

# LONGYEAR Review

FALL/WINTER 2024

## Laura Sargent

Laura Sargent took two of Mrs. Eddy's classes in Christian Science and pioneered the religion in her home state of Wisconsin. Mrs. Sargent's two decades of employment with her teacher began in 1890 at Mrs. Eddy's home on North State Street in Concord, New Hampshire. She fulfilled important roles, ranging from household manager to metaphysical worker. One person described her as "a tower of strength to our Leader."

She later served The Mother Church on the Bible Lesson Committee and as teacher of the Normal class, which prepares practitioners to become teachers of Christian Science. Mrs. Sargent also was official custodian of this home for the rest of her life after Mrs. Eddy's passing.

"I have sacrificed nothing in leaving my former associations to serve God and our Leader, and I shall continue to strive by faithfulness to be worthy of the confidence and esteem of our beloved Teacher."

— Calvin Frye, letter to Executive Members of The Mother Church, September 17, 1903

## Calvin Frye

Calvin Frye, once a machinist, became Mrs. Eddy's right-hand man in the fall of 1882, shouldering a wide variety of tasks. He took her class in Lynn, Massachusetts, the following year and would stay with her the rest of his life, 28 years. She was like a second mother, commented at one point. Mrs. Eddy said "Calvin is invaluable to me in my work, but I would not break one of the Ten Commandments."

Known for his honesty, wit, and loyalty, Mr. Frye served as a metaphysical worker and secretary at 400 Beacon Street.

### Calvin Frye's Top Hat

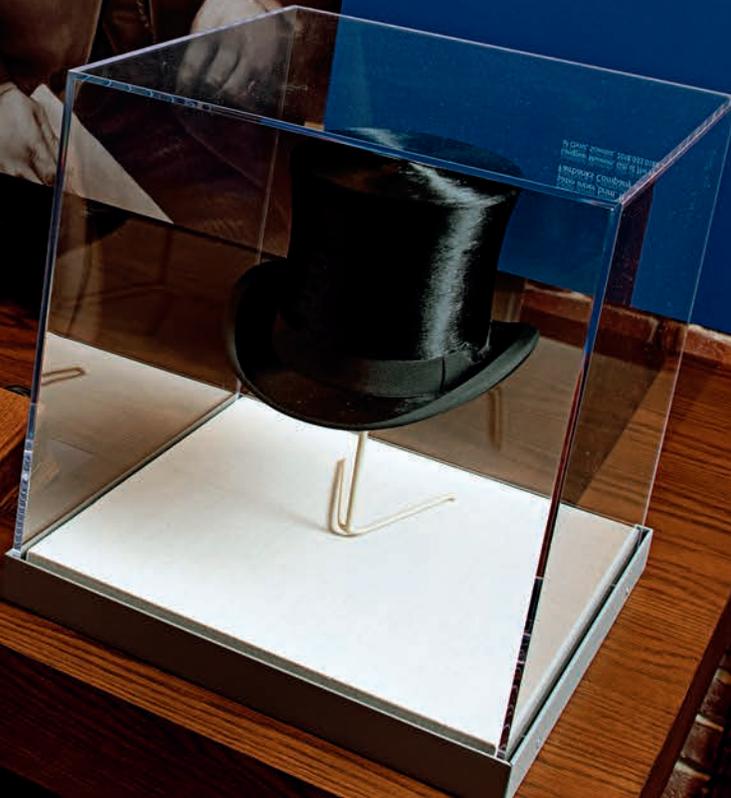
This coachman's top hat is made of beaver fur with a black grosgrain ribbon and a black leather brim. It was sold by Collins & Lyman, a hat-making company of Boston.

Longyear Museum, Gift of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, 2018.033.0108.2

## Give Us a Call!



The most communication is independent. The call now requires a new way of thinking. It's not just a call, it's a conversation.



The Exhibit at 400 Beacon Street

# Dear Friends,

This past August, the Longyear trustees and staff gathered for the dedication of Mary Baker Eddy's final home at 400 Beacon Street, in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. It was a happy, inspiring occasion that celebrated the completion of the decade-long restoration while gratefully acknowledging that the project is debt free.

In addition to recalling some of the countless examples of God's guidance and protection during the project, we also rejoiced in the responses we've been receiving from visitors since the house reopened. Since mid-May, hundreds of individuals—from lifelong Christian Scientists and Sunday School students to neighbors and historic house enthusiasts—have toured the house and gained new insights into Mrs. Eddy's life and work.

Especially touching have been comments from those previously unfamiliar with Mrs. Eddy and Christian Science.

During an open house for our neighbors, one couple told us they were moving away from traditional medicine and wanted to know what Mrs. Eddy taught. They loved the tour and purchased a copy of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. The next day, the wife returned and bought a Bible, the *Church Manual*, and Mrs. Eddy's book, *Poems*.

Another visitor remarked: "I've always felt there has to be more to this life than this material existence. Mrs. Eddy was proving that. It's so important to see and experience this, especially today."

And from a Christian Scientist: "What a beautiful home! All of the rooms felt welcoming, homey, and also holy, somehow—not in a shrine-like way, but as a place where we know that deep, inspiring, prayerful work happened."

Sharing Mrs. Eddy's story with an ever-widening audience is at the heart of all Longyear does. And we couldn't do it without you! Your support is vital, especially now that 400 Beacon Street is open to the public. Operating expenses at the house have increased by 47% since we reopened.

To help support these increased expenses, the Longyear trustees—past and present—are offering a matching challenge for our 2024 Annual Appeal. All gifts to this important end-of-year campaign will be doubled, up to \$100,000. Thank you for considering a gift today.

All of us at Longyear are grateful for your ongoing support, and we look forward to welcoming you to 400 Beacon Street soon!

Warmly,



Sandra J. Houston

Longyear trustees and staff at the dedication of the Chestnut Hill house in August (below). Cover photo of the exhibit at 400 Beacon Street by Webb Chappell



Ty Parmenter

# INTRODUCING MRS. EDDY

A NEW EXHIBIT AT 400 BEACON STREET WELCOMES THE PUBLIC

BY ARMIN SETHNA



Picture a cavernous basement in a large 140-year-old New England mansion ... rather dim and damp, comprised of numerous small rooms, nooks, and crannies sprawling over multiple levels and crisscrossed with pipes, wires, and conduits. You'd be wise to have a flashlight handy for negotiating dark corners, uneven floors, and low ceilings.

Now, in that very same space ... envision a bright exhibit gallery, with gleaming wooden floors, richly hued walls, and a glass-encased entry vestibule! And imagine it filled with visitors, delving into the life and history of the home's remarkable owner, the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science.

*(Continued on page 2)*



Over a period of several years, deep thought, prayer, and research have gone into transforming the basement of Mary Baker Eddy’s final residence in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, into a welcoming exhibit space that succinctly presents her life and mission to visitors. Join us on a tour of transformation and fruition as we introduce you to what, for the public, is the first stop on a journey into life at 400 Beacon Street.

### Looking Beyond Limitations

As the second phase of major restoration of this historic property in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, got under way in 2018,<sup>1</sup> Longyear Museum staff considered several key questions: Where and how should visitors be welcomed? And what should they see and learn when first entering the house?

The team wanted to preserve and interpret all the rooms that the household members used in the main house and to retain the spacious carriage house in its original form. Building a separate visitor center would be too complex and costly. So that left only one other option for receiving and briefing visitors before tours—that dark and damp basement!

Initially, recalls Executive Director Sandy Houston, “All that we, as staff, saw was a dark rabbit warren of rooms at

uneven levels, filled with antiquated equipment.” Fortunately, the team soon came to appreciate the brighter possibilities envisioned by Wolf Architects, the firm that had also worked with Longyear on restoring the first home Mrs. Eddy ever owned—her house in Lynn, Massachusetts. That shared experience of creating a modernized and code-compliant visitor space at Lynn (including an accessible vestibule-style entrance and a gallery/exhibit area) provided a helpful starting point for the undertaking at 400 Beacon Street.

Achieving the desired vision at the Chestnut Hill house called for extensive demolition, rebuilding, and reconfiguring of disparate sections of the basement. Previously, floors in different areas were at varying levels, joined by ramps and stairs. A single level was decided upon—determined by the need to run mechanical systems under the floorboards—and once built, it was surfaced with reclaimed lumber. Some walls were removed and doorways repositioned. Drainage issues were addressed, and new conduits and ductwork were laid. In addition, the space under the home’s large first-floor porch was enclosed with floor-to-ceiling windows to create a reception and store area. This sunlit, glassed-in area now welcomes visitors from the terraced rear of the house.



Heidi Gumula, DBVW Architects

**Left:** Before a house tour, visitors can watch a short video that recaps Mrs. Eddy's life.

**Below:** The original “rabbit warren” of basement rooms was transformed into the expansive visitor entry and exhibit areas of today.



The messy work of construction proceeded concurrently with the exacting tasks of conceptualizing and designing the exhibit space and its components. Scott Rabiet, the owner and principal of Amaze Design, which has worked with the Museum to develop numerous exhibits, is grateful that Chris Milford—Longyear’s owner’s project manager who helped oversee the restoration at 400 Beacon Street—“had the foresight to early on ask us questions about mechanics and items we might need for exhibits to work.” This, he says, allowed Longyear and Amaze to “coordinate exhibit planning in parallel with the restoration process, so that all necessary lighting, power, data [cabling], and other resources were in place” from the get-go.

**Envisioning the Exhibit**

The end result today is that Longyear—within a 1,682-square-foot space—has been able to concisely capture and vividly illustrate not only Mary Baker Eddy’s life and work, but also that of her household staff, the “family” who surrounded and supported her.

The exhibit content team consisted of Sandy, Director of Research and Publications Heather Vogel Frederick, and

**‘As a visitor, I’d want to know ... What *is* this Christian Science?’**

*—Owner’s Project Manager Chris Milford, during exhibit development*



Heidi Gumula, DBVW Architects

Director of Education and Historic Houses Pam Partridge. Partway through, they were joined by Senior Research Associate Stacy Teicher. Discussion and ideas multiplied, shifted, and coalesced, and soon had to be translated into choices and conclusions about content and production. While Sandy led the process, Stacy gradually took on the role of project manager, serving as a communication linchpin and coordinating with representatives from three firms—Amaze Design and Richard Lewis Media Group (RLMG), both based in the Boston area, and Explus, of Sterling, Virginia, which fabricated and installed the exhibit.

A guiding principle throughout the exhibit design process, Stacy says, was to “not just be thinking about what information or content we wanted to convey, but what experiences we wanted visitors to be having.” Exhibit components should serve as “conversation starters,” she explains, “prompting ideas, provoking discussion, thinking, and questions.”

Ultimately, the challenge was not so much in generating enough interesting content. Rather, it was how to winnow down a wide range of stories and introduce individuals, ideas, and incidents in sufficient detail—without inundating viewers with information.

### **Telling Mrs. Eddy’s Story**

Realizing that many visitors might not be familiar with Mrs. Eddy’s history prior to her arrival at Chestnut Hill, the staff wanted to avoid giving only a partial impression of her life—one of apparent wealth and material comfort, hinted at

by the large residence and expansive grounds.

“We wanted visitors to understand Mrs. Eddy’s journey,” Sandy says, from her childhood in rural New Hampshire to her discovery of Christian Science, writing of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, and the establishment of her church. The solution? Creating a clearly delineated seating space that hosts a large-scale timeline of key events in Mrs. Eddy’s life as well as a video monitor, where a short orientation film quickly brings visitors up to speed.

Longyear’s resident documentary producer, Web Lithgow, decided to draw on an extensive interview that the leading journalist of the day, Arthur Brisbane, conducted with Mrs. Eddy in 1907. (Mr. Brisbane was chief editor of the nationwide Hearst news organization, with a daily readership of nearly 20 million. He was, as Web puts it, “the Walter Cronkite of his time.”) Using Mr. Brisbane’s description of his conversation with Mrs. Eddy, Web says, “helps viewers understand her significance and stature as a national and international thinker and leader of renown.”

Combining Mr. Brisbane’s keen observations, a few of Mrs. Eddy’s own statements, and still images from a series of previously produced Longyear documentaries, the black-and-white video—created by Longyear Media Producer Ty Parmenter—succinctly recaps more than 80 years of an eventful life in under 15 minutes. It ends with Mrs. Eddy’s arrival at Chestnut Hill on the snowy evening of January 26, 1908—and leaves the rest of her story to be told by the exhibit and guided tours of the restored house.

**Left:** An expansive brick terrace at the rear of the house welcomes visitors to the entry vestibule under the first-floor porch and invites them to linger a while after their tour.

**Right:** Touch screens, facsimiles, and informative panels capture activities and achievements in the Christian Science movement during Mrs. Eddy's productive three years at 400 Beacon Street.



Webb Chappell

**Getting Things Just Right**

While conceptualizing the exhibit space, the Longyear team paid heed to a key observation shared by Chris Milford. “As a visitor,” Chris remarked, “I’d want to know ... ‘What is this Christian Science?’”

A simple, sincere question, but a tall order! How to describe in so limited a space so vast a subject? Although the panel about Christian Science is the first of an opening series in the main exhibit (positioned right by the introductory video screen), it was the last one to be completed, taking “a lot of work, a lot of thought and prayer, editing and re-editing ... to distill the content,” Heather Frederick says. The aim was “absolute clarity” and for it to be “commonsensical and not abstract.”

The team elected to highlight Mrs. Eddy’s deep love and study of the Bible and set out the essence of Christian Science in two citations from her writings referring to its name and nature: Christian, “because it is compassionate, helpful, and spiritual,” and Science, as it offers “proof, by present demonstration” of an “ever-operative divine Principle.”<sup>22</sup> The panel also includes a photograph of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, and explains that the Bible and *Science and Health* together serve as the Pastor of Christian Science churches.

Subsequent panels, juxtaposed with interactive displays and objects, introduce Mrs. Eddy’s God-centered life and work and summarize key events relating to her time at 400 Beacon Street. They touch on the founding of



Ty Parmenter

**Above:** At the rear of the video viewing area, visitors review a chronology of key events in Mrs. Eddy’s life.

*The Christian Science Monitor* and detail other work of the Chestnut Hill years—including revisions to her major writings. In a section outlining how Mrs. Eddy’s “Mission Carries Forward,” visitors can peruse a sturdy binder of selected testimonies of healing from the *Christian Science* periodicals, the Tenets of Christian Science, and copies of the Bible and Mrs. Eddy’s writings (*Science and Health*, *Prose Works*, the *Manual of The Mother Church*, and *Poems*).

“There are not that many words on the exhibit walls,” Sandy comments. “But we went over and over those that *are* there, to be sure that they had the right tone and could be understood by someone not familiar with Christian Science, ... and also that they might inspire a longtime Christian Scientist.”

Such attention to detail was appreciated by the Amaze team, which has designed exhibits for the American Writers Museum in Chicago, National Museum of Australia in Canberra, and Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, among others. Describing Longyear as both a “gracious and demanding” client, Scott notes how the Museum “pays an extraordinary level of thought and attention to every detail. Getting things just right is the main priority for them.”

### Enhancing the Visitor Experience

Communicating and conveying accurate information in an appealing, engaging, and digestible form was a priority for Longyear. With the help of Amaze and RLMG, various hands-on elements throughout the exhibit invite visitors to interact with the content. These include high-tech touch

## ‘We wanted visitors to understand Mrs. Eddy’s journey.’

—Sandy Houston, Longyear Museum executive director

screens (below, far right) as well as good old-fashioned newsprint. A full-size facsimile of the first edition of *The Christian Science Monitor* is available for visitors to leaf through. And clever use of an old-style intercom telephone (similar to those in several rooms in the house—and pictured on this magazine cover) allows listeners to hear recorded vignettes in the words of several household staff.

The team was also deliberate and creative in finding ways to incorporate child-friendly information and experiences. (See “Please *Do* Touch,” on page 8.)

Another interpretive choice was to communicate information in the “voice” of Mrs. Eddy’s aides and staff. Excerpts from their reminiscences help to tell the six-part story of Mrs. Eddy’s move from New Hampshire to Chestnut Hill in the interactive display called “All Aboard!” And quotes and photographs from staff albums are utilized to good effect in the section titled “A Family of Workers.” Here, touch-screen

(Continued on page 9)

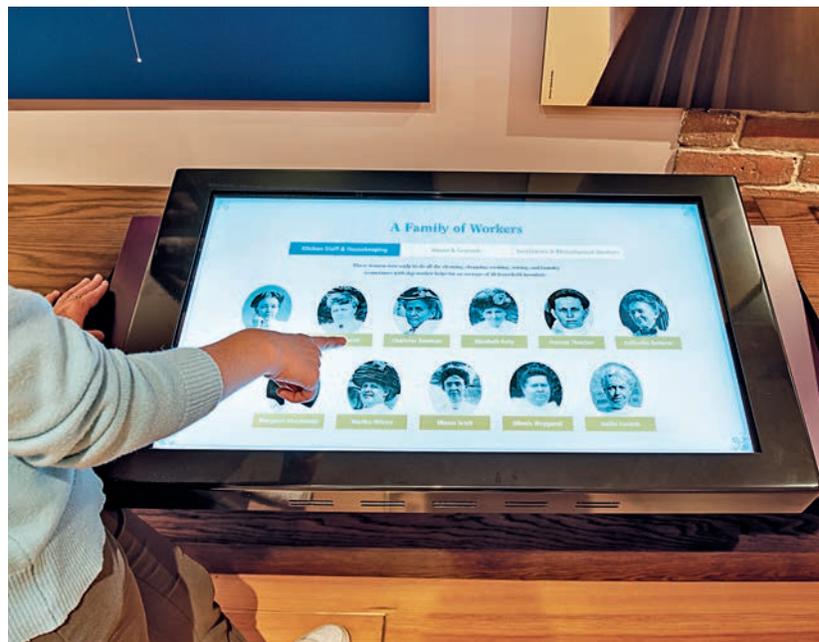


Photographs, bottom row: Webb Chappell





**Above:** Cleverly tucked under the home's rear porch, a sunlit seating nook and built-in displays of Longyear Museum books and products provide a dual-purpose reception and sales area.



# Please Do Touch!



Robert Gantt Steele



Ty Parmenter



Webb Chappell

In 1910, a newsboy encountered a stranger waiting for a train in Boston's South Station. The boy could see that the man was not well. "I guess you need *The Christian Science Monitor*," he said, and offered him a copy. The man, who had despaired of recovering, found a religious article inside titled "Hope" and went to see a Christian Science practitioner. Within three weeks, he was healed. He returned to the station to thank the boy with \$25. When Mary Baker Eddy heard the story, she asked to match the gift—if the boy could be found.<sup>1</sup>

If you are, say, six or seven and visiting the exhibit at 400 Beacon Street, you can read this story, but the learning experience doesn't stop there. You can also see an artist's rendering of the newsboy—complete with sack of papers over his shoulder—and then lift a panel to reveal a full illustration of steam engines, train cars, and women in long skirts and men in suits and bowlers. Can you find that boy on the South Station platform? Look hard, he's got \$25 coming!

The story of the newsboy is just one way that the exhibit encourages all visitors—but especially younger ones—to touch, turn, pick up, push, listen ... with the aim of engaging and immersing them in the story of Mary Baker Eddy's

life. "We really strove to reach a multigenerational range of visitors," says design team member Stacy Teicher, a senior research associate at Longyear.

The exhibit team developed all kinds of activities for the younger set, and each of these is marked with a little acorn logo. The nut harks back to a favorite treat of Spike, the sociable squirrel befriended by Mrs. Eddy's staff at 400 Beacon Street, who is featured in Longyear's picture book, *A Home for Spike*, by Heather Vogel Frederick.

A small bronze sculpture of Spike with a collection of acorns greets children as they enter the vestibule leading to the exhibit. Once inside, they can follow acorn symbols for other enjoyable activities. For instance, who wouldn't wonder how Mrs. Eddy moved her beloved equine friends down from New Hampshire to Chestnut Hill? A rolling drum with paper cutouts of horses inside answers that question.

And it's fun to try to guess what several unusual-looking early 1900s objects were used for in the home. A set of lift-up panels tests your knowledge. If you'd like to listen to the stories of some of the people who lived in the house, just pick up the earpiece of a vintage intercom telephone (see magazine cover) and hear from housekeeper Margaret Macdonald



about Spike or John Salchow about making ice cream for Mrs. Eddy. (Learn more about John on page 20.)

The hands-on experiences continue through the house tour, too—with objects in various rooms marked by the acorn logo (for example, a typewriter with a satisfying click-clack in secretary Adam Dickey’s room). Longyear’s intention is to continue finding creative ways to introduce, inform, and inspire young visitors with Mary Baker Eddy’s story.

—*Armin Sethna and Alice Hummer*

1 William R. Rathvon, “Reminiscences of William R. Rathvon, C.S.B.,” 125–126, *The Mary Baker Eddy Collection*, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

(continued from page 6)

technology and profiles based on detailed research help visitors get to know 21 resident household members—seven secretaries and metaphysical workers, 11 housekeeping and kitchen staff, and three maintenance and grounds workers.

### Learning from the Household Workers

For seasoned Christian Scientists, Longyear wanted to present fresh material and worked to identify previously unpublished or undisplayed images and artifacts from the collection. The exhibit highlights precious individual memories and mementos that help tell the stories of three household members in personal and touching ways—for example, an illustrated poem given as a gift by Mrs. Eddy (Minnie Scott); a *Science and Health* with handwritten notations (Laura Sargent); and a stately, beaver-fur top hat (Calvin Frye).

The Longyear team, Heather explains, thought and prayed about how best to choose and present what she calls “gems” of information and inspiration for visitors. The process—and the result—have spawned fresh appreciation for the commitment and unselfishness with which Mrs. Eddy and her staff fulfilled their roles and forwarded her mission.

As Stacy describes it, “mining the reminiscences of household workers” provided new views of the “spiritual foresight and authority Mrs. Eddy was demonstrating, and the depth of her practical Christianity.” This in turn, she says, “raised the bar for me for my own practice, for what I should be learning spiritually and demonstrating.”

And, as a recent visitor to Chestnut Hill and Longyear’s other Mary Baker Eddy Historic Houses puts it, the experience has “brought me closer to our Leader, and I’m so grateful her history is being preserved in this way.”

With the exhibit providing a foretaste of the rich and multilayered story of Mrs. Eddy and her time at this home, Longyear’s hope is that visitors will be even more curious and interested in what is to be further gleaned during guided tours of the home’s living spaces, including workers’ rooms and Mrs. Eddy’s own suite.

*Armin Sethna is senior writer/editor at Longyear Museum.*

- 1 The first phase, from 2015 to 2016, focused primarily on key structural, safety, and access issues as well as some restoration to the exterior and roof of the building. The second phase (2018–2024) involved extensive repair, refurbishing, and restoration of every inch of the interiors while additional external building and site work continued.
- 2 Mary Baker Eddy, *Retrospection and Introspection*, 25; and *Science and Health*, 123.



"Revelation," an oil painting by Christian Scientist Kate Swope that was a gift to Mrs. Eddy, hangs at the top of the main staircase at 400 Beacon Street.

# THE 'DEAREST SPOT ON EARTH'

## PART 2

BY HEATHER VOGEL FREDERICK  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WEBB CHAPPELL

This past spring, after a nearly decade-long restoration, the doors to 400 Beacon Street, Mary Baker Eddy's final home in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, opened to the public. Since then, more than 1,400 visitors have flocked to the property to view the house and learn more about the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science.

From curious locals and neighborhood groups to contractors and construction workers, from Sunday School classes and college students to Christian Science nurses, the flow of guests has been steady. And their praise has been generous.

This includes those who came knowing little to nothing about Mrs. Eddy—which is perhaps the most gratifying.

"I had heard of her but had no idea!" noted one visitor.

"We came here to see this restoration," admitted another. "I had little interest in Mrs. Eddy or Christian Science, though I respect them both. But I'm leaving feeling that I must learn more about this amazing woman! What she did and what she accomplished are remarkable!"

A number of such individuals purchased biographies of Mrs. Eddy and Christian Science literature. Others expressed interest in returning with family members and friends. And as for the seasoned students of Christian Science who have visited—like the several hundred who came over Annual Meeting weekend—they, too, have found their hearts touched by the story that the house has to tell.

"Deep gratitude for our Leader welled up within me," remarked one such visitor at the conclusion of a tour.

In addition to comments like these, and praise for the restoration itself ("impeccable work," "flawless"), many visitors

have also been struck by the homey atmosphere of the large residence.

"There was such a feeling of joy, lightness, love, and inspiration throughout," one said. "It truly felt like a home..."

Which is exactly what it was! In addition to being the executive headquarters of the Christian Science movement, 400 Beacon Street was home for Mary Baker Eddy and her staff—the faithful men and women who worked side by side with her from 1908 to 1910. And everything about this beautiful property sings of home.

"Home is the dearest spot on earth," Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, "and it should be the centre, though not the boundary, of the affections."<sup>1</sup>

Mrs. Eddy's affections certainly centered on this "dearest spot" during the years she resided here. She thought of her household as family, she spoke of them as family, and she treated them as family. Touring their rooms offers tangible proof that she meant what she said. The outpouring of love and tender care is evident at every turn. These weren't "one size fits all" spaces. These were comfortable quarters, each as unique as its occupant, and furnished with everything they could wish for to truly feel at home. Mrs. Eddy saw to that.

As we noted in our last issue, we're aware that not everyone will be able to travel to Chestnut Hill to see this house—this *home*—in person. So, once again, please step this way and follow us. We have so much more to show you!

*Part 1 of "The 'Dearest Spot on Earth'" appeared in the Spring/Summer 2024 issue of Longyear Review.*





**Above:** The Vulcan gas range (left) and Magee Double Oven Kitchener (right) take pride of place in the kitchen. Mrs. Eddy's china service is visible in the butler's pantry.

**Far left:** South-facing windows over the restored sink ensure abundant light. Twin worktables offered plenty of prep room for the kitchen staff—and plenty of space to display circa 1910 cooking implements for modern-day visitors!

**Left:** Soft light filters through the pantry curtains to reveal open shelving filled with period kitchenware.

## The Kitchen

### What happened in this room?

As was the norm in the Victorian era, the kitchen at 400 Beacon Street was originally relegated to the basement. Relocated upstairs during the 1907 renovation prior to Mrs. Eddy's arrival, this light-filled space hummed with activity from dawn to dusk, as meals were prepared for a household of about 20. It was a thoroughly modern workspace for its time, well-equipped with two large pantries, an icebox, a double sink, and two stoves—along with a butler's pantry that offered additional sinks (imagine the mounds of dishes!), storage, and a dumbwaiter to ferry Mrs. Eddy's meals upstairs. When chores were finished, the staff could relax in the adjoining sitting room or on the breezy porch. The kitchen was presided over by several cooks and assistants, who produced a steady stream of hearty New England fare, including Mrs. Eddy's favorite "company" meal she loved serving guests—a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

**A tale of two stoves:** When Longyear acquired 400 Beacon Street in 2006, the kitchen was missing the pair of stoves pictured in historic photographs. The smaller Vulcan gas range was eventually found in the basement, but the majestic coal- or wood-fired Magee Double Oven Kitchener range had long since vanished. A lengthy search for a suitable replacement proved fruitless until consultant Dave Erickson of Erickson's Antique Stoves in Littleton, Massachusetts, was hired to restore the Vulcan. In a happy turn of events, he had a nearly identical Magee in his own kitchen. Dave was persuaded to sell the rare model and notes that he was honored to be a part of the restoration project.

**Faux finish:** Craftsmen from Arteriors of Natick, Massachusetts, used a "staining and graining" technique to match the original finish of the woodwork in the kitchen wing. This was common practice in Mrs. Eddy's day, as labor was inexpensive, allowing for common wood like pine to be painted to appear like a grander choice—in this case, oak. An expert touch was and still is called for, as the wet stain is carefully finished to imitate the desired wood grain.

## The West Room

### What happened in this room?

From childhood, Mary Baker Eddy “loved to sit by the window at eventide and look out upon the stars and upon the lights of the town,” secretary Irving Tomlinson recalled.<sup>2</sup> With the move to Chestnut Hill, Mrs. Eddy requested a room mirroring a similar one at Pleasant View, with a view to the street and its passing flow of carriages and other vehicles. Duly added over the new porte-cochère in 1907, prior to her arrival, the West Room is not officially part of her suite, which includes four connected rooms—bedroom, study, dressing room, and the Pink Room—but Mrs. Eddy used it almost every evening. Here, she took time after supper for “a little social relaxation,” according to personal maid Adelaide Still. “I often found Mr. Frye chatting with her about events or news of the day.”<sup>3</sup> Other workers, including Adam Dickey, recall her reminiscing with them about her life as they visited during these twilight hours.

**A precious gift:** The handsome white wicker rocking chair with the cross and crown emblem intricately woven into its back was a gift to Mrs. Eddy from grateful inmates at the New Hampshire State Prison. Prison reform was a subject close to her heart, and she encouraged Irving Tomlinson to share Christian Science there and in other correctional institutions. Like most of the furnishings in this room, the rocker was donated to Longyear by The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston.

**Revolutionary roots:** Mrs. Eddy’s framed 1893 certificate of membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution and a striking DAR coat of arms are displayed in this room and speak to her deep sense of patriotism. Mrs. Eddy’s paternal great-grandfather and both of her grandfathers served in the Revolutionary War. “I have one innate joy, and love to breathe it to the breeze as God’s courtesy,” she wrote in an April 1899 *Concord Monitor*, her hometown newspaper at the time. “A native of New Hampshire, a child of the Republic, a Daughter of the Revolution, I thank God that He has emblazoned on the escutcheon of this State, engraven on her granite rocks, and lifted to her giant hills the ensign of religious liberty—‘Freedom to worship God.’”<sup>4</sup>





Ty Parmenter



Ty Parmenter

**Above:** This chaise afforded Mrs. Eddy a view of the sunset and busy Beacon Street. Calvin Frye's photo hangs on the wall.

**Far left:** In her youth, Mrs. Eddy enjoyed the novels of Sir Walter Scott, whose bust is on the desk. She quoted him in her writings. The ivory miniature is a portrait of Queen Victoria, whom she admired.

**Center:** Grateful prisoners made this wicker rocker for Mrs. Eddy.

**Left:** The coat of arms of the Daughters of the American Revolution includes a spinning wheel. Its 13 spokes and 13 stars hark back to colonial days.



**Above:** Mrs. Sargent's spacious third-floor room has been lovingly recreated based on a study of historic photographs.

**Right:** Two recent donations to Longyear found a home in this room—a hymnal with Laura Sargent's name stamped on the cover, and a period postcard of the church that she helped organize in Oconto, Wisconsin.

**Middle:** Ornamental mantels were a popular feature throughout the house, perfect for showcasing keepsakes.

**Far right:** The wall sconces pictured here concealed a long-kept secret—scraps of original wallpaper!





## Laura Sargent's Room

### What happened in this room?

Located just a short flight of stairs away from Mary Baker Eddy's suite, Laura Sargent's cozy corner room on the third floor offered both a peaceful retreat and easy access to her Leader. "Rarely out of sight, always within hearing," as colleague William Rathvon described her, Mrs. Sargent served in many capacities—companion, household manager, right-hand woman, and, as Mrs. Eddy dubbed her, "true and helpful friend."<sup>5</sup> Laura Sargent was also one of the metaphysical workers, a role she was well qualified for as an experienced Christian Science practitioner and teacher. Tucked under the eaves, this spacious room would have afforded her the space she needed for quiet study and prayer.

After Mrs. Eddy's passing, Mrs. Sargent was appointed the official custodian of 400 Beacon Street by The Christian Science Board of Directors. She also served on the Bible Lesson Committee and taught the 1913 Normal class while living here.

**Mirror image:** At the time Longyear acquired the house, the en suite bathroom was an empty room with peeling plaster. When sharp-eyed Longyear staff members caught a glimpse of the original bathroom in the dresser mirror in a historic photograph, the decision was made to recreate it. The photograph helped the team determine the location of all the fixtures, says Rex Nelles, senior manager of historic houses, with the exception of the tub. Not visible in the photograph, it was moved from watchman Jonathan Irving's former room in the basement and placed in the only logical spot remaining. The wooden lavatory tank was custom-made, and the remaining fixtures were relocated from other parts of the house. All the hardware was freshly nickel-plated to look new. A volunteer created clothing suitable for a woman of that era to display, giving visitors the sense that the room's occupant has just stepped out.



**Color sleuthing:** As in all of the household members' bedrooms, Mrs. Sargent's wallpaper was unique. However, her room had been repurposed over the decades, and the wallpaper removed. Black-and-white historic photographs provided evidence as to the pattern, but the exact colors left the restoration team scratching their heads. A breakthrough came when wall sconces were removed, revealing scraps of the still-vibrant green paper underneath.

**Seeking and finding:** As in most of the workers' rooms in this house, no original furnishings remained in Mrs. Sargent's room. Perseverance, patience, and prayer were required as the Longyear staff searched for period furniture and decorative objects to bring the rooms to life.



## The Sewing Room

### What happened in this room?

Seamstress Nellie Eveleth's snug, light-drenched third-floor quarters were deemed as having the best view in the house by Mary Baker Eddy, who relocated here temporarily while her own suite was being remodeled in the winter of 1908. A clergyman's daughter from Maine, Miss Eveleth was healed through Christian Science after being given just a few days to live. She started working for Mrs. Eddy at Pleasant View, where she improvised a sewing spot in the room of Adelaide Still, Mrs. Eddy's personal maid. Here, she was provided a comfortable suite—a cozy bedroom connected to a dedicated workspace “equipped with all the machinery of her trade,” according to William Rathvon.<sup>6</sup> Miss Eveleth, who would go into the public practice of Christian Science, used “her Science continually” in her work making and mending clothes for Mrs. Eddy.<sup>7</sup>

**Gathering spot:** After hours, Miss Eveleth's workroom doubled as a sort of “club room” for some of her fellow household members, according to Mr. Rathvon, and indeed, historic photos show several comfortable chairs that would have accommodated them as they visited and read aloud together.<sup>8</sup> A “No Tattling” sign that Miss Eveleth hung on the wall was a nod to a memo that Mrs. Eddy circulated to her staff in December 1908, reminding them not to gossip or tell on each other.

**Everything's coming up roses:** As in several other rooms in the house, the wallpaper in Miss Eveleth's suite was long gone by the time Longyear arrived on the scene. And once again, clues were found that provided the answers as to pattern and color. In the workroom, the twining yellow roses were discovered behind the decorative mantel; in the adjoining bedroom, clusters of soft pink roses were hidden behind the door trim—a section of which can be lifted as a “window on the past,” where visitors can see the original wallpaper.

*Heather Vogel Frederick is author of Life at 400 Beacon Street: Working in Mary Baker Eddy's Household.*

- 1 Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, 58.
- 2 Irving C. Tomlinson, *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy Amplified Edition* (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1994), 222.
- 3 M. Adelaide Still, “Reminiscences,” 17, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts (hereafter referenced as MBEL).
- 4 *Concord Monitor*, April 1899, reprinted as “Fast Day in New Hampshire” in the *Christian Science Sentinel* (April 27, 1899) and later in *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, 341. “Fast Day” was later renamed “Patriots' Day.”
- 5 William R. Rathvon, “Reminiscences of William R. Rathvon, C.S.B.,” 202, MBEL; *Painting a Poem: Mary Baker Eddy and James F. Gilman Illustrate Christ and Christmas* (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1998), 49.
- 6 William R. Rathvon, “Reminiscences of William R. Rathvon, C.S.B.,” 215, MBEL.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Ibid.



**Above:** Located directly under a skylight, Miss Eveleth's generously sized worktable afforded her a place to ply her trade.

**Opposite, top left:** Donated by a Longyear member, this vintage Singer sewing machine is one of the highlights in Miss Eveleth's state-of-the-art workroom.

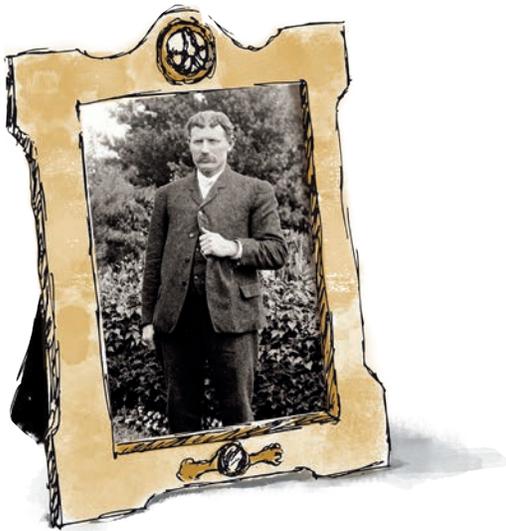
**Opposite, top right:** An ironing station set up beneath the decorative mantel features a small sleeve board, which was original to the room, and an electric iron, visible in historic photographs and still a relative novelty in 1908.

**Opposite, bottom:** Miss Eveleth's spacious workroom offered both electric and natural light, ample storage for fabric, notions, and supplies in a floor-to-ceiling wall of drawers and cupboards, and a designated spot for both a worktable and a sewing machine.

# FAITHFUL JOHN

BY ALICE M. HUMMER

ILLUSTRATIONS BY WENDY RANKIN



**H**ave you ever wanted to say thank you for something wonderful that someone did? Did you make them a card? Pick some flowers? Walk their dog?

What about making ice cream ... *every single day*?

That's what a man named John Salchow did for Mary Baker Eddy, as a helper in her home.

Each morning at 11 A.M., John would take some cream from Mrs. Eddy's cows—along with some sugar and probably some fruit and other ingredients. He would pour them all into a container with a paddle called a dasher inside and a hand crank on top. Then he'd pack the outside of the container with ice and rock salt, and the crank-crank-cranking would begin! The more John turned the handle, the smoother—and colder—the mixture inside got. He'd crank even more, and suddenly, there would be ice cream! He

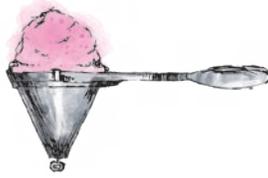
would send it along to Mrs. Eddy with a lot of love (and then he would get to lick the paddle).

John didn't just make ice cream for Mrs. Eddy—far from it! On her New Hampshire farm, he hoed the gardens and milked the cows. He mowed the lawns and tended the horses. He fixed the plumbing and made sure that the furnace heated the house to just the right temperature. He got up at 4 o'clock in the morning, when it was still dark, to get everything finished! One time, after Mrs. Eddy moved to Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, John even saved the day with a very different kind of crank. Mrs. Eddy's elevator was broken, but she wanted to come downstairs for a carriage ride. John found another man and went to the basement. Together, the two of them turned a big crank, and little by little, they lowered the very heavy elevator to the first floor.

What would make someone want to do all this? For John, it was great gratitude and love. He grew up on a farm in Kansas with four sisters and a brother. His family never went to church, but John felt sure there must be a God. He often asked people about their religion, hoping he could learn the best way to live his life.

Then one day, he met a man named Joseph Mann, who had a wonderful story to tell. Joseph had been very badly hurt in an accident, and doctors didn't expect him to recover. But he had been completely healed through prayer in Christian Science!

John wanted to know more about Christian Science, the religion Mary Baker Eddy had founded,



and understand how Joseph was healed. He learned that Mrs. Eddy had written a book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, that explained how healing happened. So he took on extra jobs mowing grass and cutting corn for a neighbor, who paid him enough to cover the cost of the book and the postage to mail it.

When the book came, John was out in the fields, but he dropped everything and ran into the house to read it. After a few pages, he was healed of a stomach problem that had troubled him for a long time. John kept reading and learning more about God. Eventually, it changed him so much that he felt he had begun “a new life.” Christian Science was the religion he was looking for!

A few years later, John dropped everything again. This time, he was working on his family’s farm when a letter came from Mrs. Eddy’s home in Concord, New Hampshire, asking him to come and work there. The letter arrived at 10 A.M., and by lunch time, he was already on a train heading east!

Why didn’t John hesitate? Why did he go to her and stay nearly 10 years? He said there were two reasons: He wanted to learn more about Christian Science, and he hoped to do whatever he could to support Mrs. Eddy’s “mighty projects”—all the work she did to pray, and write, and teach, and lead her church.

At first, John wondered how something as small as weeding the garden could really help. But then he decided to “give her every bit of my right thinking, every ounce of my strength, all the kindness and devotion ... of which I was capable....”

Mrs. Eddy soon learned that John was unselfish and obedient and that she could trust him completely. She

even asked him to hold her horses every day before and after her carriage ride. Mrs. Eddy saw how much he prayed and how many things he quietly did for her every day. “I find you live so near to God that you see to do the things I need before I ask you to do them,” she once wrote him in a note.

That’s how John Salchow earned the name “faithful John” from Mrs. Eddy. He was just always there ready to help. He said he did everything with “a heart full of love for Mary Baker Eddy” and “gratitude for all the blessings which Christian Science has brought to me.” It showed!

*Alice Hummer is Longyear’s director of communications.*

*Anecdotes in this article are from “The Reminiscences of Mr. John G. Salchow” (The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston), “The Reminiscences of Mr. Nelson J. Molway” (MBEL, Boston), and the 1918 diary of Mary Beecher Longyear (Longyear Museum Collection).*



# HELP PRESERVE MARY BAKER EDDY'S HISTORY

## ... WITH A GIFT THAT COSTS YOU NOTHING RIGHT NOW!

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Over the years, Longyear has been greatly benefited by individuals who have included the Museum in their estate plans.

You, too, can help us continue to share Mrs. Eddy's story with generations to come! Consider designating Longyear to receive a portion of your estate through a will or trust or as a beneficiary of a retirement account.

Questions? Please email Sandra Houston (shouston@longyear.org) or Noah Ostler (nostler@longyear.org), or call 617.278.9000.

As you consult your financial or legal advisor about leaving a legacy, the following language may be helpful:

*And unto Longyear Foundation, A.K.A. Longyear Museum, a 501(c)(3) charity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I hereby give, devise, and bequeath [description of legacy].*

# Christmas Gifts From Longyear Museum

## Cross and Crown Stained-Glass Collection

If you're looking for a new ornament for your tree or a handsome gift for a friend, consider these eye-catching products. They feature a stained-glass window from the Mother's Room in the Original Edifice of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston. In 1908, Mary Baker Eddy requested that the Cross and Crown emblem be redesigned, exchanging the coronet for a celestial crown. The window was replaced, and the original is now part of Longyear's collection.

### NEW!

#### Ornament

Double-sided, porcelain  
2.75" diameter  
\$15

#### Paperweight

Glass dome  
3" diameter  
\$25



### NEW!

## 400 Beacon Street Artwork Notecards

Mary Baker Eddy had a keen appreciation for art and beauty. This set features selected artwork from her final residence in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, many of which spoke to Bible scenes dear to her heart. Several were gifts from grateful students, and one was commissioned by Mrs. Eddy herself. This boxed set of 10 notecards with envelopes features five works, two in each design.

Size: 5" by 7"  
\$30

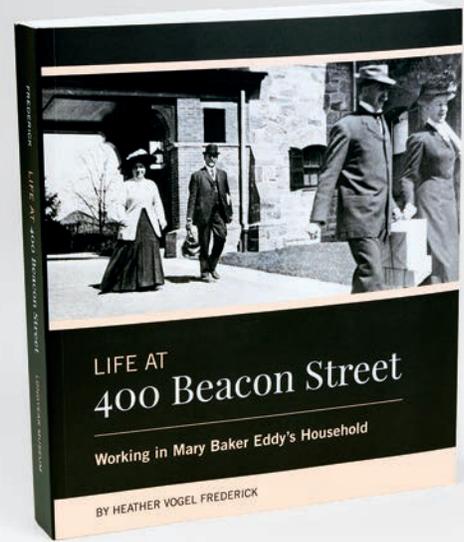
## Life at 400 Beacon Street: Working in Mary Baker Eddy's Household

By Heather Vogel Frederick

Explore what it was like to work for Mary Baker Eddy, and meet the nearly two dozen men and women who lived and worked by her side between 1908 and 1910. Each chapter includes some of the priceless instruction Mrs. Eddy shared with these stalwart pioneers. Illustrated with historic images and full-color photographs.

Longyear Museum Press  
Paperbound  
457 pages

Book: \$40  
Audiobook (10 CDs): \$50  
Audiobook, digital download: \$28



## Spike the Squirrel

This trio of child-friendly gifts is inspired by the true story of a curious little squirrel befriended by Mary Baker Eddy's Chestnut Hill staff.

The heartwarming book, written by Heather Vogel Frederick and illustrated by Amber Hawks Schaberg, blends fact with fiction as it offers a glimpse of daily life at 400 Beacon Street, Mrs. Eddy's final home. (Full-color illustrations, historic photos, and brief biographies enrich the content.) Longyear Museum Press, ages 4 and up.

The plush toy (approx. 10" high) is a wonderful snuggle buddy. And receiving a special holiday greeting from Mom and Dad or a grandparent on the Spike notecard is sure to delight!

### Sets

Trio (one of each): \$36  
Book and plush toy: \$32

### Individual items

Book: \$22  
Plush toy: \$14.95  
Notecard: \$4.50

## Musical Lamb

This soft, cuddly lamb has a concealed music box that plays an excerpt from Mary Baker Eddy's loved hymn, "Feed My Sheep" (*Christian Science Hymnal*, 304). Ribbon available in yellow, blue, pink, green, or lavender.

Size: 14" high  
\$52



## Cross and Crown Jewelry

These pendants are inscribed with Christ Jesus' instruction to his disciples (Matthew 10:8) and depict the registered trademark owned by the Christian Science Board of Directors. (Designed by artisan Nikki Paulk, these pendants are being manufactured under license.)

### Small

Approx. 18 mm/0.71"  
diameter  
14K gold: \$589  
Silver: \$69

### Large

Approx. 22.5 mm/0.89"  
diameter  
14K gold: \$889  
Silver: \$79

*Please visit our website to see other designs and options for Cross and Crown jewelry: [longyear.org/store](https://longyear.org/store).*



## 400 Beacon Street Wallpaper Notecards

These notecards feature a selection of wallpaper designs from the immaculately restored home where Mary Baker Eddy lived from 1908 to 1910. This boxed set of 10 notecards with envelopes features five wallpaper patterns, two in each design.

Size: 5" by 5"  
\$28



To order, visit [longyear.org/store](https://longyear.org/store)

A complete catalog of products may be found in our online store. Payment may be made by check, Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or PayPal.

For information:

800.277.8943 or 617.278.9000  
Monday-Saturday: 10 A.M.-4 P.M.  
Sunday: 1-4 P.M.

**Longyear Museum**, established in 1923, 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:

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## LONGYEAR MUSEUM

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Restored and reopened, Mrs. Eddy's final residence in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, has welcomed more than 1,400 visitors in 2024.  
Photo: Heidi Gumula, DBVW Architects

