



The Mary Baker Eddy Library

Autograph Album Collection, 1867-1889

a finding aid

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Collection Description

Collection #:	LSC008
Collection Title:	Autograph Album Collection
Creator:	The First Church of Christ, Scientist
Date:	1867-1889
Extent:	2 LF
Provenance:	Items in the collection were donated on various dates by various donors or transferred from Mary Baker Eddy's last residence at Chestnut Hill.
Access:	The collection is open and accessible to the public during research room hours.
Restrictions:	The collection is subject to applicable copyright laws.
Language:	Materials are in English.

Historical Note

Autograph albums

Autograph Albums were sentimental keepsakes frequently used in class settings to collect signatures of classmates and instructors. Popular from the 15th century to the mid-19th century, autograph albums were mostly replaced with yearbooks consisting of photographs but similarly used to collect signatures or inscriptions as memorabilia. Albums came in various sizes and designs from small pocket-sized to large albums with colorful illustrations and were used to collect a range of mementos from autographs, poetry, prose, or messages. The demand for thoughtful inscriptions was so high that books were published as aids to the task. Suggestions for autograph verses were also found in popular magazines of the time.

John H. Bartlett

John H. Bartlett was a friend of the Baker family. He attended Sanbornton Academy then Harvard Law School. He moved to Sacramento in 1849 and passed on the following year (three weeks after Abigail Baker). Bartlett gave Eddy an autograph album in 1846 which she continued to use through 1869. Bartlett also gave Mary Baker Eddy a copy of *Proverbial Philosophy* by Martin Farquhar Tupper and *The Seasons* by James Thompson (both titles in the Mary Baker Eddy Book Collection, B00302 and B00309).

March 1889 Primary Class

The March 1889 Primary Class (February 25 - March 5, 1889) included sixty-five students. Joshua Bailey was asked by Eddy to take notes during this class. An autograph album was presented to Eddy from the students at the end of the course. The album, "costing fifty dollars, and containing beautiful hand-painted flowers, on each page, with their autographs" was mentioned in the class notes, "Among the gifts of my students, this <of yours> [an elegant autograph album] is <one of> the most beautiful and the most costly, because they <you> have signed their <your> names" (A12065 and "March Primary Class," *The Christian Science Journal*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (April 1889), 19-21.).

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of twelve autograph albums owned by Eddy, inscribed by Eddy, and/or owned by a student of Eddy. The twelve albums vary in size and decoration. Only two albums are known to have been owned by Mary Baker Eddy (2000.01.02 and 2000.01.12). Two albums pre-date *Science and Health* (2000.01.01 and 2000.01.12). These two albums include inscriptions of prose, poetry, and well wishes to Eddy (2000.01.12) and by Eddy (2000.01.01).

A bulk of the collection consists of autograph albums containing the signatures of students from Mary Baker Eddy's Primary and Normal classes and sometimes from their instructor, Eddy. One album (2000.01.02) was owned by Mary Baker Eddy and was a gift from her last Primary Class (February 25 - March 5, 1889).

The earliest album in the collection (2000.01.12) consists of autographs from friends and family including cousin, Henry M. Baker, and sister, Martha S. Pillsbury. Given to Eddy from John H. Bartlett, he inscribed and dated (March 21, 1846) the album on the first page. The album includes inscriptions through 1869. Eddy revisited the album from 1850-1856 and provided biographical information regarding the inscribers beginning with John H. Bartlett's inscription (L18636). In popular fashion, many of the inscriptions in the album from Bartlett consist of poems. For example, Martha S. Pillsbury chose "Epistle to Augusta" by Lord Byron.

Mary Baker Eddy chose stanzas two and four of the poem, "A Parting Song" by Mrs. Felicia Hemans to inscribe the Leaves of Friendship autograph album (2000.01.01) in 1867. Mary Baker Eddy frequently quoted Mrs. Felicia Hemans in her writings and had a copy of *The Poetical Works of Mrs. Felicia Hemans* (1847) in her study (B00203) - "A Parting Song" is on page 319.

In Grace Choat's album, 2000.01.05 (L18633), Eddy chose lines from Tupper's *Proverbial Philosophy: A Book of Thoughts and Arguments*. She wrote, "Add unto riches of the season, and a beauty moulded to thy liking, The precious things of nobler grace that well adorn a Soul." Eddy had a copy of *Proverbial Philosophy* in her study (B00309) and was given the book by John H. Bartlett (Robert Peel, *Mary Baker Eddy: The Years of Discovery*. (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1966), 92.).

Container Listing:

Box 1

Items:

2000.01.01



Title: *Leaves of Friendship*

Date: 1867

Creator: Crane, Hannah

Autograph album, 'Leaves of Friendship,' signed by Mary Baker Eddy (then M. M. Patterson) with the poem "A Parting Song" by Mrs. Felicia Hemans (L18662). Eddy lived with the Crafts in East Stoughton, nearby the Crane residence.

2000.01.03



Title: *[Autograph album of Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Primary Class, September 1886]*

Date: 1886/09

Creator: Snider, Carrie Harvey

Autograph album from September 1886 Primary Class with Mary Baker Eddy. First page signed by Eddy. Owned by Carrie Harvey Snider.

2000.01.04



Title: *The Ideal Album [Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Normal Class, February 1887]*

Date: 1887/02/12

Creator: Normal Class of February 1887

Autograph album, brown cover with flowers, illustrations of children and nature scenes, "The Ideal Album," first page inscribed by Mary Baker Eddy, "Mass. Metaphysical College Boston / Normal Class - Feb. 12 1887 / Your loving Teacher / Mary B. G. Eddy" (L19103).

2000.01.05



Title: *[Autograph album]*

Date: 1877-1884

Creator: Choate, Grace

Autograph album, green cover, inscribed by Mary Baker Eddy, "Lynn, 8 Broad St. 1877 / Merry Christmas / To Miss Grace..." (L18633) contains signatures of various individuals.

2000.01.06



Title: *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Normal Class, 1889]*

Date: 1889

Creator: Normal Class of 1889

Autograph album, ornate gold and red embossed cover, contains names of members of 1889 Normal Class. Contains signature by Mary Baker Eddy (L18634). Signed on first page by Ruth T. Fenner.

Box 2

Items:

2000.01.02



Title: *Rev. Mary B. G. Eddy from her class of February 1889*

Date: 1889

Creator: Primary Class of February-March 1889

Autograph album, ornate leather with hand painted flower motifs on each page. Cover: "Rev. Mary B. G. Eddy from her class of February 1889" mentioned in A12065, notes for the February 25 - March 5, 1889 Primary Class. Not signed by Mary Baker Eddy.

Box 3

Items:

2000.01.07

Title: *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Primary Class, February 1884]*

Date: 1884/02

Creator: Heywood, Sarah E.

Autograph album of S. E. Heywood from 1884 Primary Class, inscription by Mary Baker Eddy on first page, "Mass. Metaphysical College Boston 1884 / My dear Student, Substance is indigenous to Mind / Mary B. G. Eddy" (L18635).

2000.01.08



Title: *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Primary Class, February 1884]*

Date: 1884/02

Creator: Williams, Mattie

Autograph album of Mattie Williams [Mrs. John Williams, Columbus, Ohio] Mary Baker Eddy inscribed, "My dear Student / Love is a mighty spiritual force / Mary B. G. Eddy / Mass. Metaphysical / College/ Boston 1884. (L18661).

2000.01.09



Title: *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Primary Class, September 1888]*

Date: 1888/09/17

Creator: Shannon, Clara M.

Autograph album, red cover with leaves, cover: "Album" in gold lettering; not signed by Mary Baker Eddy, signed on first page by Clara M. Shannon.

2000.01.10

Title: *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College Primary Class, December 1884 and Normal Class October 1886]*

Date: 1884, 1886

Creator: McDonald, Emma A.

Autograph album with worn red leather cover, "Autographs" gold lettering, first autograph on page 4 by Emma A. McDonald, pages missing after page 15, 29, 43. Not signed by Mary Baker Eddy

2000.01.11

Title: *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College Primary Class, March 1888]*

Date: 1888/03

Creator: Primary Class of March 1888

Autograph album signed by the students of March 1888 Primary Class. Not signed by Mary Baker Eddy.

Box 4

Items:

2000.01.12

Title: *[Autograph Album from John H. Bartlett]*

Date: 1846-1869

Creator: Bartlett, John H.

Autograph album given to Mary Baker Eddy by John Bartlett, includes illustrations and notations by Mary Baker Eddy (L18636).