

Longyear Historical Review

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Longyear Museum preserves material that relates to the life of
Mary Baker Eddy, the discoverer and founder of Christian Science.

A Look at Mary Baker Eddy's Years in Lynn 1870-1881

For a dozen years, Mary Baker Eddy made Lynn, Massachusetts, both her home and center of activity. Twelve eventful years! During this period, Mrs. Eddy practiced Christian Science healing, taught students, began preaching, published the first three editions of her major work, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, encountered hostility and acclaim, undertook a thorough research into the nature of evil, clarified and strengthened the practice of Christian Science, united her students in an association, formed the Church of Christ, Scientist, and founded the Massachusetts Metaphysical College. She also met Asa Gilbert Eddy, and they were married in 1877. (In the following articles, we will refer to Mrs. Eddy as Mrs. Glover for the period prior to 1877.)

In this issue of *Longyear Historical Review*, Longyear Museum Research Associate Susan E. Schopp gives us an overview of Lynn and looks at highlights of Mrs. Eddy's stay there. The period is too rich and eventful to treat in detail in these pages, and the depths of its challenges make the heights of Mrs. Eddy's achievements stand out all the more.

Mrs. Eddy left Lynn at the end of 1881, and at the age of sixty, when today many people would contemplate a peaceful retirement, she moved her headquarters to Boston, stepping before a wider audience and even more challenging world.

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A LOOK AT MARY BAKER EDDY'S YEARS IN LYNN

1870-1881

Susan E. Schopp

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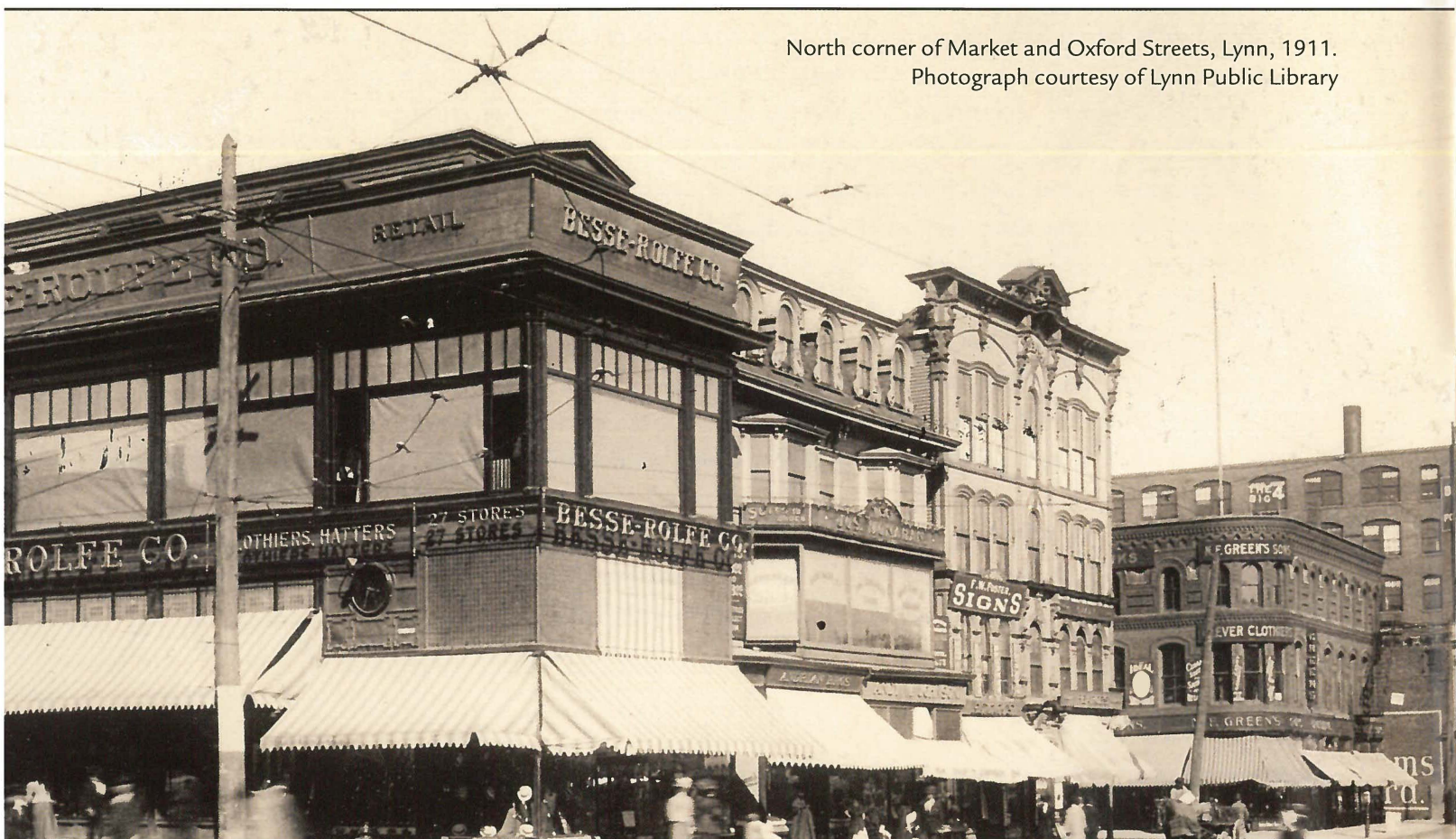
INTRODUCTION

THE ROAD FROM BOSTON TO LYNN LEADS OUT OF THE CITY through East Boston to Chelsea, where Asa Gilbert Eddy first heard of his future wife, Mrs. Glover, from her friend and Chelsea resident, Christiana Godfrey. At Revere, a suburb well known for its beach, the road turns northeast, taking the traveler along a route which runs more or less parallel to the coastline of Massachusetts Bay and then leads into Lynn. Today Lynn is a city of 81,245 people. A commuter can make the trip from Boston by train in only fifteen minutes.

When Mrs. Glover moved to Lynn in May 1870, the city was a bustling manufacturing center, known worldwide for the shoes produced in its factories. She was no stranger to the area, having lived in Lynn on several occasions between 1864 and 1870. And it was in Lynn, on February 1, 1866, while en route from her home in neighboring Swampscott to a meeting of the Good Templars, a temperance organization, that she fell on the ice near the corner of Market and Oxford Streets and was severely injured. Her healing three days later, through spiritual means alone, included, in her own words, "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." (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 24)



North corner of Market and Oxford Streets, Lynn, 1911.
Photograph courtesy of Lynn Public Library



THE SHOE INDUSTRY IN LYNN

The earliest European settlers arrived in Lynn in 1629 from the nearby village of Salem. They were joined over the next decade by Puritans fleeing England. Originally called Saugus, still the name of the town which borders Lynn on the southwest, the community was organized as a village in 1630 and renamed in 1637 for the hometown of Lynn's first pastor, who was from England. It was incorporated as a city in 1850.

Unlike Marblehead, Newburyport, Salem and most of the other communities on Boston's North Shore, Lynn was favored with neither fertile soil nor deep water nor a sheltered harbor. For the first century or so of the community's existence, residents eked out a precarious living from the land. The pairing of Lynn with the shoe industry, which would eventually make both its fortune and its renown, was a gradual process which took place over decades and which was born in no small part of the inadequacies of its natural resources. The lack of a harbor meant economic stagnation in a region where maritime

trade and shipping-related activities were keys to economic prosperity.

Lynn turns to manufacturing

In the mid-eighteenth century, residents began to turn to manufacturing in an effort to establish a more secure economic base. Attempts in printing, milling, silk-raising and several other industries met with failure. Shoemaking, however, proved successful, and had the added advantage of permitting several members of the same family to engage in it. From simple beginnings, the town rose to become the shoe-production capital of the United States and the largest producer of women's shoes in the world. In 1768, Lynn shoemakers produced 80,000 pairs of shoes; 15 years later, this figure had quintupled to 400,000. Lynn's growing domination of the industry was reflected in its share of the market: for the half century from 1870 to 1920, more shoes would be produced in Lynn than in any other city in the United States.

Shoe last, Stoughton, Massachusetts
Nineteenth century.
Artifact, Longyear Museum Collection
Photograph, Peter Dreyer



Evolution of the shoe industry

In the late eighteenth century, shoe fabrication at home gave way to “ten-footers,” small workshops constructed as outbuildings behind the owner’s home. These workshops were in turn superseded between 1820 and 1850 by “central shops,” in which shoes were both made and sold. As the shoemakers saw their independence being gradually eroded by these steps toward the centralization of their trade, they reacted by forming early labor organizations with the intent of protecting their wages and of maintaining some control over their working conditions.

From the beginnings of shoemaking as an occupation practiced at home by both men and women using traditional methods and tools, the process of crafting footwear underwent various changes, ultimately leading to large-scale mechanization.

Mechanization of the shoe industry

The industry mechanized in the 1850s, shortly before the beginning of the American Civil War. Factories appeared along with machinery which increasingly replaced the handicraft techniques and small shops of the shoemaking trade of previous years. In 1852, Lynn became the first city to adopt a variant of the sewing machine for use in shoe manufacturing. Not surprisingly, the city became a major center for the development of shoemaking equipment, especially during the last four decades of the nineteenth century. The use of specialized machines reduced workers’ independence and threatened their very livelihood. Small wonder that Lynn became a center of labor activism, although machinery did ultimately take over all of the different stages of shoe production. The shoe industry continued to dominate manufacturing in Lynn until the 1930s, when its decline signaled the end of an era.



“Ten-footer” shoe workshop in Stoughton, Massachusetts. Workshop owned by Longyear Museum

Shoe factory in Lynn, late nineteenth century. Photograph courtesy of Lynn Public Library



LYNN WHEN MRS. EDDY RESIDED THERE

As labor and social historian Paul Faler has observed, an economy “based on manufacturing gave Lynn a peculiar identity in its ideology, religion, politics and code of morality” (*Mechanics and Manufacturers in the Early Industrial Revolution: Lynn, Massachusetts, 1780–1860*, Albany, 1981, p. xvi).

When Mrs. Glover moved to Lynn in 1870, the city was the largest producer of women’s shoes in the world, a crowded working-class community which in more than one sense was a world away from Boston, to which it was linked by train. By the early 1880s she would have outgrown the city and would be ready for a larger stage. Yet it was here that a number of the key events in her lifework took place, and any obstacles which her surroundings posed only serve to underscore the magnitude of her achievements.

A city of contrasts

Lynn was a city of contrasts: home to both industrialists and workers, a center of labor activism, the center of Methodism in New England, and a crucible for social changes. The early part of the nineteenth century had witnessed a reform movement intended to improve American society; it would go on to address issues raised by the industrialization of the shoe industry, and by the 1870s, was largely concerned with social ills such as excessive consumption of alcohol.

Immigrants from other countries and seasonal laborers from other regions of the United States flowed into Lynn. One of the greatest catalysts for social change, however, was the introduction of women into the factory workplace: the role of women in society, whether as wives, mothers, workers or social protesters, was hotly debated. The following passage from the first edition of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy’s major work, published in 1875, would have resonated with many in Lynn, even though it would be decades before civil law granted the rights suggested:

If a dissolute husband deserts his wife, it should not follow that the wronged and perchance impoverished woman cannot collect her own wages, or enter into business agreements, hold real estate, deposit funds, or surely claim her own offspring free from his right of interference. [*Science and Health*, 1875, p.321; p.63 in final edition]

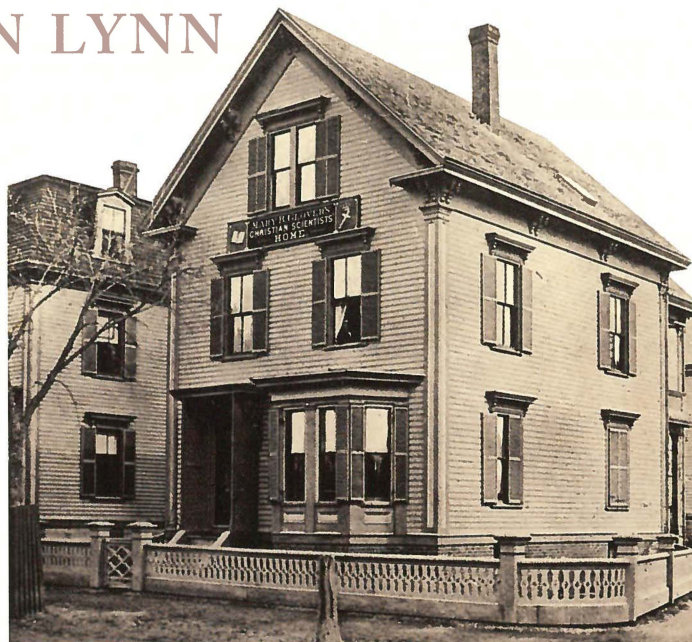
Central Square, Lynn, the heart of the commercial and manufacturing district, c. 1879. Photograph courtesy of Lynn Public Library



SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS OF MRS. EDDY'S YEARS IN LYNN

By the time Mrs. Glover bought the house at 8 Broad Street in March 1875, Lynn was a busy and congested city. Its commercial and manufacturing district was located in the area around Central Square, near the railroad station. Mrs. Eddy speaks of this station in her book *Retrospection and Introspection* with reference to an incident that occurred while the first edition of *Science and Health* was being printed.

The manuscript for *Science and Health* was already in the possession of a printer in Boston when the printing work inexplicably came to a standstill. Months slipped by, but nothing could persuade the printer to continue, and Mrs. Glover abandoned efforts to convince him to resume work. Meanwhile, she had a growing conviction of the necessity of inserting in the last chapter an account of her observations concerning the misuse of mental practice—a task which she herself called “painful” (*Retrospection and Introspection*, p. 38). She completed the additional twelve pages or so in her attic room, and set out for the railway station to catch the train to Boston. At the Lynn station she unexpectedly encountered the printer: he was en route to tell her that he had finished the work on hand and needed more copy. This striking coincidence confirmed for Mrs. Glover the rightness of including the additional material. (See *Retrospection and Introspection*, pp. 37–38.)



8 Broad Street, Lynn, Massachusetts, the house that Mrs. Glover purchased in March 1875. To make ends meet, Mrs. Glover rented out most of the house, reserving the front parlor for her teaching and using an attic room — hot in summer and cold in winter — for her living and study. It was in the attic room that Mrs. Glover finished writing the last dozen pages of her book *Science and Health*. In this house, she and Asa Gilbert Eddy were married on January 1, 1877.
Longyear Museum Collection

TIME LINE

1870

May: Mrs. Glover moves to Lynn.

August: Mrs. Glover teaches her first class in Christian Science.

Mrs. Glover copyrights “The Science of Man.”

1870

Mrs. Glover taught her first class of students in August, using her manuscript “The Science of Man, by which the sick are healed, embracing questions and answers in Moral Science” as the basis of her teaching. Each of the students in the class received a handwritten copy. Copies of her writings “The Soul’s Inquiries of Man” and “Spiritualism and Individuality” were given out at the end of the class. In 1881 Mrs. Eddy revised “The Science of Man” and included it in the third edition of *Science and Health* as the chapter “Recapitulation.”

It was significant for Mrs. Glover that Christian Science could be taught, for it confirmed that healing was not a unique talent which she exclusively possessed, but one that others could learn and practice as well. As she would later say about the word *disciple* in reference to Jesus’ students, “the word indicates that the power of healing was not a supernatural gift to those learners, but the result of their cultivated spiritual understanding of the divine Science, which their Master demonstrated by healing the sick and sinning.” (*Science and Health*, p. 271)

TIME LINE

1872

February: Mrs. Glover begins writing *Science and Health*.

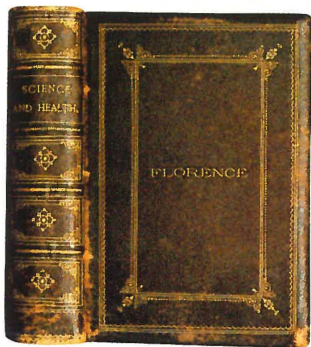
1875

March: Mrs. Glover buys house at 8 (then 12) Broad Street, Lynn.

June: Mrs. Glover holds Sunday services, preaching to a congregation of about 100.

She withdraws her membership from the Congregational Church in Tilton, New Hampshire.

October 30: First edition of *Science and Health* is published, 1000 copies.



Mrs. Glover had this copy of the first edition of *Science and Health* specially bound and stamped "Florence" for her student Florence Cheney, who had helped to finance its printing. This was one of the first three copies off the press. Longyear Museum Collection

1872

Mrs. Glover began the actual writing of *Science and Health*, originally entitled *The Science of Life*, at the beginning of 1872. Writing the book was her chief priority for the next three years. In order to concentrate on the manuscript during this time, she taught no classes, thus forfeiting her chief source of income.

The fact that she completed the project is all the more remarkable given that she moved, sometimes specifically in the hope of making greater progress on the book, some eight times during two of these three years.

Writing on a subject which was not considered suitable for a woman, having no financial or other backing for promoting her cause, she was refused by publishers in 1873 and again in 1874. In July of 1874 she found a printer, W. F. Brown of Boston, who agreed to print her book—if she paid the cost. Several of her students stepped forward to assist in advancing the necessary funds. In September she gave Brown most of the manuscript to begin setting in type. However, various problems delayed publication until October of the following year.

1875

In March, Mrs. Glover bought the house at 8 (then 12) Broad Street, Lynn. To make ends meet, however, she rented out most of the rooms except for the front parlor and a bedroom in the attic on the third floor. It was in this little bedroom that she finished writing the last dozen or so pages of the first edition of *Science and Health*.

During June, Mrs. Glover held Sunday services in Lynn. Her students contributed funds to help rent Good Templars' Hall on Market Street for the services, which were generally attended by about one hundred people each Sunday. Although discontinued in early July, the services anticipated the founding of her church in 1879.

On October 30, the first edition of *Science and Health* was ready for distribution. It contained eight chapters, was 456 pages long, and is the only edition of the book to have been published under the name of Glover.

The second or "Ark" edition, so nicknamed for the depiction of Noah's ark impressed upon the cover in gold, was published in October 1878. Mrs. Eddy had intended to issue the book in two volumes, but only the second volume was actually printed, as the large number of typographical errors in the printer's proofs rendered the first volume unusable. Volume two contained about forty pages of new material. In his account *Mary Baker Eddy and Her Books*, William Dana Orcutt tells how John Wilson of the University Press, the printer of Mrs. Eddy's books from the third edition onward, had come into the author's life at the time of the second edition:

TIME LINE

1876

February 14: "The Science of Man" is first published.

July 4: Mrs. Glover organizes the Christian Scientist Association, an association of her students.

1877

January 1: Marriage of Asa Gilbert Eddy and Mary Baker Glover.

1878

October: Second edition of *Science and Health* is published.

November: Mrs. Eddy begins preaching in Boston.

1879

April: Church of Christ, Scientist, is formed.

1880

May: Mrs. Eddy's sermon *Christian Healing* is issued as a pamphlet.

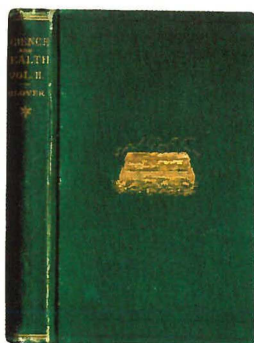
1881

January: Mrs. Eddy obtains a charter for the Massachusetts Metaphysical College.

August: Third edition of *Science and Health* is published.

October 26: Eight students defect.

November 9: Mrs. Eddy is ordained pastor of her church.



Second edition of *Science and Health*, 1878, with depiction of Ark on cover. Of the planned two-volume format, only volume two was issued. Longyear Museum Collection

When she was frustrated in her efforts to put the second [Ark] edition of *Science and Health* through the press, her husband, Asa G. Eddy, had called Mr. Wilson in for advice in the dilemma. Mr. Wilson responded by going over with her the confused mass of proof, on which Mrs. Eddy struggled to correct the countless errors occasioned by the carelessness of the printer, and showed her how about 170 pages could be salvaged. This, while not repairing the damage done by the poor workmanship, at least provided the author with the slight little Volume II which served to bridge the gap until the third edition could be manufactured. [William Dana Orcutt, *Mary Baker Eddy and Her Books*, Boston, 1978, p. 13]

1881

The third edition of *Science and Health* was the first to be printed by John Wilson of the University Press in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The ark of the second edition was replaced by the emblem of the cross and crown, which now appeared on the cover for the first time.

A particularly eventful year, 1881 saw both high points and low in Mrs. Eddy's life. In January, she obtained a state charter for the Massachusetts Metaphysical College. The August 17 publication of the third edition of *Science and Health* was followed two months afterward by a painful defection of eight of her students. Two weeks later Mrs. Eddy's loyal students ordained her as pastor of her church. Late in 1881 Mrs. Eddy left Lynn, to settle in Boston in January 1882.



Third edition of *Science and Health*, 1881, in two volumes; cross and crown emblem, with Jesus' words cited in Matthew 10:8 (Revised Version of the Bible, 1881). Longyear Museum Collection



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