

LONGYEAR Review

SPRING/SUMMER 2023



Longyear at
the Century Mark
Part One

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this special anniversary issue of the *Longyear Review*. One hundred years ago, Mary Beecher Longyear established the Longyear Foundation to help preserve the history of Mary Baker Eddy. While she had hoped to build a museum, she would eventually settle for modifying her 88-room mansion in Brookline, Massachusetts, to house her growing collection.

I visited the original Longyear Museum just once. I was a recent college graduate staying with friends in Boston. I was interested in a museum career and spent my days touring museums and historic sites—including Longyear. But I'm sorry that I have only vague memories of the mansion.

This year, as we celebrate 100 years of faithful stewardship and prepare for our next century of service, we are especially grateful for Mrs. Longyear's vision and for her efforts to help ensure that the history of the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science would be preserved and available to the public. By establishing the Longyear Foundation, she paved the way for her vision to be embraced by future generations.

And embraced it has been. Heather Vogel Frederick's cover story, "Landmarks of Progress: Longyear at the Century Mark," highlights Mrs. Longyear's work in the 1920s and the dedicated trustees and staff—including Heather's own grandmother,



Soon after that East Coast trip, I began working at a museum in the Midwest, and one of the first things I did when I had a steady paycheck was to become a member of Longyear. As I began to see firsthand the value of museums, I knew I wanted to support one that was focused on the history of Mary Baker Eddy. It was hard for me to imagine a more important mission. It was that mission, not the building or the exhibits themselves, that had stayed with me.

By the time I joined the Longyear staff some years later, the trustees had sold the mansion and were busy building a new museum in Chestnut Hill—finally fulfilling Mrs. Longyear's desire for a purpose-built facility. It was an exciting time to join the staff, full of promise and forward movement, and it had been 75 years in the making. Even with our sights set firmly on the future, we never forgot that we were building on the labor of those who had come before us—standing on their shoulders, as a colleague used to say.

Charlis Vogel (above, left)—who carried on the Foundation's work during the next four decades. It's their work that has made our progress possible. It's their shoulders on which we are standing today.

We hope you'll enjoy delving into Longyear's history. The second part of our story, from the early 1970s to the present, will be published in the fall issue of this newsletter.

Warmly,

Sandra J. Houston

Sandra J. Houston

Longyear staff from the 1960s, including Charlis Vogel (above, left), grandmother of Heather Vogel Frederick, Longyear's current director of research and publications. Longyear Museum Collection.

What Being There Can Do

“*You ... Are ... There!*” I suspect I’m not the only kid from a certain era who remembers this series of TV shows “anchored” by Walter Cronkite. They transported viewers back to a particular day in history, and reporters would “interview” participants in whatever momentous event that was unfolding before the camera. If the date was July 4, 1776, bewigged delegates at Philadelphia’s Second Continental Congress would step over to answer questions. “Mr. Jefferson, if you please, sir. Are they making many changes in the Declaration? ... Will it affect the issue of independence?”

As a child with a fascination for history, I was absolutely glued to

these programs. And growing up near Philadelphia, I often visited Valley Forge, where George Washington’s Continental Army camped during the brutal winter of 1777-78. Both the television programs and the visits caused me to think deeply: What kind of courage was required to sign a document declaring independence from a powerful monarch? What did a Continental soldier endure and sacrifice for the cause of American independence, living for months in a crude wood hut in bitter weather? As a result, history came alive and resonated in a whole new way for me.

About a decade ago, I found myself asking similar kinds of questions as I rode a Longyear tour bus climbing into

the New Hampshire mountains. If this steep and winding road had once been a dirt track, I wondered, what would it have been like to navigate in an open wagon, through heavy snow? Did this place feel as isolated in the 1850s as it did now?

When we reached our destination, the village of North Groton, what I saw there brought me up short. The house where Mary Baker Eddy, then Mary Patterson, lived between 1855 and 1860 (below), hung over a rushing brook, less than 50 feet from the ruins of a saw-mill—hardly a quiet neighbor in her day. It was here that her already fragile health declined, confining her more and
(Continued on page 13)



LANDMARKS OF PROGRESS

LONGYEAR AT THE CENTURY MARK

PART 1

BY HEATHER VOGEL FREDERICK

“As a young man, my family knew people who’d known Mary Baker Eddy,” former Longyear trustee Graves Hewitt recalled in the late 1990s, ticking off such names as William Rathvon, who had served in Mrs. Eddy’s household, and William Dana Orcutt, her publisher, whom Mr. Hewitt’s parents had entertained in their home. “It wasn’t until sometime later that I realized what an extreme privilege I’d had and which I had not appreciated fully at the time.”¹

As part of the last generation with a personal connection to these early Christian Scientists, Mr. Hewitt also realized that he and others like him, including a number of his fellow trustees, owed it to future generations—those who would be even further removed from Mrs. Eddy’s day—to help tell her story in an accurate and compelling way. For him, this was where Longyear Museum came in. Long before he became a trustee, Mr. Hewitt was a visitor, one who appreciated the unique collection of artifacts, reminiscences, portraits, photographs, letters, historic houses, and more, that shed light on Mrs. Eddy’s spiritual journey.

The desire to help preserve the evidence of Mrs. Eddy’s life for individuals like Mr. Hewitt was what spurred Mary Beecher Longyear into action decades earlier. In early January 1923, she wrote in her diary:

*“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. How few ... at the present time realize the great necessity of keeping the records of her early life....”*²

Two weeks after penning these prescient words, Mrs. Longyear took a step that would send ripples down the century to come. On January 18, 1923, she created a deed of trust establishing the Longyear Foundation.³ Its

mandate was to preserve, protect, and make available to the public the collection she had begun to gather related to Mrs. Eddy’s life and work. The document formalized her efforts, providing the means and direction to safeguard the artifacts for the future.

The collection had begun informally in late 1917, when Mrs. Longyear was struck by Mrs. Eddy’s statement, “Christian Science and Christian Scientists will, *must*, have a history....”⁴ The very next day, she paid a visit to Janet Colman, one of Mrs. Eddy’s early students, who heard Mrs. Longyear out and subsequently donated a photograph of herself. The following week, Mrs. Longyear called on three more pioneering Christian Scientists—Julia Bartlett, Mary Eastaman, and Ellen Clark—with similar results. From there, she was off and running as she traveled around the country—often accompanied by her husband, John Munro Longyear, who offered his full financial and moral support—seeking out photographs, reminiscences, letters, and other ephemera from a “cloud of witnesses,” as she called these men and women, echoing the Bible. She would also locate, purchase, and restore a number of homes where Mrs. Eddy once lived and worked. All along, she noted in her diary, “Love seems to open the way.”⁵

This year, a century after Mrs. Longyear boldly stepped into the world of historic preservation, we find ourselves echoing the words of William B. Johnson, who was serving as Clerk of The Mother Church when he gave a report at the 1906 Annual Meeting that included this statement:

“To-day we look back over the years that have passed since the inception of this great Cause, and we cannot help being touched by each landmark of progress that showed a forward effort into the well-earned joy that is with us now.”⁶

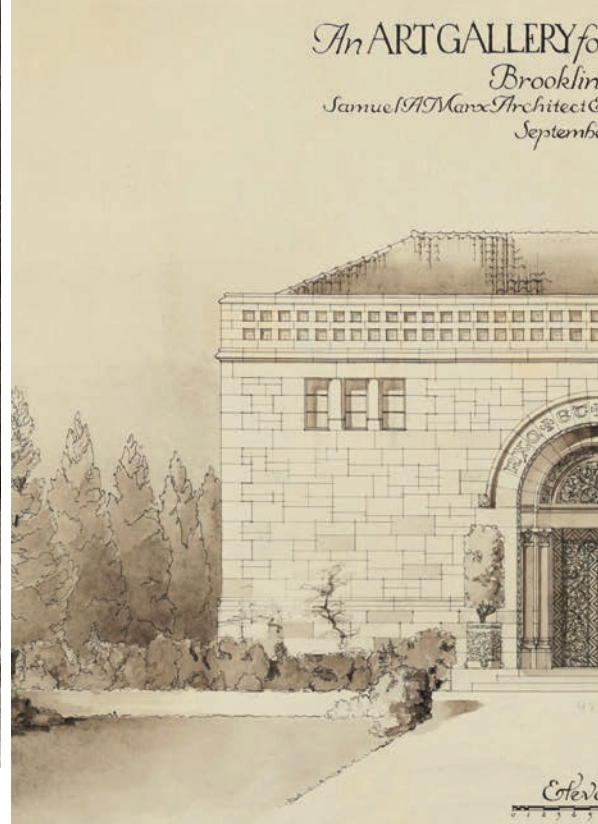
We invite you to join us as we stroll through the decades and celebrate Longyear’s own landmarks of progress.



The 88-room Longyear mansion, located on Fisher Hill in Brookline, Massachusetts, opened as a museum in 1937. Undated photo. All photos in this article are from the Longyear Museum Collection.



1920



An ART GALLERY for
Brookline
Samuel A. Marx Architect
September

1920s

1920-22

Mary Beecher Longyear travels the back roads of New England to find early houses where Mary Baker Eddy lived. In 1920, she purchases homes in Rumney and North Groton, New Hampshire, and in Swampscott, Massachusetts. A fourth house in Amesbury, Massachusetts, is added in 1922.

1921

The North Groton house, which had been moved from its original location and had fallen into disrepair, is returned to the site where it stood when Mary and Daniel Patterson lived in it. (See photo, front cover.) The contractor in charge, after noting that the sagging roof needed re-framing, writes Mrs. Longyear, “I am trying to locate some old clapboards to match those of the house, for sheathing the outside.”⁷ When one of the Longyear daughters visits the site and sees scraps of original wallpaper that have been

found in a closet, Mrs. Longyear tells the contractor, “I hope they can be preserved.”⁸ This close attention to detail will become a hallmark of Longyear’s preservation work. Restoration work is also done at Rumney during this year.

1923

On Jan. 18, Mrs. Longyear creates a deed of trust establishing the Longyear Foundation, with the aim of preserving, protecting, and making available to the public the collection she is gathering related to Mary Baker Eddy’s life and work. A Board of Visitors, an entity required of charitable trusts under Massachusetts law, is charged with fiscal oversight as well as ensuring that the founder’s purposes are carried out.⁹

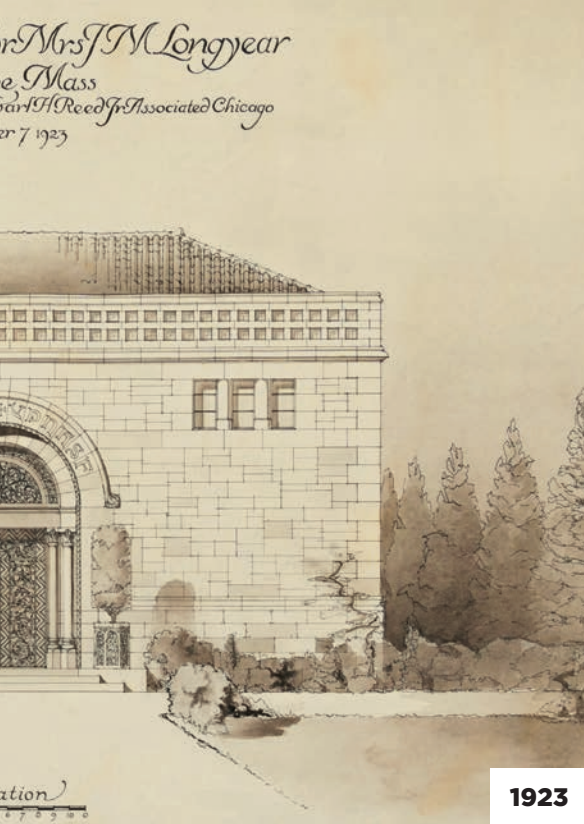
1923

Mrs. Longyear commissions architect Samuel A. Marx of the Chicago firm Earl H. Reed, Jr., Associated to design a museum to house her growing collection. By September, plans are in hand. There is a grand, two-story central hall

for displaying portraits on the first floor and photographs on the second; a spacious gallery devoted to Mrs. Eddy’s life story; and areas for research and study, as well as an “index” room (for cataloguing the collection) and ample storage. Mrs. Longyear’s dream of a purpose-built museum—instead of housing the collection in her 88-room mansion in Brookline, Massachusetts—isn’t a vanity project. She feels “that the upkeep of her residence ... would be a tremendous weight on the trustees, and that the use of it for many years to come would not warrant the great expenditure,” note the minutes of a 1925 trustee meeting.¹⁰ The Marx plans do not go forward.

1926

Amesbury and Swampscott open their doors. Rumney and North Groton officially open a bit later, although with Mrs. Longyear’s permission, visitors are welcomed unofficially. The monthly salary for the caretaker in Rumney—which doesn’t have indoor plumbing until the late 1930s—is \$25.



1923



1926

1926

No detail is too small for the attention of the Longyear Foundation trustees. They hire a full-time secretary to support them in their close oversight of the day-to-day operations.

1929

In February, Mrs. Longyear settles on a plan from the Boston architectural firm Gay & Proctor to alter three rooms on the lower floor of her mansion, where she can display her collection. Expenditures on items for the collection (and eventually the October 1929 stock market crash and subsequent economic downturn) dash Mrs. Longyear's hopes of building a museum during her lifetime. Still, the seed of having a purpose-built museum has been planted.

1930s

1931

On March 14, Mary Beecher Longyear passes on. On April 11, the Longyear trustees offer this tribute, as recorded by their board minutes: "Mrs. Longyear was a woman of great vision and with a tremendous desire to enlighten mankind.... Her friendly association with Mrs. Eddy was a continued inspiration to her and it was her great desire to perpetuate the memory of Mary Baker Eddy as a human being that caused Mrs. Longyear to found this trust.... She felt that Mrs. Eddy belonged to the world, not alone to the church which she founded."¹¹

Early 1930s

The Longyear trustees begin to consider research requests. Among the researchers are Lyman P. Powell and Judge Clifford P. Smith, whose requests are duly approved. Mr. Powell goes on to write *Mary Baker Eddy: A Lifesize Portrait*, and Mr. Smith, *Historical Sketches from the Life of Mary Baker Eddy and the History of Christian Science*.

Photographs

1920

Mrs. Longyear's automobile on a road in North Groton, New Hampshire.

1923

Architect Samuel Marx of the Chicago firm Earl H. Reed, Jr., Associated designed a museum building to house Mrs. Longyear's growing collection in 1923. These plans were never executed.

1926

After Mrs. Longyear purchased the Amesbury house, a team of workmen, some of whom are shown here in July 1923, restored it. The house opened to the public in 1926.



1926



1929

1933

A second full-time employee is added to help with cataloguing and administrative work.

1934

The Foundation is incorporated in Massachusetts as a nonprofit charitable and educational institution.

1934

Restoration work commences on the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Swampscott. The house is painted inside and out, and the interior redecorated. Old furnishings are replaced with items more appropriate to the time when Mrs. Eddy lived there. The Christian Science Board of Directors loans several pieces of furniture for use.¹² The Longyear trustees also commission Alma Lutz to write *The Birthplace of Christian Science*, a history of Mrs. Eddy's time in Swampscott, which is printed in brochure form to be given to visitors.

1935

On Feb. 1, the Swampscott house opens to much fanfare. The *Christian Science Sentinel* covers it in its Feb. 23 issue, and *The Christian Science Monitor* covers it on March 6.¹³ More than 3,000 visitors will tour the home this year.

1937

The Longyear mansion in Brookline officially opens its doors to the public as a museum. Mrs. Longyear's concerns that her home would prove a burden turn out to be well founded. "If the property is to be kept permanently, rather large expenditures will be necessary almost immediately," the trustees tell the Board of Visitors in 1935. "The roof over the old bowling alley, formerly used for the Library reading room, also the roof over the south-west sun porch, are in very bad condition and leaking to such an extent as to damage the plaster and woodwork. The outside trimmings of the house need painting, and all the ironwork, including the fence enclosing the property, needs attention."¹⁴ Underlining

the seriousness of their concerns is the fact that the trustees attempt to sell the mansion during this period (asking price \$225,000), but "no offers acceptable" are received.¹⁵

1940s

1942

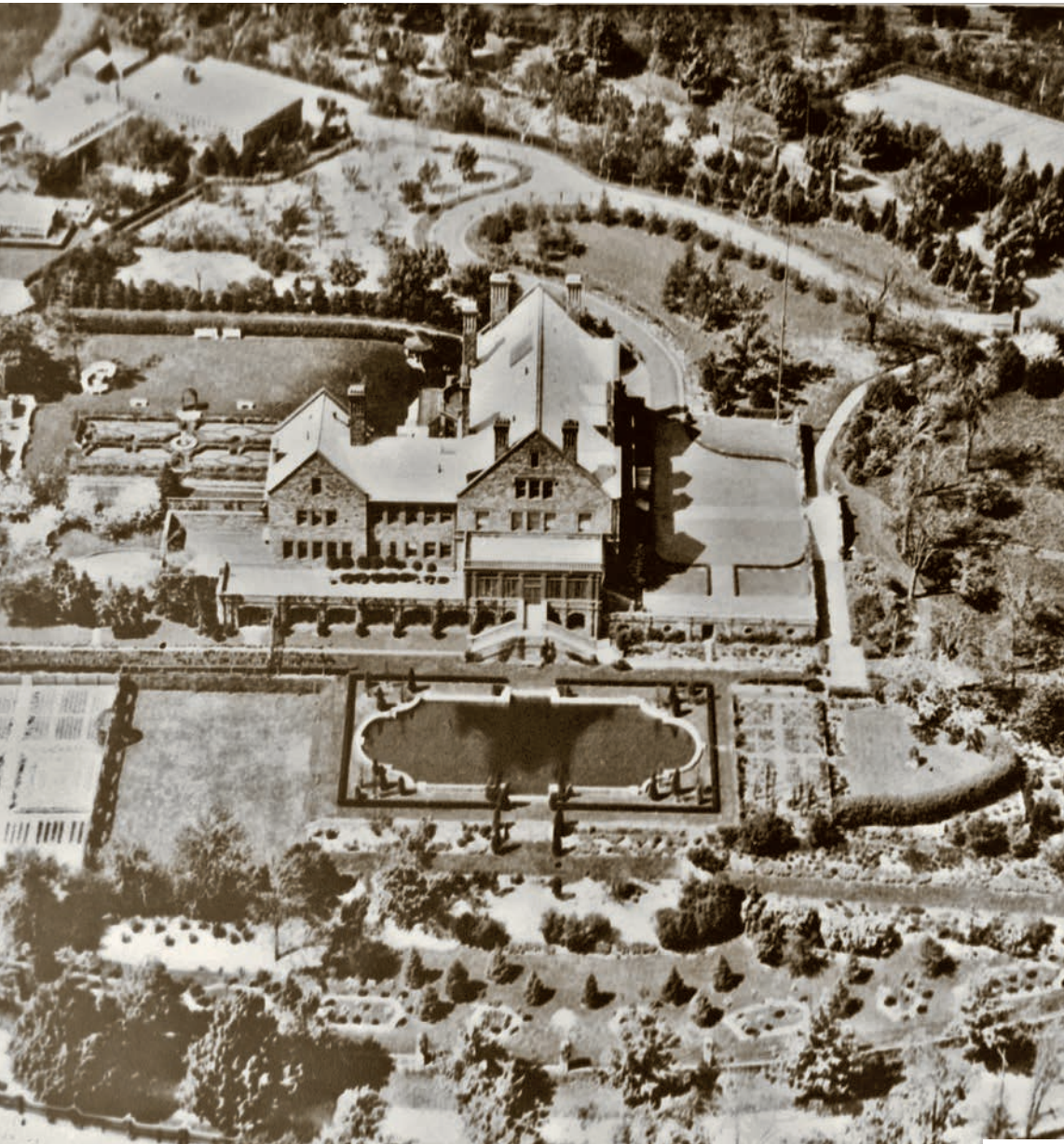
In the weeks following the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the trustees have a new focus: protecting the collection at all costs. At their January 1942 meeting, they consider placing the more valuable artifacts in a bank's safe deposit vault. In the end, they decide to keep them in the mansion, which "had been judged an excellent, safe place in the event of air raids..."¹⁶ Other war-time preparations include: taking out war damage insurance for the mansion and historic houses; installing protective steel shutters over a number of windows at the mansion; converting heating equipment from oil to coal when fuel oil is diverted to the war effort; and purchasing an American flag.



1931



1935



1937

1926

Mrs. Longyear (right) in her library with an unknown employee, probably in the 1920s. The Foundation hired its first employee in 1926.

1929

In 1929, Mrs. Longyear decided to display her collection in the family mansion instead of building a museum. Undated photo.

1931

When Mrs. Longyear passed away in 1931, the Longyear trustees noted that “she felt that Mrs. Eddy belonged to the world, not alone to the church which she founded.” Photo from 1928.

1935

The year the restored Swampscott house reopened, more than 3,000 people visited. Undated photo.

1937

A 1922 aerial photo of the Longyear estate shows the scope of the property—including a large pool and gardens—that the trustees had to maintain when the mansion became a museum in 1937.



1942



1948

1942

Numerous oil paintings in the collection are found to be in need of repair, including one of its crown jewels, a miniature of George Washington Glover, Mary Baker Eddy’s first husband, and the only known image of him. The miniature is entrusted to Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts for restoration at a cost of \$25 (about \$500 today).

1945

Guides’ salaries at the historic houses are raised from 50 cents to 75 cents an hour.

1948

Exterior of the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Amesbury is re-painted; the trustees select “barnyard red, with white trimmings.”¹⁷ The house will remain this color until the year 2001, when a paint analysis determines that it was tan with chocolate brown trim during Mrs. Eddy’s day.

1950s

1950

Lively correspondence during this decade reveals glimpses of daily life for caretakers at the Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses: leaky roofs, clogged drains, peeling paint and other needed repairs, along with a variety of pest control issues, from the two-legged variety (break-ins and minor vandalism by mischievous teenage boys) to the four (mice, moles, and sundry rodents), plus termites, hornets, and other insects. But also clear are the sweet bonds the caretakers share with their colleagues at the mansion. Amesbury caretaker Mabel Lunt, who earns \$150 a month while the house is open for the season, receives a letter from the board secretary at one point informing her, “To us you are Miss Lunt, Custodian—I love that word because it brings in the sense of guarding faithfully!”¹⁸

1952

Trustees agree to allow Rumney caretaker Alice B. Wood to purchase a lamb.

“I understand it would keep the long grass clipped and beautifully green,” Mrs. Wood writes in a letter proposing the project.¹⁹

1953

Marian H. “Heidi” Holbrook joins the Board of Trustees. She will serve for the next 51 years. On her first visit to the mansion, fellow trustee R. Howard Cooley (who himself serves nearly 30 years) “introduces” her to each of the early workers’ portraits, since none is labeled. “The next time I came I could not remember a single name,” Mrs. Holbrook later recalls with chagrin. As a result, one of her first items of business is to commission the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to make brass nameplates for all of the portraits in Longyear’s collection—an important step as successive generations of Christian Scientists are further removed from Mrs. Eddy’s time.

1957

Guides’ salaries are raised to \$1.40 an hour.



1950



1953

1959

Winifred and Rex Earl take over as caretakers for Rumney and North Groton. Following a storm that causes epic flooding in the area, they write a letter reporting on conditions at both houses. Using a return address of “The Ark, Rumney, N.H.,” the British couple signs it, “Best wishes from Mr. and Mrs. Noah Earl.”²⁰

1960s

1960

Upkeep and repairs to the mansion continue to drain financial resources. A property comes on the market in downtown Boston near the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. It appears “to be an ideal plot on which to erect a new Foundation building,” the trustees report to the Board of Visitors.²¹ Negotiations soon are under way to sell the mansion to nearby Fisher Junior College. However, the plan has to be abandoned the following year when the City of Boston’s legal department informs Longyear that it will not be given the same tax exemption that it has enjoyed in Brookline, as the department

does not consider Mary Baker Eddy “to be a person of much historical interest.”²² The trustees tell the Board of Visitors, “Inasmuch as it is probable that the foundation will continue to occupy the present building for an indefinite time, it was decided to proceed with certain necessary work....”²³

1961

The Cold War is on everyone’s radar screen, and a trustee discussion centers on “the possible need for providing shelter opportunities for employees and visitors to the Foundation, from danger of ‘fallout’ resulting from the explosion of atomic bombs.”²⁴

1961

The Wentworth house in Stoughton, Massachusetts—where Mrs. Eddy spent 18 months studying, writing, and healing following her discovery of Christian Science—is donated to Longyear, bringing the number of historic houses in the collection to five.

1942

This miniature of George Washington Glover, painted on ivory, is the only known image of Mrs. Eddy’s first husband. It was restored in 1942.

1948

The Amesbury house was painted “barnyard red” in 1948 and thereafter graced many postcards like this one, probably from the 1950s.

1950

Correspondence from the 1950s shows Longyear staff focused on maintaining the Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses. Here, painters work on the North Groton house. Undated photo.

1953

This portrait of Emma Shipman, C.S.B., a member of Mrs. Eddy’s last class and an early Longyear trustee, was one of many that received a brass nameplate in 1953.



1960s



Mid-1960s

Midway through the decade, there are five full-time and three part-time employees at the mansion, and a full complement of caretakers and guides at the historic houses.

1964

The *Longyear Foundation Quarterly News* debuts in the spring of 1964. With research director Anne Webb at the helm, the new flagship publication offers original research and articles about Mary Baker Eddy and the early Christian Science pioneers, helping to inspire far-flung members and friends as it shines a light on the collection and on the Foundation's work. Receiving it, notes one member, is "like receiving a letter from home."²⁵

1964

The Museum hires a technical director—Jeannette Johansson, who will be succeeded by Richard Molloy. Anne Webb and administration head Charlis Vogel join the trustees on a visit to the archives of The Mother Church to discuss equipment and methods for the restoration and protection of historical data. The following year, Museum employees make a fact-finding trip to Raytheon, an early high-tech company in nearby Waltham, Massachusetts, in preparation for the monumental undertaking of cataloging the entire manuscript and document collection.

1966

The centennial year of the discovery of Christian Science brings a record number of visitors to the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Swampscott—and to the exhibits at the Longyear mansion. Additionally, two books published by the Christian Science Publishing Society—Robert Peel's *Mary Baker Eddy: The Years of Discovery* and Jewel Spangler

"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."

—Mary Beecher Longyear, June 22, 1926



1961



1969

Smaus's *Mary Baker Eddy: The Golden Days*, give a nod to the collection. "Both authors drew heavily on the unique collection of Baker family letters and documents owned by Longyear Foundation," the trustees report, "and both identified meticulously each letter or document used."²⁶

1967

Until this point, the trustees have been working to oversee every detail of the Foundation's operations, no matter how minute. After meeting 17 times in 1967, they vote to increase their number from three to five members, place the active management of the Foundation and the historic houses in the hands of a newly created manager position, meet just once a month (or less), and concern themselves "only with broad policy-making decisions."²⁷

Late 1960s

Longyear takes its first steps into development work. Several trustees hit the road with a slide presentation that tells

the Longyear story. And in the early 1970s, an annual giving program will be launched, along with several other fund-raising campaigns.

Early 1970s

Belts are tightened during the worldwide energy crisis. Heating costs at the Museum rise 41 percent between 1972 and 1974. Repair bills on the mansion also continue to mount. And the collection is outgrowing its housing. "While space is critical, we can probably make do another few years," the trustees conclude.²⁸ More important than size considerations or cost of repairs, however, is the realization that upkeep of the mansion is diverting funds from Longyear's primary focus—to preserve and share with the public accurate information about Mary Baker Eddy's life and work. Clearly, something has to be done.

The story of Longyear Museum's history will continue in the fall 2023 newsletter.

Heather Vogel Frederick is director of research and publications at Longyear Museum.

1960s

The foyer of the Museum, known as "Octagon Hall" during Mrs. Longyear's day, welcomed visitors and led to a variety of galleries.

1961-62

After the Stoughton house was donated to Longyear, the trustees stripped it of a porch and a two-story wing that had been added since Mrs. Eddy's time there.

1969

A large group of college students, probably in Boston for a Biennial College Meeting at The Mother Church, visited the Museum in 1969.

With deep appreciation to the
Longyear Foundation for their
marvelous collection of Baker
material. It was essential to
the making of this book.

Jewel Spangler Smaus



1966

1970

Endnotes

- 1 Graves Hewitt oral history, 1999, Longyear Museum Collection (hereafter referenced as LMC).
- 2 Mary Beecher Longyear Historical Diary #5, Jan. 3, 1923, LMC.
- 3 "Assignment and Declaration of Trust—Longyear Foundation," Jan. 18, 1923, LMC.
- 4 Mary Baker Eddy, *Miscellaneous Writings 1883-1896*, 106. The idea for preserving Mrs. Eddy's history was also likely sparked in part by a generous gift to Mrs. Longyear from the Christian Science Board of Directors in the summer of 1910: Mrs. Eddy's grandmother's spinning wheel.
- 5 Mary Beecher Longyear Historical Diary #1, Jan. 11, 1918.
- 6 Mary Baker Eddy, *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, 47.
- 7 Elbert S. Barlow to Mary Beecher Longyear, July 21, 1921, 1921.07.21, LMC.
- 8 Mary Beecher Longyear to Elbert S. Barlow, Aug. 1, 1921, 1921.08.01, LMC.
- 9 In March 1920, Mrs. Longyear created a deed of trust for the Zion Research Foundation, an organization she founded focused on biblical research. With this new 1923 deed of trust, she spins off a new foundation devoted solely to the life and work of Mary Baker Eddy.
- 10 Audrey Blackler, "The Longyear Foundation: The Inspiration Behind its Establishment," *Longyear Museum Quarterly News*, October 1994.
- 11 Minutes of the Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, April 11, 1931, LMC.
- 12 "Items of Interest," *Christian Science Sentinel* 37 (Feb. 23, 1935): 511.
- 13 Ibid.; "Mrs. Eddy's Swampscott Home Restored and Opened to Public," *The Christian Science Monitor*, March 6, 1935.
- 14 Report to the Board of Visitors, Longyear Foundation, Feb. 11, 1935, LMC.
- 15 Ibid, addendum. The trustees raised the asking price from \$185,000 to \$225,000, "as a fairer return in the event of sale and having to provide a new home for the work."
- 16 Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, Jan. 22, 1942, LMC.
- 17 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, April 8, 1948, LMC.
- 18 Beulah Hughes to Mabel Lunt, May 22, 1950, LMC. Salaries for caretakers had increased by this point—Miss Lunt was paid \$150 a month during the time that the Amesbury house was open for the season.
- 19 Alice B. Wood to Beulah Hughes, May 11, 1952, LMC.
- 20 Winifred Earl to Mildred Welstead, Oct. 29, 1959, LMC.
- 21 Annual Report of the Doings of the Board of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, for the Calendar Year 1961, LMC. This report makes reference to the report for the previous year, 1960.
- 22 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, July 14, 1961, LMC. Thanks in part to Longyear's quiet persistence in educating the public about Mary Baker Eddy's life and work, a very different opinion than the one offered by the City of Boston in 1960 was given in 2021, when the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Lynn, Massachusetts, was designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior.
- 23 Ibid.
- 24 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, Sept. 15, 1961, LMC.
- 25 Annual Report of the Doings of the Board of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, for the Calendar Year 1968, LMC.
- 26 Annual Report of the Doings of the Board of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, for the Calendar Year 1966, LMC.
- 27 Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, March 28, 1968, LMC; Annual Report of the Doings of the Board of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, for the Calendar Year 1968, LMC.
- 28 Report of "Doings" of Trustees, Longyear Foundation, for the Year 1973, LMC.

1966

Jewel Spangler Smaus, author of *Mary Baker Eddy: The Golden Days*, published by the Christian Science Publishing Society for the centennial of Christian Science, utilized the Longyear collection for her research, as did biographer Robert Peel.

1970

These visitors to Boston for the Annual Meeting of The Mother Church added Longyear to their itinerary in June 1970.

more to her bed. It was here that she was increasingly alone, cared for only by a blind neighbor girl, as husband Daniel Patterson was more and more absent. And it was from North Groton that her 11-year-old son, then living nearby with a foster family, was abruptly taken to the American frontier without her knowledge—a devastating blow.

As I listened to the historical details shared on the tour of the house, her life story was framed in an entirely different way for me. Only six short years after this period of darkness and despair, Mrs. Eddy found herself in what she called “a new world of light and Life” through the discovery of Christian Science.¹ She was fully healed and her experience utterly transformed. I stood in awe at the magnitude and power of the discovery.

There’s a passage in *Retrospection and Introspection* that always guides our work here at Longyear: “Mere historic incidents and personal events are frivolous and of no moment, unless they illustrate the ethics of Truth.”² The tour I

took at North Groton that afternoon—and the tours at the other Longyear houses in the days that followed—powerfully traced Mrs. Eddy’s journey into a deeper understanding of God, showing her growing in her ability to heal, teach, write, and lead. And they told stories of what resulted: the healings of thousands of people and the establishment of a church based on the teachings and works of Christ Jesus. The tours did point me to “the ethics of Truth.”

Something else also happened: Her writings became all the more rich and vibrant to me. Knowing Mrs. Eddy’s experience at North Groton, for example, cast the definition of “wilderness” in the glossary of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* in a whole new light.

A little over a century ago, Mary Beecher Longyear began traveling the back roads of New Hampshire and Massachusetts to locate and purchase the homes where Mrs. Eddy had lived. “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,” she wrote in her diary in 1923.³

In the case of the North Groton house, Mrs. Longyear found it sagging and derelict, moved from its original site. She arranged for it to be relocated back to the rushing brook, opposite the sawmill, and paid for it to be carefully restored. Thanks to her efforts, we have it today. It’s here as a historic house museum where the public can find accurate information about Mrs. Eddy’s life. And it, like all of the houses in Longyear’s collection, stands as a place where the history of Christian Science can come alive and resonate more deeply.

Alice M. Hummer

Alice M. Hummer
Editor

1 Mary Baker Eddy, *Retrospection and Introspection*, 27.

2 *Ibid.*, 21.

3 Mary Beecher Longyear Historical Diary #5, Jan. 3, 1923, Longyear Museum Collection.





A LAWNMOWER NAMED JERRY

BY MAGGIE LEWIS THOMAS

ILLUSTRATION BY MACKENZIE SHIVERS

Does your lawnmower have a name?

Before lawnmowers had motors, horses pulled the machines that cut the grass.

Mary Baker Eddy had a lawnmower named Jerry. He wore leather booties over his iron horseshoes, so he didn't make hoof prints in the velvety green lawn.

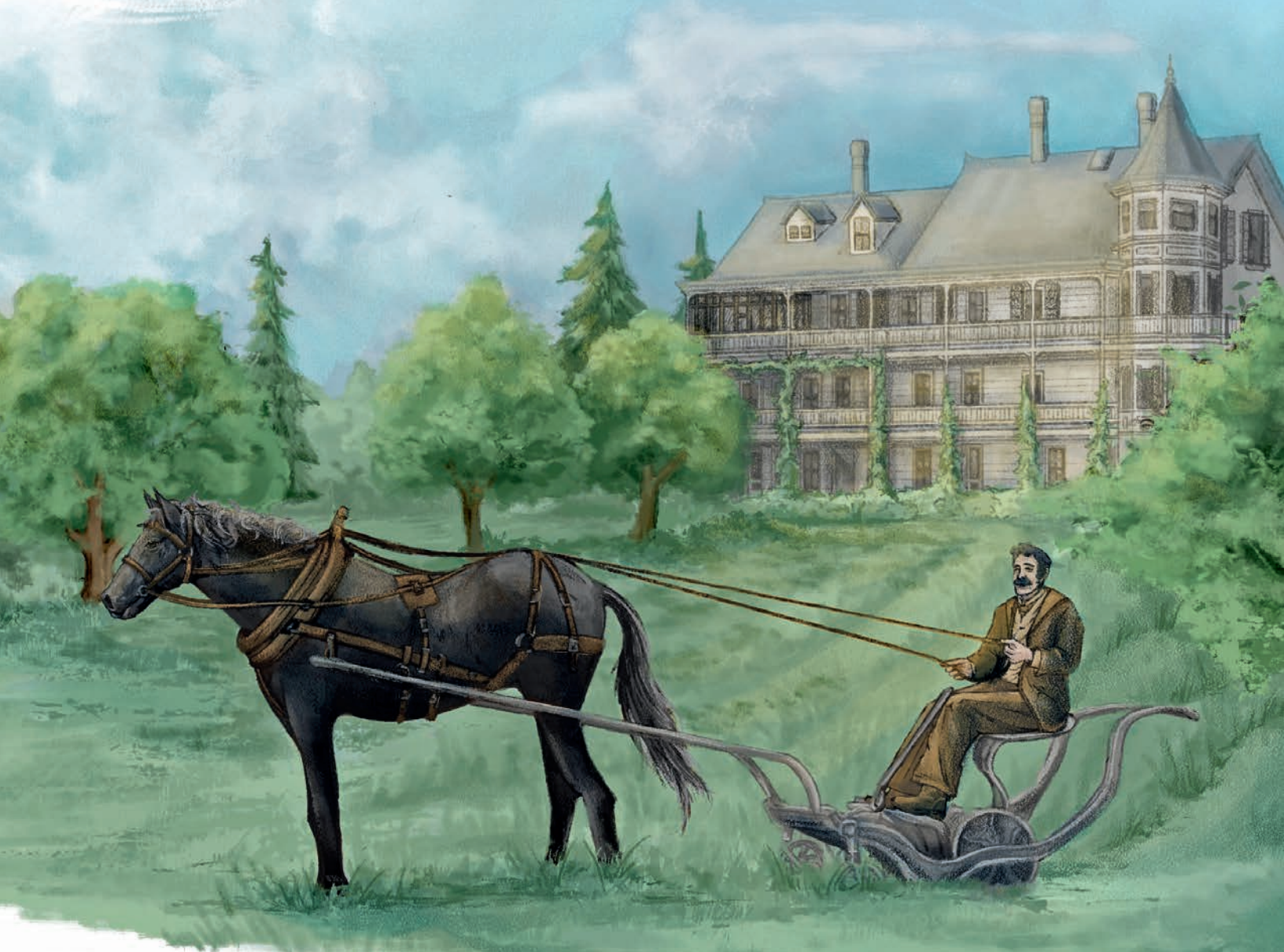
Mrs. Eddy loved horses. Nelly, Jean, Jerry, Prince, Duke, Princess, Dolly, and Major helped at her houses at Pleasant View, in New Hampshire, and at 400 Beacon St., near Boston. In the 1800s, there were no such thing as snowblowers, so Jean and Jerry pulled a wooden plow to clear the sidewalk and the pond at Pleasant View. Before there were refrigerators, ice kept things cool. Workers cut blocks of ice out of the pond. Jean or Jerry pulled them to the icehouse, where they were covered with straw or sawdust and lasted all year.

Two horses pulled Mrs. Eddy's carriage for her

afternoon rides. This gave her a break from working at her desk all day. John Salchow, a helper, held the reins while she got in the carriage. He remembered that she wore hats with fluttering flowers, ribbons, or feathers, and always white gloves. Sometimes she brought little bags of candy or peanuts to give the children they passed.

Clara Shannon, another helper, remembered that when Jean and Jerry brought her home, Mrs. Eddy thanked them. When she patted Jerry, who was closest to her, Jean looked over Jerry's neck as if to say, "Me, too!"

Mrs. Eddy loved sleigh rides. When it snowed, Mr. Salchow put runners on the carriage instead of wheels. They had strings of bells to put on the horses, to "jingle all the way." Mrs. Eddy didn't mind the cold. She grew up in New Hampshire, where it gets very cold in winter.



Mrs. Eddy said, "I have uttered some of my best prayers in a carriage."¹ She always prayed to bless people. A student wrote to ask her if it was OK to pray for animals, too. The answer was yes.²

Once, the horses were startled by something they saw or heard and took off running. It could have been dangerous. But Mrs. Eddy opened the window of the carriage and talked to them, and they settled right down.³

Another time, she noticed that a different horse than usual was harnessed to her carriage. "Where is Jerry?" asked Mrs. Eddy. 'Jerry is lame,' was the reply. 'Put Jerry in the harness,' said Mrs. Eddy. The coachman obeyed. The carriage came up the driveway, with Jerry limping at each step. 'Jerry,' said Mrs. Eddy, 'mind your own business.'" Jerry was healed then and there through Mrs. Eddy's prayers, and stopped limping.⁴

Jerry's business was to take Mrs. Eddy on a carriage ride so she could have a little break, pray, and give treats to children. Pretty nice job! No wonder he felt better.

Maggie Lewis Thomas is a children's writer and a guide at the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Amesbury, Massachusetts.

Unless otherwise noted, the anecdotes related in this article are from "The Reminiscences of Mr. John G. Salchow" (The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts), and Clara Shannon's "Golden Memories" (Longyear Museum Collection).

1 William Rathvon, "Reminiscences of William Rathvon," 81, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts (hereafter referenced as MBEL).

2 Mary Baker Eddy to Sylvia Kennedy, May 16, 1906, L14627, MBEL.

3 Minnie Weygandt, "Reminiscences of Miss Minnie Bell Weygandt and of Miss Mary Ellen Weygandt," 16, MBEL.

4 Edith L. Woodmansee reminiscences, MBEL.

FROM THE VAULT



A Mother's Chair, A Mother's Love

By Alice M. Hummer

The lines of this Windsor chair capture the eye with their elegant simplicity. Among the early artifacts that Mary Beecher Longyear purchased for her collection, this rocker was probably once hand-painted.

What drew Mrs. Longyear to it was the fact that it had belonged to Abigail Ambrose Baker, the much beloved mother of Mary Baker Eddy.

No portrait or photograph is known to exist of Abigail, but the chair may help us envision the Baker household in the 1820s. It is not hard to imagine this mother of six settling by the fire at the end of a day, sewing in her lap, rocking as she worked. It is equally easy to picture some of her offspring seated nearby. "Her presence, like the gentle dew and cheerful light, was felt by all around her," a contemporary wrote.¹

Abigail Baker nurtured all of her children, but she was particularly close to

her youngest, Mary. Decades later, Mrs. Eddy still remembered her desire as a small child to simply be in her mother's presence. The little girl would quietly take hold of Abigail's apron strings and follow her from room to room as she went about her housework.² The maxims her mother taught her also remained in thought for many years: "Count that day lost whose setting sun finds no good done," Mrs. Eddy once quoted to secretary Calvin Frye in the 1890s.³ The same was true of the song Abigail sang when tucking little Mary into bed: "How can I sleep while angels sing, / And hover o'er my bed; / And clap their wings in joy to Him / Who is their glorious head?"⁴

Through their mother's tender love, the Baker children gained a sense of the love of God. When teenage Mary became ill as she struggled with the harsh doctrine of predestination, Abigail's tender ministrations brought healing. "My mother, as

she bathed my burning temples, bade me lean on God's love, which would give me rest . . .," Mrs. Eddy wrote many years later. "I prayed; and a soft glow of ineffable joy came over me. The fever was gone..."⁵

The lessons of Abigail Baker's Christian love never left her daughter. The inscription on the cemetery monument Mrs. Eddy had erected in her family's honor speaks of her mother's lasting impact: "Her life the grand realities impart, That fix their records deeply in the heart. Gratefully inscribed to the memory of her mother by Mary B.G. Eddy."

- 1 Rev. Richard S. Rust, quoted in *Retrospection and Introspection*, 5, by Mary Baker Eddy.
- 2 Rev. Irving C. Tomlinson, *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy*, Amplified Edition (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1994), 15.
- 3 Calvin A. Frye note, Feb. 28, 1890, A11058, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 4 Jewel Spangler Smaus, *Mary Baker Eddy: The Golden Days* (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1966), 37.
- 5 *Retrospection*, 13.



Join Us in Caring for Mary Baker Eddy's Homes

We hope you've enjoyed exploring Longyear's history in this issue of the newsletter. As you've seen, the Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses have been a cornerstone of the Museum's collection right from the beginning. Even before establishing the Foundation, Mrs. Longyear purchased four houses where Mrs. Eddy had once lived—preserving these landmarks while also setting a precedent for future acquisitions.

Over the next 80-plus years, four more houses were added to the collection. Today, the eight Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses enable a visitor to trace Mrs. Eddy's footsteps from 1850 to 1910—spanning the years of her “gracious preparation” for the discovery of Christian Science to her establishment and leadership of the movement.¹

Maintaining these houses is an ongoing, year-round endeavor, ranging from visitor programming and preventative maintenance to dealing with the unexpected. For all of this work, we continue to rely on our generous members and

friends who—like Mrs. Longyear—value the role these houses play in preserving Mrs. Eddy's history for generations to come.

In 1931, Mrs. Longyear left her Foundation a modest endowment that today covers approximately 15 percent of our annual expenses. The remaining 85 percent is funded by those who have caught Mrs. Longyear's vision.

Your gift to this year's Mary Baker Eddy Historic House Appeal is much needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you for considering a donation.

To make a gift, please use the enclosed envelope, call 617.278.9000, ext. 231, or go to www.longyear.org/support.

¹ In *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy writes, “God had been graciously preparing me during many years for the reception of this final revelation of the absolute divine Principle of scientific mental healing” (107).



Longyear Museum Established 1923
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Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-1811
800.277.8943 or 617.278.9000
www.longyear.org

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

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Longyear Museum owns eight historic houses where Mary Baker Eddy lived:

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



LONGYEAR MUSEUM

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Front cover: Moving day! In 1920, when Mary Beecher Longyear purchased the home where Mary Baker Eddy had lived in North Groton, N.H., it had been relocated from its original site. Mrs. Longyear had it jacked up off its foundation, moved back, and restored. Longyear Museum Collection.

Museum dreams: Boston architects Gay & Proctor created this pencil and watercolor rendering of a building to house Mrs. Longyear's collection, probably around 1923. She chose not to move ahead with these plans. Longyear Museum Collection.

