

# Longyear Historical Review

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Swampscott: The Birthplace of Christian Science 🌿 Alma Lutz	2
Extract from an Article by Mary M. Patterson (Mary Baker Eddy) from <i>The Lynn Reporter</i> , April 4, 1866	4
Lay of the Land: Chronological 🌿 Timothy C. Leech	4
Lay of the Land: Geographical 🌿 Sue Dunlap	5
Visit with Barbara Hall, Head Guide at Mary Baker Eddy Historic House, Swampscott	9
George Newhall's Recollections of February 1866	10
Mrs. Longyear Purchases the House at Swampscott Extracts from her Diary	11
For Kids of All Ages: From the Museum Collection 🌿 Julie Pabst	12



**LONGYEAR MUSEUM**  
271 Huntington Avenue  
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## SWAMPSCOTT: The Birthplace of Christian Science

*Alma Lutz*

WHEN MRS. EDDY WAS LIVING AT 23 PARADISE ROAD, SWAMPSCOTT, in 1866, she experienced a remarkable recovery from an accident, which she regarded so important that she referred to it several times in her writings as the event which led directly to her discovery of Christian Science. "In the year 1866," she wrote in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* (p. 107), "I discovered the Christ Science or divine laws of Life, Truth, and Love, and named my discovery Christian Science. 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." Her works *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 24, and *Retrospection and Introspection*, pp. 24 and 26, are also of interest in this connection.

Because of the significance attached to this event by Mrs. Eddy, and because countless lives have been regenerated through the discovery of Christian Science, Longyear Foundation is preserving for future generations the house in which Mrs. Eddy lived at this time. As the years go by, it will be valuable historical evidence of the life of the discoverer and founder of Christian Science. From Mrs. Eddy's writings, from letters, documents, newspapers, and reliable records of her life, this account of the months spent by her at 23 Paradise Road has been written.

### THE "APARTMENT WAS LIGHT AND AIRY"

In the fall of 1865 Mrs. Eddy, then Mrs. Patterson, and her husband, Dr. Patterson, rented an apartment on the second floor of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Armenius Newhall, at 23 Paradise Court, Swampscott, Massachusetts. Paradise Road was then called Paradise Court....

Swampscott was then a quiet little fishing village, adjoining Lynn. The shore was dotted with fishing barges. The Newhall home was very pleasantly situated, not far from the ocean, with plenty of open land around it, two and a half





acres belonging to the Newhalls. Besides the two-story house with piazzas on the front and south side, a stable and observatory were on the grounds. The house was well built and substantial, practically as it is today.

The Newhalls were well-to-do, refined people. The *Lynn Directory* listed Mr. Newhall as a fish merchant and a dealer in provisions. Their home was comfortably furnished. The Pattersons' apartment was probably furnished partly by them and partly by the Newhalls.

This second-story apartment of four rooms was light and airy. Its windows looked out on a wide, sloping lawn, near the edge of which was a fountain shaded by a willow, on an orchard with orderly rows of pear and apple trees, and on a garden well-stocked with strawberry plants, currant and gooseberry bushes.... There was a wide sweep of sky which Mrs. Patterson loved to watch. She thought the Swampscott skies beautifully blue and wonderful in their changing moods and colors. From her parlor windows she admired the brilliant sunsets and the magic beauty of moonlight nights. She was most appreciative of nature, and loved to go down to the shore, look out on the wide expanse of ocean, hear the pounding of the surf, and meditate. In the winter, when the wind howled about the house and the snow was piled high, she fed the snow birds on her window sill.

Mrs. Patterson was forty-four years old when she moved to Swampscott. She was in better health than she had been for many years. Although she rejoiced over her increased activity and her new interests, she was often sad, for her marriage with Dr. Patterson was not proving a happy one. He was a skilful dentist, and well-liked by people in general because of his jovial disposition, but he was temperamentally unable to apply himself steadily to



his profession, and was always in straitened circumstances. Their interests drifted farther and farther apart.... And now, in the fall of 1865, her father, Mark Baker, passed on. There were moments when she felt utterly alone, and she turned to God, as she always had, for comfort and strength.

### “IN HER QUIET WAY SHE COMMANDED ATTENTION”

She was a fine looking woman, graceful and slender, with deep blue-gray eyes and a fair skin. Her brown hair was arranged in curls about her face as was the fashion of the day. She dressed well and becomingly in spite of her limited means, usually wearing black with violet or pale rose trimmings....

She readily made friends in Lynn and in Swampscott. In her quiet way she commanded attention. When she

Alma Lutz, a 1912 graduate of Vassar College, devoted her life to working for women's suffrage and equal rights for women. She authored biographies of women active in the anti-slavery and women's suffrage movements. *The New York Times* noted her passing in 1973.

Lutz wrote "Swampscott" in 1935, when most of the published material on Mary Baker Eddy was decidedly polemical (exceptions were *The Life of Mary Baker Eddy*, by Sibyl Wilbur, published in 1907, and the 1930 biography, *Mary Baker Eddy: A Life Size Portrait*, by Lyman P. Powell, an Episcopal clergyman). Lutz's article thus filled a modest but useful niche.



*Lay of the Land*  
**CHRONOLOGICAL**

*Timothy C. Leech*

**1863**

**September.** Daniel Patterson locates his dental practice in Lynn, Massachusetts.

**1865**

**April 9.** Civil War ends.

**October.** The Pattersons rent the second floor of the house of Armenius Newhall, 23 Paradise Court (now Paradise Road), Swampscott.

**October 5.** Mark Baker, Mrs. Patterson's father, passes on.

**1866**

**January 16.** Phineas P. Quimby passes on. (See *Retrospection and Introspection*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 24.)

**February 1 (Thursday).** Falling on an icy sidewalk in Lynn, Mrs. Patterson is seriously injured. Semi-conscious, she is carried to the nearby house of Samuel Bubier where she is cared for during the night. Dr. Alvin Cushing is called.

**February 2 (Friday).** At her request, Dr. Cushing moves her to her home in Swampscott. Daniel Patterson, who is away, is summoned by telegram.

**February 3 (Saturday).** There is no improvement, and Cushing feels he can do no more. He does not call on Sunday.

**February 4 (Sunday).** The Reverend Jonas Clark, Mrs. Patterson's pastor, calls before the morning service to pray with her and prepare her for possible death. That afternoon while reading a biblical account of one of Jesus' healings, she has a profound spiritual insight and immediately recovers. She walks unaided to the parlor.

Over the next months, with her marriage dissolving and facing severe financial difficulties, she finds it challenging to maintain health.

**March.** The Newhalls put their house up for sale; Mrs. Patterson writes an article for the *Lynn Reporter* praising the house. The Pattersons take rooms in Lynn, but Patterson deserts her soon afterward.

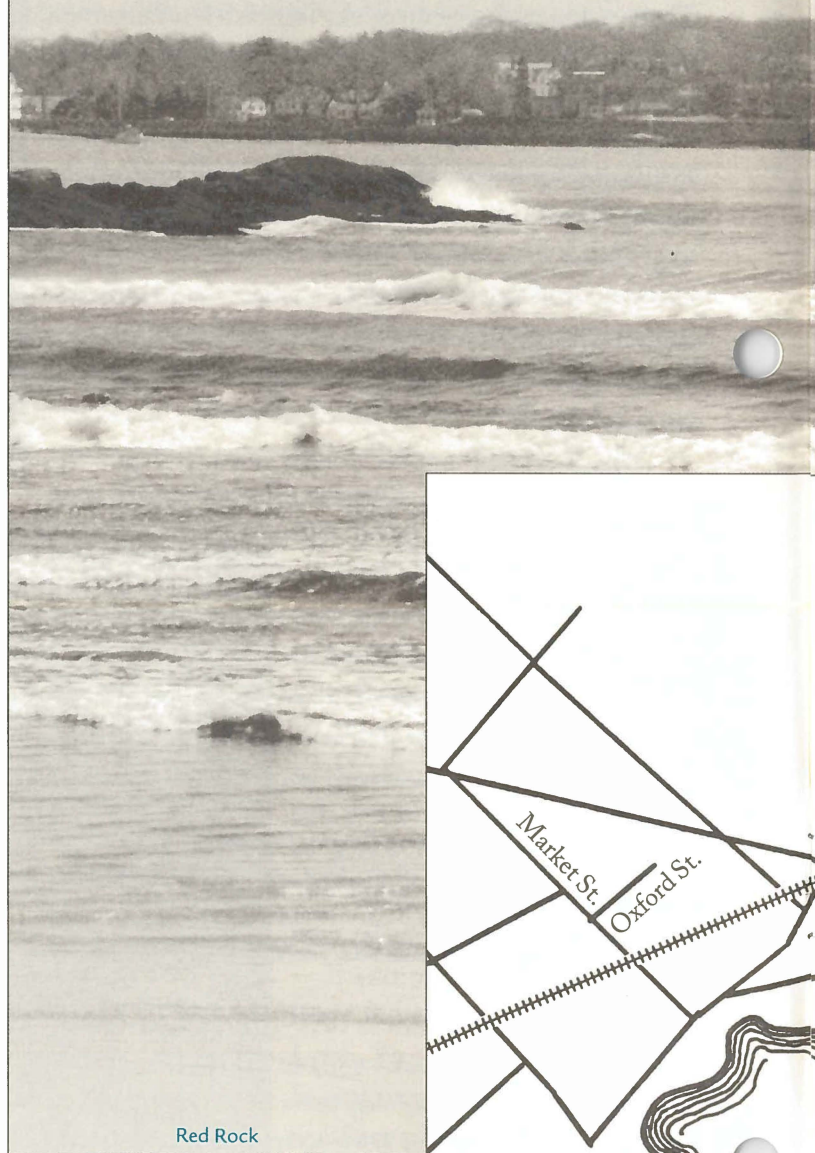
**Summer.** Mrs. Patterson heals others and begins to write down her developing thoughts on Christian Science. Daniel Patterson returns, and the couple is briefly reunited.

**August.** Patterson deserts her again, and again returns. Mary Patterson recognizes that the situation is beyond reconciliation, and the bittersweet marriage of thirteen years ends. She resumes the name Glover and in 1873 divorces Patterson.

**Autumn.** "... in the latter part of 1866" she gains "the scientific certainty that all causation was Mind, and every effect a mental phenomenon." (*Retrospection and Introspection*, p. 24)

*"To watch the moonbeams on the wave ...  
then to catch an occasional glimpse,  
in another survey of thought,  
of one's spiritual self —  
is to see what shadows we are  
and what shadows we pursue."*

*From an untitled article by  
Mary M. Patterson (Mary Baker Eddy)  
The Lynn Reporter, April 4, 1866*



Red Rock



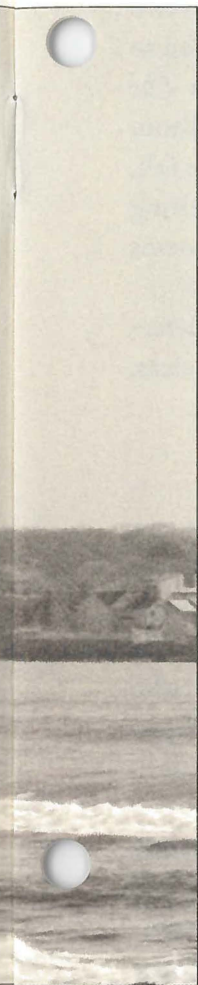
talked, and was interested in her subject, her eyes glowed, and color came to her cheeks. She was a good conversationalist and had a winning, kindly manner.... Few women allowed their thoughts to stray far beyond the four walls of their homes, few ventured to speak in public, few wrote for publication. Mrs. Patterson did all these things naturally, without feeling that she was defying the conventions. She was always interested in the world about her. These were the difficult years of reconstruction after the Civil War.... Two of Mrs. Patterson's poems, written and published at this time, "To the Old Year 1865" and "Our National Thanksgiving Hymn," show that she was thinking over these matters....

The North was adjusting itself once more to peacetime pursuits, and interest was reviving in education, in Lyceum lectures on cultural subjects, in religion and temperance. Vassar College, the first fully endowed college for women offering courses on a par with those at Harvard and Yale, opened its doors in the fall of 1865. This was an important step in the recognition of the mental ability of women.

Temperance societies were recruiting new members. Dr. and Mrs. Patterson had joined the Linwood Lodge of Good Templars, a temperance organization in Lynn, which worked for prohibition legislation and total abstinence. This Lodge was first organized by men, but soon a few women formed an auxiliary group, called the Legion of Honor. Women had asserted their interest in temperance in the eighteen-fifties, and their persistent efforts to share in the work for the cause had borne fruit by 1866. Nevertheless, women who were interested in causes were greatly in the minority, and were still regarded by the general public as queer and unfeminine, and as straying out of their sphere. Mrs. Patterson was an active member of the Legion of Honor of the Linwood Lodge, and served for a time as presiding officer. She was often called upon to speak or to read, and did so with ease and effectiveness.

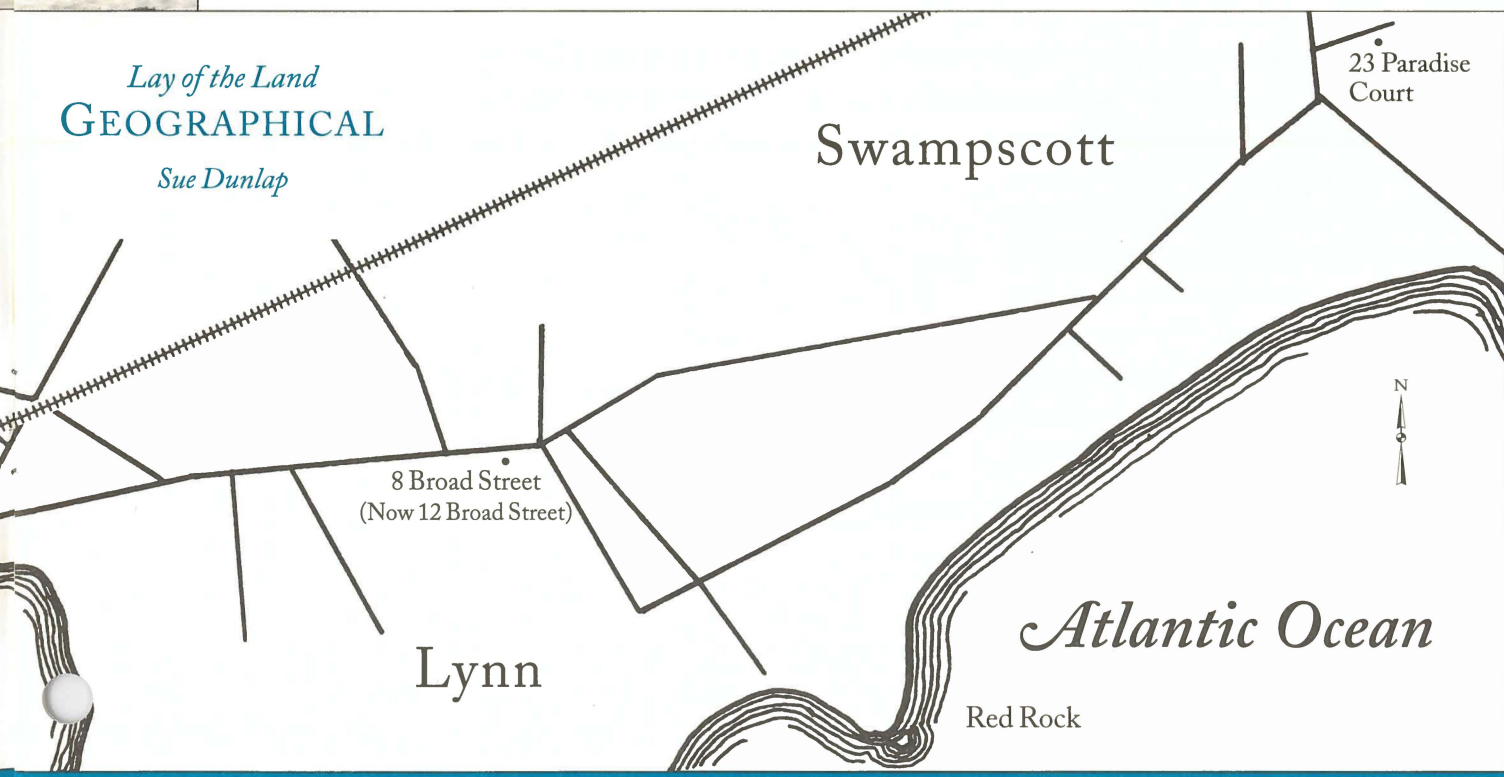
### "SHE OFTEN SAT FOR HOURS, WRITING"

She delighted in expressing her ideas in writing. As a small child she had the ambition to write a book. Before she was twenty she began sending short articles and poems to the newspapers; and by 1865 had written with considerable success for New Hampshire, Portland, and Lynn newspapers, for the *Connecticut Odd Fellow*, and the



## Lay of the Land GEOGRAPHICAL

Sue Dunlap



*Freemason's Monthly Magazine*. In the *I. O. O. F. Covenant*, she had published a short story, "Emma Clinton, or a Tale of the Frontiers." Her poems had been printed in *Godey's Lady's Book* — an honor for a woman in those days; and two were reprinted in 1850 in *Gems for You*, one of the many gift books then so popular. She had even had a request for an article in 1864 from *The Independent* — that popular New York weekly edited by Theodore Tilton. Now, in Swampscott, she devoted much of her time to writing. In the fall, while the weather was still fine, she often sat for hours thinking and writing under the willow by the fountain. She wrote short, chatty articles and poems for the *Lynn Weekly Reporter* in the flowery style of that period....

She attended the Congregational Church in Swampscott, and characterized the sermons of her pastor, the Reverend Jonas B. Clark, as strong, clear, and logical.

### “GOOD FRIENDS AND NEAR NEIGHBORS”

Two of her fellow church-members, Mrs. Mary Wheeler and Mrs. Carrie Millet, were good friends and near neighbors. Among the most mentally congenial of her friends at this time were Mary P. Ellis and her son, Fred, who was in charge of the grammar school. Mrs. Patterson spent many happy evenings with them in stimulating conversation, and later, when she was in need of a home, they took her in.

The home of Hannah and Thomas Phillips in Lynn was also a mental refuge. They were Quakers, intelligent and understanding. Mr. Phillips had been a manufacturer of shoe findings. He was more sympathetic to her religious ideas than the rest of the family, although his son-in-law, George Oliver, said he liked nothing better than a talk with Mrs. Patterson, and preferred it to putting through a business deal. Mrs. Patterson dearly loved the aged grandmother of the family, and often sat hand in hand with her on the sofa, talking about God and the Bible. She was impressed by the silent prayer of the Quakers before meals.

Charles and Abby Winslow, relatives of the Phillips, were also good friends, and later she healed Mrs. Winslow, who for years had been unable to walk. Mr. Winslow was a wealthy shoe manufacturer.

Mrs. Patterson was also very much at home with Rebecca and Ira Brown, who lived on Essex Street, Lynn. They were well-to-do, and owned considerable property. Mr. Brown was in the lumber business. Whenever she came to call, and could stay for luncheon or dinner, Mrs. Brown immediately told the cook to put the potatoes in the oven so that Mrs. Patterson could have them the way she liked them best. Their ten-year-old daughter, Arietta, always enjoyed her visits and thought her full of fun. She liked nothing better than to get Mrs. Patterson comfortably seated, and then to comb her hair and wind her curls on a round stick.

Mrs. Patterson talked very freely to all her friends about religion, which meant so much to her — not about a religion of creeds or ceremonies, but of

In 1901 Fred Ellis wrote Mrs. Eddy, recalling the enjoyable times she had spent with them. In her reply, Mrs. Eddy mentioned their kindnesses to her.

“Later she healed Mrs. Winslow”:  
This healing took place in 1868. See *Mary Baker Eddy: The Years of Discovery*, Robert Peel, p. 351, note 96, and *The Life of Mary Baker Eddy*, Sibyl Wilbur, pp. 143–144.



personal relationship with God which must be expressed in daily life. Her years of invalidism had led her to search for a connection between religion and healing, and she tried to work this out in practice whenever she found anyone at all receptive to her ideas. Then came an experience which confirmed her hopes and made her continue her search with renewed zeal.

### “HER FRIENDS HURRIED TO HER BEDSIDE”

On February 1, 1866, in the evening, while she was on her way to her Lodge meeting with friends, she slipped and fell on the icy sidewalk in front of the shoe factory of Samuel M. Bubier, on the corner of Market and Oxford Streets, Lynn, and was severely injured.

She was carried across the street into the Bubier home, and Dr. Alvin M. Cushing, a well-known homeopathic physician of Lynn, was called to attend her. According to Dr. Cushing, she was very nervous, semi-conscious, and semi-hysterical. He left medicine to quiet her. The next morning, when he called, she complained of severe pain but insisted on going home, and he arranged to have her taken to Swampscott wrapped in blankets and robes in a long sleigh.

Dr. Patterson was away from home at the time, in New Hampshire, either on dental business or lecturing on his Civil War prison experiences, and her friends telegraphed him to return.

The *Lynn Weekly Reporter* of February 3, 1866, carried the following account of the accident:

“Mrs. Mary M. Patterson, of Swampscott, fell upon the ice near the corner of Market and Oxford Streets, on Thursday evening, and was severely injured. She was taken up in an insensible condition, and carried

to the residence of S. M. Bubier, Esq., near by, where she was kindly cared for during the night. Dr. Cushing, who was called, found her injuries to be internal, and of a very serious nature, inducing spasms and intense suffering. She was removed to her home in Swampscott yesterday afternoon, though in a very critical condition.”

The news of her accident travelled quickly among her friends, and some of them at once hurried over to her bedside to see what they could do to help her. Mrs. Carrie Millet and Mrs. Mary Wheeler spent the night with her, and



the next morning sent the milkman, George Newhall, to tell the Reverend Jonas B. Clark of her condition.

### “SHE TOLD THEM SHE WAS GOING TO WALK”

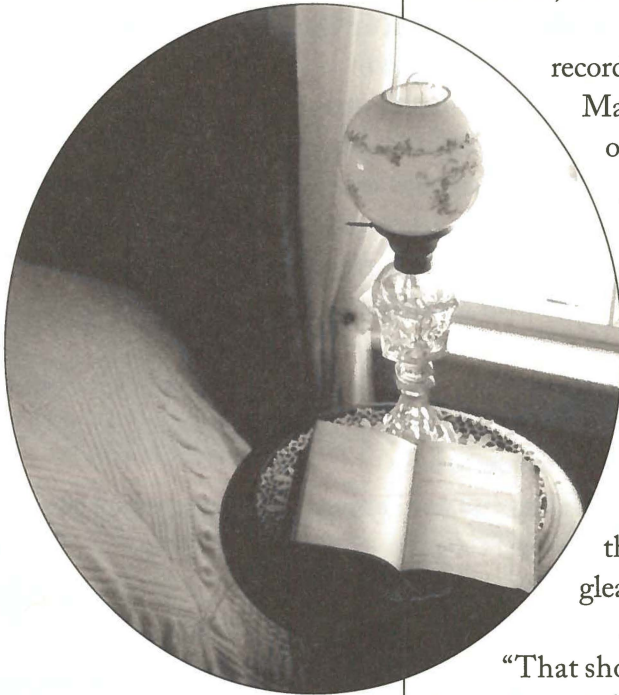
Sunday morning Mr. Brown drove his wife and daughter to Swampscott to see her. Mrs. Patterson was in bed, but as they left she told them she was going to walk. They thought it impossible, but when they came in later to bring her some chicken for her supper, they found her in the parlor. She had walked in, as she said she would.

As she lay in bed, reading her Bible, she turned to the record of Jesus’ healing of the palsied man in the ninth chapter of Matthew, and glimpsed a new meaning in that story. In a flash of spiritual understanding she realized that at the basis of Jesus’ healing was a principle which was applicable to her then and there, and she felt she was free. She got up from her bed and went into the parlor where her friends were gathered. They were amazed. Some thought it a miracle. Others were anxious for her, and feared she was overdoing. She could not explain to them then what had happened except that she had been healed by prayer, but when she was by herself again, away from their doubts and hampering thoughts, she felt stronger, and was very sure that out of this moment of spiritual illumination she would glean something of great value.

As she explained it later in *Miscellaneous Writings* (p. 24), “That short experience included a glimpse of the great fact that I have since tried to make plain to others, namely, Life in and of Spirit; this Life being the sole reality of existence.”

But she did not at once comprehend all that this experience implied. A full understanding required years of growth. For the next few weeks, while she remained at 23 Paradise Road, she struggled to hold to the truth which she had glimpsed. In March, when the Newhalls offered their house for sale, she was obliged to leave this spot which she loved and move to Lynn. She described it appreciatively in an article for the *Lynn Weekly Reporter*, and this not only was a help to the Newhalls, but has been of great value in later years in furnishing details about the months she spent in Swampscott.

During the next few years she faced poverty, loneliness, and disillusionment in her relationship with her family and friends. But the spiritual illumination which came to her thought on the Sunday after her fall, stood out as a guiding light, and led her gradually into a clear understanding of spiritual healing based on the divine Principle, God. This system of healing she has explained and made available to all in the textbook of Christian Science, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.



“She did not at once comprehend”:  
In her writings, Mrs. Eddy observes  
that her understanding of Christian  
Science grew gradually. See, for  
instance, *Science and Health*, 109:22  
and 460:29; also *Retrospection  
and Introspection*, 24:9.

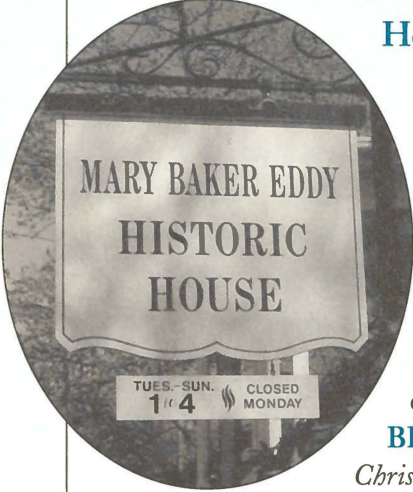




## VISIT WITH BARBARA HALL

### Head Guide, Mary Baker Eddy Historic House, Swampscott

*Recently, Longyear Historical Review's Steve Howard spoke with Barbara Hall, Head Guide at the Mary Baker Eddy Historic House in Swampscott. Barbara shared reflections from her twenty years' experience of guiding at the house.*



MARY BAKER EDDY  
HISTORIC  
HOUSE

TUES. - SUN.  
11-4

CLOSED  
MONDAY

**SH:** Barbara, please tell me about the visitors you welcome to the house.

**BH:** We get wonderful visitors! Sometimes whole classrooms of schoolchildren, generally sixth graders. Many visitors come because they've seen our listing in AAA.

**SH:** The house certainly seems to appeal to people from a wide range of backgrounds, doesn't it?

**BH:** Definitely. For instance, a gentleman from Iran visited because he respected *The Christian Science Monitor* so much that he wanted to know more about the woman that had founded it. He was in Boston on business and made it a point to come here. But on the other hand, occasionally people come just to debate the teachings of Christian Science.

**SH:** How do you respond in such situations?

**BH:** With good humor, we help our visitor understand our purpose in being here. We explain that this house is not thought of as a shrine or a place to debate religious beliefs. We are not here to proselytize but to furnish a point of historic reference in the life of Mrs. Eddy. Because she is a significant figure in American history, most of our visitors appreciate the opportunity to see where she lived and the furnishings of an historic house.

**SH:** Did any of the furnishings belong to Mrs. Eddy?

**BH:** No. When Mrs. Eddy left this house nobody knew she was going to become a world-renowned religious leader, so there's nothing from the period when she lived here. But the historic rooms *are* furnished in mid-1860s style, so it resembles what would have been familiar to her.

**SH:** What seems to intrigue visitors the most about the house?

**BH:** Well, the kitchen is always a favorite stop. There's something very homey and pleasant about it. But it's also educational. The sink is the original, and it shows that there was no inside plumbing. Imagine what life was like when people had to pump their own water, carry it into the house and heat it on a wood-burning stove over a fire they had to build themselves.

**SH:** Interesting to think of Mrs. Eddy living in those circumstances! It's easy to take present-day conveniences for granted. What was the neighborhood like when Mrs. Eddy lived here?

**BH:** The house is on a very busy street today, but when Mrs. Eddy lived here, the road was a narrow, unpaved lane which ended a short distance beyond the property. This house and the one across the street were the only two houses here. Swampscott then was a quiet little fishing village.

**SH:** I know there's a lot more you could tell us, but we should save that for the tour! What suggestions would you give to someone planning to visit an historic house?

**BH:** It's helpful to do some advance reading about the person who lived there. But even if there isn't time for such preparation, our tours supply enough background information to make the visit interesting and worthwhile.

**SH:** Thank you, Barbara, for talking with us and sharing your observations.





# GEORGE NEWHALL'S RECOLLECTIONS OF FEBRUARY 1866

Swampscott Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> 1920  
To whom it may interest.  
Having been asked to state on paper what I  
knew of the late "Mother" Eddy so called in  
a will say I was personally acquainted  
Mrs. Patterson

Swampscott Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> 1920

To whom it may interest.

Having been asked to state on paper what I knew of the late "Mother" Eddy so-called in former years, I will say I was personally acquainted with Mrs. Eddy in 1866, then Mrs. Mary Patterson. She lived at that time in the house now numbered 23 Paradise Road, then Paradise Court, then owned by Mr. Armenius Newhall. Mrs. Patterson attended the Congregational church, also a temperance society to which the writer also attended. She wrote and read many pieces to the meetings. By way of business, the writer called at the house 23 Paradise Court every morning, seeing Mrs. Patterson quite often. On the back ground of the premises there was a fountain stoned up with granite. The writer used to see Mrs. Patterson sitting on the wall apparently in deep thought. She would write a little while then gaze into the water awhile as if waiting for inspiration. While in these moods she wished no conversation with anybody. In January<sup>1</sup> 1866, the mercury below zero, upon calling at the house I was informed that Mrs. Patterson had met with an accident by falling on the ice and had broken her spine<sup>2</sup> and would never be able to take another step alone.

Two members of the same church, Mrs. Carrie Millet and Mrs. Mary Wheeler, [were] with her. Dr. Cushing of Lynn was the attending physician. A part of what stamped the affair so permanently on my memory was that morning Mrs. Millet asked me to go down to Marblehead line and inform the minister, the Rev. Jonas B. Clark, of the accident. There being no public conveyance in those days, with the mercury below zero and a slow horse and business pung, I drove a distance of two miles. When I got back to town I was so near finished with cold I could not speak for some time. Three or four mornings after calling at the house, Mrs. Millet informed me that a great change for the better had come over Mrs. Patterson. The evening

before, to use Mrs. Patterson's own words, she says, "I am going to walk." Those present thought her mind wandering. She immediately pushed herself unaided to the side of the bed, placed her feet on the floor and walked to the side of the room and sat in a chair. Then she says, "This is all through prayer," it being the first time she had moved her legs without help since her injury. A few years after,<sup>3</sup> Mr. Newhall sold the property 23 Paradise Court to a Mr. Peal of Boston. Then Mrs. Patterson went to live with Mrs. Wheeler. While she was there, Mr. Newhall bought the home on New Ocean Street, in after years called "The Wave." Then Mrs. Patterson went there, which accounts for the reason that many people think the house on New Ocean St. is where Mrs. Patterson first demonstrated Christian Science. The next I knew of her was she lived on Broad Street, Lynn, having a large sign on the house which read "Christian Scien[tists'] Home," under the name of Mrs. Mary Glover. The circumstances of which I have written are as fresh and clear in my memory as at the time they occurred.

Very Respectfully  
George Newhall

I, Milton D. Porter, a resident of Swampscott, Mass., and a Justice of the Peace of the Commonwealth, hereby state that, having had long time business acquaintance with Mr. George Newhall, signer of the above, do consider him to be an honest and reliable citizen.

Jan 11 1921

Milton D. Porter

1. "January": the date was probably February 3.
2. "Broken her spine": an overstatement on the part of Mrs. Patterson's friends. Dr. Alvin Cushing described her condition as "concussion and possible spinal dislocation."
3. "A few years after": actually about six weeks later.



# MRS. LONGYEAR PURCHASES THE HOUSE AT SWAMPSCOTT

## Extracts from her diary

**July 10, 1920** I went to Lynn to-day to see if I could get some glimpses of the early life of [Mary Baker Eddy].... I went to the C[hristian] S[cience] Reading Room in Lynn, and was directed to one who knew her at the time [Lydia Byrus]. She told me where Mrs. Eddy fell, the name of the owner [Mrs. Dearing] of the millenary store before which it happened, &c. She gave me many addresses of people in Swampscott who might remember the place. I then went to Swampscott, and making inquiries succeeded in finding several places where she [Mrs. Eddy] had lived, among them being a very unattractive house on Paradise Road.

**July 16, 1920** Have just bought the house on Paradise Road....

**July 27, 1920** Went with Mr. Bancroft [a student of Mrs. Eddy's in the 1870s] to Lynn and Swampscott. I went to see the house I had bought almost unseen, with a certain fear, for I had not made sure that it was really *the house*. I went around to the side of it and saw a man in overalls approaching. I said, "I am looking for Mr. Newhall." "I am the man," he replied. "I am the woman who owns this house!" "Are you Mrs. Noyce?" naming my superintendent, who had consummated the bargain. I said, "No," and asked tremblingly, "Did Mrs. Eddy room in this house?" "Yes." "Was Dr. Patterson with

her?" "Yes, *he was*." Then I *knew* I had found the right place. "Did she come here after her fall in Lynn?" Then he told me the story.... I took a photo of him in the hollyhocks and thanked God for having found him, as he is probably the only one on earth to-day who has a personal knowledge of that fall and its effect on humanity.

**January 11, 1921** Mr. Noyce my superintendent has been out to Swampscott, taken Mr. Newhall before a Justice of the Peace and got him to certify to Mr. Newhall's statement in regard to her living in the house on Paradise road and returning to it after the fall on the ice that revealed Science to her.

The justice was an old vigorous healthy man and remembered Mrs. Eddy well. Said that Dr. Patterson was a fine looking well dressed man always wore a long coat and high hat. He used to see them walking together often.

**January 14, 1921** ... At twelve o'clock Mr. Noyce my superintendent brought over Mr. Newhall from Swampscott. It was a rainy cold day but he had made this appointment to come to see me and would not disappoint me. I wanted him to stay to lunch and while waiting for it I plied him again with questions concerning his knowledge of Mrs. Eddy in 1865. "Well," he said, "I came from the farm to deliver milk about the first of June. That was when I first saw her; that was 56 years ago! That portrait on the wall [of Mrs. Longyear's residence] is more fair than she was. She looked a little careworn. She was writing a book. Yes Mr. Patterson, he was with her. He was a tall man with black whiskers. He allus dressed well and was awful perlite to her helping her up an' down stairs.... She was a sociable person. Anyone could talk to her, friendly you know and affectionate too...."



John Munro Longyear at Mary Baker Eddy Historic House, Swampscott, about 1921. Longyear Museum collection.

### MARY BAKER EDDY HISTORIC HOUSE, SWAMPSCOTT

*An historic site owned and maintained  
by Longyear Museum*

This historic site has been open to the public since 1935. For hours, directions, and information about this and other historic sites in Massachusetts and New Hampshire maintained by Longyear Museum, please call 800-277-8943 or 617-267-6688.



## For Kids of All Ages & Julie Pabst

### From the Museum Collection

This photograph of Mrs. Eddy was taken about 1867. Mrs. Eddy would have appeared very much like this while living in Swampscott. The photograph is called a “tintype.” Tintypes are printed on metal which has a light-sensitive coating. A tintype does not have a negative from which to print copies, so each image is like a one-of-a-kind



painting. Tintypes were popular in the United States from the 1850s through the 1940s.

Visitors to the Museum are sometimes surprised at how small tintypes can be. The example here is shown at actual size. Since it is made of metal, it is heavier than a photograph printed on paper.

This tintype is an object, or artifact, from the Museum’s collection. It shows us what photos used to look like.

But it’s not just an object in a museum. It’s special because it’s also a record of how Mrs. Eddy looked in the 1860s. Thus, this photograph both gives us information and is an artifact.

If you look around where you live, you’ll find that some objects are useful because they give information, some are mainly to be enjoyed for their beauty, while others are both beautiful and give information.

- ♥ How many things can you name around your house that are useful because of the information they give, but have no historical value at present? (For example, a telephone book.)
- ♥ How many things can you name around your house that are interesting just because they’re beautiful or unusual, but they don’t give information? (Maybe a vase.)
- ♥ How many things can you find that are interesting because they’re a piece of history *and* because they also give information? (What about a very old watch that still keeps time? What information does it give you? What historical value does it have for you?)

What objects did you find? We want to hear from you! You can e-mail me at [Julie@Longyear.org](mailto:Julie@Longyear.org). Or send me a letter at Longyear Museum, 271 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115. *Julie*

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