

The
WHITE MOUNTAIN
CHURCH

A history of the White
Mountain Church written
sometimes around 1921,
from reminiscences told me
by Emma C. Shipman, C.S.B.
and from records in her Eddy's
writings and the Christian
Science Journal.

A. W. W. Smith

Between 1893 and 1898
I spent some of the
summers at the White
Mountain House in the
White Mountains, New
Hampshire. Mr. and Mrs.
Rounsvel were the
owners and managers
of the house and
many people interested

in Christian Science
stayed there. Mr. and
Mrs. Roosevelt were
Christian Scientists. I
worked in the office,
gathered flowers and
decorated the house
with them, guided
guests on mountain
climbs, drove any
elderly ladies who

wished to go driving
around the country, and
was generally useful.

[See Journal
for testimony of hospitality
at White Mt. House.]

Every Sunday during
the summer we held
Christian Science services,
in the parlor of the hotel.

[See Journal Sept. 1897 p. 379
under Roosevelt.]

the attendance increased
more and more until the
parlor was not large
enough to take in all
who wished to attend.
And it did not seem
fair to the other guests
in the hotel to have
the parlor occupied by
Christian Scientists
entirely. So Maria Adams

of Utica, New York, Eugenia
Pierce of Shepherstown,
West Virginia, and
myself considered building
a little church. I was
chosen to write Mrs. Eddy
and ask her advice
about the project. I did
so and Mrs. Foy answered
for her and enclosed
her check for \$100 toward
the church building.

I was elected treasurer
and secretary and we
immediately began
collecting funds and
by the next summer had
a small church building
erected near the hotel.

When the church
was to be dedicated
I asked one of the boys
at the hotel to get me a

large piece of birch bark.
On it I wrote the invitation
to Mrs. Eddy to attend
the dedication. I tied the
scroll with sweet grass
and sent it to Pleasant
View.

Mrs. Janette E. Weller
was at Pleasant View
with Mrs. Eddy at the
time and Mrs. Eddy

said to her "Who is this
Miss Shipman?" Mrs.
Weller replied "Mrs.
Governor Dillingham's
niece." Mrs. Dillingham
was a student and a
very dear friend of
Mrs. Eddy's. Then
Mrs. Eddy said to
Mrs. Weller "Put her
down for my next
class."

See also
Minutes of the White Mt.
Chapel. Z.C.S.

Sentinel August 15, 1903
p. 794

At the dedication of
the church I read the
message from Mrs. Eddy
which she sent in
answer to my letter of
invitation.

[See Journal Sept. 1898
p. 377 and "Miscellany"
p. 184]

This dictation was read
and corrected by
Miss Shipman.

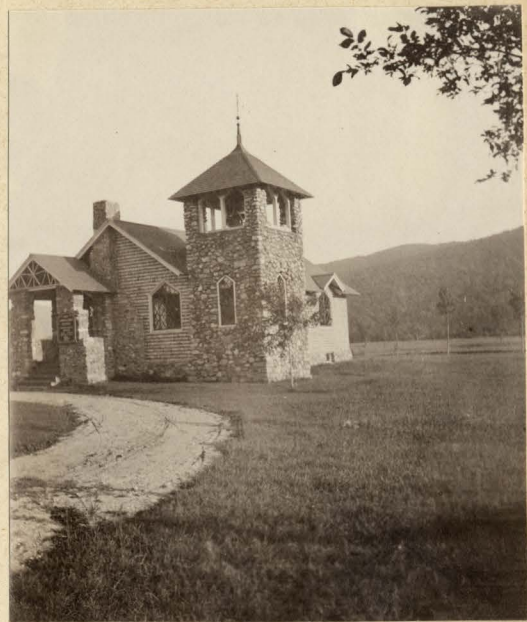
C. W. S.

Photographs were
taken by
Miss Shipman

















- 1 George Parker, Boston
- 2 Levi Willcutt, Brookline
- 3 Mrs. Moore, Lisbon, N. H.
- 4 Judge Ewing, Chicago
- 5 Ellen Cross, Baltimore
- 6 Miss Susan Sears, East Dennis, Mass.
- 7 Miss Zadie Willcutt, Brookline





George Parker

Judge Twining

Mrs. Roosevelt - First Reader
Miss Shipman - Second Reader





White Mountain House
from the Church

Mr. Whitcomb
George Parker
at White Mountain House





Two Christian Scientists

Mrs. & Mr. Bonnell

Miss Shipman





Miss Anna C. Shigman

Granite Marker Put on Site Of Church in New Hampshire

Christian Science Monitor, Aug. 23, 1939

To counteract false rumors concerning the original site of the first Christian Science church to be dedicated in New Hampshire, The Christian Science Board of Directors has announced the placing of a permanent marker upon the location of what was originally known as the White Mountain Church, at Fabyan, where services were held from 1898 to 1913.

Hence, its doors were closed during the winter months.

Invitations to attend the dedication of the church were sent to Mrs. Eddy on smooth sheets of birch bark tied with native sweet grass in keeping with the rustic surroundings and the log-cabin effect of the exterior of the edifice. Mrs. Eddy did not attend the dedication but she contributed a dedicatory address which was read

Inscription on the marker states: "Mary Baker Eddy, Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, visited in this vicinity in the summer of 1888. She addressed an audience in a nearby hotel and foretold the 'little church to be in the midst of the mountains' for which she furnished a message when it was dedicated in 1898. (See Miscellany, Page 184)."

In front of the granite marker there has been placed the cornerstone of the church which was originally laid on May 23, 1898, close to the White Mountain House to which many Christian Scientists went in those days to spend weeks during the summer seasons. The church was unique in that it was built only to serve the devotional requirements of summer visitors.

before a gathering that filled the church to overflowing.

The real beginnings of the church came when Mrs. Eddy spent a few days at the White Mountain House and spoke for an hour before a hotel gathering. From that meeting came the inspiration to build a chapel on land originally owned by the hotel along the Ammonoosuc River just far enough from the hotel to insure quiet.

Changing times found the church somewhat isolated from the main avenues of travel, so in 1913 the services were discontinued with the approval of The Christian Science Board of Directors. Some of the fittings of the Fabyan church were taken to the Society in Littleton, while the bell went to the Cotuit Society in Massachusetts.