



The Mary Baker Eddy Library

Blanche Partington Correspondence, 1913-1946, n.d.

a finding aid

**The Mary Baker Eddy Library
Archives & Special Collections**
200 Massachusetts Ave.
Boston, MA 02115
617-450-7000

Collection Description

Collection Title: Blanche Partington Correspondence

Collection Number: LSC019

Creator: Partington, Blanche, 1866–1951

Date: 1913-1946, n.d.

Extent: 0.25 LF

Language: The materials are in English.

Acquisition Information

Donation, 1981.

Access

The collection is open for research and available to the public during research room hours.

Restrictions

Copyright restrictions may apply.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Bryea Coutu, Processing Assistant, December 2018

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Blanche Partington Correspondence, LSC019, The Mary Baker Eddy Library.

Biographical Note

Blanche Partington was a Christian Science practitioner in San Francisco, California, from 1910 to 1951.

She was born in Cheshire, England, on November 25, 1866, the eldest of seven siblings. Her Anglican parents, John Herbert Evelyn Partington and Sarah Mottershead moved the family from England to San Francisco in 1889, to promote her father's painting career.

Partington did not receive a formal education, owing to the family's frequent moves, although her father did teach her himself. In San Francisco she became interested in journalism and began her career with the *San Francisco Call* in 1900. She contributed to a weekly Sunday column, "With the Players and the Music Folk," presenting music and drama reviews. In her work Partington formed friendships with colorful contemporary writers such as Ambrose Bierce, Jack London, and Yone Noguchi. She continued her career as a journalist until the time of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, which destroyed almost every theatre and music studio in the city and caused the collapse of the city's music and drama scene.

Partington became a member of The First Church of Christ, Scientist (The Mother Church) in November 1908. Taught Christian Science by Francis J. Fluno M.D., C.S.D., she was a member of The First Christian Science Association of Oakland, California, an organization of Fluno's students. In 1933 she chaired a committee that compiled Fluno's biography and aided in its publication. She was an active member of Third Church of Christ, Scientist, San Francisco, until her death in 1951. Between 1912 and 1913 Partington served as a Reader at Third Church.

Sibyl Wilbur, a journalist known for her early biography of Mary Baker Eddy, was living in San Diego, California, in 1912 and 1913. When she visited a friend in San Francisco during this time, she met Partington at Third Church. That sparked a lifetime friendship between the two women, who corresponded for the next 30 years.

Scope and Content Note

The Blanche Partington Correspondence is composed of five folders, arranged chronologically and described at the item level. Correspondence consists primarily of handwritten and typewritten letters from Sibyl Wilbur to Blanche Partington between the years 1913 and 1946. Many are accompanied by their original envelopes. Four copies of letters that Partington wrote to Wilbur are included. The collection also contains yearly Christmas cards from Wilbur.

In these letters, which document their friendship, Wilbur wrote of her affection and gratitude for Partington, sharing her thoughts on Christian Science, transcendentalism, books she recommended to Partington, and her career as a journalist. The letters also discuss Wilbur's daily activities, her relationship with her second husband, John Stone, and her travels.

This collection includes two photographs of Wilbur that she enclosed in a letter to Partington dated June 17, 1935.

Several letters describe Wilbur's reminiscence of Mary Baker Eddy, "Cradled Obscurity." They provide details on Wilbur's process of writing the reminiscence (see also: Reminiscence File Wilbur, Sibyl, 1910-1944, n.d.).

While the majority of letters in this collection are from Wilbur to Partington, a few were written on her behalf by Sara Jewell James, a Christian Science practitioner in San Diego, when Wilbur became ill in 1946. Partington's letters to James discuss her hopes for Wilbur's recovery.

Related Collection

Partington family papers, 1864-1987, BANC MSS C-H 84 at UC Berkeley. Series three of this collection contains the correspondence of Blanche Partington.

Container Listing

Box 01 **Box 1, Blanche Partington Correspondence, 1909-1946, n.d.**

Box 01 **Folder 1, Chronological, 1913/04 - 1925/12**

01. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1913/04/05. Letter about camping trip.

02. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1913/04/13. Letter about London article.

03. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1913/04/20. Letter about poetry and art.

04. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1913/04/30. Letter encouraging Partington to read more literature as well as her appreciation and gratitude towards Partington.

05. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1913/05/07. Letter about London manuscript and hesitancy towards their upcoming visit.

06. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1922/07/25. Letter catching up since their first visit in Boston several years ago.

07. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1922/08/15. Letter about Wilbur's visit to see Partington in San Francisco.

08. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1922/08/24. Letter discussing Christian Science. Wilbur had been reading the *Manual* on teaching Christian Science and the Board of Education; asking about how long she has been a member of the Church and if Dr. Fluno was her teacher

09. Wilbur, Sibyl, to First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1922/08/29. Letter about Partington and recommending her for the Normal class at Massachusetts Metaphysical College.

10. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1922/08/30. Letter about her recommending Partington for the Normal class. Also discuss Christian Science.

11. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1922/09/15. Letter about recommendation for Normal class, literature, discussion of the *Church Manual* and Mr. Ross's lecture.

12. Partington, Blanche, to Christian Science Board of Education, 1922/10/05. Letter about Wilbur's Christian Science practice and her friendship with Wilbur.

13. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1922/10/07. Letter about metaphysics and Christian Science.

14. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1922/11/09. Letter about Partington's letter to the Christian Science Board of Education and metaphysics in regards to Christian Science.

15. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1922/11/19. Letter about reading *Science and Health* daily quotes Science and Health and discusses metaphysics.

16. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1923/08/20. Letter about metaphysics and trip to San Francisco; gift of a mirror.

17. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1924/09/22. Letter about Mrs. Pelham Dodd.

18. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1924. Christmas card

19. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1925. Christmas card

Box 01 Folder 2, Chronological, 1926/03 - 1935/12

01. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1926/03/15. Letter about receiving Partington's Christmas card, discusses Christian Science, Mrs. Dodd and Wilbur's husband John Stone.

02. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1926/07/09. Letter about summer plans on traveling to Northern California.

03. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1926/07/22. Letter about travels to San Francisco and Carmel for summer vacation and looks forward to visiting Partington.

04. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1926/08/19. Letter thanking Partington for her hospitality when Wilbur went to visit her.

05. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1926. Christmas card which includes a photograph that is most likely of Wilbur.

06. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1927. Christmas card.

07. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1929/09/19. Letter discussing Wilbur's desire to see Partington and talk about Christian Science.

08. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1929/09/25. Letter about San Francisco trip and reminds Partington that she wants to discuss Christian Science.

09. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1929/12/12. Letter about sending in application for membership into Christian Science. Discusses letter to Eddy that was printed in the Sentinel.

10. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1929. Christmas card.

11. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1930/05/31. Letter from discussing Christian Science, individuality and her trip to Boston. Discusses the difficulty Wilbur has when writing letters because she never knows if she should talk about her everyday world or the things of her mind. Also discusses how she withdrew her application into the church.

12. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1930/12/18. Letter about difficulties with Wilbur's husband. Apologizing for going so long without writing.

13. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1930/12/20. Letter about Wilbur's separation from John Stone. Also discusses John V. Dittmore new book.

14. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1935/06/17. Letter about upcoming visit and giving up smoking. Includes two photographs of Wilbur.

15. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1935/07/09. Letter about Emerson, metaphysics and Christian Science.

16. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1935/09/30. Letter about daily activities.

17. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1935/12/14. Letter sending Christmas greeting. Also discusses Christian Science.

Box 01

Folder 3, Chronological, 1936/03 - 1940/08

01. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1936/03/22. Letter about San Francisco, Mrs. Winter Oliver Lodge's "My Philosophy", Dean Inge's Philosophy of Plotinus and John Stone's visit.

02. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1936/05/20. Letter about Alice Seckles, Browning's "Garden Fancies", Ralph Waldo Emerson's writings, Maurine Campbell, and robbery.
03. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1936/07/29. Letter about San Francisco trip, Mrs. Seckles, and Wilbur's "Prophetic Voices."
04. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1936/08/05. Letter about Partington's trip, Wilbur's lecture, World War II and Wilbur's book.
05. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1936/08/12. Letter about Wilbur's paper, Ralph Waldo Emerson's life, and Frederick von Hugel.
06. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1936/12/18. Letter about Partington's Christian Science Association address, Wilbur's manuscript, Wilbur's sister, John Stone's visit and Christmas greetings.
07. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1936/12/25. Christmas greetings.
08. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1937/05/29. Letter about the Golden Gate Bridge, Boston trip, Wilbur's manuscript, worldwide uprising and Ralph Waldo Emerson.
09. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1938/04/21. Letter about Pasadena trip, the Lombards and The Huntington Gallery.
10. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1938/10/14. Letter about Partington's Christian Science Association address, Jack London's biography, Irving Stone and British friend's visit.
11. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1939/07/08. Letter about Christian Science Association meeting and San Francisco trip.
12. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1939/07/20. Letter about San Francisco trip, Christian Science Association paper and Alfred Farlow.
13. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1939/08/06. Letter about San Francisco trip, gratitude, Church visit, Christian Science metaphysics, art exhibit and Socialism.
14. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1939/11/15. Letter about Partington's paper, Laura Burt, Dee Dolloff, Lucie Watson, and Rom Landeau's "God My Adventure."

15. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1939/11/28. Letter about mythical trip to Egypt, Los Angeles trip and Thanksgiving greetings.

16. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1939/12/29. Letter about gratitude for sealing ring and Christmas greetings.

17. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1940/01/05. Letter about Partington's flight to New York, Christian Science tea, Christian Science metaphysics, England and The Bhagavat Gita.

18. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1940/02/18. Letter about Ralph Waldo Emerson, Death Valley, CA, Emily Campbell's death and New York City.

19. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1940/05/20. Letter about Annual Meeting, Haydon Jones' portrait of Wilbur and New York trip.

20. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1940/07/01. Postcard from Paris, France. Discusses King Fuad I, Egypt and Who's Who of America.

21. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1940/07/21. Letter about Haydon Jones' portrait of Wilbur, Longyear gallery, New York City trip and Wilbur's Emerson manuscript.

22. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1940/08/04. Letter showing gratitude and discussion of Partington's invitation and Thoreau.

Box 01

Folder 4, Chronological, 1941/09 - 1943/12

01. Partington, Blanche, to Wilbur, Sibyl, 1941/09/14. Letter about Francis J. Fluno's Students' Association, Christian Science Metaphysics, Speaker fees and Wilbur's address.

02. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1941/09/16. Letter about Francis J. Fluno's Students' Association, Wilbur's address, copyright, and housekeeper.

03. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1941/10/12. Letter about Metaphysical studies, Camille Flamarion, Edwin Arnold, Catholicism, Chicago work, the Boxer Rebellion, Archibald McLellan, Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Isis Unveiled", Henry James, and Eddy's theology.

04. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1941/11/17. Letter about University club meeting, housekeepers and greetings.

05. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1942/03/08. Letter about Partington's picture, U. S. Defense Department, Church visit, Ora Shand, Los Angeles trip, Wilbur's address on Eddy, Bliss Knapp, Mrs. Lombard, Mrs. Paul Stark Seeley, John Stone, Edwin Clough, death and blackouts.

06. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1942/04/09. Letter about correspondence with The Christian Science Board of Directors, Wilbur's address, Bliss Knapp and Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Divinity School Address."

07. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1942/04/11. Empty envelope without a corresponding letter.

08. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1942/08/17. Letter about Wilbur's paper, The Christian Science Board of Director's approval and Partington's Christian Science Association.

09. Walker, Etta, to Partington, Blanche, 1942/08/31. Letter expressing gratitude.

10. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1942/09/01. Letter about Wilbur's address, "Cradled Obscurity", Eddy's life, Alfred Farlow, Partington's Christian Science Association and Christian Science Metaphysics.

11. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1942/12. Empty envelope without a corresponding letter.

12. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1942/12. Christmas card.

13. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1943/04/27. Letter expressing gratitude. Discussion of John Stone's illness and Wilbur's address, "Cradled Obscurity."

14. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1943/05/05. Letter about John Stone's illness, Wilbur's address, "Cradled Obscurity", Ora Shand and Mr. Harsch.

15. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1943/05/31. Letter about Partington's house and John Stone's death.

16. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1943/08/23. Letter about Wilbur's address, "Cradled Obscurity", Transcendentalism, John Stone's death, Wilbur's finances and World War II.

17. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1943/11/29. Letter about Partington's Christian Science Association, Wilbur's manuscript, Wilbur's illness, Sara James, Emma Jones, L'Ermite's "Christ at Emaus" and World War II.

18. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1943/12/15. Empty envelope without a corresponding letter.

Box 01

Folder 5, Chronological, 1944/02 - 1946/07, n.d.

01. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1944/02/10. Letter about sympathy, income tax, Blanche Hersey Hogue, death, housekeeping, Gilmore's Christ at the Peace Table and Alfred Farlow's Students' Association.

02. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1944/02/29. Letter about Miss Metalekamph, Wilbur's paper, Sholem Asch's The Apostle, Partington's grief, Paul Frost and San Francisco trip.

03. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1944/04/21. Letter about Sholem Asch's The Apostle, Jane Carlyle, Thomas Carlyle's Sartor and San Francisco trip.

04. Partington, Blanche, to Wilbur, Sibyl, 1944/05/26. Incomplete letter draft about neighbors.

05. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1944/05/30. Letter about birthday celebration, Catholic Mass, Alfred Farlow's Students' Association and San Francisco trip.

06. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1944/08/15. Letter about Partington's Students' Association.

07. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1944/09/02. Letter about Partington's Students' Association, wartime travel, The Christian Science Board of Directors, Wilbur's medical treatment and elections. States that she studies science as well as Christian Science, not an orthodox member.

08. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1944/09/14. Letter about cooking, Hannah Severio, friends' illness, manuscript, Julia Thomas and housekeeper.

09. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1944/09/26. Letter about art, Partington's home and gratitude.

10. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1944/12/28. Letter about advent, accident, Ora Shand, Christmas activities, Pat Shields and Gordon Wilson.
11. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1945/01/19. Letter about income tax, World War II, Wilbur's booklet, Metaphysics, Oregon and correspondence with The Christian Science Board of Directors.
12. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1945/02/08. Letter about Wilbur's sister and Eva [unidentified]. Letter from Eva [unidentified] to Wilbur, Los Angeles, CA, 02/04/1945, enclosed.
13. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1945/04/21. Letter about San Francisco, The United Nations and Franklin D. Roosevelt's death.
14. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1945/05/19. Letter about Franklin D. Roosevelt, Locksley Hall and Judaism.
15. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1945/07/15. Letter about World War II, Wilbur's sister, wartime travel, Margaret Runbeck's The Great Answer, Wilbur's health and "Hannah's" death.
16. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, 1945/12/21. Letter from Wilbur to Partington, San Diego, CA. Re: Gratitude; Wilbur's illness; medical treatment; and Christmas greetings.
17. James, Sara J., to Partington, Blanche, 1946/05/27. Letter about Wilbur's illness, medical treatment and Paradise Valley Sanatorium.
18. Partington, Blanche, to Wilbur, Sibyl, 1946/05/30. Letter copy about Wilbur's illness, Paradise Valley Sanatorium and reprimand.
19. James, Sara J., to Partington, Blanche, 1946/07/05. Letter about Wilbur's illness.
20. Partington, Blanche, to Wilbur, Sibyl, 1946/07/12. Letter copy about Wilbur's illness and Christian Science Metaphysics.
21. Partington, Blanche, to James, Sara J., 1946/07/23. Letter copy expressing gratitude. Discusses Wilbur's friendship, Christian Science Metaphysics, Wilbur's death and funeral services.
22. Partington, Blanche, to James, Sara J., 1946/07/27. Letter expressing gratitude and discussing Christian Science.

23. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, n.d. Letter about women's emancipation, New England culture, Californian culture and Christian Science suffragists.

24. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, n.d. Christmas card.

25. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, n.d. Letter copy asking Partington to contact Wilbur.

26. Wilbur, Sibyl, to Partington, Blanche, n.d. Note about sending out Christmas cards.

27. Partington, Blanche, to Wilbur, Sibyl, n.d. Note draft about Christian Science Association.

28. Unknown, to Unknown, n.d. note about Ralph Waldo Emerson and Isaac K. Funk.