938 by Emma Shipman, an early Christian Science practitioner, teacher, a student of Mrs. Eddy's, and a trustee of Longyear Museum. Today, Miss Shipman's gift hangs in the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Swampscott, Massachusetts.

This plaque can be hung on a wall or displayed on a table.

9" x 12"
\$36

NEW



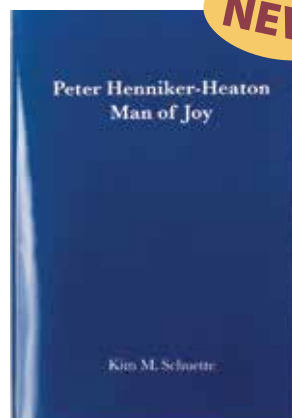
Peter Henniker-Heaton: Man of Joy by Kim Schuette

Peter Henniker-Heaton's landmark healing through Christian Science of a decade-long paralysis introduces this overview of his fruitful life, explored here through his many poems and other writings.

Illustrated with both black-and-white and full-color images.

Hardbound. 197 pages.
\$40

NEW



Paths of Pioneer Christian Scientists

by Christopher L. Tyner

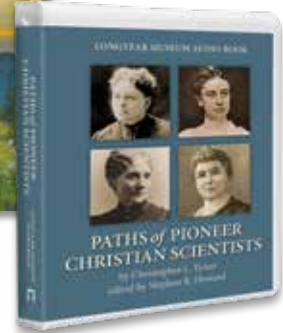
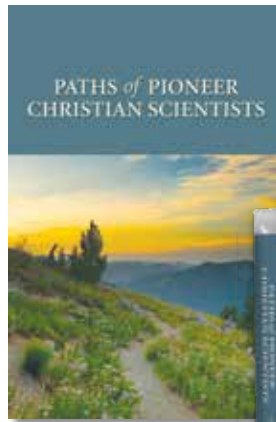
The stories of pioneer Christian Scientists remain largely untold, although their lives have relevance and freshness for today. This volume profiles four pioneering workers of the first order. Each one came to this new religion in the 1880s in urgent need of healing: Annie M. Knott, Emma Thompson, her daughter Abigail, and Janette Weller.

The healings that resulted proved to be new beginnings, as each of these women dedicated her life to helping and healing others. These well-documented accounts form a unique record of what extraordinary courage, fierce dedication, and love for God and Christian Science can accomplish. Longyear Museum Press.

Paperbound. 162 pages.

Now available as an audiobook and digital download!

Book	\$24
Audiobook (6 CDs)	\$35
Digital download	\$15



Gift Set of Films

Longyear Museum Press has produced a quartet of historical documentaries that are now available as a set with a special price.

The set includes the DVD version of the following films:

"Follow and Rejoice" — Mary Baker Eddy: The Chestnut Hill Years
The House on Broad Street — Finding a Faithful Few: The Years in Lynn
The Onward and Upward Chain — Pioneers of Christian Science in the 1880s
"Who Shall Be Called?" — The Pleasant View Household

\$85

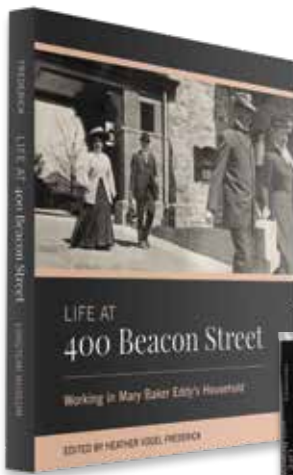
Each film stands on its own and is also available for purchase individually for **\$25**

Life at 400 Beacon Street: Working in Mary Baker Eddy's Household

by Heather Vogel Frederick

Have you ever wondered what it was like to work for Mary Baker Eddy? This recent book from Longyear Museum Press explores this question, introducing nearly two dozen men and women who came to Chestnut Hill between 1908 and 1910. Each chapter also shares some of the priceless instruction that Mary Baker Eddy shared with her "family," as she called these stalwart pioneers, whose dedication, faithfulness, and tireless efforts helped support the important work of the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science during the crowning years of her mission to mankind. Abundantly illustrated with both historic images and full-color photographs.

Paperbound. 457 pages.



Now available as an audiobook and digital download!

Book	\$40
Audiobook (10 CDs)	\$50
Digital download	\$28



Longyear Museum Mug

This handcrafted mug is 100% lead-free and food-safe for everyday use. Made in America. 16 ounces. 4.25" h. Dishwasher, microwave, and oven safe.

\$20

**New! Curbside pick-up on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1–4 pm.
 Call us at 617.278.9000 to schedule!**



Daniel
Daniel's Answer to the King

English artist Briton Riviere painted *Daniel* in 1872 and *Daniel's Answer to the King* in 1890. A print of *Daniel's Answer to the King* hung in Mrs. Eddy's Pleasant View and Chestnut Hill homes. (See *The Christian Science Journal*, July 1936, "Our Leader, In Retrospect" by Emma Easton Newman.) Archival prints suitable for framing.

Daniel		Daniel's Answer to the King	
8" x 12"	\$30	8" x 12"	\$30
11" x 17"	\$45	11" x 17"	\$45



The Quiet Room

Reproduced from an illuminated print in Longyear's collection that Mary Baker Eddy gave to Minnie Scott, who worked in the kitchen at Pleasant View and 400 Beacon Street, this verse from a classic poem by John Greenleaf Whittier has a timeless message about the importance of stillness.

Matted 8" x 10"	\$12
Framed 5" x 7"	\$18

Longyear's Cross and Crown Jewelry Collection



Cross and Crown Wreath Pin

This cross and crown pin is based on a traditional design with the symbols encircled in a wreath. The letters CS are entwined at the base of the wreath.

Size: 0.75" diameter	
Sterling Silver	\$150
14k Gold and Sterling Silver	\$295
14k Gold	\$495



Six-sided Cross and Crown Pendant

Inspired by a piece in the Longyear collection.

Size: 0.5" diameter	
Sterling Silver	\$100
14K Gold	\$295



Cross and Crown Pendant with verse from Matthew 10:8

Designed by Nikki Paulk, this pendant depicts the registered trademark owned by the Christian Science Board of Directors. It is being manufactured under license.

Size: Small approximately 0.71" diameter				
Large approximately 0.89" diameter				
Silver	Small	\$60	Large	\$69
14K Gold	Small	\$344	Large	\$495

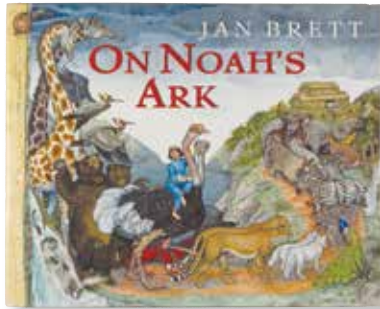


Melissa Shipley Designs

Size: 1" diameter	
Sterling Silver Plain Pendant	\$62.00
14K Gold Plain Pendant	\$324.00



Size: 1" diameter	
Sterling Silver Beaded Pendant	\$62.00
14K Gold Beaded Pendant	\$400.00



On Noah's Ark

Well-known illustrator Jan Brett retells this familiar Bible story, creating a new narrator for young audiences — Noah's granddaughter. Sumptuously illustrated, this book brims with color and life.

Board book \$8
Hardbound \$18



Noah's Ark Soft Playset

Four-piece plush playset comes with a bright yellow deer that rattles, a cute gray elephant with ears that make a crinkle sound, and a friendly little lion that squeaks when squeezed.

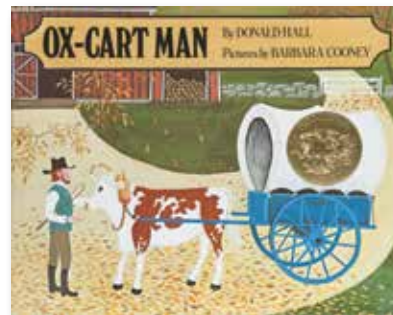
Ark: 8"
\$25



Christmas in the Manger

This delightful board book by Nola Buck and Felicia Bond shares the Christmas story with little ones through simple, lyrical text and engaging artwork.

Board book \$7



Ox-Cart Man

A charming and historically accurate depiction of farm life in New Hampshire in the 1830s. Written by former U.S. Poet Laureate Donald Hall and illustrated by Barbara Cooney, *Ox-Cart Man* won the 1980 Caldecott Medal.

Hardbound \$18
Paperbound \$8

Verses for Children by Mary Baker Eddy

Mary Baker Eddy's verses "Mother's New Year Gift to the Little Children" and "To the Big Children" first appeared in *The Christian Science Journal* of January 1896. Later, they were published in her book *Miscellaneous Writings 1883–1896*.

These plaques can be hung on a wall or displayed on a table. The artwork is from an original Scherenschnitte (scissors cutting) by Claudia Hopf of Kennebunk, Maine.

8 ¼" x 6 ¼"

Little Children \$30
Big Children \$30



Musical Lamb

This soft, cuddly lamb makes a perfect gift for a baby or young child. Its music box plays an excerpt from Hymn 304, "Feed My Sheep," by Mary Baker Eddy, from the *Christian Science Hymnal*.

Choice of ribbon color: Yellow, Blue, Pink, Green, Lavender
 14"
\$45



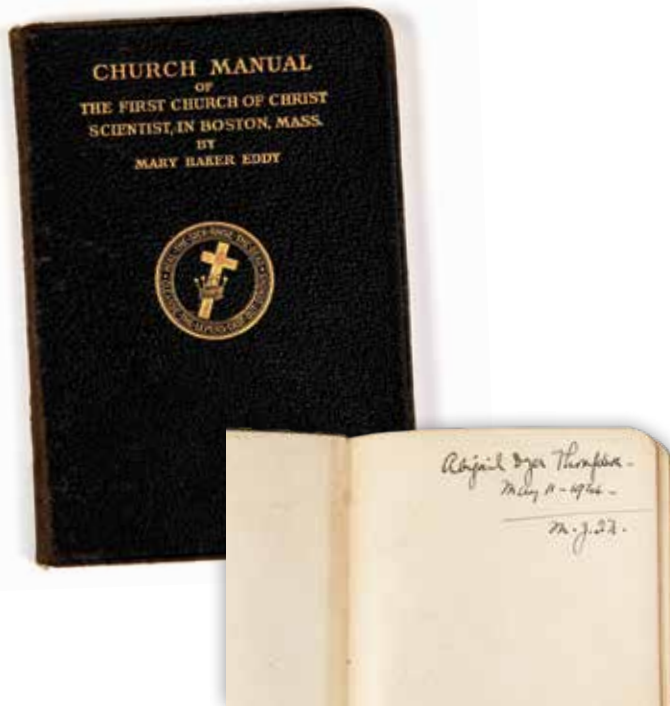
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 For information: 617.278.9000 • 800.277.8943 Monday–Friday 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

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Continued from page 1

Another book by Mary Baker Eddy came our way this past May, when we were given a copy of the *Manual of The Mother Church* belonging to Abigail Dyer Thompson, who signed it in 1924. A young woman when she was invited to attend Mrs. Eddy's final class in 1898, Abigail went on to serve as a Christian Science practitioner and teacher in Minneapolis for nearly six decades.²



Church Manual signed by Abigail Dyer Thompson and given to Longyear Museum.

As part of that work, she supported countless families metaphysically during childbirth. Olyn Kingbay Chapin's was one. Olyn turned to Miss Thompson when preparing for the arrival of twins in 1947. Abigail's work brought about a quick and complete healing when one of the babies had a serious condition at birth. Nine months later, she healed the other twin when he became listless.³

At some point, Mrs. Chapin received the *Manual* and she later gave it to the donor, because of her deep appreciation for the donor's work at the time as a Christian Science nurse who attended births.

"She had a sweet note inside it," said the donor, who is now a Christian Science practitioner, which read, "From one midwife to another.' It was just a really special connection with an early worker. I carried it around with me for years.... Then it just hit me one day: This belongs to Longyear!"



Abigail Dyer Thompson
Longyear Museum collection.

Thanks to generous donors like these, Longyear Museum's collection continues to grow. Such treasures offer new insights into Mary Baker Eddy's life and work, as well as the lives of early pioneers in the Christian Science movement, and help us share those stories in fresh new ways. We're so grateful for these gifts!

Stacy Teicher Khadaroo is a Research Associate at Longyear Museum.

You can read more detailed accounts of these recent donations on our website at longyear.org/DickeyDonation and longyear.org/ThompsonManual. For more about the Gaspard portrait, see longyear.org/GaspardPortrait.

ENDNOTES

71. For instance, she writes, "I want to be just and honorable in all my dealings. It is unfortunate that my impulses ran away with my judgment. I must be steady and not hurry in this needed work." Historical Diary #1, January 22, 1918, LMC. "I pray to keep humble and loving and reflect intelligence and wisdom." Ibid., September 27, 1918.
72. Historical Diary #1, October 9, 1918, LMC. The following month she noted, "Future generations will be grateful to all those who have taken the pains to send a message of cheer and a testimony for their teacher down the ages." Ibid., November 12, 1918.

73. Robert D. Longyear, "Mary Beecher Longyear: A Memoir," *Longyear Museum Quarterly News*, Vol. 8 (1971-1972), 127.
74. Historical Diary #5, July 28, 1921, LMC.
75. Mary Beecher Longyear to John Munro Longyear, February 5, 1920, LMC. During her lifetime, Mrs. Longyear didn't get to see her plans to build a museum to house her collection come to fruition. In 1997, the Longyear Trustees sold the mansion on Fisher Hill and used the funds to build Longyear Museum in nearby Chestnut Hill, finally realizing Mrs. Longyear's long-cherished dream.

"A Valuable Day" endnotes continued from page 15



1125 BOYLSTON STREET
CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467-1811

2020 ANNUAL APPEAL

THE ADVANCING CENTURY

We sometimes ask ourselves, “What would Mrs. Longyear think of the work her museum is doing today?”

As we reflect on 2020, we are especially struck by the opportunities that have unfolded for Longyear this year. We’re grateful for the new and creative ways we’ve found to share our work, and we’ve heard from many of you who have appreciated the increased outreach.

As you’ve read earlier in this *Report to Members*, a few of this year’s highlights include:

- The new Longyear Press publication, “A Woman of Sound Education” — *Mary Baker Eddy’s School Years* by Heather Vogel Frederick, which was sent as a gift to all Longyear members this spring.
- Virtual “Parlor Chats” with Site Managers at the Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses in Concord and Rumney, New Hampshire, and in Swampscott, Massachusetts.
- A virtual tour of the Longyear Portrait Gallery, bringing the Museum closer to home for many.
- A virtual celebration of the Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses held in July.



Left: Longyear volunteer sands wood clapboards in preparation for painting the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Amesbury, Massachusetts.

Below: Historic House Site Managers chat with Longyear Trustee James Rosebush.



- Progress on the Amesbury and Chestnut Hill restorations, work that is preserving these houses for the next century.

There’s been no slowing down this year in our efforts to advance the understanding of the life and work of Mary Baker Eddy. If you’ve enjoyed and been inspired by the work we’re doing, please consider a gift to the 2020 Annual Appeal. The support of our members and friends undergirds all of our activities and **your end-of-year gift is vital to our continuing progress!**

To make a gift, please use the envelope provided in this newsletter or go to longyear.org/support.

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.

E-mail us: letters@longyear.org
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Photos: Longyear staff, unless otherwise noted

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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.