



May 17, 2006

Dear Friends:

This letter is being sent to members and friends on the Longyear mailing list. We wanted to be in touch with you regarding Longyear's efforts to acquire and preserve the former residences of Mary Baker Eddy in Lynn and Chestnut Hill.

Five weeks ago we sent a letter to our membership asking for donations to the Lynn and 400 Beacon Street Fund. Longyear's phones have been ringing with messages of encouragement. Hundreds of inspiring letters have deepened our understanding of the meaning of these houses to the Christian Science family. And, there has been a generous outpouring of financial support. More than one thousand donations and pledges have been received in just one month. Some donors have shared with us stories of the personal sacrifices they have made in order to participate in this campaign. We are deeply grateful for these expressions of support and trust.

There is a lot of information to share with you, and at the end of this letter you'll be invited to help us carry on the momentum to acquire the houses.

Update on the Lynn House

When this campaign started, Longyear's goal was to raise enough money to purchase, restore, and endow both of the properties. Our first objective was to get the funding together for Lynn. Since the property has not yet been given a purchase price, we did our own market research and have determined that we now have enough to purchase and restore the house, and we are ready to make an offer. The Lynn House Endowment Fund will remain open for contributions.

Update on 400 Beacon Street, Chestnut Hill

While we continue to maintain our normal schedule of programs and publications at Longyear, we're now focusing our fundraising efforts on acquiring the property at 400 Beacon Street in Chestnut Hill. We asked The Christian Science Board of Directors if they would grant us a right of first refusal on the property, and their counsel has advised them that by granting Longyear this right, the true value of the property could be distorted.

The sale of these properties is a rare opportunity, and not surprisingly there is much interest in them. A recent radio report on one of Boston's National Public Radio stations noted that 400 Beacon Street would be of great interest to developers and to neighboring Boston College, a Jesuit university with an enrollment of twelve thousand undergraduate and graduate students.

MISSION To advance the understanding of the life and work
of Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer, Founder and Leader of Christian Science.

A purchase price has not been given for this property either. But we are in the process of doing our own research and realize that time is of the essence! All gifts and pledges to the Lynn and 400 Beacon Street Fund received after May 20, 2006, unless otherwise specified, will be put towards the purchase of 400 Beacon Street.

Here are some reasons why this effort to preserve 400 Beacon Street is important.

Mary Baker Eddy's Chestnut Hill residence speaks powerfully and eloquently of her lifework.

It speaks to us of her taking refuge from persecution in the aftermath of the "Next Friends" suit, because she felt the courts of New Hampshire had not sufficiently protected her from this litigation.¹ Because the suit collapsed without a verdict actually being rendered, Mrs. Eddy was vulnerable to the reopening of the suit. She did not *want* to leave Pleasant View: it had been her home for 15 years, and she treasured it. Anyone can understand her initial, unhappy reaction to Chestnut Hill, as she missed Pleasant View. For that very reason, Chestnut Hill stands as a powerful monument to her ability to rebound, to grow, and to triumph. She came to regard Chestnut Hill as her home, telling her household, "If you cannot make a home here, you cannot anywhere."

Commenting in 1910 of life in her Chestnut Hill home, Mary Baker Eddy writes: "When will mankind awake to know their present ownership of all good, and praise and love the spot where God dwells most conspicuously in His reflection of love and leadership?" (*Miscellany* p. 356).

Her conspicuous reflection of love and leadership at 400 Beacon Street resulted in a legacy of grand achievements. Here, she founded *The Christian Science Monitor* — a task that required strength and perseverance. Here, she framed several crucial bylaws, clarifying and safeguarding the practice of Christian Science and the roles of churches and practitioners. Here, she guided the church through a potentially divisive controversy, preserving unity when factionalism would have split the Field. Here, she wrote the concluding paragraph of the chapter "Christian Science Practice" (see *Miscellany* p. 236:24 and p. 237:13). And here, she added the word "Unmasked" to the chapter title "Animal Magnetism" in *Science and Health*. Her three years at Chestnut Hill demanded steadfast trust in the divine and courage to implement what was unfolded to her. The house speaks of her stature as Leader.

The achievements listed above are more than sufficient to earn the house an enduring place in the history of Christian Science. But beyond the actual events that unfolded here, Chestnut Hill is unique among the historic properties because it is virtually as Mrs. Eddy herself knew it. In addition, the house is a "stand-in" for Pleasant View, as she purposely had her Chestnut Hill study remodeled to resemble that at Pleasant View. In the irrevocable absence of Pleasant View, we at least have Chestnut Hill to show firsthand the beauty and order that were part of our Leader's home life.

1 For information on the next friends suit, see *Mary Baker Eddy: The Years of Authority*, by Robert Peel, Chapter VIII, "The World at the Front Door," p. 253.

When one views Chestnut Hill, it is arresting to note that half the structure was needed to accommodate Mrs. Eddy's staff and that she herself lived in a modest suite. Technically, she owned a mansion. But she lived simply and quietly. The house shows graphically how far she had come from her days in Lynn to the Leader of a worldwide movement, and yet her ethic of hard work and humility never waivered.

By 1900, Mary Baker Eddy was perhaps the best-known American woman, worldwide. In her day, she was slandered and vilified in the press, as well as praised and recognized. In recent decades, the world has ignored her and largely forgotten her. The disappearance of historic sites would be a dramatic and irrevocable further step toward expunging from public memory any landmark that she actually lived, worked and carried out her mission in a specific place and under specific circumstances.

How can you help?

There are two specific ways you can help.

- Let us know if you know people who would be interested in helping us with this important campaign to preserve, restore and endow the Chestnut Hill House. We will get in touch with them. You can contact Anne McCauley, Executive Director, at amccauley@longyear.org or John Mitchell, Director of Development, at jmitchell@longyear.org
- If you are able to make a gift or pledge to this effort to buy 400 Beacon Street, please fill out the enclosed reply form and return it to Longyear as soon as possible.

Thank you for joining us in this effort. Your financial and metaphysical support of this campaign are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

THE LONGYEAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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