



Mary Baker Eddy Chronology

True to its mission, Longyear Museum collects and preserves documents, artifacts, and photographs relating to the life and work of Mary Baker Eddy, her students and early followers, and to the history of the establishment of the Christian Science movement. For inquiries about the collection, call us at 617.278.9000 or email letters@longyear.org.

Year	Month	Event
1821	July 16	Mary Morse Baker born to Mark and Abigail Baker in Bow, New Hampshire. She is the youngest of six children.
1836	January	The Baker family moves about 22 miles north to Sanbornton Bridge, New Hampshire, which is later renamed Tilton.
1838	July 26	At the age of 17, joins the local Congregational (Trinitarian) Church. She will remain a member for 37 years.
1843	December 10	Marries George Washington Glover, and they move to South Carolina. Six months later he dies from yellow fever and Mary returns home.
1844	September 12	Her son, George Washington Glover II, is born at the Baker home.
1846		After struggling with ill health for much of her early life, Mary begins what she later calls a 20-year search “to trace all physical effects to a mental cause” (<i>Retrospection and Introspection</i> , p. 24).
1849	November 21	Her mother, Abigail Ambrose Baker, dies.
1850	December 5	Her father, Mark Baker, remarries. Mary goes to live with her sister Abigail Baker Tilton; five months later, Mary’s son, George, is sent to live with family friends 30 miles away.
1853	June 21	Marries Daniel Patterson, a dentist.
1855	April	The Pattersons move to North Groton, New Hampshire, to be near Mary’s son. A year later, George is taken away to Minnesota. Deeply affected, Mary is a semi-invalid for much of the next six years.
1856		Heals an acquaintance through homeopathic treatment using unmedicated pills, confirming her growing conviction of the mental nature of disease.
1862		Begins to write down and share with friends the fruits of her Bible study.



	October 10	Arrives in Portland, Maine, to receive treatment from Phineas P. Quimby, who claims to heal without drugs. Continues to visit him through the next year.
1866	February 4	Now living in Swampscott, Massachusetts, Mary turns to her Bible and experiences a remarkable healing of near-fatal injuries sustained from a fall. More than a physical recovery, this experience leads to her discovery of Christian Science.
	Summer	The Pattersons permanently separate after Daniel's repeated desertions.
	Autumn	Begins nearly a decade of frequent moves, living in boarding houses and with friends and acquaintances. After healing several others through prayer, begins writing notes on Genesis.
1867		Teaches her first student.
1870	Summer	Begins a public healing and teaching practice in Lynn.
1872		Suspends teaching classes and begins writing a book about her discovery.
1873	November 4	Divorces Daniel Patterson on the grounds of his infidelity.
1875	March 31	Buys her first home at 8 Broad Street, Lynn. In the following months, she completes her forthcoming book <i>Science and Health</i> , and resumes teaching.
	May 23	Gives a lecture titled "Christ Healing the Sick." With financial backing from eight students, she preaches Sunday sermons in Lynn for five weeks in June and July.
	October 30	First edition of <i>Science and Health</i> is published. She continues to revise this book throughout her life, and eventually titles it <i>Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures</i> .
1876	July 4	Establishes the Christian Scientist Association, which formally organizes her students.
1877	January 1	Marries her student Asa Gilbert Eddy at her home in Lynn.
1878		A series of lawsuits and accusations—some filed by disaffected students— place Christian Science and the Eddys in the public eye during this year.
	November	Begins commuting to Boston weekly to preach Christian Science sermons. Continues through June 1879.
1879	April 12	Upon motion by Mrs. Eddy, the Christian Scientist Association votes to organize a church, soon named the Church of Christ (Scientist).



	November	The Eddys temporarily relocate to Boston, where Mrs. Eddy preaches regularly to a growing audience. They return to 8 Broad Street in September 1880.
	November	Reunites with her son, George, for the first time in 23 years. He and his family, who are living in the West, will make several more visits to see Mrs. Eddy in the coming decades.
1881	January 31	Charters the Massachusetts Metaphysical College in Boston, where she teaches courses on Christian Science for the next decade.
	October 26	In a major setback, nearly half of the Christian Scientist Association challenges Mrs. Eddy's leadership and leaves the church.
	November 9	At her home in Lynn, Mrs. Eddy is ordained pastor of her church.
1882	January	The Eddys leave Lynn, visiting Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia before moving to Boston in April.
	June 3	Asa Gilbert Eddy passes on.
1883	April 14	Launches the first Christian Science periodical, which is still in print today as <i>The Christian Science Journal</i> .
1884	August 8	Teaches the first Normal class at the College, which authorizes graduates to teach Christian Science to others.
1888	November 5	Legally adopts Ebenezer J. Foster as her son. They part ways a decade later after his character is proven unstable.
1889		Moves to Concord, New Hampshire, and closes her flourishing College to focus on a major revision of <i>Science and Health</i> . The 50th edition is published in January 1891.
1892	June 20	Moves to Pleasant View, her home in Concord, New Hampshire. She lives here for nearly 16 years.
	September 23	At her direction, her church reorganizes as The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.
1894	December 30	First Sunday service is held in the newly-built edifice of The Mother Church and nearly 600 new members are admitted. On January 6, thousands attend the five dedication services.
1895	September 10	Publishes first edition of the <i>Manual of The Mother Church</i> , a book of governing By-laws.



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1898		Undertakes significant organizational work for the Church: establishes outreach and education initiatives; expands the publishing department; and introduces a weekly magazine, the <i>Christian Science Sentinel</i> . Also, teaches her last class to nearly 70 students in Concord, New Hampshire.
1903	June 29	At Mrs. Eddy's invitation, 10,000 Christian Scientists gather at Pleasant View to hear her give an address.
1906	June 10	Built for a rapidly expanding congregation, the Extension of The Mother Church holds its first service.
1907	March 1	Next Friends lawsuit is filed on her behalf by several relatives, attempting to gain control of her assets by proving her incompetence. The suit is withdrawn in August after Mrs. Eddy, then 86, is proved indisputably competent.
1908	January 26	Moves from Pleasant View in Concord, New Hampshire, to Chestnut Hill, near Boston.
	November 25	Debut issue of <i>The Christian Science Monitor</i> , a daily newspaper established at Mrs. Eddy's request. Still published today, it has won international acclaim throughout the years.
1910	October	Makes her last revisions to <i>Science and Health</i> and the <i>Church Manual</i> .
	December 3	Passes on at her Chestnut Hill home at the age of 89.